



# Towanda District Library News

SERVING TOWANDA, COOKSVILLE,  
AND SURROUNDING AREAS

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 3  
SEPTEMBER 2010

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## Americans Are Reading More

Changes in the economy over the past year have had profound effects on the lives of people across the country. One of the changes is an increase in time spent reading!

According to a survey conducted by *Parade Magazine*, 58% of those surveyed are spending a greater amount of time reading for pleasure and 43% are devoting more time to learning new skills.

Learning new skills can be lucrative, as well as enjoyable. Books that teach hobbies, crafts and cooking are the most popular non-fiction books in libraries.

Reading costs you nothing, as long as you borrow the book from the library...unless you count electricity for the lamp you read beside...or the popcorn you may be munching as you read.

Some libraries in Illinois have created online calculators that estimate the amount of money you save by using the library.  
[www.effinghamlibrary.org/AboutUs/ROI.htm](http://www.effinghamlibrary.org/AboutUs/ROI.htm)

For example, if you borrow 2 adult books, 2 children's books, 2 DVD's, 2 music CD's, 2 magazines and 2 items from another library plus attend 2 children's programs, 2 adult programs and use the Internet twice in one year, you get \$161 in value for the year. Most people borrow far more items than that in an entire year's time! How many items have you borrowed lately?

## Children's Story Hour

Each Monday morning at 10:30 a.m. preschoolers and their parents gather at the library to socialize and enjoy books.

### September Story Hour themes:

- September 13** First Day of School
- September 20** All About Me
- September 27** Autumn Leaves

### October Story Hour Themes:

- October 4** Apples
- October 11** Explorers
- October 18** Pumpkins

Open enrollment allows children to enter whenever they turn three. Join the fun!

## Economize @ your library®

Library use across the nation has risen dramatically since the economic downturn.

One-week DVD and video rentals are free at the library. New DVD's arrive weekly.

De-clutter your house by borrowing magazines from the library, rather than allowing subscriptions to pile up in your home.

# What's new @ your library®

## Towanda READS

The next meeting of the Towanda READS book club is **Wednesday, September 22nd**.

Towanda READS will discuss "Loving Frank" by Nancy Horan. An American icon, a love affair, historical details, and a Midwestern setting flavor this novel that pits morality against passion. Book clubs everywhere are calling the story provocative.

New participants are welcome to join the book discussion group at 7:00 p.m. Call the library for details about the meeting location.

## Library Hours

Mon. & Wed.	10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Tuesdays	1 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Thurs. & Fri.	1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturdays	10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Sundays	Closed

Open every day after school!

## New Hours = Surge in Circulation

For your convenience, the library is now open later hours on Saturdays. While many libraries across the nation are cutting hours because of budgetary restraints, TDL offers our customers expanded Saturday service!

New analytic tools allow us to track our circulation hour by hour. As we see patterns in use, we adjust the hours that the library is open to serve you better.

Let us know what you think. And remember, we are open every day after school!

## Two Local Authors

## Two Special Events

Terra Brockman, author of  
*The Seasons on Henry's Farm*

and

Sandra Steingraber, author of  
*Living Downstream*

Both authors will autograph copies of their books at two special events in Uptown Normal on Sunday, October 17th.

The Autumn Harvest Brunch is a ticketed event with limited seating at Medici's. It features local authors, local chefs, and locally grown delicious food! Indulge!

Screening of the new documentary film based upon Sandra's book will be held at the Normal Theater at 1:00 pm.

The library has multiple copies of both books to meet the increased demand these events will generate.

## Friends of the Library

The next meeting of the Friends of the Library is **Wednesday, September 22nd at 6:00 p.m.** when the group will make plans for their annual sale of sweets — to benefit the library. The word is that the sweet selection for this year will be fudge and possibly coffee, as well. Both will make great holiday gifts!

If you would like to join the Friends, please contact Karen Bersche at the library at 728-2176 and she will put you in touch with the Friends' president. Now is a great time to join the Friends.

