

SWEET HOME PUBLIC LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

2015



OUR MISSION

To obtain, organize and make available to all the people of the community educational, informational and recreational materials.

We value community.

Our community showed its love for the library by passing the 5 year levy providing needed funding for collections, programs and technology upgrades.

Our Community Bookstore using volunteers from our Library Friends group helped our community by giving \$10,000 to the Library last year.

We value access and opportunity.

We play a critical role as a digital bridge. Last year 7,975 people found access to the Internet, online job applications and essential information.

We provide test proctoring for students who take courses online. The University of Oregon charges \$30 or more to take online tests through their online/distance education program.

We value education.

Our summer reading program helped 210 kids and 30 teens read over the summer and returned to school ready to learn.

Classroom visits from Kidco Headstart and Oak Heights Elementary, showed our passion for learning as we taught them about the library, our love of reading and all our new books, and the many programs we offer. We promoted early literacy and kindergarten readiness by offering 37 story times attended by 882 children and parents.

Sweet Home Public Library Year End Report: 2015

- Participated with Oak Heights Elementary staff to provide reading programs during the Summer Lunch, Summer Learning and Summer Library (SL3) at the school. Collaborated to provide joint training of school and library staff on weeding collections and book repair workshop. Launched the "Educator Card", giving educators access to more resources for use in their classrooms.
- Registered over 210 children and teens for the Summer Reading program, offering 20 free programs and 3 family oriented programs with the support from the Friends of the Library, Comcast and many local businesses.
- Enhanced the outside appearance of the library; a local Eagle Scout planted shrubs and installed lighting in the library's flowerbeds.
- Continued our partnership with the Linn Libraries of Oregon (Albany, Lebanon, Scio and Harrisburg Public Libraries and Linn Benton Community College Library) by developing policies and procedures for sharing resources, and beta testing courier service.
- Implemented a Facebook page to increase community awareness, to promote the library and engage the community.
- Awarded a Sweet Home Community Foundation grant to purchase an AWE Early Literacy Computer. The AWE computer is preloaded with educational software that is geared to our younger users ages 2 to 8. We had a mother relate a story about her daughter. "She had been using the AWE computer the day before. The next day the mother asked if she needed help tying her shoelaces. She said no I learned how to do it at the Library."



Learning together at the AWE Computer

Program Highlights from 2015



Super Hero Training Camp!

Goals of Summer Reading

- Involve parents and all family members in the library summer reading experience.
- Reading over the summer helps kids maintain skills they've learned over the academic year and grow towards the skills required for the next school year.
- Participants explore current interests and discover new subjects by choosing what they want to read.
- Participants set goals and track their progress to earn a certificate of completion – and prizes.
- Plus it's fun!



Friday Morning Storytimes

Storytimes introduce young children to books, rhymes, music and fun activities. We incorporate early literacy skills that children must master before they can learn to read.

Looking for pirate treasure at the Pirate's Storytime.

After Hours Programs

Live at the Library! To further enhance our patron's library experience, we offered a number of live performances to bring the community together for a shared experience. All of these programs and performances were offered free!

Personal and Property Protection

Officer Hamlin provided an overview of how Sweet Home residents could avoid being victims of crime.



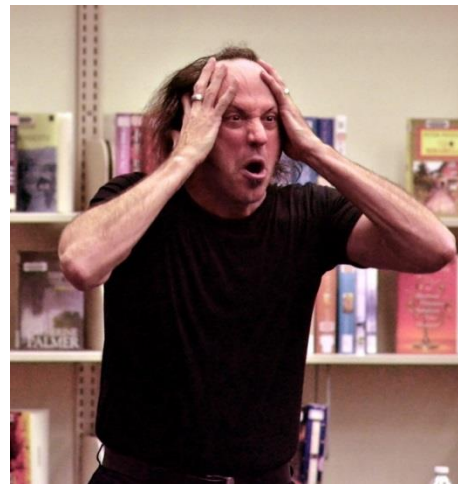
Officer Geoff Hamlin with the Sweet Home Police Department

