

Huntley Area Public Library District
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Huntley Area Public Library District

Annual Report 2007-2008



A Letter to the Community

The main challenge for patrons and staff at the Huntley Area Public Library during the 2007-08 year remains the lack of space. A growing population means an increased demand for services, and a greater strain on library resources, budget and staff.

One example of attempting to cope is the renovation of the Program Room into the Children's Room. With the loss of the program room, the library has sought outside venues for programs. This has increased our expenses for mileage and personnel, and because of these added expenses the programming budget is depleted more quickly. Offsite events require additional staff time in preparation, and traveling between the library and off-site location. Additionally, two staff members are usually required to be present at offsite events.

Residents recognize the lack of space, and in a survey conducted in November 2007, they expressed the need for:

- More books
- More seating space
- More DVD's
- Larger Children's Area
- Increased services (longer hours)
- Programs back at the library
- Quiet Areas
- Computer lab



Due largely to this feedback, the library board of trustees decided to pursue a referendum to meet the requests for additional services and materials from residents. The library again turned to its residents in March

for feedback related to a proposed expansion and asked "how much would you be willing to pay for an expansion to the library?". Most people said \$5 per month was affordable.

In April the board of trustees met again to decide upon the amount of the referendum question and the size of the expansion. They determined the amount would be about \$5 per month for a home valued at \$250,000, the average price of a home in the library district. That \$5 per month would pay for the building addition and operation of an approximate 33,000 square foot.

Library staff and board members have been informing residents on the ways the library can actually save people money. The months leading up to the election will be spent sharing this information and answering questions regarding the proposed expansion. If the referendum passes on November 4th, the expansion would take approximately two years to complete.

We look forward to serving you in the coming year.

The Board and Staff of the Huntley Area Public Library

Mission Statement

The mission of the Huntley Area Public Library District is to encourage lifelong learning and to improve the quality of life in our community by maintaining the highest possible standards of service, and by providing cultural, recreational, and informational resources to our growing and changing population.

2007-08 Achievements

The Huntley Area Public Library had many accomplishments in the 2007-08 year worthy of recognition.

- Increased summer reading program participation by 20% over 2007
- Received \$20,300 grant to continue electronic storage of the Huntley Farm-side
- Partnered with other agencies to offer the community's first One Book, One Community event coming in September through November 2008
- Circulation record: 530,050 items were loaned to patrons in the 2007-08 fiscal year, nearly 19 times the number loaned ten years ago
- Collection record: 105,000 books and other items now available to patrons
- Received grant for \$12,500 for technology improvements from the Illinois Department of Commerce
- Added Wi-Fi service
- Expanded website features "chat" functions, and additional online resources
- Increased the number of story times at area preschools by 211% over the 2006-07 year
- Increased the number of hours volunteers worked this year by 25%, saving an estimated \$33,264 this year
- Added Homebound program as a library service offered to residents
- Received donation of a used mini-van for deliveries and business use
- Expanded communications efforts, including a more comprehensive monthly newsletter as well as e-news sent directly to the user's email account



Story time at the library can host only six children due to space constraints and fire code regulations.



A family checks out their materials at the circulation desk.

Library Board & Director

Trustees

Kathleen Pilat, President
Jan Schadt, Vice President
Leslie Threadgill-Smith, Secretary
Mitchell Baker, Treasurer
Rusty Ayers
Ann Christiansen

Library Director

Virginia Maravilla

Friends of the Huntley Area Public Library

The Friends of the Library have raised funds totaling over \$100,000 to support the library's mission.

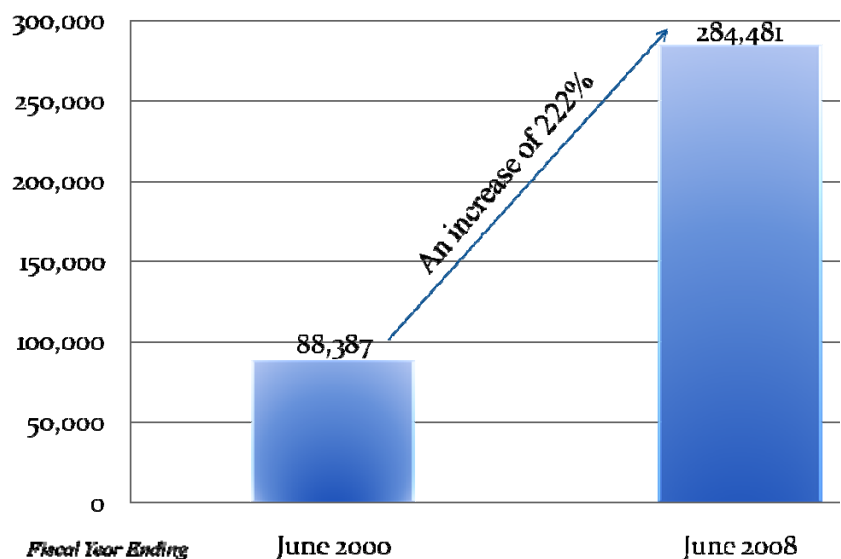
Friends of the Library Board of Directors

Joanna Wydra, President
Genevieve Hochwarter, Vice President
Jan Schadt, Secretary
Mary Kobylinski, Treasurer

Friends Liaison

Pamela Kampwerth

Number of Library Visitors per Year



An electronic device counts the number of people visiting the building. During the first year in the current building just over 88,000 people visited. In eight years, that number has more than tripled. The district currently serves about 50,000 residents in Huntley, portions of Lake In the Hills, Algonquin and Hampshire, and parts of unincorporated Rutland, Coral and Grafton Townships.

