

Director's Report

September & October 2009

ADMINISTRATION

SEPTEMBER:

The first three weeks of September have quickly passed and I have spent this time getting acquainted with the Library Management Team (LMT), board, staff and community. At the time of this writing, I have met individually with the LMT and lead librarians at Technical Services and Council Tree. Meetings with board members have been scheduled and roundtable sessions with staff at all three facilities are planned for mid- October. I was introduced to the *Coloradoan* editorial board on September 16th and to County Manager, Frank Lancaster on September 18th. Meetings are scheduled this week with Wendy Williams, Assistant City Manager, and Council Tree architect, Joseph Montalbano. I'll be attending a community sustainability roundtable on October 1.

Approximately 45 library and Front Range Community College (FRCC) staff, friends and community members attended my welcome reception at Harmony Library on September 21st. State Librarian Eugene Hainer made a trip from Denver to introduce himself. Other attendees included Ted Schmidt, Loveland Public Library, two representatives from CSU libraries and Donna Beaman, Director of the Small Business Development Corporate (SBDC) network. FRCC Vice President, James Butzek stopped in as well.

The two-day New Directors Forum sponsored by the Colorado State Library on September 22 and 23 in Buena Vista was very informative. Not only was I introduced to Colorado library law and services provided by the state library, but I also learned about initiatives and collaborative efforts throughout the state. Furthermore I now have a network of colleagues from whom I can seek advice.

Jeff and I have met numerous times to prepare a draft budget for your review in October. He has met individually with the management team and has been patient with my many questions. He and I have prepared a budget narrative and a brief PowerPoint presentation for the October 5 meeting. A fuller, more historical presentation will be given at the November meeting when all trustees are present and the public is invited. Jeff and I met with Janet Miller and Joan Busch of the City of Fort Collins' Human Resources Department on September 28, 2009 to discuss revised human resources department contractual fees due to an increase in the number of employees. We are waiting for some further calculations before including additional costs in the 2010 budget.

I met with President Atchison and Vice President Liggett on September 24 to discuss the agenda for the October meeting. We also discussed my plans on establishing benchmarks to better evaluate library services and practices as outlined in the strategic plan and for future budget and staffing purposes. A task force comprised of trustees and staff members will conduct a

review of current library policies and procedures. Recommendations for new and revised policies, based on meaningful data will be presented to the board on a regular basis beginning next year. Trustees Atchison and Liggett have agreed to serve on the task force.

Finally, the Library Management Team is holding its fall all-day retreat at Tamasag on October 6th. Items for discussion include survey methodology and tools for evaluating patron response to PFR objectives; additional book return sites in the district, library trends as outlined in a document from the New Directors Forum, *OCLC Awareness to Funding* study and preliminary planning for Main Library Expansion.

OCTOBER:

October has been a productive month with time spent in meeting staff members at all levels. The Library Management Team (LMT) met in retreat on October 6th and made progress on several items. Survey methods to use to obtain patron satisfaction of the various objectives in the strategic plan were determined. Brief surveys will be conducted in-person, and online in November. The LMT also discussed new sites for additional book returns. Three new sites were identified as having potential based on criteria such as traffic patterns, distance from other libraries, population density, practicality and political considerations. Progress is being made in obtaining permission to install book returns at the Chapel of Annunciation, Poudre Valley REA and the Timnath Town Hall.

Staff round tables were held the week of October 12th in which staff at all three libraries were invited to meet as a group with the Director to hear an update on executive activities and to ask questions. An all-staff meeting was held October 21st during which the H1N1 Flu procedures were explained and the 2010 proposed budget was reviewed. A representative from United Way presented information about the 2010 campaign.

Meetings with community leaders continue as schedules permit. I introduced myself to all three commissioners at the beginning of a county commissioners meeting on October 13th and attended a citizens' meeting conducted by Commissioner Donnelly in LaPorte. Introductory meetings have also been held with Marty Heffernan, Director of Culture, Parks, Recreation and Environment for the City, Matt Robenault, Downtown Development Association, and Melissa Moran, General Manager, Front Range Village. Pete Hall, Director of Facilities, Poudre School District, took time to share with me the district's sustainability efforts and management practices.

