

Straight*talk*

News For And About The Libraries Of Northeast Nebraska

Tips for Disaster Recovery

I recently attended a DIRECT meeting with library directors from Eastern Library System. One of the main topics was hearing Denise Lawver from Wahoo Public Library discuss how they recovered from damage after a water line broke in the ceiling. The following are advice and tips from Denise, not only for handling water-related disasters, but building disasters in general.

- Know where your water shut off is so that you can point the firemen to it.
- With water damage, empty the building as fast as you can to get the drying process started and prevent mold growth.
- When getting rid of water damaged books, save the barcodes so you can remove them from the catalog later.
- Keep a record of every time someone is in the building doing any maintenance or anything with a piece of equipment.
- Know they're name, purpose, and what they're doing and touching.
- Keep records of all inspections.
- Your city administrator will be a very important person when it comes to working with the insurance company.
- In your insurance policy, make sure there is a continuation of operation clause.
- When a disaster happens, be ready for the publicity.



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It's 'easy to read' this crowd — they support an expanded library

By Jerry Guenther

Originally published in the September 23 edition of the Norfolk Daily News

In an age where knowledge is power, Norfolkans of all ages rallied downtown Monday evening to show support for expanding the place where people of all ages go to exercise their minds.

About 50 people turned out in the green space near the intersection of Seventh Street and Norfolk Avenue for the official launch of the "Vote Yes for the Library" campaign.

Susan Warneke, chairwoman of the campaign, said members of the Norfolk Library Foundation have envisioned and supported the idea of an expanded Norfolk Public Library for many years. This fall provides the opportunity to turn the dream into reality.

"This project is a dream come true for many of us on the foundation," Warneke said.

The Norfolk City Council has placed on the Nov. 4 general election ballot a proposal to increase the city sales tax by one-half of one percent for three years in order to provide funds to enlarge and renovate Norfolk's library.

Warneke commended city council members for taking the time to study the issue, closely examining the results of a scientific study on the issue paid for by the library foundation and then supporting the idea of placing the issue on the ballot for voters to decide.

Norfolk voters are being asked to approve the half-cent sales tax increase that will generate about \$7.4 million.

A study by Alley Poyner Macchieto Inc. of Omaha considered two options, one costing \$7.4 million that would address needs for 20 years and another costing \$6.5 million that should meet needs for 10 years.

The \$7.4 million option would add about 16,000 square feet to the existing library. Supporters said they also will seek grants and raise some private funds to help pay for the expansion.

Mike Flood, a former state senator and speaker of the Nebraska Legislature, is serving as a spokesman for the "Vote Yes for the Library" campaign. He was unable to attend Monday's rally. But in a prepared statement, he said the campaign is "about turning a good but aging library into a great library for decades to come."

"Norfolk's library needs to be updated to address insufficient parking, a lack of space for technology, a lack of space for library materials and a lack of space for children and teens," Flood said.

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His wife, Mandi, told supporters that she and her family would like to see more parking and more room at the library.

“You can always tell when the Flood family is there because they never caught onto the rule about being quiet in the library,” she said with a laugh.

Families and senior citizens all know its needs updating, including more materials for all ages, including teens, Mandi said.

Norfolk residents Phil and Emily Carlson, who are frequent patrons of the library, can often be seen with their children, Max, Sam, Ike and Maggie, at the library and its activities.

“We do love the library,” she said, noting they enjoy all the family activities.

The only frustrating aspects are not being able to find a close parking place when families are coming with a lot of children, she said.

“These are relatively small changes that are being proposed for the library, but it can make a big difference for Norfolk’s busy families who are trying to make reading an important part of their children’s lives,” she said. “We encourage you to vote yes for the library.”

Those attending the rally were invited to pick up signs supporting the expansion or to sign pledge cards indicating their interest in being involved in the campaign.

Don Polodna is serving as treasurer for the campaign, which is using private funds.

New Regional System Quick Facts.

Both NELS and ELS approved the plan of merger at the NLA Annual Conference at the beginning of October.

The name will be Three Rivers Library System and will serve:

21 Counties in northeast Nebraska

11,200 square miles

855,441 residents

95 public libraries

496,967 public library registered borrowers

56+ special/institutional libraries

421 school media centers serving over 179,000 students

24 academic libraries, serving over 60,000 students and faculty

The transition team and interim board is comprised of three representatives from both NELS and ELS and one from Cass County which is currently in the Southeast Library System.

The NELS office will continue to provide services as usual through the end of the year.

NELS Grant Winners

Congratulations to everyone who applied for and received one of the \$750 grants. We were excited to be able to offer this opportunity to our member libraries before the new system takes effect on January 1, 2015.

