

SWEET HOME  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

2014



## OUR MISSION

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

Over the past forty years, the Sweet Home Public Library has been providing high quality library services from its facility at 1101 – 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The Library has continually changed and adapted to improve services and meet the needs of our community. Our mission, however, has never changed: we provide superior library service to all residents by building on traditions and selecting the best of new practices. We embrace technology, along with books, using both to provide information, education and recreation. We offer programs for all ages and serve as the heart of the community in so many ways. Best of all, we are prudent stewards of the public dollars entrusted to us.

YOUR LIBRARY, supporting learners of all ages, building life and job skills, satisfying curiosity, offering affordable entertainment, spending wisely and planning for the future made 2014 another great year.

*We're inspiring people to be more!*

## Sweet Home Public Library Year End Report: 2014

- Expanded our partnership with the libraries of Albany, Lebanon, Linn Benton Community College, Harrisburg and Scio. We merged, using the Evergreen ILS to provide a shared catalog. We are working towards a consortium where we can share resources and provide a courier service between these libraries.
- Replaced 6 out-of-date public access computers, with the Trust Management Grant, to provide a more stable technology environment for our patrons.
- Registered over 225 children and teens for the Summer Reading program, offering 14 free programs through the support from Comcast and 17 local businesses and the Friends of the Sweet Home Library.
- Continued the collaborative effort with other libraries in Oregon to extend library services through the Passport Program.
- Completed the stained glass window with the support of the community through donations and memorial gifts and a grant from the Sweet Home Community Foundation.
- Increased our collection of books, books on CDs and DVDs by 3,122 items with monies from our current year budget and the Friends of the Sweet Home Library.

## Program Highlights from 2014

The role of Libraries in children's literacy development can be seen in two key programs offered by the Library: Summer Reading and Friday Morning Story Times.

Yes, we make a big deal about Summer Reading, because it is one of the most popular programs of the year with hundreds of participants. Why the big deal? Research shows that kids who read in the summer do NOT lose education progress and are ready to start their next grade level successfully. Plus, it's fun and free. Finding affordable activities for kids in the summer can be challenging and we help fill that need each year.



Sweet Home Public Library's 2014 **Fizz, Boom, Read** Summer Reading Program was another successful series of programs including science activities with Mad Science, Sylvia Branzei, "the queen of grossology" demonstrating how

31% of children who signed up completed the reading log (Note -state average is 30%)

➤ 518 children and adults attended the 9 program

to make fake blood, snot and (yum) edible barf and a variety of educational and fun puppet shows.



photo provided by the New Era

*The State Library identified three best practices in library services to children that research shows can have the greatest impact on reading proficiency. The three best practices are services to children outside the library (outreach), summer reading programs, and early literacy training for parents and childcare providers.. The Sweet Home Public Library was recognized for implementing all three of these best practices.*

**Friday Morning Story Times** -- Story times continue to educate and entertain children and parents through the use of a wide range of high-quality picture books, songs, poetry, fingerplays, and crafts. We make literacy fun!

*"Public libraries have the greatest impact on literacy behaviors when they promote early literacy and model behaviors for parents and caregivers."*

## After Hours Programs

**World Book Night** – We continued to spread the love of reading by giving away 30 copies of *Young Men and Fire* by Normal Maclean to students at the high school.

**“See to Read Program”** -- OHSU and the Elks Club brought the “See to Read Program” that performed vision screening for preschool children entering Kindergarten as mandated by the Governor.



photo provided by the New Era

**“Journey to the Roof of Africa”** -- Armchair travel can sometimes be the most fun! Patrons enjoyed a presentation from Beth Suhr as she shared stories and photos from her trip to Tanzania and her summit of Mount Kilimanjaro.



**Look Up to the Stars!** – In collaboration with the Boys & Girls Club, through the use of their facility, the award winning astronomer, Kevin Manning, presented an exciting and educational program about the size and scale of the universe, the stars and other celestial wonders.



photo provided by the New Era

**A Christmas Carol in Prose** - Performed by Man of Words brought the Dickens' classic to life through vocal characterization of the 25 distinct characters.



photo provided by the New Era

**Stitchery Get Together** – This program, which is open to all, meets bimonthly after the Library closes on Tuesday evenings. This fun- loving group shares the love of handcrafting and chocolate!

## Facts and Figures 2014

<b>USE</b>		<b>SERVICES</b>	
Population Served	9,025	Public Service Hours	1,768
Total Circulation	31,632	Programs offered	112
Renewals	4,180	Program attendance	2,212
Registered Borrowers	4,424	Interlibrary loans	24
		Computer sessions	10,888
 **Statistics gathered since the merge of the ILS in March, 2014			
 <b>COLLECTIONS</b>			
Print Materials	36,903		
DVDs, CDs and other Media	4,722		
Total	41,884		

# The Year Ahead....

## You Make Us The Most Valued Place in Town

Why is the library valuable? We serve people from all walks of life, and so the value they get from using the library varies — from using a computer, finding a new book, reading a local newspaper, to finding the perfect bedtime story for the kids.

One goal I hope everyone supports is this: a library card for every resident in Sweet Home — now that would be a *really* awesome year!

It should be noted that the library could not be the popular and effective service it is without the support of the community. The library is fortunate to have the support of local businesses, of many individual volunteers and our Friends of the Library who provide financial support, time and energy to our Library.

### Our goals for 2015 are:

- Continue to build strong advocates for the Library through the community, Friends of the Library and local businesses. This becomes a critical goal as we look to renewing local option levy for the Library.
- Implement and utilize a Facebook page for the Library.
- Collaborate with education partners such as Sweet Home School District, Boys and Girls Club, day care providers, and local Head Start groups.
- Offer programming for all ages to increase community awareness of the Library and Library services.

*"Around here, however, we don't look backwards for very long. We keep moving forward, opening up new doors and doing new things...and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths."*

- Walt Disney