A Christmas Carol is Prose

Edgar Allen Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart"



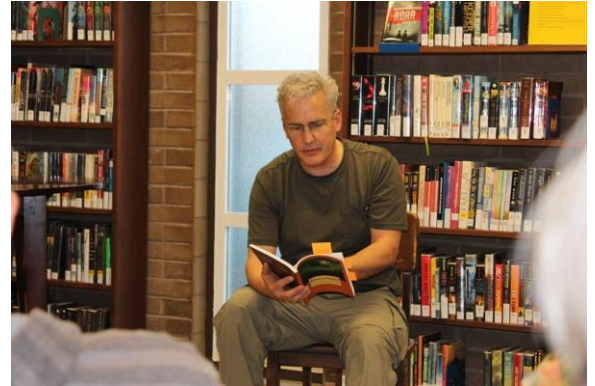
Rickie Birran as Ebenezer Scrooge performing "A Christmas Carol is Prose"



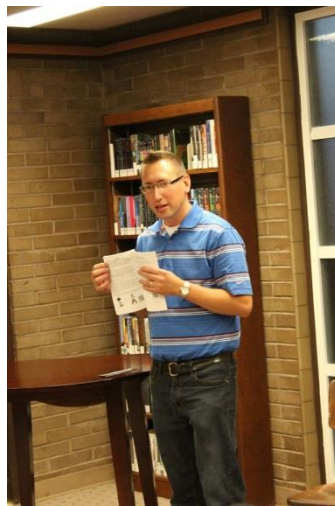
Award-winning storyteller, Christopher Leebrick, performing "The Tell-Tale Heart"

Open-Mic Event

Our Open-Mic Events featured many local authors and others of all skill levels and from all genres reading their work.



Local authors Corinna Dominy, Dana Kirk and Mark Holden



Local authors Joan Scofield, Tim Swanson and Jeff Goodwin

Take your Child to the Library



Live music, storytelling, arts & crafts, and LEGOs made for an exciting and fun-filled day



Reading is fun either together as a family or alone by yourself!

Fridays and Lego My Library ...



You are never too young for Legos! Lego imagination and the car of the future
What do I love about the program? I love the cooperation. I love the joy of the kids. I love the creativity. And I love just chatting with the kids as they let their imaginations take over and create and play.

With a little help from our Friends!



Some of the hardworking volunteers from the Friends of the Library



Craig Martin at the event to honor longtime Library Board member and Friends of the Library volunteer Gretchen Schaleger

Facts and Figures 2015

USE

Population Served	9,025
Total Circulation	45,680
Renewals	4,880
Registered Borrowers	5,839

SERVICES

Public Service Hours	1,768
Programs offered	139
Program attendance	3,468
Interlibrary loans	13
Computer sessions	7,975

COLLECTIONS

Print Materials	42,241
DVDs, CDs and other Media	3,439
Total	45,680

The Year Ahead....2016

- Continue collaboration with the schools to better programs and services for students. Through a partnership with the schools, a grant we are exploring writing a grant to provide eBooks for the public library patrons and students.
- Sustain programming for all ages to continue increasing awareness and use of the library.
- Host the Author's Open Mic event and plan for a visit from award-winning author Jane Kirkpatrick.
- Develop plans, in conjunction with the Friends of the Library, for the 75th celebration of library services to the citizens of Sweet Home beginning in 2017.
- Write grants to update the teen space and children's area with new furniture and decorations.
- Implement policies and procedures, an intergovernmental agreement, and courier service for resource sharing between the Linn Libraries (Albany, Lebanon, Scio, Harrisburg Public Libraries and Linn Benton Community College Library) which will expand patron access to resources. Through resources sharing, Sweet Home patrons will have access to 5 times as many titles.

A note of thanks from the Library Services Director--

What an amazing year. Thanks to our gracious community partners, generous Friends group, wonderful volunteers, and an energetic and creative staff, we were able to accomplish more in 2015 than ever before. Of course, we could not have done any of it without you, our patrons. Thank you for your continued support.