Albion Public Library	North Park Elementary School
Atkinson Public Library	NRC Pt. Library
Belair Elementary School	O'Neill Public Library
Brunswick Public Library	O'Neill St. Mary's School Library
Central City Middle School Library	Orchard Public Library
Central City Public Library	Osceola Public Library
Central City Senior High School	Osmond Public Library
Clarkson Public Library	Palmer Library
Creighton Public Library	Pierce High School
Dakota City Public Library	Plainview Carnegie Library
David City Public High School	Polk Public Library
Elgin Public Library	Ponca Carnegie Library
Elgin Public School	Ponca Public School Library
Emerson Public Library	Pope John XXIII Central Catholic
Fullerton Public Library	Raymond A. Whitwer Tilden Public Library
Genoa Public Library	Riverside Public School
Hartington Public Library	Santee Sioux Nation Library
Howells Public Library	Schuyler Elementary School
Howells-Dodge Consolidated Elementary School	Schuyler Middle School
Hruska Memorial Public Library	Shelby Community Library
Jackson Elementary School	St. Boniface Elementary School
Jefferson Elementary	St. Joseph School
Laurel-Concord-Coleridge Middle School	Stanton Community Schools
Lied Battle Creek Public Library	Stanton Public Library
Lied Pierce Public Library	Stuart Public School
Lied Randolph Public Library	Twin River Public School
Lied Winside Public Library	Wakefield Community School
Lindsay Holy Family	Walthill Public Library
Little Priest Tribal College Library	Wayne Jr/Sr High School
Lois Johnson Memorial Library	Wayne Public Library
Lutheran High Northeast	West Holt Public School
Meadow Grove Public Library	Westside Elementary
Neligh Public Library	Winside Public School
Newman Grove Public Library	Wynot Public School
Norfolk Junior High Library	
Norfolk Public Library	

Library Happenings



The Tech 101 class in Atkinson had some fun during their lunch break.



The current state poet, Twyla Hansen, was the keynote speaker at this year's Annual Workshop



The current ALA president Courtney L. Young spoke at the NLA Annual Conference in South Sioux City.



**Eastern Library
System
Summer Reading Workshop
and Presenter Fair**



November 21, 2014

9am to 3pm

**LaVista Public Library
9110 Giles Road, LaVista**

(Exit I-80 at Giles/Harrison & travel East. Follow signs to Metro Comm College/La Vista Public Library)

8:45—9:05 am	Registration & Refreshments
9:05—9:15	Welcome and introductions
9:15—10:00	Variations on a Hero Theme
10:00—10:45	The Science of Heroes
10:45—11:00	Break
11:00—11:45	Heroic Books from Sally
11:45—12:30	Share Time - <i>Bring a program/activity/craft idea (50 copies)</i>
12:30—1:00	Lunch
1:00—1:45	Comic Book Basics and Superhero Starting Points
1:45—3:00	Presenters' fair

Cost: \$17 (checks to ELS) which includes lunch

Continuing education credit available.

You must register by November 14th. Make sure you let us know you are coming, even if you are waiting for the city to send payment.

Name _____

Library _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Send to: BMaass@windstream.net or
Eastern Library System
11929 Elm Street, Suite 18
Omaha, NE 68144
402 330-7884

Pilger Library Update

A lot of progress has been made on the repairs at the Pilger Public Library after the tornado earlier this summer. Carpet was recently installed and soon volunteers from the community will begin to put books back on the shelves. The library has also built a patio that is made of bricks from the damaged buildings.

There's no date yet for when the library will reopen to the public, but Lori Ruskamp is looking forward to getting it open.



Upcoming Events

November 12: NELS board meeting, 10am, Leigh public library

November 14: E-Rate workshop, Lifelong Learning Center, Norfolk, 1-4pm; deadline to register for ELS Summer Reading

Workshop

November 20: Tech 101 class, Lifelong Learning Center, Norfolk

November 21: ELS Summer Reading Workshop, La Vista Public Library, 9am-3pm

November 27-28: Office closed

December 10: Strategic planning workshop, Columbus public library, 10am-1pm

If you have a book review, piece of news, or photo that you would like to share with your fellow Northeast Nebraska libraries, email it to Sarah at the NELS office.

nelsdirector@gmail.com

Northeast Library System Board Minutes

Thursday, September 25, 2014

The Northeast Library System Board met at the Lifelong Learning Center on the Northeast Community College campus in Norfolk, Nebraska. The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by President Judy Hagan. Roll call was taken with the following board members present: Tami Anderson, Mary Austin, Judy Hagan, Dee Johnson, Mary Anne Schwarten, Tim Sebade, Dawnn Tucker, with Beth Foulks arriving later. Johnson made a motion to approve Kathy Ageton and Sheila Cermak as alternate board members. It was noted Shelia Cermak's last day as an employee of the Northeast Library System was September 16, 2014, thus making her eligible to be an alternate board member. Tucker seconded. Motion passed.

