

Selected Accomplishments & Highlights



SPL ranked as one of the country's finest public libraries—for the third year in a row!

Library Journal (LJ), the premiere journal for librarians, rated and recognized America's Star Libraries and SPL earned a four star rating out of five stars! *LJ* evaluates over 7,000 public libraries across the nation and selects under 300 libraries as providing quality service and excellent value. They chose an index of public library output based upon four related per capita output indicators: visits, circulation, program attendance, and public Internet computer use for libraries at various budget levels.

Teen Department Milestones

- The Teen Department "lent" laptops to teens to use anywhere within the library thanks to a Child Health of Sewickley grant. SPL is the first library within the region to offer this service.
- The wildly successful Summerbridge Pittsburgh Book Club was introduced to faculty and students located at Sewickley Academy. Summerbridge Pittsburgh is an enrichment program for middle and high school students facing limited opportunities. Sewickley Academy hosts the program.

Eagle Scout Fence Project

The budget restrictions of 2010 canceled all building improvements including the planned parking lot renovation scheduled for 2010 except for routine maintenance. Enter Zac Podolinsky, Boy Scout from Troop #830 in Clinton, PA seeking to earn his rank of Eagle Scout. Zac met with the Board of Directors to present an idea to build a fence along with a fundraising plan for his project. It was unanimously approved by the Board. Parking bumpers were donated by Gianni Floro to prevent vehicles from hitting the fence with their cars.

Sto-Rox Library Management Agreement

The Sewickley Public Library Board of Directors and the Focus on Renewal Board of Directors entered into an agreement whereby SPL provides financial management and administrative expertise to the Sto-Rox Library for a fee. This is the first of this type of agreement in Allegheny County. The library realized \$1,088 in 2010.

e-books and e-audio

Allegheny County libraries, including SPL, began offering a new format for our readers and listeners referred to as e-books and e-audio. E-books and e-audios are downloaded and read or listened to on computers or small portable devices such as ASony eReader, Apple's iPad, or Barnes and Noble's Nook to name a few. SPL's Adult Services Department helped pioneer the effort within the county with collection development expertise, classes for the public, and funding.

2010 Library Board of Directors

Wayne T. Murphy, President

Clifford Bob, Vice President

William Kleeman, Treasurer

Joyce Cortese, Secretary**

Lawrence Castner

David Cifrulak

Gianni Floro*

Sarah Heres*

Joseph Marrone*

Autumn Redcross

Carolyn A. Toth, Executive Director

*** Representing Quaker Valley School District Board of Directors**

**** Ex-officio**

Mission Statement

The mission of Sewickley Public Library is to serve as a center for lifelong learning by providing free access to informational, educational, cultural and recreational library resources that address the interests and needs of the children and adults in the Quaker Valley region.

The Library seeks to fulfill its mission by providing access to the world of ideas and imagination through its educational and informational resources, enrichment programs, welcoming environment and competent staff and volunteers.

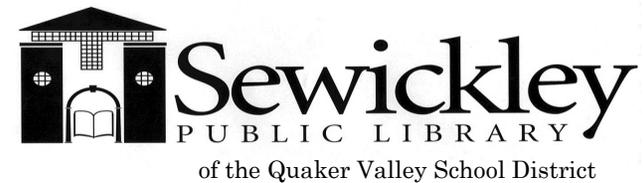
Adopted by the Board of Directors July 12, 2004

The Library is open 62 hours per week, seven days a week, 52 weeks per year, and closed on only 11 major holidays.

Monday—Thursday: 10:00 a.m.— 9:00 p.m.

Friday— Saturday: 10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 1:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.



500 Thorn Street

Sewickley, PA 15143

412-741-6920

www.sewickleylibrary.org

Annual Report 2010

The library serves the following communities (and beyond):

Aleppo	Leet Township
Bell Acres	Leetsdale
Edgeworth	Glen Osborne
Glenfield	Sewickley Borough
Haysville	Sewickley Hills

Sewickley Heights

"When you are growing up, there are two institutional places that affect you most powerfully -- the church, which belongs to God, and the public library, which belongs to you. The public library is a great equalizer."