## **Study: Libraries Top The Competition In Lending Movies**

A new study claims that more DVDs are borrowed from libraries each day than are rented via Netflix, Redbox or Blockbuster. At the Towanda District Library, we circulated 1,000 more DVD's in FY2010 (July 2009 thru June 2010) than in the previous fiscal year.

According to the survey released by the Online Computer Library Center, public libraries in the U.S. lend an average 2.1 million videos/day, which edges out the 2 million discs shipped by Netflix and almost as much as the combined total of DVD rentals at Redbox (1.4 million) and Blockbuster (1.2 million). (from The Consumerist and OCLC Study)

### **Local Library Use from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010**

Adult DVD circulation was up 45%.

Total circulation was up 13.5% in FY 2010 compared to FY2009.

Total book circulation was up 15%.

Circulation of materials other than books was up 9.9%.

Computer use was up 45%.

We added 2,152 items to the collection in FY2010.

### **Library Façade Crumbling**

**The library will be closed on Friday, September 10th.  
The library will open at noon on Saturday, September 11th.**

Twenty-one years and persistent heavy rains during the 2010 spring thaw combined to create conditions that cracked the brickwork atop the library façade. The lovely brickwork weighs approximately 3,000 pounds and is contributing to continual, gradual, uneven sinking of the façade. Thankfully, the façade is decorative only. The brick that is crumbling and falling is not directly attached to the main structure.

On September 10th, the top layer of brick will be removed from the façade. During the process of gathering bids and opinions, the Library Board was prudent in making certain that the "Towanda Library" portion of the sign will remain. Options available for the future include replacing the lovely lines of the top structure of the façade with a lighter weight wooden replica and/or replacing the rain gutters with wider ones to alleviate further sinking in overly wet conditions. All of this is being handled by the Library Board with an eye toward preserving precious resources for the best possible library service.



**Facebook.com/towandalib**

Towanda District Library  
301 S. Taylor St.  
Towanda, IL 61776

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Towanda, IL 61776

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**Library Hours**

Monday 10am-7pm  
Tuesday 1pm-7pm  
Wednesday 10am-7pm  
Thursday 1pm-5pm  
Friday 1pm-5pm  
Saturday 10am-3 pm  
Sunday Closed

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**Towanda District Library Board:**

**Letitia Hamblen**, President;  
**Rochelle Wardell**, VP;  
**Mark Schwamberger**, Treasurer;  
**Dana Maughan**, Secretary;  
**Tim Mogill**; **Jane Foster**, **Rachel Andrews**

**Karen Stott Bersche**, Library Director

**Board meetings:**  
3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm  
Towanda District Library

**Thank You**

**Bernice Gilchrist for donation for landscaping**

**Community members that contributed memorials to  
Lucille Woodrum to help purchase new shelving  
for the Children's Collection**

**Towanda 4-H for "spring cleaning" the library lawn,  
trimming bushes, and mulching**

**Rachel Richards, Kate Hamblen, and Michaela Whittaker  
for participating in the youth component of ILEAD-U grant**

**Ron Parsons and Helen Mogill for taking the role of  
Community Mentor for the ILEAD-U grant**

**Ryan Bliss and Linda Garbe for participating in  
the ILEAD-U grant**

**Teresa Anderson for recycling batteries**

**Michele Gillfilan for becoming a new volunteer**

**Rachel Richards and Kate Hamblen for volunteering during  
Summer Reading Program**

**Michaela Whittaker and Emma Wilson for volunteering**

**Chrissie Isaacs for help planning Summer Reading and  
library involvement in July 4th Parade**

## Summer Reading Sponsors

Thank you to these generous Summer Reading Sponsors:

Cornbelters Baseball Team  
Towanda Lions Club  
Towanda Senior Citizens  
McLean County Retired Teachers  
Towanda Ladies Night Out  
Ed Anderson Trucking

Serenity Med Spa  
Avanti's Italian Restaurant  
Towanda Parent Organization  
Towanda Home Extension  
R-EZ Storage

## How Is Your Library Funded?

Studies reveal that only 37% of Americans know how their local public libraries are funded. Do you know what percentage of Towanda District Library funds come from the State? Only 2%! TDL receives more in donations from the community each year than we receive from the State of Illinois. The FRIENDS of the Library contribute more to the library budget than the amount of fines collected each year! Local property taxes account for 95% of TDL's income. Approximately 2 to 3 cents from every dollar of your property taxes come to your local library.

