If it’s March, it must mean the Needlework Show! In fact, it’s the 36th Annual Friends of the Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library Needlework Show to be held at the Library March 24—28. You are invited to share your needle artistry and creativity. Rather than competition, the focus of the show is encouraging all needleworkers to share their talents and creative ideas in order to inspire and motivate others. Entry fees are just $5.00 for each item, with no fees for juvenile entries. As in years past, we will award ‘Best of Show’, ‘Judges Choice’, ‘Popular Choice’, and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons for individual categories (no set number of ribbons is awarded in any category). Best of Show will also receive a cash prize of $25.00.

All types of hand needlework will be accepted, and anyone from Northeast Ohio may submit entries in one or more categories. Entries will be accepted from individuals or groups. Entry must be the work of a living person(s) and entered in their name. We will accept any article that has not been previously exhibited at the Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library Needlework Show.

Entries will be accepted on Saturday, March 20, between 10:00 am, and 4:00 pm and on Sunday, March 21 between 1:30 pm and 4:00 pm.

Needlework Show Hours are as follows:
Wed., March 24, 10 am—8 pm
Thurs. March 25, 10 am—8 pm
Fri., March 26, 10 am—5 pm
Sat., March 27, 10 am—5 pm
Sun., March 28, 1 pm—4 pm

Entry pick up will be on March 29 from 12 noon to 8:00 pm and Tuesday, March 30 from 6:00 pm. You must bring your pink slip to claim your item.

As always, there is free admission to the Needlework Show. For complete information and directions to our library, please see our website at www.smfpl.org

Family Folklore is Starting Again This Month.

Think back to all those childhood memories. Every family has stories to tell. Join writing instructor, Sandy Slevinski, as she guides participants in writing a journal of memorable events which could be enjoyed for generations to come. Record family history, childhood memories and holiday celebrations. These stories could become priceless to you or someone special to you! This program will be held on Mondays, April 12, 19 and 26 and May 3, 10, 17 and 24 from 11:00—1:00. Registration begins on March 15 and is limited. Participants should be mature adults ages 40 and older. Call 330-688-3295 or stop by the Information Desk to register. Classes will be held in the Conference Room (1st Floor) at the library.

Every family has a story to tell! Write them down in our Family Folklore class!
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 Reference Services.

Question: Can you give me the website for Ohio Unemployment?
Answer: The Ohio Unemployment Benefits website is: http://unemployment.ohio.gov/

Question: I am looking for music for relaxation and meditation. Do you have anything?
Answer: We have a whole section of music under the heading “Relaxation”. Stop by the Information Desk and we’ll help you find something.

Question: I have to do a report for Women’s History Month. Can you help me find information?
Answer: Yes we can. Stop by the Information Desk and we’ll help you find the information that you are looking for.

Question: I’m looking for a list of authors who write like Michael Connelly. Can you provide me with this list?
Answer: Yes. Stop by the Information Desk and pick up a copy for this and many other authors, as well!

What other jobs have you had? I have also been a shelver and a circulation clerk.

How would you describe SMFPL? A great ship staying afloat amid a sea of turmoil and an ever-shrinking budget.

What is your favorite vacation spot? I know of a great couch in front of a TV. There are no hidden fees and the view is incredible.

What is your current job? Maintenance Associate (The Janitor Guy)

I was once the victim of a hit and run accident. The perpetrator was a 90 year old woman and, having flipped my vehicle with her Buick LeSabre she subsequently exited her vehicle and walked away. True story.

How about any hobbies? The usuals. Playing cards, knitting, Alaskan ice fishing...I also like to cook.

Any formal education? I have a bachelor’s degree in art with a focus in theatre from Kent State University.

