

Strategic Planning Process Continues at the Library

By Jill Owens

Do you have a club or group that is looking for a program speaker? The last week of August, the library staff and board would like to talk to your group about our strategic planning and get the word out about the survey piece of the process.

We want everyone in Columbus, Platte County, and the area to take our survey, which will be offered in both English and Spanish. A survey will provide feedback, guide the plan, generate excitement and interest, build awareness, allow for input from many demographics, provide focus, and is a statistical tool.

As you know, the library recently embarked on a several month strategic planning process. The first week of June, MaryEllin Santiago of Santiago Library Consulting was in Columbus working with the library staff, the board, and the director. Additionally a community stakeholder meeting was held, which included invitations to election officials. These groups started the process of prioritizing service roles for Columbus Public Library, and soon we'll be looking for your thoughts so that this is a community-driven plan.

Libraries have a strong economic, educational, and social impact in their communities. We need your input to be responsive to the needs and wants of area citizens.

The survey will be available August 16 – September 15 at <http://www.columbusne.us/library>, and there will be paper versions available both at the library and on the bookmobile.

Some “Did you know?” facts from the American Library Association: 62% of adults in the United States have library cards; There are more public libraries than McDonald’s in the United States – a total of 16,604, including branches; American spend more than twice as much on candy as they do on libraries; 98.7% of public libraries provide internet access; Public libraries are the #1 point of online access to the internet for those without a connection at home, school, or work.

As you can see, the library is an important center for our community – please take part in the survey and “represent!”

The Columbus Library Foundation received a memorial for Fred Wachal from Raymond and Nancy Welker.

Library staff would like to thank the following for their donations which helped with the Summer Reading Program: the Kallweit Family, Applebee’s, McDonald’s, Pizza Hut, The Columbus Optimist Club, Pizza Ranch, Runza, Arby’s, The Columbus Woman’s Club, Cornhusker Power Goodwill Fund, BankFirst, Columbus Bank and Trust, Cornerstone Bank, Great Western Bank, Pinnacle Bank, Friends of the Library, Calico Quilt Club, and Center 6 Theater.