The Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library is trimming its operating budget and reducing staffing hours to cope with the rapid decline in state funding. Since January of 2009, the Library has received a public library fund reduction from the State in the amount of $147,658. State funding accounts for 56% of our budget, with the balance made up from a 5-year local operating levy. Among other things such as a hiring freeze, reduction in the number of hours our library is open and unpaid furloughs for our workers, we found it necessary to cut our materials budget by 21%. This is roughly $85,000.

We need your help.

We know our wide variety of popular, up-to-date materials is one of the reasons you come to our library, so we are asking for your assistance in building our materials budget. You can do so by making a donation to our library for our “Fill Our Shelves” Program.

All books purchased through this program will be identified with a “Fill Our Shelves” bookplate.

100% of the money generated through this fundraising project will be used to purchase the high-quality materials you have come to expect.

Contributions to the library may be tax deductible. Please contact your tax advisor for more information.

If you have any questions, call Library Director Doug Dotterer at 330-688-3295.

To donate money toward our “Fill Our Shelves” program, forms are available at the library or at the following link: Donation Form

CHRISTMAS WITH THE MOSS STANLEY TRIO ON DECEMBER 3 AT 7:00 PM

The Moss Stanley Trio (piano, bass and drums) is back to share their traditional holiday favorites with us! This year they are being joined by singer Jessica Horvat. Come celebrate and join us on Thursday, December 3 from 7:00—8:30 p.m., for this special Christmas Jazz Concert. Their “one of a kind piano stylings” have something for every music lover.

Call 330-688-3295 or stop by the Information Desk to register. You won’t want to miss this fantastic concert that is becoming a favorite at our library!
Celebrate the holidays by joining us for Charles Dickens’ production “A Christmas Carol.” Mark Dawidziak, television and entertainment critic for The Cleveland Plain Dealer, will bring his theater group The Largely Literary Company, for an outstanding interpretation of this classic holiday tale. Dawidziak will play Dickens as well as a number of secondary roles. His wife, Sara Showman, and Stow resident Tom Stephan are the other two actors in this 90-minute, faithful adaptation of Dickens’ classic tale. The production is performed with minimal props on a simple set that never changes. The actors all play multiple roles. The Company has toured this program in the Northeast Ohio area for nine years, but this is the first time it is being performed in the Stow area.

Call 330-688-3295 or stop by the Information Desk to register. This program is cosponsored by Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library and the Friends of the Library.

“ASK A LIBRARIAN” BY AMY GARRETT—HEAD OF ADULT SERVICES

Last year, the Adult Information Desk answered 98,749 questions. What types of things are asked? Here is a sampling of questions from November, from Amy Garrett, head of Adult Information Services.

Question: I’m looking for books about the holidays.
Answer: Check out our Holiday Display for books, audiobooks, movies and music for Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. The display is located on the counters behind the Adult Information Desk.

Question: There’s a TV series on HBO called True Blood. I’m looking for the books that this series is based on.
Answer: This is the Sookie Stackhouse series and is written by Charlaine Harris. Stop by the Adult Information Desk and we’ll help you locate the books in this series.

Question: I’m looking for books about the Better Business Bureau.
Answer: It’s very strange, but there are no books about the Better Business Bureau. For information, go to akron.bbb.org.

Question: I’m looking for a book that you do not own.
Answer: If the item is at least 6 months old, we will be more than happy to try to borrow an item for you from another library. Stop by the Adult Information Desk for details.

OUR TURTLE, SPIKE, TURNS 24 YEARS OLD!

Anyone who frequents the Children’s Room has met Spike, our turtle. Spike has been a part of the children’s room for about 24 years. She was bought for a Father’s Day storyline in 1985 or 1986 at a pet store in Akron. The Children’s Room held a “name the turtle” contest and we think that since spike haircuts were popular around that time, that’s how Spike got her name. For a long time we thought Spike was a boy, but about 10 years ago, Dr. Mark Carlson, from the Stow-Kent Animal Hospital, did a program for the Children’s Room and said Spike was indeed a girl. He also identified her as an Asian turtle. Spike is very popular with staff and everyone who visits the Children’s Room. She even goes out on some Outreach visits! Our Children’s Room’s newsletter is named after her and she even has her own blog. Be sure to check them out!

Spike the Turtle is 24 years old. She goes on Outreach visits and has her own blog. She is very busy.
BARBARA CAMPBELL IS THE “FINE PRINT EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH”

If Barbara Campbell looks familiar to you, it’s because she has been at the front desk of our library for 22 years. Here’s more information on this valuable, long-time employee.

What is your current job? I am the assistant supervisor in the circulation department, which includes being in charge of the shlevers.

What other jobs have you had while employed at the library? I have always worked in circulation. I began as a part-time employee working 12 hours a week.