Community events I have attended include the Alliance for Sustainable Colorado Roundtable on October 1; the WomenGive Lunch and Learn event, reopening of the Front Range Community College Student Center, and the Hispanic Heritage Month celebration at CSU, all on October 15th. On October 29th I will attend the Open House at the Small Business Development Center and the UniverCity Connections stakeholders meeting.

I was introduced to many of my library colleagues at the Front Range Library Directors meeting at Boulder Public Library on October 23rd and will serve as the facilitator for the group in 2010. Ken Draves and I attended the Book Lovers Ball at Denver Public Library on October 10th as guests of architect Joseph Montalbano. I also attended the CAL Legislative Committee at Denver Public Library on October 2.

The Library District will soon be a member of the Urban Library Council (ULC). ULC is a professional organization dedicated to strengthening the role and visibility of public libraries located in metropolitan areas with populations of 100,000 and greater. ULC provides a forum for public library leaders to share ideas, address common issues and conduct research. Meetings and symposia are held concurrently with ALA conferences, allowing members to participate in both organizations. ULC invites staff to join listservs and participate in convenient continuing education such as audio conferences and webinars. In my roles as both Deputy Director and Interim Director at Cleveland Public Library, I found the opportunities to interact with my counterparts throughout the U.S. very helpful.

An item on this month's agenda for the board to discuss is payment or partial payment of board and staff membership fees to the Colorado Association of Libraries and the American Library Association. Such action would serve as a means to encourage more involvement in these professional organizations. I am collecting data and information, about offering this benefit and polling other Colorado libraries and will have more information for you to consider at the Board meeting.

Included in your packets is a detailed breakdown of the 2010 proposed budget to help the Board in its deliberations. Jeff has prepared a brief PowerPoint with summary information as well.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

SEPTEMBER:

The Communications Office finalized the following projects:

- Created September programming calendar media and e-mail releases
- Sent out 19 press releases and made 10 media follow up calls
- Updated website & TV monitor
- Wrote September District Employees News Update
- Planned and coordinated all-staff End of Summer Event September 4
- Coordinating marketing efforts for Holly, i.e. Style Magazine interview, *Coloradoan* Editors meeting, *Coloradoan* interview, *North Forty News* interview
- Continued efforts to gain Facebook and Twitter fans
- Coordinated Holly's Meet & Greet - September 21
- Promotion for Banned Book Week - September 26-October 3
- Promotion for September is "National Get A Library Card Month"

- Continued planning for Writers' Block Event on September 26
- Working with Friends of the Library on promotion of October Book Sale, October 2-4
- Attended I-TMS Evaluation training
- Working with Lu & Ken on staff and public information about H1N1
- Created survey for final report on Book Express program
- Attended Front Range Village merchant meeting for fall activity planning
- Continuing work on updating library pieces with new name & logo

The following projects have been started:

- Communications portions of Strategic Plan
- 2009 all-staff meeting coordination, next one in October
- Coordinating PFR competencies calendar for dissemination
- Emergency procedures and Crisis communication guidelines
- Video scripting for capturing this year's activities for a Summer Reading video
- Staff internal communications survey #2
- Promotion of fall and 2010 activities and events
- Coordinating *Library Journal* article for Council Tree Library

OCTOBER:

The Communications Office has finalized the following projects:

- Created October programming calendar media and e-mail releases
- Sent out 15 press releases and made 8 media follow up calls
- Updated website & TV monitor
- Wrote and redesigned October District Employees News Update
- Continued efforts to gain FaceBook and Twitter fans
- Working with Friends on promotion of October Book Sale... October 2-4
- Continuing work on updating library pieces with new name & logo
- October all staff meeting coordination
- Coordinating promotion of PFR customer satisfaction surveys
- Coordinated *Library Journal* article submission for Council Tree Library
- Creating new Library Trust marketing brochure
- Created video for National Friends of the Library Month
- Created video to market Theater Pals November performance

The following projects have been started:

- Communications portions of Strategic Plan
- Updating emergency procedures and Crisis communication guidelines
- Video scripting for capturing this years activities for a Summer Reading video
- Staff internal communications survey #2
- Promotion of Winter and 2010 activities and events
- Planning for 2010 Employee Recognition Event – January 22

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

SEPTEMBER:

Vicky Hays, Early Literacy Librarian, has become the library's representative to the Larimer County Parent Education Network (PEN). PEN membership is open to organizations that support parents and provides information about parenting classes and other resources.