2007-08 Year in Review

<u>Circulation</u>	<u>2006-07</u>	<u>2007-08</u>
Total Items Loaned	468,908	530,050
Self Check Total	59,945	53,919
Attendance	265,274	284,481
Library Card Holders	25,786	* 24,491
Total Collection	95,096	105,164
* 4143 library cards were purged in 07-08.		
<u>Volunteers</u>	<u>2006-07</u>	<u>2007-08</u>
Number of Volunteers	703	828
Total Hours Worked	4082	4158

<u>Programs</u>	<u>2006-07</u>	<u>2007-08</u>
Children's Programs	395	657
Attendance	15,935	18,176
Teen Programs	41	93
Attendance	943	2506
Adult Programs	62	108
Attendance	1075	1,589
<u>Interlibrary Loan*</u>	<u>2006-07</u>	<u>2007-08</u>
Books Received	25,696	34,619
Books Sent	19,372	34,973
* Loans between libraries		

<u>Reference</u>	<u>2006-07</u>	<u>2007-08</u>
Children's Desk	11,348	13,349
Adult Desk	19,138	29,662
Technical Questions	8,231	9,780
Computer Help	58,992	49,087
Total Assistance:	97,709	101,878
<u>Website</u>	<u>2006-07</u>	<u>2007-08</u>
Page Views	70,375	81,311
E-books Borrowed	1,274	1,858



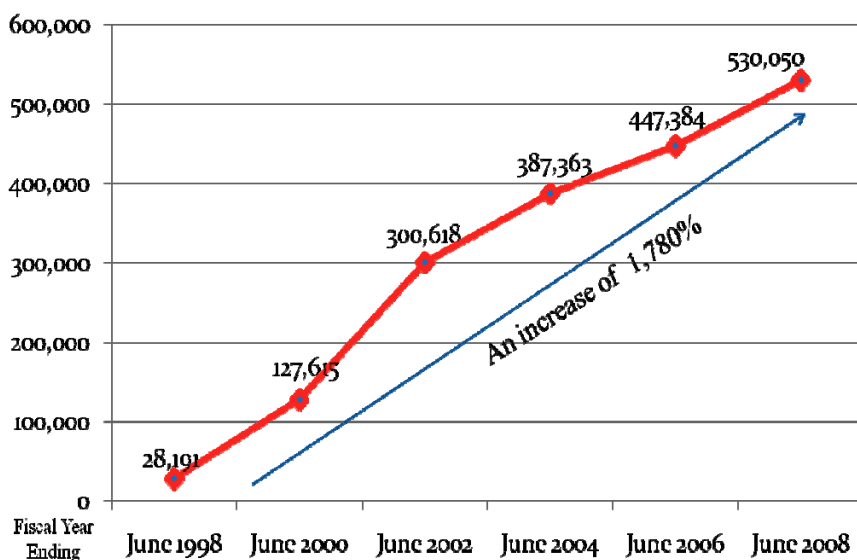
People wait at the busy check-out desk

Circulation increased from 28,191 in the fiscal year 1997-98 to 530,050 items loaned in 2007-08. The increase is attributed to the amount of growth in our area during this time period. Our population exploded from about 10,000 when the current library opened in 1998, to about 50,000 today.



The circulation staff check in returned materials.

Number of Materials Loaned per Year





2008 Summer Reading Program:

Summer Knights & Dragon Tales
 Summer Reading Tournament
 & Medieval Faire



Summer Reading Statistics:

(for first two days)

Sign-Up

June 13th & 14th, 2007 1220
 June 11th & 12th, 2008 1933
% increase: 58%

People Counter

June 13th & 14th, 2007 3381
 June 11th & 12th, 2008 3871
% increase: 14%

Items Circulated

June 13th & 14th, 2007 5926
 June 11th & 12th, 2008 6764
% increase: 14%

2007-08 Highlights

July 2007	Friends of the Library hold first ever Golf Outing Fundraiser, raising \$2300.
August 2007	Summer Reading Finale was held as a fundraiser for the library building fund, raising \$1797. Record number of summer reading participants in the program, totaling 3193 people.
November 2007	Board sends comprehensive survey to all district residents—17,200 copies mailed in all. Library staff and District 158 staff begin meeting to discuss planning for a One Book, One Community project in the fall of 2008.
December 2007	Library hosts annual Holiday Open House, greeting 303 people.
February 2008	Results of November survey available and discussed by Board of Trustees. 87% of residents felt the need to improve the library, and indicated what areas the library should improve. These included: more books, more seating, more movies, a larger children's area, longer hours, and a program room at the library. Huntley Expo booth greeted over 430 visitors at the two-day event
March 2008	Library polls residents to learn how much the improvements sought by residents in the November survey are worth by asking the amounts \$5, \$7.50, and \$10 per month (majority agreed on a \$5 per month amount).
April 2008	Board announced that a home valued at \$250,000 (average cost in our district) would be about \$5 per month, providing an addition of approximately 33,000 square feet to the existing building.
May 2008	Focus Group sessions are held to learn more about resident's concerns, ideas and suggestions. Began meeting with groups and organizations around the community to discuss the plans of the library district.
June 2008	Began scheduling public meetings to discuss the upcoming referendum. Surpassed Summer Reading record enrollment by 17%.