

Public Meeting Notice and Agenda

PERRY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

will hold a meeting on

Thursday, September 9, 2021 at 8 a.m.

THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD IN PERSON

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of July 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes
4. Approval of Financial Statements: Gift Claims and City of Perry Library Line Items
5. Unfinished Business:
 - a. Reopening Plan
 - b. Security Camera System Update
 - c. Strategic Planning Process
6. New Business
 - a. Collection Development Policies
 - i. Materials Selection
 - ii. Responsibility for Materials Selection
 - iii. Selection Guidelines
 - iv. Reconsideration of Library Materials
 - v. Weeding Policy
 - vi. Gift Policy
 - b. Partnership with Hometown Heritage and City of Perry
7. Board Education – Strategic Planning – Names for Survey
8. Librarian Report
9. Open Forum
10. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting is on November 11, 2021 at 8 a.m.?
11. Adjourn

PERRY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

July 8, 2021

The Perry Public Library Board of Trustees met in regular session on Thursday, June 10, 2021, at 8 a.m.

Note: This meeting was held in-person at the Perry Public Library in the Large Meeting Room.

Board members Mark Miller, Margaret Ruggle, Heather Karolus, Rosa Gonzalez, and Kendall Rathje were present. Library Director Mary Murphy and Deputy Director Misty VonBehren were also present.

Board President Mark Miller called the meeting to order.

Agenda – Kendall Rathje moved to approve the agenda with Heather Karolus seconding the motion. MCU.

Minutes – Rosa Gonzalez moved to approve the amended minutes from the June 10, 2021, meeting, and Heather Karolus seconded. MCU.

Financial Statements – Gift Fund bills were presented with deposits and expenses explained. Kendall Rathje moved, and Margaret Ruggle seconded a motion to approve checks #6079 - #6103 in the amount of \$6,936.75 from the Gift Fund. MCU.

The City of Perry Library Fund Status Report was reviewed. Kendall Rathje moved to approve the City of Perry Library Fund Status Report with Heather Karolus seconding the motion. MCU.

Unfinished Business:

Reopening – We are encouraging those that have not been vaccinated to wear masks in the library. Our first adult face-to-face program is on July 15th, The Whole Hog program at Bett and Bev's Restaurant. Our first children's face-to-face program will be a program on carrots presented by Dallas County Public Health on the Carnegie Library Museum lawn on July 28th. Assuming these programs go well, we will resume more library services on September 1, 2021, such as the patrons' ability to use the small and large meeting rooms and face-to-face indoor programming. In addition, more furniture will gradually move back into the library.

New Business:

Proposed Circulation Policies concerning Borrowing Privileges, Loaning of Materials, Reference Assistance, Overdue Fines, Notification Options, and Confidentiality were reviewed. Heather Karolus moved to approve the proposed policies with Kendall Rathje seconding the motion. MCU.

Special Project: Updating the Security Camera System – Notification for the ARPA Grant Funds will be made by the State Library of Iowa later this month. Once we receive notification of funding, Drees Company will be contacted to order the new cameras and system.

Google Tour of the Library Post Renovation – Google Representative Herman Martinez from American Marketing and Publishing visited the library to ask if we would like to update the video tour of the library seen online, given that we have changed the look of the library. Heather Karolus moved to approve the expense of \$1450 to update the video tour of the library with Margaret Ruggle seconding. MCU.

Librarian's Report:

Registration for the Children, Teen, and Adult Summer Library Programs started on May 3rd and it has been stronger than we saw last year – Adults, 111; Teens, 30; Children's, 305.

Another Little Libraries is planned and will be placed in the Perry Wash Laundromat. The Memorandum of Understanding is being reviewed at this time and the Little Library should be in place before too long.

Report: Perry Public Library - A Year in Review: Fiscal Year 2020-2021

We will long remember the year 2020 as the year of Covid-19. Much of our typical library services had to be rethought to find how we could readily serve our customers without contact. Much was learned over the past year and three months.

What we did:

1. Delivered library materials and services (copying, printing, and faxing) curbside to trunks or back seats without contact.
2. Giving lots of readers advice on what books to read because they could not browse the physical library.
3. Gave away over 6,000 books to elementary, middle, and high school students in Free Book Fridays program in the public school's Grab 'N Go Lunch program and new Little Libraries at the Elementary and Middle schools with CARES grant funding of \$12,400.
4. Implemented and sustained our Healthy Steps Outreach programs such as Farmer's Market Produce Outreach, Food Rescue/Recovery, Healthy Cooking Programs, and the Wiese Park StoryWalk™. These programs were initiated with a \$21,128 grant from Iowa Department of Public Health, Dallas County Health Department, and Telligen.
5. 2020 Library Renovation: End of July to October
 - a. Replaced all floor coverings with new carpet, linoleum, and tile
 - b. New east entrance
 - c. New water fountain with bottle filler
 - d. New family bathroom
 - e. Updated men and women's bathrooms
 - f. Replaced the circulation desk
 - g. Reorganized the layout of the library by shifting the fiction and nonfiction books
 - h. Replaced fabric end panels on bookshelves

- i. Replaced computer catalog desks and security gates
 - j. Updated the Study Room in the wainscoting and paint
 - k. Staff area painted
 - l. Reorganized the storage room
6. Used data-driven facts and advice to make decisions when to reopen, how much to reopen, and when to eliminate restrictions.
7. Realized how much we missed the contact with our customers.