BookExpress is gearing up for the second half of its pilot year. Cydney Clink, Graphics Coordinator for Children's Services, created a glossy four-page supplement to the BookExpress catalog, colorfully displaying the sixty new popular titles that Children's Collection Development Librarian Marian Sawyer has selected and purchased. The supplement will be distributed in the next couple of weeks to the schools and community centers in the areas targeted by the books-by-mail project to create renewed interest in children requesting the books. Also, a phone and web-based survey will be offered to the 90+ BookExpress participants over the next two weeks, asking for their feedback and comments on how to make the program more effective. Results from this survey, comparison of reading test scores for participants, and statistics on Summer Reading Program participation in the targeted areas will comprise a mid-year evaluation of the project that will be submitted October 1 in order to meet the requirements of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant that partially funds the project.

With Labor Day, the weekly parade of story times coordinated by Programming Librarian Jean Gullikson began a much longer parade this year with the addition of our new Council Tree branch. Customers have been eager to have the fall story times start up again, but perhaps most eager at Council Tree where the very first story time for 2 and 3 year olds welcomed over 100 children and parents. In addition, Cydney has been very busy getting all the story time flyers, bulletin boards, and displays out to promote these popular programs and help customers get on track for the where, what, when of our new fall schedule. Children's Services staff from each of the locations are now getting a chance to see the 15 themed story time boxes they created over the last two months put into action. These boxes are delivered by courier, routing through the system, providing quality programs that staff at each location can quickly and easily prepare to present.

With the addition of Council Tree Library last spring, we decided to try a new configuration of a weekly evening Sleepyhead Story time instead of a second morning at Main. But we are still finding customers at Main Library who sorely miss that second morning of story times. The Sleepyhead Story times are successfully bringing in the families, however, and they do offer parents an evening option. These evening story times were so popular at Main in the spring that we now have a second one offered at Council Tree. It often seems that we could offer story times every day of the week at every library and still find crowds at each of them!

For several years, we have welcomed Bright Beginnings at our infant story times and this fall, a Bright Beginnings intern will be coming to visit intermittently at each of the libraries. Bright Beginnings is a non-profit group affiliated with Poudre Valley Hospital that provides great information for families with children 0-3 years old. They take just a few minutes at the end of

story times to tell about their program and pass out postcards to parents who are interested in having a visit.

The District's celebration of International Talk Like a Pirate Day went fairly smoothly and featured a pirate magician. The performances at Council Tree entertained 135 and 85 and the show at Main had 90 in attendance. Many staff and patrons dressed in pirate attire and our festivities were promoted on the official Talk Like a Pirate website (presumably with thanks to Paula Watson-Lakamp).

The first showings of the School's Out Movies went well. The show at Main drew 23 and the one at Council Tree drew 22. Parents were especially enthusiastic about the free movies and popcorn, so we expect attendance to grow through word-of-mouth.

We continue to get requests to hold special events, meetings, and workshops at the new Council Tree Library. The most recent of these is a request from the State Library to hold a children's services training workshop in the fall of '10.

Folks peaking in through the windows of the Main Library after 5 p.m. on Sunday, September 13, would have seen a scene as busy as a bee hive in the Children's area. A work "party" was held that evening by Children's Services staff to go through the entire Picture Book collection and evaluate items for whether or not the item should remain in the collection. This weeding process is needed every two years for the heavily-used picture book collection, and usually stretches out over a couple of months. The approach to get it all done in an evening after closing allowed a more efficient use of staff and building resources and a very satisfying team approach that involved over 15 volunteers, Friends of the Library book sorters, 6 Circulation and Shelving staff members, three WorkStudy students, and 13 Children's Services staff members. Over 30 boxes of books were identified as needing to be withdrawn from the collection: 25 of those boxes went to the Friends of the Library for use in their sales and on their free book shelf at the Friends shop; 5 of the boxes were taken to be recycled in Loveland by another volunteer.

