

Renovation and Branch Update

The meetings with staff have concluded, and the team at RATIO are now busy quantifying the estimates of space that will be required for renovation and expansion. In addition, a topographic survey is scheduled for next week. Kevin Huse and Antone Sgro will join us at our April meeting for a full report.

Kim Bolen from RATIO is currently working with our teen department to add some functional furniture to help with demand. To summarize the immediate need: we have recently re-arranged and expanded the teen collection footprint, which opened some more space in the department. Some of the existing furniture is in bad repair and not very functional. Meanwhile, we continue to struggle with accommodating the high volume of teens that visit the library. We're hoping to make some smart furniture selections that simultaneously solves some of this immediate problem and will also work in a revamped future space as well.

As we look toward creating a new teen area, the teen department and I will be taking a road trip in May to see Louisville Public Library and Monroe County Public Library's teen departments. I want us to see some larger and creative teen spaces and hopefully get inspired.

Jim Hehner and I attended a Town Hall at Smoky Row Elementary on March 26. I was asked by Laura Campbell to give a brief presentation of our pending branch location. I found the crowd to be very receptive and excited at the prospect of our new branch. Other speakers included the Fire Department Chief, the Police Chief, and Parks Director Michael Klitzing, of whom I have included a picture in action from the evening.



Legislative Update

HB1214 (the construction manager bill) got a 3rd reading on the Senate floor on April 9 and passed with substantial support. Rep Torr presented HB 1214 for a concurrence vote on April 15 and it passed with no discussion; 84-8. The bill is retroactive so once the Governor signs it, it's law. I appreciate Representative Torr's leadership in seeing this bill through.

HB1343 went back to conference committee on April 18. I was asked by ILF to provide an explanation for our reserves. I had less than 30 minutes to turn this around, and here is what I provided:

Carmel Clay Public Library has built reserves over the years in anticipation of a significant capital improvement project. We are now in the active planning stage of that project. Our library is now 20 years old and is need of a number of improvements and enhancements, which includes a larger teen space, additional programming space, and expanded public parking. We have engaged RATIO, a leading architectural firm to help us develop and design our project, which is currently underway. While we are still developing our project, we expect to begin implementing it this year, and we know the project will involve extensive interior renovations and a significant facility expansion to achieve our project goals. Our expectation is that we will deplete our reserves in pursuit of this improvement project, and additional funding will be required by issuing a bond to help cover the cost. The Carmel City Council is aware of our plans as we have been keeping them informed of our progress over the last several years. We have also involved our community in the planning process.

We are positioned to be able to make these improvements precisely because we were able to build a reserve fund for this very moment. Our library has tried to be as conservative with our dollars as possible over the years as we built this reserve towards an improvement project. We view these improvements as critical to the long term health of the library and therefore critical for our community.

American Creed

I'm looking forward to this series of programs beginning in May. Here's a brief description and link to more information:

What are the hopes and beliefs that unite us as Americans? At a time when our country may feel divided, join us for a series of discussions designed to engage our community in thoughtful and respectful dialogue about the ideals we share in common as a nation. Presented in partnership with the IUPUI Arts & Humanities Institute.

<https://www.carmel.lib.in.us/americancreed>

Facilities Supervisor

Fred Sheats began work as our first Facilities Supervisor on April 13. he has most recently been working as a Maintenance Technician at Carmel High School. Fred has a broad skill set with over 20 years of experience in equipment and maintenance repair. Fred's mother was a beloved staff member in CYS, Micki Sheats. Some things Fred has already done in his first week:

- Fixed the Café Gate
- Fixed the parking lot gate
- Converted some lighting to LED.
- Repaired the handicap parking sign
- Began managing our cleaning service

- Arranging to fix the pot holes in the south lot

Library After Dark

The *Library After Dark* event on Saturday, April 13 was a success. The event was planned and managed by the Young Professionals Group of our foundation. Some library staff was on hand to help manage the event. By all accounts attendees had a wonderful time being in the library after hours, and I now hope this will become an annual event at the library.

