

Librarian's Shelf by Jill Owens

Even more changes for access at your library

Last month I announced several recent changes to make services more accessible at the library. We have a few more ready to announce, and more in the works.

Beginning January 3rd the library will open at 9:30 on weekdays instead of 10:00 a.m. The new hours will be Monday - Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Friday 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., and Sunday 1:30 – 5:00 p.m. This will bring the library to a total of 64 open hours a week. As you know, the electronic/online services are available 24/7, and now physical accessibility will be increased as well.

The library board and staff have also reduced some fees. Interlibrary loan is now a flat \$2.00 fee per item without the extra charge for borrowing outside the consortium. This will help with patron access to items for which the library has no space or demand to carry. There is no longer a charge for the AccuCut die-cutting stencil tool, and color prints in the public lab are now only .25.

The library's new website, designed in conjunction with the city's new website, can be found at <http://www.columbusne.us/library> . The new site has many new tools to help you access more easily the information you want and need. You can subscribe to information to come to you automatically through the new "notify me" feature of the website. You can subscribe to everything from the bookmobile schedule to the City Council agendas. The information will come to you; you won't have to go looking for it! Other tools include a "contact us" and a "citizen inquiry" that will route your comments and inquiries to city departments, including the library. The library's home page also has a "quick links" area for those frequently used items, such as the catalog and OverDrive, as well as an FAQ (frequently asked questions) section right below the calendar. You'll also enjoy the searchable archives where you can find past library board minutes and our Sunday columns from the Columbus Telegram, as well as other departments' archived documents.

An announcement will be coming next month about increased check-out limits, the policy for which is still being revised. We hope to make access easier for patrons who have to drive into Columbus to use the library. This will also free up some shelf space by having materials in the hands of patrons instead of on the shelves.

The public's generosity to the library continues.

The "Great Books for Great Kids" promotion by Runza Restaurant netted \$552.18 for the Columbus Public Library Children's Department. Thank you to Runza and to everyone who turned out to support the library and Runza September 27th.

There were two recent 'in kind' donations to the library: Brian Messenger and Mary Novotne donated a globe. Tim and Peggy Engel donated a microwave to the staff break room.

Donations to the Columbus Library Foundation were given as follows: From Mr. and Mrs. Leon Wragge in memory of Hazel Becher; from Ron and Ann Kudron in memory of Sharon Specht Moon; and from Mr. and Mrs. Bud Fleischer in memory of Margaret Clausen.