OCTOBER:

Irene Romsa participated in the 2008 Census Data Pre-Release event hosted by United Way and Pathways Past Poverty. The event was attended by government officials and representatives of many non-profit agencies. Pathways Past Poverty needs committee members to start strategy on one of their goals that seeks to "Increase academic success of all youth in Larimer County" and "Provide supportive programming for children and their families to improve school readiness and participation." They agreed with me that the Library has a key role to play in this and will be inviting us to further meetings to talk about strategy.

On September 24, Irene Romsa and Jimena Pena presented at the Diversity Conference hosted annually by CSU. Jointly with CSU professors and CORE Executive Director, they presented about Diversity and the Storycorners program. They received excellent reviews and it was one of the sessions with the most attendance. Among the 79 attendees, was a USDA representative

who requested the same presentation for her staff. 48 people attended this second presentation.

Jennifer Zachman and Peggy Shaughnessy (Systems) are making progress on a new version of the children's web page. The new page will be more useful, relevant, user-friendly, current and fun for children and the people who care for and work with children. The page will also be more consistent with the look of other department web pages currently in use. Some of the priority issues currently under consideration include how to incorporate storytime and other children's programming information into the new site and whether we want to create a separate Early Literacy page.

In the second month of the School's Out Movies, 128 kids and parents attended 2 programs at Harmony and Council Tree. Another very popular program held on a day when the elementary schools were out for conferences, was Where the Wild Things Are at Council Tree. Excited children listened to the story, made crafts and had a Wild Things Romp throughout the library. 312 were in attendance at 4 programs.

Vicky Hays provided the Every Child Ready to Read program to the Teen Parents program at Fort Collins High School. One teen made the comment that she did not know that she should be reading to her baby as soon as he was born. Each teen also received a board book for them to share with their baby.

Barbara Crandall recently attended the annual meeting of the Homebound/Outreach Coordinators hosted by Estes Park Public Library. Debbi MacLeod of the Colorado Talking Book Library (CTBL) was the speaker. In Colorado, 400,000 out of 5 million people have vision problems; CTBL has 7,000 customers. The main point of the talk was to acquaint homebound coordinators with the new Flash technology, which is solid state with no moving parts in the players. Digital cartridges containing books are mailed to CTBL customers free of charge (Library of Congress reimburses the U. S. Postal Service). Veterans have priority for the new machines and new titles are being added monthly. CTBL is keeping a list of "special case" customers who may get the digital machines sooner. These are customers who cannot physically operate the cassette tape machines.

After the speaker concluded the group met to discuss problems and ideas for homebound service. It was interesting to note that the Mesa County Public Library in Grand Junction delivers to over 500 homebound customers and serves the entire Grand Valley. They have 6 routes and deliver to 38 facilities twice per month. Aurora Public Library will eliminate the homebound program if the November ballot issue is not passed by voters.

CIRCULATION SERVICES

SEPTEMBER:

September is the month of training. Everyone is busy getting all the various work study students up to speed in their respective areas. We have also started cross-training several members of the shelving crews at both Main and Harmony to help out with paging slips and in the check-in room. Kim Doran, our designated trainer, has been working with supervisors in both buildings to determine who needs the training and when. Staff is still getting used to and up to speed on the new "claims return" procedures and so far things are going very smoothly; not to mention the increased speed in which we let customers know of their concerns.

ILL has seen the first usage of two new Prospector functions; Springer E-books and the Hathi Trust. Springer E-books is available mostly through academic libraries; it is a link that is available to a patron for 2 weeks in order to access a pdf file. The borrowing library is notified that the link is available and it becomes their responsibility to notify the patron. The Hathi Trust is an electronic resource link that patrons can access for digitized materials. Nancy says that this past month was the first time any one from the District has used these resources.

Self-check figures continue to hold firm with Main at 72.6%; Harmony at 67.4%; and Council Tree at 92% as of Sept 27th. The overall figure for the month is 77.4% is District-wide.

