

# **Prairie City Public Library**

Prairie City, Iowa



City Council Update

February 2014

Sue Ponder, Library Director

We have had a busy year at the library. 2013 began with the ongoing work of the Jasper Library Association to determine a fair distribution of the funding that is received from Jasper County. (Issues with some of the statistics some of the libraries were reporting had come to light.) After many hours of calculations, meetings and discussions, the Jasper Library Association members voted to change the distribution from its current formula that is based solely on “rural circulations” to one that splits half of the funding equally between the seven member libraries (Prairie City, Monroe, Newton, Lynnville, Sully, Mingo and Baxter) and distributes the remaining half based on rural population by zip code. If the funding levels remain the same as last year, Prairie City Public Library will see an increase of over \$11,000 for fiscal year 2014/2015 to fund services for rural patrons. (The increase alone is over twice what we received last fiscal year!) We are very excited about this change and are looking forward to utilizing those funds in the library.

*Some other highlights from the year:*

We were fortunate to receive a \$250 grant from Mid American Energy to help us purchase Legos for our Lego days. These have proved to be a fun time for those that like to create!



We have held multiple movie days for both youth and adults. While we are limited for space, we make the most of what we have and everyone seems to have a good time.



With the help of our friends at Detrick Excavating, Inc. in Pleasant Hill, the Library again won first place in the parade with our “Dig Into Reading” float to promote the summer reading program. We use this opportunity to distribute the schedule of events for the summer.





We had approximately 40 kids participate in summer reading last year. We had to hold many of our events at the Community Building, so our circulation numbers were not as high as in the past. Hopefully, we can have more events at the library in the future. Here are some highlights:

*We had puppeteer Kevin Coble present his show "Iowa Jones and Raiders of the Summer Reading Program".*



*Eddie Weiss of Chasing 4 Life disaster response team came and talked with us about severe weather and showed us some of his team's equipment! They even brought a rescue drone! (It's in the 3<sup>rd</sup> picture.) It was an awesome program!*



*Our “Touch A Truck” event was also a big hit! With the help of our own EMS volunteers and Police Department the kids got a “hands-on” look at the emergency vehicles and equipment. They even sprayed a fire hose! I included a lot of pictures of this event so you could see how fun it really was!*







*The Science Center of Iowa came and gave a program on “What’s Neat beneath our Feet”.*



And we followed up with a fossil craft!



*Magician Rick Eugene is always a huge crowd pleaser!*





As you can see, we have a great time at our programs during summer reading! Each participant gets a reading log to record the books they read and can earn prizes. We like to keep them reading all summer long! Funds for programming for Summer Reading and story time are supplemented by the Friends of the Library.

Another program we have offered has been our *Read with Raven* program. Raven is a therapy dog that came in the last three summers and listened to kids read. Everyone absolutely loved her and many came back each week to read to her. We were sad to find out that Raven's owner would no longer be spending summers in Prairie City, so we made the best out of the time we had! We are currently looking for a new therapy dog to join the fun at the library.





This fall, Christina Kuecker started volunteering at the library one day a week as part of her occupational therapy. We love having her with us and she works hard! Also this fall, we started offering a preschool story time on Wednesday mornings. We have a volunteer, Amy Ingle, that usually comes in and reads the stories then we do a craft.

Library Volunteer, Christina Kuecker



Story Time Volunteer, Amy Ingle



"Leaf Man" craft



Graham cracker gingerbread houses

The Friends of the Prairie City Public Library has been revitalized with a new board at the helm. President Lisa Bussan has taken the lead and we have big plans in store. To wrap up the year, we held our annual Festival of Trees and Wreaths in conjunction with the Celebration Commission's Winter Fest. The silent auction raised over \$300 to support programs at the library. Here are some of the trees and wreaths that were donated.



As you can see, last year we had a busy year at the library. We have many more things planned for this year! I invite you all to come and "check out" your library!