

INDIANA LIBRARY NEWS

by State Library staff

The **Michigan City Public Library** Friends of the Library group has collected over \$8,000 for the "Lincolns for Lincoln Campaign" which purchased sets of books for local schools by collecting pennies. Five-dollar bills, which like pennies also feature Abraham Lincoln, and other denominations were appreciated as well. The books are being given to schools in advance of the traveling exhibit titled "Forever Free: Abraham Lincoln's Journey to Emancipation," which re-examines Lincoln's thoughts about slavery throughout his political career and the conditions that led to the Emancipation Proclamation. The exhibit will open at the Michigan City Public Library on February 21, 2008, and will run through April 4. The Michigan City Public Library is one of just 63 exhibit locations across the county to host the exhibit.

The **Allen County Public Library** has been selected as the second library in the nation to serve as a testing site for professional genealogists seeking certification. Officials with the International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists, based in Utah, made the decision after touring the genealogy department. Three hours of the test are spent using the collection to document a case, and an extensive collection is needed for the complex test. Allen County's genealogy department holds about 318,000 books.

The Indianapolis Colts and the **Indianapolis Marion County Public Library** have announced a special partnership through which the organizations will work together to promote reading. The collaboration kicked off with "The Mane Event," a family reading celebration at the Pike Branch and included Colts players Matt Giordano and Josh Betts and the Colts mascot. Similar events are planned for other branches of IMCPL this fall.

The **West Lafayette Public Library (WLPL)** has introduced a new system that allows members to download audio books for listening anywhere they can carry their MP3 player. NetLibrary is the name of the new system, and it gives library card holders easy access to 297 audio books on 25 different subjects. The service is free for WLPL patrons.

The **Rockville Public Library** recently acquired a collection of rare genealogical information, *The Great Book of Genealogies* by Duald MacFirbis, from family descendants who live in Rockville. The McFirbis families were scribes who were supported by the ancient clans of western Ireland to keep historical records of the area for several hundred years. Duald McFirbis, the last of the scribes, completed this work during the height of the Cromwellian Wars in the mid-17th century. The original manuscript is housed at the University College in Dublin.

The **Monroe County Public Library** currently offers Indiana University work study students as free tutors to K-6 students. Services provided by the tutors include assistance with reading, math, and homework directions. Currently there are 13 tutors participating in the program.

The **Mishawaka-Penn-Harris Public Library** celebrated its 100th birthday this year with displays and programs from the century the library has been open.

Public libraries around the state observed Banned Book Week in September with displays and discussions. The 10 most frequently challenged books in 2006 according to the American Library Association:

- *And Tango Makes Three* by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell
- Gossip Girls series by Cecily Von Ziegesar
- Alice series by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
- *The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big Round Things* by Carolyn Mackler
- *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison
- Scary Stories series by Alvin Schwartz
- *Athletic Shorts* by Chris Crutcher
- *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky
- *Beloved* by Toni Morrison
- *The Chocolate War* by Robert Cormier

Bill Caddell retired from the **Frankfort Community Public Library** after serving as the director for 34 years. **Steve Martin** has been selected as the new director at the **Sheridan Public Library**.

CONSTRUCTION

Clinton County Contractual Library Board broke ground on the long awaited South Fork Library in Michigantown in August and construction began in September.

Progress continues on new library buildings in **Topeka** and **LaGrange** for the **LaGrange County Public Library**. The Topeka branch library is expected to be finished first, with a target date of July 2008.

The **Indianapolis Marion County Public Library** grand opening took place on December 9. Opening activities included a dedication ceremony and tours of the 293,000 square foot facility.

GRANTS

The **Dunkirk Public Library** received a \$145,000 trust through the Dunkirk Foundation from a trust fund established by the late Betty L. Gaunt. The Gaunt Memorial Library Trust will be used for construction or a major renovation of the library building in Dunkirk.

The Friends of the **Walton and Tipton Township Public Library** are the recipients of a \$12,000 Cass County Community Foundation Grant. The purpose of the grant is to provide a new behind-the-scenes computer operation. The grant will cover the purchase of a new server, fire wall, software, and the building of a local area network within the library.

Tipton County Public Library received a \$500 donation from the Vectren Energy Delivery to support the library's annual summer reading club.

Grants totaling over \$60,000 will support a new **Indianapolis Marion County Public Library** service that will encourage parents to read to their infants. The Baby Bunny Bags program, made possible by the combined support of the Comcast Foundation and the Library Fund, a fund of the Indianapolis Foundation, will provide materials appropriate for infants such as tactile books and board books that parents or caregivers can use to introduce books to their young ones. The Baby Bunny Bags are cloth tote bags that contain 15 books and information on caretakers highlighting the early literacy needs of babies.