What to look forward to in FY 2021-2022:

1. Having face-to-face programming
2. Resuming all library services
3. Replacement of all window blinds
4. Painting of the interior of the library
5. New professional signage
6. New children's bookshelves
7. Upgrade security camera system

Board Education – Strategic Planning – State Library Consultant Maryann Mori explained last month that all libraries in Iowa are required to apply for accreditation every three years. The accreditation process requires the library to meet quality standards set for by the State Library of Iowa that reflect current 'Best Practices' for libraries. One of the quality standards is that the library must have a strategic plan. Most strategic plans are set up for a 5-year horizon. The strategic plan should be based on community data that reflect the needs and wants of the community which usually requires some method of evaluation.

Maryann Mori developed a method of surveying a carefully selected sample of residents. This sample would be made up of library users and nonlibrary users from different segments of the city population. Director Murphy will make a master list of segments of the Perry population and send this out to the Board members to make suggestions of Perry residents to participate in Ms. Mori's survey. It is important that library users and non-library users are in the sample to find out what is desired in library services. The Board will review the selected sample for its validity in reflecting our community.

From this list, a Trustee or Director Murphy would personally ask if they would be willing to spend ten minutes on the phone answering five questions about their community. The five questions are:

- a. How long have you lived in Perry?
- b. What is best about living in Perry?
- c. What could be done to improve the City of Perry?
- d. What is your relationship with the library?
- e. What is the best way the library can serve the community?

Maryann Mori would conduct the survey and compile the results to conclude how best the library should serve the community. A strategic plan would then be written based on these results.

A timeline will be created determining what needs to be accomplished by when to produce a strategic plan by January 2022. The accreditation application needs to be submitted to the State Library of Iowa by February 28, 2022, which would give us a month of flexibility.

The next normally scheduled meeting is on Thursday, September 9, 2021, at 8 a.m. in the library's large meeting room. The public is always welcome.

Rosa Gonzalez moved to adjourn the meeting with Kendall Rathje seconding. MCU.
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Mary K. Murphy, Library Director

Register Report
7/3/2021 through 9/2/2021

9/2/2021

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Date	Num	Description	Category	Amount
BALANCE 7/2/2021				27,748.70
7/6/2021	DEP	S Deposit	Gifts And Memorials	100.00
			Donation Income	169.17
7/6/2021	DEP	FDMS-Settlement Deposit	Credit Debit Card Revenue DEposited ACH	1.00
7/6/2021	DEP	FDMS-Settlement Deposit	Credit Debit Card Revenue DEposited ACH	12.30
7/6/2021	DEP	FDMS-Settlement Deposit	Credit Debit Card Revenue DEposited ACH	23.20
7/12/2021	DEP	Deposit	Donation Income	0.10
7/19/2021	DEP	S Deposit	Gifts And Memorials	90.00
			Donation Income	36.60
7/26/2021	DEP	S Deposit	Gifts And Memorials	60.00
			Donation Income	20.00
			Donation Income	0.20
7/28/2021	6104	Barkley Construction	Furniture	-600.00
7/28/2021	6105	Wells Fargo Visa	Marketing	-1,378.93
7/28/2021	6106	Fareway	Programming	-111.04
7/28/2021	6107	Sarah Finn	Craft Supplies	-30.24
7/28/2021	6108	Mary K. Murphy	Programming	-16.03
7/29/2021	6109	Bill Douglas	Programming	-400.00
7/29/2021	6110	Bill Gustafson	Programming	-400.00
7/29/2021	6112	Wells Fargo Visa	Children's Activities	-108.18
7/29/2021	DEP	Deposit	Children's Activities Income	587.24
7/29/2021	6111	Void		0.00
7/30/2021	DEP	NAYAX Reimbursement	Credit Debit Card Revenue DEposited ACH	7.22
8/16/2021	DEP	Deposit	Gifts And Memorials	10.70
8/23/2021	DEP	Deposit	Donation Income	149.80
8/31/2021	DEP	S Deposit	Gifts And Memorials	2,400.00
			Gifts And Memorials	250.00
			Gifts And Memorials	155.00
			Donation Income	29.00
9/2/2021	6113	S Wells Fargo Visa	Programming	-185.07
			Marketing Services	-3.27
9/2/2021	6114	Wells Fargo	Children's Programming	-61.51
9/2/2021	6115	City Of Perry	Credit Debit Card Revenue to City Hall	-51.70
9/2/2021	6116	S Fareway	Programming	-9.69
9/2/2021	6117	Perry Grand 3 Theatre	Programming	-50.00
9/2/2021	6118	Misty Von Behren	Expense Reimbursement	-200.00
9/2/2021	6119	Jeff Easley	Memorial Art	-2,400.00
7/3/2021 - 9/2/2021				-1,904.13
BALANCE 9/2/2021				25,844.57
TOTAL INFLOWS				4,101.53
TOTAL OUTFLOWS				-6,005.66
NET TOTAL				-1,904.13