OCTOBER:

Circulation/Shelving has been busy settling into the patterns that will be this coming school year. This year, our Work Study students, this year, are one of the best groups we have ever had. We are going to look into the possibility of getting some Work Study Students from FRCC for Council Tree. Campus Librarian Annie Fox says that with registration up there are more WS students than ever before and the quality of the candidates is better than it has been in past years. Work Study is a Federal program that allows students to work for grant monies. The programs offer on-campus as well as off-campus employment. To be an off-campus employer you must be non-profit. We have been actively involved in CSU's Work Study program for over a decade and in some years have been the largest off-campus employer. From the first day Harmony Library opened we have enjoyed the benefits of the Work Study program. These programs allow us to expand our hourly staffs at little or no cost to the District. Because FRCC has an on-site Campus Librarian who can "sponsor" the students, those hired at Harmony cost us nothing. Since we are an off-campus employer, the students coming from CSU cost us a third of the hourly rate they are hired for. There is really only one downside to the program...the students generally can only work about a dozen hours a week and they are gone over the holidays and in the summer! We have been approached by Aims Community College about participation in their Loveland Campus WS program and are hopeful that once they get the program up and running we will be able to participate with them as well.

The middle of October found Circ participating in the first of the surveys for PFR. The survey is short, only 3 questions, and was placed in many of the books on the current holdshelf. The Circ survey centers around the customers' satisfaction with the holds program, so where better to

start that folks who actually use the program. The weekend of 10/23-25 staff will be less passive and work at asking patrons using the self-checks if they would participate in our short survey. So far the results have been very positive, but we did not expect anything less! We will keep you posted on the final results.

Now that things have settled down a bit...Lynda is on the road again. She will be spending a half day at Council Tree and a half day at Harmony each week. She feels it is extremely important to see first hand what is going on in Circ District-wide. The first day on the road was Tuesday, Oct 20 and while some of the hourly staff was surprised to see her, everyone was glad to have the opportunity to visit with her and share their successes and questions. Everyone is excited about and looking forward to having her in their buildings on a regular basis, and Lynda is really looking forward to meeting more of the hourly staff and getting their take on departmental issues.

REFERENCE AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

SEPTEMBER:

Much fun was had by all at the *Fort Collins Reads* Spelling Bee. Staff and outside sponsors raised money for two library teams to participate, the Library Book Club and the Lipstick Librarians (Sue-Ellen Jones, Sarah Scobey and Anne Macdonald). Attendees felt that the Lipstick Librarians deserved a "Best Costume" award. The winner of the event was the Harmony Book Club sponsored by the FRCC Arts and Letters Department. Approximately \$4,000 was raised for *Fort Collins Reads*. Upcoming programs based around 'Tortilla Curtain' by T.C. Boyle:

- Thursday, October 8th Talk with Laura Resau, author of "Red Glass" companion book to Tortilla Curtain.
- Book Discussion: Thursday, October 15th at 6:30 p.m. at Council Tree Library
- Book Discussion: Saturday, October 24th at 10 a.m. at Northside Aztlan Center
- T.C. Boyle presentation: Sunday, November 8th at 7:30 p.m. at the Lincoln Center

The next "History Comes Alive" program will be hosting Eleanor Roosevelt in the Harmony Library at 7 p.m. on Friday, September 25th. Recent "History Comes Alive" programs were moved outdoors or into the library due to construction and conflicts with using the student center. The student center has been reserved from October to next May for these large programs. The programs are being supported by the Friends of the Library and FortFund.

Kris Johnson, AskColorado Coordinator with the state library, hosted a "Virtual Reference" workshop for public desk staff. She provided a fun and interactive workshop that presented up-to-date tricks to using the internet to answer reference questions and some tips on how to provide accurate and efficient reference whether the patron is in the building or asking through an electronic avenue. Four new staff members joined the pool to staff AskColorado, a 24/7 chat reference service.

OCTOBER:

The Teen area at Main now has some new fun furniture. The purple booth is popular with all ages. There is also a new game table where teens can play board games like Monopoly and Chess.

This year several staff members from the library volunteered at the big Friends of the Library sale in the mall. They really enjoyed working directly with the Friends and using their library skills in a different arena.

SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATION

SEPTEMBER and OCTOBER:

The SA Department joins the rest of the library and community in welcoming Holly Carroll as Executive Director. Holly has enthusiastically jumped into the action at the library, meeting with many folks. Carson enjoyed meeting with Holly to talk about the Systems Administration department and possibilities for the future. We're all thrilled to have Holly on board!

The re-formed library Web Committee held it's second meeting in September, finishing up work on the charter for the group, and beginning a very productive discussion about accessibility of web resources for disabled populations -- essentially, looking at what's necessary to make our web resources available to folks with vision problems, cognitive issues, and more.