## Circulation Rules

Since library funds are not unlimited, the library does not allow unlimited renewals of materials. Circulation periods are set to assure equitable sharing of materials among community members.

DVD's, CD's, and Videos circulate for one week  
No online renewals are allowed  
Fines accrue at 25 cents per day

Magazines circulate for one week  
One online renewal is allowed  
Fines accrue at 10 cents per day

Other library materials circulate for 2 weeks  
One online renewal is allowed  
Fines accrue at 10 cents per day

If you have extenuating circumstances, such as a family emergency or extended business travel, you can always ask the staff for a modified circulation privilege. If you need to renew an item beyond what the parameters allow, just ask. Extensions are made at the librarian's discretion and always with the overall benefit of the public in mind. These guidelines are similar to other libraries in the area.

## Book Sale on July 4<sup>th</sup>

One hundred man-power hours created an alphabetized, genre-sorted Book Sale that generated nearly \$600 for the library on July 4th. From book sorting that began at 9 a.m. on July 3<sup>rd</sup> to storage of book boxes that was completed by 5:00 pm. on July 4<sup>th</sup>, the work of 28 different volunteers produced happy browsers and purchasers at the Flea Market in the park. One week prior to the sale a crew of dedicated Library Friends began categorizing books. Gary Gilfillan also began his work of repairing the wooden boxes the week before the 4<sup>th</sup>. Entire families of Library Board members, loyal Friends, and the ever-willing-hayrack-provider Jim Kellenberger teamed up to share the work and enjoy the community service. Since rainwater and books do not mix well, the sale ended at 2:00 pm this year.

## Register to Vote at the Library

Register to vote in the November 2nd election at the library. From now through October 5th, people may register to vote in the upcoming General Election. Bring two forms of ID with you to register.

## **Meet the Library Staff**

Youth Services Clerk, Tommie Crouthamel, has her teaching degree and 8 years of teaching experience. She handles Story Hours and the Summer Reading Program.

Library Clerk, Robin Pearson, keeps track of library use statistics, creates fliers to promote library programs, and handles the circulation system with ease and grace.

Library Clerk, Katy Carlson, catalogs new materials and completes all the processing required to add items to the collection. New magazines and DVD's make it to the shelves rapidly, thanks to Katy.

Library Clerk, Sharon Dameron, a retired school librarian, is proud to say she is our "sub" whenever another staff member is ill or on vacation.

Library Clerk, Brenda Peden, works at Normal Public Library, as well as ours. Her specialty is Inter-Library Loan. She writes sports articles for The Lexingtonian.

Library Student Shelver, Michaela Whittaker, works a few evening hours each week.

IT Specialist, Michael Morrow, keeps all the technology in the library up and running.

Library Director, Karen Bersche, has her Master's Degree in Library Science and 27 years of library experience. Karen serves on the Illinois Library Association Marketing Committee, too.

## **Volunteer Accomplishments**

Volunteers Beverly Meginnis and Susie Shoemaker have spent nearly a year of Tuesdays weeding the Adult Fiction section using the Fiction Collection Catalog (FCC). Weeding a collection involves determining the age of materials, the use of materials, overall condition, as well as whether the item would be part of "the ideal library collection" – as determined by the Fiction Collection Catalog. The library was fortunate to have a donation in memory of Jane Foster that allowed the purchase of the collection development tool – the FCC. No item leaves the collection without review by the head librarian, of course, but Beverly and Susie have covered several of the steps in the weeding process. Our thanks to them!

## **E-Books**

Amazon's first Kindles went on sale three years ago for \$399. Its latest versions start at just \$139. The Towanda District Library does not currently purchase e-books that you can download for free. Some area libraries do. However, the e-book cooperative is operated by Alliance Library System and the library systems in Illinois are no longer receiving State funding. They may close soon. Towanda is looking for a stable source of e-books and will likely carry them as soon as such a source is located.