Banking Summary
7/3/2021 through 9/2/2021

Category	7/3/2021- 9/2/2021
INCOME	
Children's Activities Income	587.24
Credit Debit Card Revenue DEposited A...	43.72
Donation Income	404.87
Gifts And Memorials	3,065.70
TOTAL INCOME	4,101.53
EXPENSES	
Uncategorized	0.00
Children's Activities	108.18
Children's Programming	61.51
Craft Supplies	30.24
Credit Debit Card Revenue to City Hall	51.70
Expense Reimbursement	200.00
Furniture	600.00
Marketing	1,378.93
Marketing Services	3.27
Memorial Art	2,400.00
Programming	1,171.83
TOTAL EXPENSES	6,005.66
OVERALL TOTAL	-1,904.13

City of Perry
Library Fund Status Report
September 2, 2021

GL Budget Report: CULTURE & RECREATION - LIBRARY

Account Number	Account Title	YTD			
		Total Budget	Expended	YTD Balance	Pct Expended
General Fund					
001-410-6010	WAGES	\$192,690.00	\$29,623.11	\$163,066.89	15%
001-410-6020	WAGES - PT	\$56,135.00	\$7,850.29	\$48,284.71	14%
001-410-6240	TRAVEL AND CONFERENCE	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	0%
001-410-6310	REPAIR & MAINTENANCE BLDG	\$1,000.00	\$41.97	\$958.03	4%
001-410-6371	UTILITIES	\$32,000.00	\$8,662.59	\$23,337.41	27%
001-410-6373	TELEPHONE	\$4,500.00	\$722.73	\$3,777.27	16%
001-410-6408	INSURANCE TORT/GENERAL	\$7,238.00	\$0.00	\$7,238.00	0%
001-410-6413	CONTRACT SERVICES	\$16,000.00	\$337.14	\$15,662.86	2%
001-410-6490	CONSULTANT & PROFESSIONAL	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	0%
001-410-6506	OFFICE SUPPLY	\$5,000.00	\$233.82	\$4,766.18	5%
001-410-6508	POSTAGE & SHIPPING	\$2,000.00	\$15.32	\$1,984.68	1%
Benefit Fund					
112-410-6110	SOCIAL SECURITY	\$19,035.00	\$2,683.03	\$16,351.97	14%
112-410-6130	IPERS	\$23,489.00	\$3,291.84	\$20,197.16	14%
112-410-6150	PREMIUMS HEALTH INSURANCE	\$68,252.00	\$11,169.83	\$57,082.17	16%
112-410-6152	PREMIUMS/LIFE/DISABILITY	\$1,087.00	\$187.38	\$899.62	17%
112-410-6160	WORKERS COMPENSATION	\$276.00	\$89.11	\$186.89	32%
Capital Fund					
121-410-6725	CAP OUTLAY-OFFICE EQUIP	\$14,871.00	\$304.25	\$14,566.75	2%
121-410-6770	CAP OUTLAY - LIBRARY	\$40,000.00	\$5,238.76	\$34,761.24	13%
122-410-6750	CAPITAL/BUILDING	\$32,077.00	\$32,410.60	(\$333.60)	101%
Gift Fund					
167-410-6520	MISCELLANEOUS	\$45,000.00	\$0.00	\$45,000.00	0%
167-410-6770	CAPITAL/BOOKS	\$25,200.00	\$0.00	\$25,200.00	0%
LIBRARY TOTAL		\$612,195.00	\$102,861.77	\$509,333.23	17%

Drill Down: CULTURE & RECREATION > LIBRARY > CAPITAL/BUILDING (122-410-6750) History YTD**GL Budget Report: CULTURE & RECREATION > LIBRARY > CAPITAL/BUILDING (122-410-6750) History YTD**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Other Information</u>	<u>Debits</u>	<u>Credits PO #</u>	<u>Invoice #</u>	<u>Check #</u>
08-02...	CREDIT CARD - R...	WELLS FARGO B...	\$756.10		072020...	101700
08-02...	RECONTROL WO...	DREES HEATING...	\$17,650.00		35320	101648
08-02...	SPRING CLEANU...	NO LAWN LEFT B...	\$402.50		18045	101675
08-02...	REPLACEMENT B...	ALICE'S HAUS DR...	\$13,602.00		17564	101618

Collection Development Policy

The Collection Development Policy, approved by the Perry Public Library Board of Trustees, is one of the Library's fundamental policy documents. It outlines the philosophies that create and shape the Perry Public Library's unique collection, the practices that maintain the collection over time, and the guidelines that help the collection respond to community needs while protecting the collection from societal and political pressures. The Collection Development Policy ensures that over time, the Perry Public Library's collection will remain on course, reflecting the needs of Perry's community, while creating unique experiences of meaning and inspiration for the individual customer.