Tasks, projects, and project planning for the rest of 2009 is in full force -- picking up odds and ends, and in some cases beginning some new efforts on the books for 2009.

In October we added three more public Internet PCs at Council Tree -- an addition welcomed by staff and patrons alike.

At Main, a cross-department team put together a "wish list" to enhance public computing with our second year of grant funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Items include the replacement of the oldest of the public Internet access PCs, an update of our patron wireless system, some new printers, and the possibility of laptops for public training. More details to come!

A project to migrate the fiber-optic network at Harmony library began at the end of September. Our existing fiber is running on equipment that has become obsolete so a change is necessary. Our new network will be based on the successful network implemented at the Council Tree Library earlier this year.

New projects include the formation of a technology plan for District (more info on that effort in the next Director's report); automation support for floating collections, and more!

Carson was invited to speak at the Rangeview Library District's "Techfest" -- a day devoted to staff technology training at the Denver-area District. Carson presented a program on "smart" Internet radio offerings Pandora.com and Last.fm, and was part of a panel discussion of tech leaders discussing how to keep technologically current in an ever-changing world. Carson also spoke to a FRCC business class about the library's implementation of RFID, and the implications of the technology in an e-business environment.

HARMONY, COUNCIL TREE, & TEEN SERVICES

SEPTEMBER:

HARMONY LIBRARY

Enrollment at the College this semester remains high as the drop/add dates approach.

The Electronic Learning Center (ELC) at harmony is getting new computers provided through FRCC funds.

Gordon Goldsmith, Department of Public Safety Supervisor at FRCC-Larimer Campus, is retiring. Gordon has been with the College for a number of years. During his tenure he has set a very high standard for campus Public Safety. We have all appreciated Gordon's unfailing professionalism and responsiveness to library staff on issue both large and small. He will be missed.

COUNCIL TREE

With the beginning of public schools in mid-August, the pace of visitation has slowed somewhat. Average door count in July = 780; Aug = 650; Sept = 623 (as of 9/23/09). We have found that families with young children continued to visit the library on weekday mornings, even during the August storytime hiatus. Families with young children are once again visiting CT in droves for our storytimes and other programs. School-aged children now tend to visit afterschool (4 – 6:30pm), and adults continue to use the library consistently at all times.

- Fire drill 9/17/09: Lead Librarian Currie Meyer coordinated a fire drill on Thursday, September 17 with Front Range Village, Poudre Fire Authority and Rob Stansbury (facilities). CT staff was not forewarned. PFA fire chief Dick Spiess said staff performed very well in evacuating the public, guiding them to safe exits and evacuating themselves in a reasonable amount of time.
- Welcome, fall! We "fired up" the fireplace for the first time on Monday, September 21, a rainy and chilly day. Customers seem to enjoy this feature and are often found enjoying their newspaper, magazine, book or laptop near the fireplace.
- Other facilities / furniture points of information:
 - Investigating replacement / warranty of three stools in Teen

- Small storytime room door hinge device tightened to slow door closure and is working well now
- Porter proposed an upholstery cleaning estimate at Currie's request
- Paula Watson-Lakamp debriefed Currie re: Front Range Village merchants' meeting which took place September 9. Topics covered included holiday event and promotions tentative plans.

Teen Services

- Sue-Ellen hosted an IRS meeting at the Council Tree Library on September 5th, 2009. 32 teens attended.
- Diane and Sue-Ellen presented on Teen Services to the Library Board on Monday, September 14th

2009 Teen Summer Reading Program---Final Statistics

Registration

- 75% of teens who signed up for the program did so within the first three weeks between May 14th and June 11th. 1,133 teens signed up for the program during this time period out of the summer's total of 1,530 teens.
- 544 teens (36%) signed up at the Council Tree Library. 445 teens (29%) signed up at the Main Library. 372 teens (24%) signed up at the Harmony Library. 169 teens (11%) signed up online.
- 114 teens (7%) were from the 80521 zip code. 188 teens (12%) were from the 80524 zip code. 436 teens (28%) were from the 80525 zip code. 337 teens (22%) were from the 80526 zip code. 223 teens (15%) were from the 80528 zip code.
- 1,388 teens (91%) who signed up for the teen summer reading program were from Fort Collins zip codes. 109 teens (7%) were from the region. 33 teens (2%) were from outside the region completely.