Mary Austin noted she had attended the GoToMeeting virtual board meetings on the Wednesday, May 14, 2014, and Wednesday, August 6, 2014, but her name was omitted from attendance list and she requested the minutes be amended. Austin made a motion to approve the minutes for May 14 and August 6 as amended. Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

Sheila Cermak gave the Financial Report. She reported an audit has been conducted and is currently being reviewed by the auditors. Due to the reconfiguration of the library systems, the budget has been adjusted to cover expenses through December 31, 2014. On January 1, 2015, a new budget will be developed for the new system. There is a 10% penalty for early withdrawal of funds for each of the CDs. The total penalty amount is \$5,910.33 for current CDs if withdrawn now. The Time Warner bill for service at the system office will be \$400 more than was budgeted. Sheila recommended using some of the reserve funds for unexpected expenses that may occur through December. The financial report was approved by roll call vote with Cermak abstaining.

Richard Miller gave the Nebraska Library Commission report and pointed out the Kreutz Bennett Grant for Small-Town Libraries and Youth Grants for Excellence are due October 1.

Sarah Warneke reported the majority of her time has been spent working on what needs to be done to be ready for the reconfiguration of the system.

No committee reports were given.

An update on the Systems reconfiguration was given. A meeting was held at the Fremont Public Library on September 11 with administrator Sarah Warneke, Lauran Lofgran, Beth Foulks, and Kathy Ageton representing the NELs. Three representatives from the ELS, one representative from Cass County, and Rod Wagner and Richard Miller from the Nebraska Library Commission were also present. The seven system representatives will comprise the board until July, 2016. Officers will not be elected until January 1, 2015, with a facilitator and note-taker being appointed until that time. The name of the new system will be Three Rivers Library System (TRLS). With 46% of the state's population included in the TRLS, discussion was held on what the service model for the new system will be. The articles of incorporation were reviewed and by-laws are being developed. The next meeting of the transition board is October 23 in Fremont. Librarians are encouraged to tell transition board members which services provided by the system are essential to them.

The Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation of Three Rivers Library System, Inc. was read to the group by Kathy Ageton. Anderson made a motion to approve the Articles. Johnson seconded. Motion carried on roll call vote.

The Plan and Articles of Merger was read to the group by Sheila Cermak. Sebade made a motion to approve the Plan and Articles of Merger. Anderson seconded. Motion carried on roll call vote. A notice of the special meeting of the Northeast Library System to adopt the Plan of Merger will be given or mailed to each NELS member library. The meeting will be held during the NLA Conference at the Marina Inn in South Sioux City on October 9th at 4:30. The number of system libraries who are present at that meeting will constitute a quorum.

Discussion was held about dispersing the \$55,996.23 that is currently in CDs and the Money Market as grants to the seventy public libraries in the system. The discussion was put on hold until a decision was made about paying Sheila Cermak for handling the financial affairs of the NELS until December 31.

After discussion, Anderson made a motion to allot up to \$1,500 to pay Sheila Cermak for 8-12 hours per month at \$20.00 per hour for handling the financial affairs of the NELS through December 31, 2014. Johnson seconded. Passed on roll call vote with Cermak abstaining.

Hagan made a motion to open the grant process only to public libraries. Motion died for lack of a second.

Sebade made a motion to open the grant process to all system libraries. Austin seconded. Motion passed on roll call vote. Notification of the grants will be sent by email to all libraries. Grants of up to \$750 per library are due by October 15. The grant committee will review the grant applications.

Ageton moved to pay claims of the day. Foulks seconded. Passed on roll call vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m. The next meeting will be at the Leigh Public Library in November.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Ageton, Secretary pro tempore

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The Northeast Library System serves the counties of Antelope, Boone, Boyd, Butler, Cedar, Colfax, Dakota, Dixon, Holt, Knox, Madison, Merrick, Nance, Pierce, Platte, Polk, Stanton, Thurston, Wayne and Wheeler.

We shouldn't teach great books; we should teach a love of reading.
~ B. F. Skinner

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Please contact

Sarah Warneke

or Shelia Cermak

at the Northeast Library

System Office

with any questions

or concerns.

Sarah Warneke, editor

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Our NELS Board Members

Judy Hagan, *President*, Atkinson Public Library

Dee Johnson, *Vice President*

Beth Foulks, *Secretary*, Ponca Public School

Audrey Loosvelt, Madison Public School

Dawnn Tucker, Lied Pierce Public Library

Judy Hilkemann, Norfolk Public Library

Mary Austin, Little Priest Tribal College

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Sara Lee, Central City Public Library

Tami Anderson, Hartington Public Library

Tim Sebade, Emerson Public Library