The Library's collects materials, in a variety of formats, which support its function as an information source for the needs of Perry citizens. The collection also serves the general educational interest, recreational, and entertainment needs of the public, and reflects the diversity of the community.

Materials Selection

The Board recognizes that individuals within the community have diverse interests, backgrounds, cultural heritages, social values, and needs. The Board further recognizes that the Library serves all of the people within the community regardless of age, race, national origin, or political or social views.

The Library does not exclude books that are biased, partisan, or anti-social, or which may offend the tastes of some citizens for reasons of frankness of vocabulary or description, unless these books are also below our accepted standards of selection. A balanced collection will represent all points of view on a subject, even those that might be considered extreme. The purchase of controversial items by the Library does not constitute endorsement of the views expressed.

The Board believes that while anyone is free to reject for themselves materials of which they do not approve, this cannot be exercised to restrict freedom of others to read or inquire.

The Perry Public Library supports the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read statements, both of which are included as a part of this policy statement. Please see Appendix A.

Responsibility for Materials Selection

Selection of library materials is and shall be vested in the Director of the Perry Public Library and such members of the staff who are qualified by reason of education, training, and experience.

Selection Guidelines

Materials for the library collection are chosen for a wide variety of reasons such as information, self-education, and the recreational pursuits of library users. The decision to add an item to the collection by purchase is usually the result of selection based on demand or need. Selection based on demand: Patrons are invited to request the purchase of specific items by the Library. The request of a patron is usually honored if the request conforms to the selection and directional guidelines outlines in this policy statement. The final decision rests with the Director, who must consider the special need of one individual or group against the needs of the whole community.

Selection based on need: Library materials are added to the collection for the purpose of updating and further developing certain subject areas. Materials are selected from reviews, availability lists, vendor catalogs, bibliographies, and local experts.

The decision to include or exclude a particular item in the library's collection is based on a number of considerations, although they may not all be applicable to each item:

1. **Relevance to** interests and needs of the community
2. Timeliness
3. Effective expression and artistic excellence
4. Evaluations in professionally recognized critical guides
5. Significance of subject
6. Educational and informational value
7. Representation of various points of view
8. Availability of material elsewhere
9. **Price and Library Materials Budget**
10. Space
11. Permanent value as source material
12. Vitality and originality of thought
13. Entertaining presentation
14. Relation to other materials and existing areas of coverage in order to maintain a well-balanced collection
15. Author's reputation or significance
16. Accuracy and authoritativeness of content

17. Appearance on the *New York Times* best seller list or award lists.

In purchasing new materials, the Library makes a distinction between those which depict prejudice as an aspect of real life and those which offer derogatory stereotypes as valid representations. The latter are not added to the collection. However, materials which authentically portray a period or way of life are accepted even if stereotyping is included. Materials which portray the prejudices of real or fictional characters are also considered acceptable. Materials recognized as classics are acceptable even though they may contain passages widely viewed as objectionable by current standards.

The library does not purchase out-of-print materials for the collection.

Professional and special materials, such as legal, medical, and religious works, are purchased only if they are of general interest.

The Library does not support educational curriculums through the purchase of textbooks. Textbooks may be added to the collection if they provide the best or only source of information on a subject, or to complement an existing area with another perspective.

Genealogical works such as handbooks of procedures, bibliographies of genealogical materials, and historical material of value to genealogical workers are purchased.

No attempt is made to purchase all the works by a certain author.

Periodicals are added to the collection on the basis of need. Prime consideration is given to those that are indexed or fill a particular void in the library's collection.

The Library provides a balanced viewpoint with national, state, and local newspapers.

The Library provides a representative collection of recordings including musicals, rock, jazz, and country. Audio books, or spoken recordings, are also provided.

Audio-visual material is added to the Library's collection with consideration to patron demand and budget constraints. The Library acquires this material primarily in the most popular format.

It is the aim of the Library to develop a popular collection of art reproductions, selected to reflect the tastes of the community.

Local history materials are confined to the printed word. The Library does not attempt to include artifacts as part of the collection. Books by local authors and books on local matters may be purchased even though they may not meet the standards set forth for the general collection.

The Library accepts gifts of library materials, but reserves the right to evaluate and to dispose of such gifts in accordance with the criteria applied to purchased materials.

Catalogs for two-year and four-year colleges in Iowa are a part of the collection.

Children's materials are purchased by the same general principles that govern selection of adult materials. Responsibility for the choice of reading material for minors rests with their parents or guardians. Selection of materials for the library collection is not restricted by the possibility that minors may obtain materials their parents consider inappropriate, nor are children limited to the children's collection.