Prizes

- 745 teens (49%) who signed up for the program earned the first prize. (The completion rate for 2008 was 54%).
- 445 teens (60%) chose the free ice cream coupon. 300 teens (40%) chose the bookstore discount coupon.
- 529 teens (35%) who signed up for the program earned the second prize. 288 teens (57%) chose the book light. 241 teens (43%) chose the paperback book.

Readers to the Rescue

- Teens completed 7,820 Readers to the Rescue hours, earning a total of \$1,564 for the Fort Collins Cat Rescue shelter.
- Teens who finished 6th grade read for 2,890 hours (37% of the total).
- 7th graders read for 1,810 hours (23%).
- 8th graders read for 1,130 hours (14%).
- 9th graders read for 675 hours (9%).

- 10th graders read for 760 hours (10%).
- 11th graders read for 465 hours (6%).
- 12th graders read for 90 hours (1%).

OCTOBER:

HARMONY LIBRARY

As part of a comprehensive process for FRCC-Larimer Campus's nursing program, an accreditation team visited Harmony in October, evaluated overall facilities and relevant collections and resources, and consulted with Annie Fox, Campus Librarian. FRCC-Larimer Campus has the largest nursing program in the state, and FRCC nursing graduates' scores rank among the best in Colorado.

We are in the process of improving our materials arrangement at Harmony. We will modify the periodicals section for easier access, rearrange the media section to offer better display and merchandising opportunities and easier browsing, and evaluate, update and shift the reference section to provide more space for nonfiction books. . Working with Annie Fox, we are beginning to evaluate Harmony's interior needs and functional spaces in both public and staff areas.

A second, month long period of road construction on Shields is now complete. During much of September and October access to the campus and to Harmony from the South was restricted on Shields.

COUNCIL TREE LIBRARY

- Three Council Tree staff members, Currie Meyer, Sara Nesbitt and Amy Holzworth, attended half-day training with Kris Johnson, coordinator of the Ask Colorado virtual reference service on September 18 at Harmony Library. The three, degreed librarians or current LIS students, are now actively serving the online reference community through weekly AskColorado chat shifts.
- Faded end-panel and display signs have been shown to interior designer Deva Montalbano (Studiantrope), and are slated for replacement. To determine which type of paper is most resistant to fading, Deva will send two to three types of paper to CT for testing. After the best paper is determined, all CT display signs will be replaced.
- Prompted by a patron suggestion and with Currie and Ken's approval, a column of shelving from the adult nonfiction 600s was removed and placed in storage. Shelves shifted the books from the removed column to the north. The remaining empty space allows for much improved traffic flow and sight lines.

- Staff installed three new Internet computers, including tables and chairs, to Council Tree's "WWW" area. The area now contains 2 20-minute stations and 9 reservable 1-hour stations.
- Council Tree is awaiting new, illuminated exterior signage. Installation is anticipated by early-mid December.
- Council Tree's meeting room remained active with 6 non-profit group reservations filled between September 22 and October 22; and dozens of library programs including weekly storytimes, Chess club, Health Care series, Noches en Familia, *Where the Wild Things Are* event, school's out movie, and the staff roundtable with Holly Carroll.

Teen Services

Diane, Sue-Ellen, and Norm met with a Demco gaming equipment representative on Sept. 23rd to get ideas and cost proposals for requesting such equipment from the Friends.

The Teens Write!: Vision Boarding @ Your Library program was held on September 19. There were 16 very enthusiastic teens in attendance.

Author Will Hobbs spoke at the Main Library from 3:00-4:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 26th, to an audience of 22.

The monthly IRS meeting was held at Harmony Library on Saturday, October 3rd, from 11-1. 29 teens attended.

Author Laura Malone Elliott spoke to the 29 teen IRS members for a special 40-minute presentation during their meeting. She also did another presentation following this one for 10 people.

Diane presented five book talk presentations at Preston Middle School on October 20 and 21 for Teen Read Week with this year's theme "Read Beyond Reality."

The Knight of Murder program took place on Friday, October 23, at the Main Library after hours from 6:30-9:30 p.m. There were 48 enthusiastic teens in attendance, including 23 boys.