*Keith Richards,
Rolling Stones Guitarist*

Success in Challenging Economic Times

The Sewickley Public Library (SPL), the oldest public library in Allegheny County, was founded in 1873. One hundred thirty seven years later, 2010, proved to be one of the most challenging years for the library. Ten percent of the library's budget was cut, but not by our major local funders, the Quaker Valley School District (QVSD) or the Friends of the Sewickley Public Library. The largest decrease in funding came from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania when the ACCESS PA program was completely removed from the state's budget along with a decrease in basic funding. The library took another blow when the members of the Allegheny County Library Association redesigned the library funding formula of the Regional Asset District 1% tax levy for public libraries.

The Board of Directors immediately directed the administrative staff to look at all aspects of library operations for areas of savings. All contracted services were renegotiated. The Board offered early retirement incentives, froze hiring and wages, and ultimately had to reduce staff hours along with operating hours - the library closed on Fridays.

To our rescue came a local nonprofit organization, **The Sewickley Valley Community Fund (SVCF)**. They offered an immediate, unrestricted grant of \$25,000 and a matching grant opportunity for another \$25,000 if the library could raise \$25,000 from non-usual fundraising sources. The residents and users of SPL donated more than \$50,000 exceeding the SVCF challenge!

The Board resumed Friday hours April 9, 2010. Along with the \$50,000 from the Sewickley Valley Community Fund and the extra \$25,000 raised from program ideas of the board and staff, the library was back in business – open seven days a week with only a net loss of three hours of operation per week. Surplus funds were utilized to balance the 2011 budget. However, it's important to note that the pressures of reduced state and RAD funding will continue and that local support will be critical for our library in the future.

Statistically speaking...

Circulation of all library materials

354,075 items

Book circulation:

213,610 books

Audio & video circulation:

140,465 CDs, DVDs, etc.

Library visitors:

254,726 people

Program & meeting attendance

25,397 people

Staff & Volunteers

The library employed 35 people:

- 1 Full time director
- 1 Part time administrative assistant
- 1 Part time accountant
- 11 Librarians: 5 full time, 6 part time
- 20 Circulation clerks: 19 part time; 1 full time
- 1 Part time maintenance/handyman

Daily, volunteers provided significant support to the library by assisting with the day to day circulation duties. Three volunteers order, sort and deliver materials to homebound individuals for the Books on Wheels program. Our volunteers logged a total of 1,616 hours.

565 hours were donated by teens and adults who assisted with the Children's Summer Reading Club and other programs in the department.

113.25 hours were donated by 14 teens to help with assorted jobs in the teen department.

Express Check Out Grant

SPL, along with 10 other suburban libraries in Allegheny County and three Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh branches applied for and received an LSTA grant from the Commonwealth of PA for a self-checkout machine. The grant funded the touchscreen monitors, receipt printers and barcode scanners. Each library supplied their own PC. In Sewickley's case, we "borrowed" one from the Children's Department.

About 10% of the materials checked out at the main circulation desk on the first floor from September through December were checked out by library users, not the staff. The use of the self checkout machine helps free our circulation staff so they can perform other patron services. The library is looking forward to providing a self-checkout machine in the Children's Department in 2011, funding permitting.

Financially...

2010 Financial Information

Income

Quaker Valley School District	\$491,262
Allegheny Regional Asset District	192,863
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	47,763
Friends of Sewickley Public Library	63,500
Fundraising	49,934
Unrestricted donations	72,914
Restricted donations	14,380
Fines, fees, rentals, etc.	59,367
Other	<u>13,778</u>
Total	\$1,005,761

Expenditures

Personnel	548,402
Books, DVDs, CDs, etc	102,110
Building maintenance & supplies	67,485
Utilities	60,552
Automation	34,164
Other expenses	<u>62,498</u>
Total	\$875,211

In response to the 2010 fiscal crisis SPL made some hard choices and reduced the budget at the beginning of the year by 10%. However, the community response was so overwhelming that we were not only able to restore Friday hours, we were also able to maintain a modest reserve for contingencies and to plan for some needed maintenance to the library that had been deferred when financial support was unexpectedly reduced.

Friends of the Library

The Friends donated \$52,000 to the library in support of our many collections. They also provided an extra \$10,000 for Summer Reading Club prizes; Battle of the Books prizes and books; a five year lease for a color/copier printer; the yearly microfilming of the *Sewickley Herald*; four bookcases for self pick-up Reserves and three mythology programs for the Children's Department plus a variety of library supplies such as bookends and acrylic display stands.

The Endowment

On December 31, 2010, library endowment investment funds were valued at \$395,123.