Reconsideration of Library Materials

Whenever any patron objects to the presence or absence of any library material, the complainant will be given a fair hearing. All complaints that cannot be readily resolved by staff members will be referred immediately to the Director, who will discuss the matter with the complainant.

If the patron wishes, they may submit the form "Request for Withdrawal of Material" or "Request for the Addition of Material." If it is a request for the withdrawal, the Director will examine the item, check reviews of the item, and determine if it conforms to the standards of the materials selection policy. If it is a request for the addition of an item, the Director will check reviews of the item, determine if it conforms to the standards of the materials selection policy, and determine if there are any budget restraints. The Director will decide whether to add, withdraw, or restrict the material in question and will write to the complainant, giving the reasons for the decision. The Board of Trustees will also be notified of the complaint and of the Director's decision.

Materials subject to complaint shall not be removed from use pending final action. If the complainant wishes to contest the decision, they may present the complaint to the Board of Trustees. This may be done by letter or by attending a Board meeting. The Board will consider the complaint and the Director's recommendation. The written decision of the Board shall be final and shall be reported to the complainant.

**Perry Public Library
Request for the Addition of Material**

Author _____

Title _____

Publisher _____ Date _____

1. Have you read, seen, or listened to the material or read reviews of it? If you have read reviews, where were the reviews?

2. Do you, yourself, want to read, see, or listen to the material?

3. Why do you think it will be a good addition to the library?

4. To whom is the material recommended?

5. Comments:

Date _____ Signature _____

Telephone _____

Address _____

Perry Public Library Request for Withdrawal of Material

Author _____

Title _____

Publisher _____

1. How was this material brought to your attention?
2. What objections do you have to the material?
3. Did you read, see, or hear the entire material? If not, what parts?
4. What do you feel might be the result of reading, seeing, or listening to this material? Did it have this effect on you?
5. What reviews of this material have you read?
6. In your opinion, is there anything good about this material, any redeeming quality?
7. What would you like the Library to do about this material?
8. Comments (use back of this form if necessary):

Date _____ Signature _____

Telephone _____ Address _____

Complainant Represents _____

Weeding Policy

The Library continually withdraws items from the collection, basing its policy on the elimination of outdated materials, materials no longer of interest or in demand, unneeded duplicates, and worn or mutilated material. Frequency of circulation, community interest, and availability of newer or more valid materials are prime considerations. Items dealing with local history are an exception, as are certain classics and award-winning children's books. Fiction that was once popular but no longer in demand, and non-fiction books that are no longer useful, are withdrawn from the collection.

Withdrawn books are donated to the Friends of the Perry Public Library for book sales. The proceeds from such sales are used for the benefit of the Library. Books that are not sold will be disposed of at the discretion of the Friends of the Library.

Gift Policy

The Library accepts gifts with the understanding that the items will be added to the collection only if needed for library purposes. It is the policy of the Library not to accept special collections of books or other items when the donor stipulates they be kept together as a single entity.

The donor of any gift should understand that the Library reserves the right to dispose of gifts if they are not acceptable or needed. Gifts of religious items will be accepted with the same stipulations that are applied to other gifts.

The Library cannot accept storage responsibility for books or other items owned by groups or individuals.

Offers of gifts of special collections of library materials and/or furniture, etc., will be referred to the Board of Trustees for consideration.

The use of gifts of money will be subject to the direction and discretion of the Board.

Gifts that have been accepted become the property of the Library and may not be removed or relocated except by the Director.

Gifts are generally tax deductible and donors may request a receipt. However, the Library cannot appraise donations for tax purposes.

Reviewed September 9, 2021

Appendix A
American Library Association's
Library Bill of Rights
Freedom to Read Statement

Library Bill of Rights

The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that the following basic policies should guide their services.

I. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.

II. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

III. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.

IV. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.

V. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.

VI. Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.

Adopted June 19, 1939, by the ALA Council; amended October 14, 1944; June 18, 1948; February 2, 1961; June 27, 1967; January 23, 1980; inclusion of "age" reaffirmed January 23, 1996.

The Freedom to Read Statement

The freedom to read is essential to our democracy. It is continuously under attack. Private groups and public authorities in various parts of the country are working to remove or limit access to reading materials, to censor content in schools, to label "controversial" views, to distribute lists of "objectionable" books or authors, and to purge libraries. These actions apparently rise from a view that our national tradition of free expression is no longer valid; that censorship and suppression are needed to counter threats to safety or national security, as well as to avoid the subversion of politics and the corruption of morals. We, as individuals devoted to reading and as

librarians and publishers responsible for disseminating ideas, wish to assert the public interest in the preservation of the freedom to read.