How would you describe SMFL? It’s a wonderful place. I have met so many nice people here, and it has so much to offer the community. You can come in and browse through the magazines and newspapers, choose some books and movies to take home, visit our computer lab, or bring your children in to have hours of fun in the Children’s Room. There is something for everyone.

What book would you recommend? I would recommend anything by my favorite authors. They include Barbara Delinsky, Kristen Hannah, Luanne Rice, Emilie Richards, Nora Roberts, and Susan Wiggs.

What would people be surprised to know about you? That I enjoy watching sports on TV. I enjoy watching any good team, with good players, no matter where they play.

TEEN SERVICES COLUMN BY CHRISTINA GETROST

The members of the library’s Anime Club would like to extend a hearty “domo arigato” (THANK YOU!) to the management of Chipotle Mexican Grill in Stow for generously providing complimentary burritos to feed the gang at our recent club meetings. They were deliciously tasty and filling!

Gift Ideas for Book-Loving Teens

The Hunger Games (and its sequel, Catching Fire), by Suzanne Collins

An exciting book set in a distant future where every year there are televised “games” (like Survivor) played by teens representing each of 12 Districts. The winner of the Games gets to live in luxury and their District receives riches and extra food. However, if you lose you’re not just voted off; you play to the death! Will 16 year-old Katniss be able to make it through not only attacks by other players, but vicious killer insects, forest fires, rabid hybrid wofflike creatures, and severe thirst and starvation? And will she be able to kill her friend Peeta, who is in the game against her?

The Demon King, by Cinda Williams Chima

First book in a new series written by the local author of the Warrior Heir trilogy. This book is set in a country where the Clans (artisan and warrior tribes who live in harmony with nature) and the Valefolk (valley/city dwellers) have lived in an uneasy truce with wizards, who use clan artifacts to conduct magic. There’s a great spunky princess who chafes at palace life and her prospects for an arranged political marriage, and a street lord ragamuffin thief who wears mysterious magical silver cuffs and wants only to support his family in the slums. But when he steals a magical amulet from the son of a wizard, he becomes a hunted man and crosses paths with the princess.

There is plenty of magic, danger, and mystery. Put it on your must-read list if you like high fantasy adventure.

The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate, by Jacqueline Kelly

A “gentle read” reminiscent of Anne of Green Gables: 12 year old Calpurnia “Callie Vee” Virginia Tate is the only girl sandwiched between 3 older brothers and 3 younger brothers, in 1899 Texas. A tomboy, Callie chafes under the restrictions for girls; she’d much rather be outside exploring nature or reading a good book than inside learning how to cook (badly) or sew (not much better). Then Callie discovers her eccentric but intimidating Grandfather is a budding naturalist, like her. Together they just might discover a whole new species— and along the way Callie learns more about science and her family, too. You’ll enjoy Callie’s humorous anecdotes about the trials of being a less-than-perfect girl among so many boys.

Teen Librarian Christina Getrost sits at the Reference Desk...
The Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library Foundation was incorporated in 1994 as a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. The Foundation is dedicated to ensuring a great library system by raising, managing and allocating funds to expand and improve the library. Why a Foundation? Maintaining Stow and Munroe Falls' top-notch library isn't possible with public funding alone. The Foundation's mission is to stabilize the library in times of reduced public funding and secure the ongoing excellence of the library.

The Friends of the Library is a citizen support group for Library services and activities. They sponsor book sales as well as the annual Needlework Show and other programming. Friends meet the third Tuesday of every month (except December and July) at 2:00 p.m. in the Stow Room.

Friends officers for 2009 are (left to right):
Peg Niemeyer, Vice President; Hermine Meyer, Treasurer;
Diane Brown, Corresponding Secretary; Nicole Welsh, President;
Peggy Shaffer, Secretary.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Due to budget cutbacks, the library will be closed for unpaid staff days on Friday, December 18. We look forward to serving you on the days we are open.

FRIENDS' CHRISTMAS TREE & WREATH SILENT AUCTION

The Friends of the Library hosted a wreath and miniature Christmas tree silent auction starting on November 2. This is the 5th year for the auction. Betsy Adams from the Children’s Room is the coordinator of the event, along with the Friends group and she said it looks like this auction might turn into an every-other year event.

Thank you to the patrons who decorated the trees and wreaths for the silent auction. Thanks to councilwomen Sara Drew and Janet D’Antonio who had the very difficult task of judging them. Congratulations to ribbon winners Barbara Bittinger, Duane Clark, Ann Crew, David Emmit, Karen MacCauley and Best of Show Winner Lois Schlade-man! This event raised over $1,100 for our Friends of the Library. We are most grateful!

LIBRARY CLOSING

Foundations

Most Humourous Wreath—Karen MacCauley
Most Traditional Tree—Barbara Bittinger