Maybe you’re a teen wizard with words or would you like to become one? Look no further, you’re in the right place! We’re starting a Scrabble® Club for teens. The first meeting is Tuesday, March 9 at 7:00 p.m. If you don’t know how to play, we will teach you in no time. We may even play some silly games like Harry Potter Scrabble®. Bring a Scrabble® set if you have one. But come even if you don’t have a set. Snacks will be provided and you won’t want to miss out on those tasty treats. Sign up today and check our website www.smfpl.org for upcoming club meeting dates. We hope to see you there!
Fast Facts about our Library & upcoming levy on May 4

Q. Why is this levy necessary for the Library?
A. This levy replaces our 1-mill levy that expires in 2010 ($890,483). It also attempts to replace lost state Public Library Funds ($282,719 in 2009 and $452,538 in 2010) and prepare the library for anticipated future cuts. The 2010 main revenue sources are: Public Library Fund (PLF) ($949,239 or 50%) and Levy ($890,483 or 46.91%).

Q. These are tough times, why can’t the Library “tighten its belt?”
A. We already have. Despite decreased state funding, the Library has worked to maintain a balanced operating budget and operate within anticipated revenue.
1. No pay raises.
2. Hiring freeze.
3. Increased fees and fines.
4. Cut materials budget by $85,000.
5. Closed one day a month with unpaid furlough.
6. Eliminated 46 magazines and 3 newspaper subscriptions.
7. Extended life cycle of PCs.
8. Cut library supplies by 24%.
9. Cut part time employees’ hours.
10. Emergency building maintenance only.

Q. What are the specifics of the levy?
A. It is a 2-mill continuous levy which will generate $1,972,105, and will be used for operating expenses. It replaces the expiring 1-mill 5-year levy and attempts to replace losses of state funding. It also attempts to bring us back to 2008 revenue levels (levy plus state funding) and provide support for the future. The levy will be on the May 4 ballot for voters in the Stow-Munroe Falls School District.

Q. What will the Library do if the levy passes?
A. We will continue the library’s tradition of providing quality materials, excellent service and innovative programs.

Q. What will the Library do if the levy fails?
A. We will be forced to make some tough decisions. The library may:
1. Reduce library operating hours by as much as 3 days a week
2. Reduce library material purchasing
3. Reduce staff by up to 50% and continue wage and hiring freeze
4. Reduce library programs
5. Eliminate outreach services
6. Eliminate free computer classes
7. Reduce library services to the public such as eliminate drive-up window.
   eliminate drive-up window

The owner of a $100,000 house currently pays $30.63 in annual property tax for the Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library. If the 2-Mill levy passes the same homeowner would pay an additional $30.63 for a total of $61.25. This translates to a total of $5.10 per month or 17 cents/day.

Please see www.smfpl.org for complete levy information.
IT'S YOUR LUCKY DAY! TEEN PROGRAM ON MARCH 16 AT 7:00

For teens in grades 7 - 12. Celebrate St. Patrick’s Day on March 16 from 7:00—8:30 and let your creative juices flow. At this fun program you’ll create a greeting card like Hallmark never dreamed of. We’ll show you how to make cards with pop-ups, dangles, embossing, windows & more. You’ll make a fancy gift box, and fill it full of cookies and limericks, and maybe even some leprechaun’s gold. We’ll decorate – and eat! -- shamrock cookies, play trivia games and discover Irish lore. Sign up beginning March 2 to reserve your spot!

LIBRARY CLOSINGS

Due to budget cutbacks, the library will be closed for unpaid staff days on Friday, March 19 and April 30. We look forward to serving you on the days we are open.

FRIENDS 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.

FOUNDATION

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. Interested in giving to the Foundation? Go to www.smfpl.org

Front Row: Linda Trevorrow, Treasurer; Kelley Cerroni, Vice President; Julie Gedeon, President; Ann Lucco, Secretary. Back Row: Jane Mead, David Renninger, Ruth Reedy, Cindy Pribonic, Thomas Houlihan, Ann Malthaner, Doug Dotterer. Not pictured: Lindsay Busch, Pamela Anderson, Nadine Chapman and Carolyn Radcliff