Most attempts at suppression rest on a denial of the fundamental premise of democracy: that the ordinary individual, by exercising critical judgment, will select the good and reject the bad. We trust Americans to recognize propaganda and misinformation, and to make their own decisions about what they read and believe. We do not believe they are prepared to sacrifice their heritage of a free press in order to be "protected" against what others think may be bad for them. We believe they still favor free enterprise in ideas and expression.

These efforts at suppression are related to a larger pattern of pressures being brought against education, the press, art and images, films, broadcast media, and the Internet. The problem is not only one of actual censorship. The shadow of fear cast by these pressures leads, we suspect, to an even larger voluntary curtailment of expression by those who seek to avoid controversy or unwelcome scrutiny by government officials.

Such pressure toward conformity is perhaps natural to a time of accelerated change. And yet suppression is never more dangerous than in such a time of social tension. Freedom has given the United States the elasticity to endure strain. Freedom keeps open the path of novel and creative solutions, and enables change to come by choice. Every silencing of a heresy, every enforcement of an orthodoxy, diminishes the toughness and resilience of our society and leaves it the less able to deal with controversy and difference.

Now as always in our history, reading is among our greatest freedoms. The freedom to read and write is almost the only means for making generally available ideas or manners of expression that can initially command only a small audience. The written word is the natural medium for the new idea and the untried voice from which come the original contributions to social growth. It is essential to the extended discussion that serious thought requires, and to the accumulation of knowledge and ideas into organized collections.

We believe that free communication is essential to the preservation of a free society and a creative culture. We believe that these pressures toward conformity present the danger of limiting the range and variety of inquiry and expression on which our democracy and our culture depend. We believe that every American community must jealously guard the freedom to publish and to circulate, in order to preserve its own freedom to read. We believe that publishers and librarians have a profound responsibility to give validity to that freedom to read by making it possible for the readers to choose freely from a variety of offerings.

The freedom to read is guaranteed by the Constitution. Those with faith in free people will stand firm on these constitutional guarantees of essential rights and will exercise the responsibilities that accompany these rights.

We therefore affirm these propositions:

1. *It is in the public interest for publishers and librarians to make available the widest diversity of views and expressions, including those that are unorthodox, unpopular, or considered dangerous by the majority.*

Creative thought is by definition new, and what is new is different. The bearer of every new thought is a rebel until that idea is refined and tested. Totalitarian systems attempt to maintain themselves in power by the ruthless suppression of any concept that challenges the established orthodoxy. The power of a democratic system to adapt to change is vastly strengthened by the freedom of its citizens to choose widely from among conflicting opinions offered freely to them. To stifle every nonconformist idea at birth would mark the end of the democratic process. Furthermore, only through the constant activity of weighing and selecting can the democratic mind attain the strength demanded by times like these. We need to know not only what we believe but why we believe it.

2. *Publishers, librarians, and booksellers do not need to endorse every idea or presentation they make available. It would conflict with the public interest for them to establish their own political, moral, or aesthetic views as a standard for determining what should be published or circulated.*

Publishers and librarians serve the educational process by helping to make available knowledge and ideas required for the growth of the mind and the increase of learning. They do not foster education by imposing as mentors the patterns of their own thought. The people should have the freedom to read and consider a broader range of ideas than those that may be held by any single librarian or publisher or government or church. It is wrong that what one can read should be confined to what another thinks proper.

3. *It is contrary to the public interest for publishers or librarians to bar access to writings on the basis of the personal history or political affiliations of the author.*

No art or literature can flourish if it is to be measured by the political views or private lives of its creators. No society of free people can flourish that draws up lists of writers to whom it will not listen, whatever they may have to say.

4. *There is no place in our society for efforts to coerce the taste of others, to confine adults to the reading matter deemed suitable for adolescents, or to inhibit the efforts of writers to achieve artistic expression.*

To some, much of modern expression is shocking. But is not much of life itself shocking? We cut off literature at the source if we prevent writers from dealing with the stuff of life. Parents and teachers have a responsibility to prepare the young to meet the diversity of experiences in life to which they will be exposed, as they have a responsibility to help them learn to think critically for themselves. These are affirmative responsibilities, not to be discharged simply by preventing them from reading works for which they are not yet prepared. In these matters values differ, and values cannot be legislated; nor can machinery be devised that will suit the demands of one group without limiting the freedom of others.

5. *It is not in the public interest to force a reader to accept the prejudgment of a label characterizing any expression or its author as subversive or dangerous.*

The ideal of labeling presupposes the existence of individuals or groups with wisdom to determine by authority what is good or bad for others. It presupposes that individuals must be directed in making up their minds about the ideas they examine. But Americans do not need others to do their thinking for them.

