

Libraries in 2018

The February 2019 issue of Library Journal* reported on the state of public libraries in 2018. Mostly the 318 libraries surveyed indicated modest growth. The average per capita funding was \$50.68, down from last year's \$55.80. Carmel Clay Public Library's per capita funding is \$69.59. The average per capita circulation is 8.25 items, down from last year's 10.10. Carmel Clay Public Library's per capita circulation is 23.7. The average open hours were 51.6 hours per week, while our library is open 70 hours per week.

I noted with interest that many libraries are having elections/referendums in 2019/2020. A major reason cited is that "the library building boom of the 1990's is about to catch up to many communities. Those relatively recent facilities retain wonderful 'curb appeal.' Their original bonds are being paid off, too. Despite proper maintenance, however, leadership teams know that over the next five to 15 years, everything from the HVAC systems and roof membranes to parking lots, window caulking, wiring, plumbing, and sump pumps may need to be replaced, resurfaced, upgraded, or remediated."

Yes, exactly. In our case, we hope to go beyond merely repairing and maintaining our building and to go so far as to wholesale re-imagine it. Within the next month we will likely have programmatic information from RATIO to review as we work our way closer to a project for 2019.

For further reading on this topic, see the following:

**"More Service Than Circ" by Lisa Peet, Library Journal, 2/19, p34-36.*

***"Stable Support" by John Chrastka and Samantha Mairson, Library Journal, 2/19, p37-41*

House Bill 1214

Jim Hehner accompanied Jane Herndon at the Statehouse on February 14 in support of HB 1214. This is legislation carried by Representative Jerry Torr to extend the construction project provision to libraries. An amendment regarding fire protection districts was subsequently added. The bill reads as follows:

Construction managers as constructors and fire protection districts. Repeals a provision in the construction manager as constructor statute that establishes a time period for public agencies (other than state educational institutions) to use the construction manager as constructor statute. Provides that for purposes of the construction manager as constructor statute, the term "public agency" includes a public library. Provides that a fire protection district (district), which includes any property added to the district at any time, having a total assessed

value of more than \$1,000,000,000 remains within the district after annexation. (Current law provides that the annexed property ceases to be a part of the district when the annexing municipality begins to provide fire protection services to the property.) Provides that property added to a district is considered part of the district as of the date that the district was originally established. Makes provisions regarding: (1) the effective date of annexations of property within districts; and (2) indebtedness of districts that are annexed; apply to districts established after July 1, 1987 (instead of June 14, 1987). Makes a conforming change.

Jane Herndon reportedly did a great job explaining the rationale behind the provision. The bill amended language regarding fire protection service proved to be the most contentious part. However, HB 1214 passed on 3rd reading on Thursday, February 21. The bill was sent to Senators Ruckelshaus, Koch and Spartz as sponsors. More info to follow.

Café

The following is a written submission from Vivian Lawhead regarding the pending new café area:

Thank you for honoring SoHo Café & Gallery by choosing our locally owned café to be part of the library. SoHo has always served patrons quality ingredients, including organic teas and coffee, all carefully chosen to serve our patrons.

It came to my attention that there were fears expressed that we would not be maintaining customers' needs and budgets in the new café, particularly the high school students. First, we serve 100's of current Carmel High School students in our café, and look forward to serving even more in the library. We have always kept our patrons in mind, and have never overpriced anything.

I checked the former tenant's prices, and ours were within five-ten cents of his beverages (some higher, some lower) and ours will be from a premium, organic roaster. We will keep the young customers' budgets in mind when choosing our food inventory, but I'm confident they will be satisfied with both the pricing and variety of selection, including many new **healthy** snacks offered.

Our PROPOSED offerings will include, but not be limited to:

- 100% fruit smoothies, no sugars added
- Full espresso bar—lattes, Americanos, cappuccinos, etc. all organic coffee
- Drip coffee, also organic
- Loose tea selection for hot tea
- Hot cider
- Hot chai lattes

- Hot chocolate, made from scratch every time
- Canned drinks, energy drinks, lemonade, teas
- Bottled water and sparkling water
- Breakfast bars, oatmeal packs (organic), and once we get started, a breakfast sandwich selection including egg and Havarti and our power sandwich with egg, spinach, avocado.
- Our sandwiches are served on English Muffins and sell for under \$5.
- Freshly baked pastries from Renee's in Broad Ripple available all day—croissants, muffins, cookies
- Gluten Free/Dairy Free pastries and treats
- Bagels from Bagel Fair—under \$2 including cream cheese or peanut butter
- Soft Pretzels
- Candy Bars
- Ramen noodles
- A variety of chips
- Protein bars, granola bars
- Popcorn
- Protein Pack: peanut butter, boiled egg, crackers, carrot sticks
- Hummus Pack: hummus, veggies, crackers
- Fresh fruit—apples, bananas, tangerines

We will have a menu board that lists all our beverages and prices for the 12 and 16 oz sizes as well as a food menu which will list our “Under \$2 items.”

We have experienced staff and they are equally excited for our new venture. They know our menu, and are experienced at making our espresso drinks to assure customer satisfaction.

Part of our library collaboration will also include specialty drinks each month that coincide with

Famous authors' birthdays, special events, etc....we always have seasonal lattes, so we are looking forward to incorporating literature into naming our selections—The Nevermore latte in October to honor Edgar Allen Poe, the “TERRIFIC” hot chocolate on E.B. White's birthday, or during children's literature week, etc.

We'll keep a large copy of the library's monthly schedules in our back room so our staff will be prepared for all special events.

We are tweaking our menu and will add and delete items that don't sell, so the proposed menu is certainly fluid. If you have any particular questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at vklawhead@gmail.com

Sincerely,
Vivian Lawhead
SoHo Café & Gallery

A few sample prices from SoHo Café & Gallery currently vs. former tenant prices:

	12 oz	former tenant price
Drip coffee:	2.05	2.00
Cappuccino	2.95	2.50
Latte	2.95	3.49 !!
Mocha	3.40	3.84
Americano	2.25	-----didn't offer
Flat White	2.95	-----didn't offer
Café au Lait	2.35	-----didn't offer
Hot Cider	3.00	-----didn't offer
Hot Chocolate	2.50	1.99 (served from powder)
Chai latte	3.25	3.50
Matcha	3.00	-----didn't offer
 Smoothies		
(all fruit, no sugar)	4.50	4.99