6. *It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians, as guardians of the people's freedom to read, to contest encroachments upon that freedom by individuals or groups seeking to impose their own standards or tastes upon the community at large; and by the government whenever it seeks to reduce or deny public access to public information.*

It is inevitable in the give and take of the democratic process that the political, the moral, or the aesthetic concepts of an individual or group will occasionally collide with those of another individual or group. In a free society individuals are free to determine for themselves what they wish to read, and each group is free to determine what it will recommend to its freely associated members. But no group has the right to take the law into its own hands, and to impose its own concept of politics or morality upon other members of a democratic society. Freedom is no freedom if it is accorded only to the accepted and the inoffensive. Further, democratic societies are more safe, free, and creative when the free flow of public information is not restricted by governmental prerogative or self-censorship.

7. *It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians to give full meaning to the freedom to read by providing books that enrich the quality and diversity of thought and expression. By the exercise of this affirmative responsibility, they can demonstrate that the answer to a "bad" book is a good one, the answer to a "bad" idea is a good one.*

The freedom to read is of little consequence when the reader cannot obtain matter fit for that reader's purpose. What is needed is not only the absence of

restraint, but the positive provision of opportunity for the people to read the best that has been thought and said. Books are the major channel by which the intellectual inheritance is handed down, and the principal means of its testing and growth. The defense of the freedom to read requires of all publishers and librarians the utmost of their faculties, and deserves of all Americans the fullest of their support.

We state these propositions neither lightly nor as easy generalizations. We here stake out a lofty claim for the value of the written word. We do so because we believe that it is possessed of enormous variety and usefulness, worthy of cherishing and keeping free. We realize that the application of these propositions may mean the dissemination of ideas and manners of expression that are repugnant to many persons. We do not state these propositions in the comfortable belief that what people read is unimportant. We believe rather that what people read is deeply important; that ideas can be dangerous; but that the suppression of ideas is fatal to a democratic society. Freedom itself is a dangerous way of life, but it is ours.

This statement was originally issued in May of 1953 by the Westchester Conference of the American Library Association and the American Book Publishers Council, which in 1970 consolidated with the American Educational Publishers Institute to become the Association of American Publishers.

Adopted June 25, 1953, by the ALA Council and the AAP Freedom to Read Committee; amended January 28, 1972; January 16, 1991; July 12, 2000; June 30, 2004.

A Joint Statement by:

American Library Association
Association of American Publishers

Subsequently endorsed by:

American Booksellers for Free Expression
The Association of American University Presses
The Children's Book Council
Freedom to Read Foundation
National Association of College Stores
National Coalition Against Censorship
National Council of Teachers of English
The Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression

Statistics – Report at meeting.

Grant Report:

CARES Act : \$12,400 to make books more accessible during the pandemic to elementary, middle, and high school students. All Funds have been expended. The books in my office are designated for the two new Little Libraries at Perry Elementary School and Perry Middle School.

United Way-Equity Challenge Grant: Requested \$5,000. We will be notified on 6/15/21. Continuing of CARES Act grant goals and objectives. Grant request denied.

4RKids: \$500 for a Little Library at the Library for 2–5-year-olds. Received \$587.

ARPA Grant through the State Library of Iowa: Requesting \$5,000, application due June 15, 2021: Upgrade to Security Camera system. Yes, we will receive the \$5,000 grant but it will be as a reimbursement. I contacted Drees and they ordered the new cameras and computer for the new security camera system.

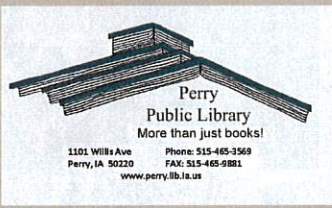
State Historical Society of Iowa, Inc. – Partnered with Hometown Heritage, Art on the Prairie, and Hispanics United for Perry for a series of five programs on “Re-awakening History Through Our Own Stories.” Received \$7,500. Programming scheduled to start February 2022.

In-person children's programming will start the week of September 8th. We will have a combination of in-person storytimes and zoom storytimes. The in-person storytimes will meet in the large meeting room with social distancing and masks greatly encouraged along with hand sanitizing to be safe.

We are quickly approaching 11 months since substantial completion of the Library renovation and it is typical to do an 11-month walk through with the Owner, Architect, and Contractor prior to the 12-month general construction warrantee window being over. The 11-month walk through is schedule for September 21, at 9:30 a.m.

The replacement of the vertical blinds has been completed. The new library signage was installed on Friday, September 3rd. The next major project will be painting the Library interior. The entire interior painting project will take place over two years, this fiscal year and next fiscal year.

The City of Perry's Maintenance Manager Barry Chayet has requested a bid on a new library roof. He has noticed rust spots on the roof that can be seen from the third floor of the Security Bank building. This capital expense would, hopefully, be put in the FY2022-2023 budget, covering July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.



SEPTEMBER 2021

LIBRARY NEWS

Perry Public Library

Library Closed for Labor Day



Perry Public Library will be closed **Monday, September 6**, for the Labor Day holiday, and we will begin expanded open hours on **Tuesday, September 7**.

Expanded Open Hours



Fall and Winter Hours

10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. **Monday - Thursday**

10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. **Friday**

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. **Saturday**

Zoom Craft Club *Paper Clip Pumpkin*



Perry Public Library will host a virtual **Craft Club** event at 6:00 p.m., **Monday, September 27**, via Zoom. The featured craft is a *Paper Clip Cup Pumpkin*. Anyone interested is invited to join Sarah Finn for this event, but registration is required, and a \$5 materials fee must be paid by the deadline, **Monday, September 20**, to receive a craft kit. Craft kits will be ready to pick up **September 23**. For more information or to register, go to our website: <http://www.perry.lib.ia.us>, call: 515-465-3569, or visit the library during open hours.

Mystery Book Club Event

The virtual Mystery Book Club will continue this fall with another great selection for September: *The Last Mona Lisa* by Jonathan Santlofer.



Anyone interested is invited to join Library Director Mary Murphy for the Zoom book discussion, at 7:00 p.m., on **Tuesday, September 28**, and the author talk, at 6:00 p.m. Central Time, **Wednesday, September 29**. Both events are free, but registration is required. Books and ebooks are available for participants. Call the library to sign up: 515-465-3569 or register online: www.perry.lib.ia.us.

Farmers Market Free Produce Day – TBA!



Perry Public Library will sponsor another produce giveaway at the Perry Farmers Market this September. The produce will be distributed, first come, first served, beginning at 4:00 p.m., *while supply lasts*. Watch for updated information about the giveaway date – TBA, based on readiness and supply. We will offer free apples this month!

National Library Card Sign-up Month

Back-to-school time is a great time to get organized and begin new habits, and September is National Library Card Sign-up Month. It's never been easier to get a library card! Apply in person at the library or submit your application online, and start enjoying all the great materials available to you, free, with a library card. To learn more, visit our website: <http://www.perry.lib.ia.us> – then click Library Card under the Services tab. Call the library for more information: 515-465-3569.



September 2021

Staff Reading Recommendations:

It's Better This Way by Debbie Macomber

The Last Thing He Told Me by Laura Dave

Stepsisters by Susan Mallery

What a Dog Knows by Susan Wilson

It Takes Two to Tango by Carrie Doyle

Fallen by Linda Castillo

See the Cat: Three Stories About a Dog by David

LaRochelle (Children's Book)

Love Your Life by Sophie Kinsella

Circling the Sun by Paula McLain

Rosaline Palmer Takes the Cake by Alexis Hall

They Went Left by Monica Hesse

We are the Brennans by Tracey Lange

Song of Silence by Cynthia Ruchti

Check hoopla and BridgesOverdrive
for downloadable titles!



Children's Programs



Fall Storytimes Sessions - 4s & 5s

Fall Storytimes will be offered at Perry Public Library for two age groups, beginning in September. An eight-week unit called *Fall Fun* for children ages four and five is scheduled for 10:15 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Wednesdays: September 8, 15, 22, 29, October 13, 20, 27, November 3. An eight-week unit called *Getting Ready for Fall* for toddlers (18 months to 3 years) is planned for 10:15 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Tuesdays: September 14, 21, 28, October 5, 12, 19, 26, November 2. We will read books, sing songs, play games, and incorporate early literacy skills into our crafts and activities, all with a Fall theme. The groups will meet in person in the library large meeting room, and safe practices will include hand washing and distancing. Sessions will be recorded and posted on our website for an additional way to participate. Storytimes are always free, but registration is required. Register online from our website: <http://www.perry.ib.ia.us>, by phone: 515-465-3569, or visit the library in person to sign up.

Wee Wonders Storytimes for Babies



The library will offer Fall Storytime sessions for babies up to eighteen months and their caregivers beginning Thursday, September 16. The Wee Wonders group will meet twice monthly on Thursdays, from 10:15 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., in the library large meeting room, throughout the Fall and beyond. Safe practices will be in place, and we will incorporate songs, sign language, parenting tips, and age-appropriate activities during the sessions. Participating families receive a free book each meeting! Sessions will be recorded and posted on our website for an additional way to participate. Storytimes are always free, but registration is required. Register online from our website: <http://www.perry.ib.ia.us>, by telephone: 515-465-3569, or visit the library in person to sign up.

Early Literacy Programs



The library offers early literacy programs, *Journeys Into Reading* and *1000 Books Before Kindergarten*, to help get pre-readers off to a great start. Visit our library website: <https://www.perry.lib.ia.us> for more information, or call Suzanne Kestel at the library: 515-465-3569.

Food Recovery



The library Food Recovery Program is a continuing success! Recovered food from local grocery stores and other benefactors is stocked in the library cooler on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and it is available to everyone!

Banned Books Week



Banned Book Week 2021 is September 26-October 2, and this year's theme is *Books Unite Us. Censorship Divides Us*. Promoted by the American Library Association and libraries, this is a time to celebrate our freedom to read! Learn more at: <https://bannedbooksweek.org/>.

Shred Event Coming Soon!



Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 9! Perry Public Library will again host a shredder truck for the Perry community. More details available soon!