

Date: December 7, 2018
To: The Urbana Free Library Board of Trustees
From: Celeste Choate, Executive Director
Re: Director's Report for Board Meeting of December 11, 2018

The December newsletter: <http://urbanafreelibrary.org/headlines/month-urbana-free-library-23>

Current financial information: <http://urbanafreelibrary.org/your-right-know#fin>. Please focus on the [FY19 financial section](#) for summary year-to-date financial information.

Highlighted Programs, Collaboration, & Outreach:

Thanks to the generosity of the Foundation, November's UFLive! concert featured local band **Hot Club of Urbana**, which pays tribute to the musical legacy of Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grappelli. Brothers Rob, Ben, and Jeff Sweedler performed with bandmates Louie Pappas, Will Andresen, and Nathaniel Ruiz. In total, 110 community members came out to enjoy the band's Gypsy Jazz music; some community members even enjoyed dancing to the music.



Because November is National Novel Writing Month, Library staff hosted two NaNoWriMo workshops in addition to a Write-On! Program. These programs encourage and support budding writers from grades three through eight by providing a creative and safe environment to develop stories. Though attendees may not have finished a full novel (approximately 50,000 words!), they did set personally meaningful writing goals for the workshops and worked toward them! In total, 26 young patrons participated in the Library's November programs for young writers.

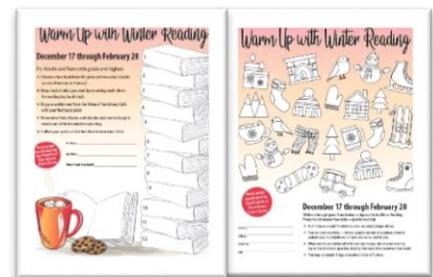


RACES came to the corner of Race and Green Streets on Friday, November 30th after a quick trip north for repairs earlier in the month. Artist Bobby Joe Scribner was on hand to install the sculpture and cut the ribbon. Many thanks to the [Urbana Sculpture Project](#) for arranging for RACES to adorn this corner for the next two years and to The Urbana Free Library Foundation for not only donating the funds to purchase the property, but also giving funds for landscaping on the corner. We're delighted to bring more art to the community!

Celeste presented to the Urbana Park District Advisory Committee on November 27th about Library services and collections (including Park holdings in the Champaign County Historical Archives) and on how the Library and the Parks partner to serve our community.

New & Coming Soon:

The Library's Winter Reading Program will begin on December 17th and run through February 28th. The theme for this year's program is "Warm Up with Winter Reading" and features the cozy parts of the season – not the least of which is cuddling up with a good read from the Library! Book prizes for the Winter Reading Program are generously funded by the Friends of The Urbana Free Library.



Two rows of shelving units were installed in the DVD selection area, and books of plastics containing DVD cards were moved by the stairs leading to the second floor. The DVD conversion process, which allows patrons to self select DVDs, began December 3, and converted DVD titles will gradually make their way onto these shelves from behind the Circ Desk. In the future, we will put up two more rows of shelves in the same area that will hold the remainder of the entertainment DVD collection. All youth DVDs and adult non-fiction DVDs are already converted and available for self-selection.



Facilities:



The furnace in the Webber building has been replaced. We are working with Ameren to update the meters for the unit, which is the last step before completion.

English Brothers Company continues the repair of the Race Street porch and the work is on schedule. The railing has been removed and contractors are currently finishing the task of removing the concrete terrace. If everything continues to go according to plan, contractors will assemble the new terrace floor, and reinstall the railing by the end of the month!



Strategic Planning - Preparing to Plan:

Amanda will be presenting briefly at the Board meeting and has included a document in the Board packet.

Policy:

Given further consideration of the new Workplace Violence Policy, we have collaborated again with the City's HR and Legal departments. They feel, as do we, that we can remove the word "obscene" from the two places it appears, and that the remaining words "abusive and threatening" will address all of the behaviors that "obscene" was looking to address. This change is on the agenda for approval. Staff recommend approval of this proposed change at the December Board meeting. No suggestions for changes were made by the Board or staff, so the policy remains unchanged from last month.

TUFL in the Media:

You can also check out our [News & More](#) page for TUFL press releases and highlights.

December 3, 2018 - [30 Free Things to Do in December](#)

December 3, 2018 - [Library events, Dec. 2-9, 2018](#)

December 3, 2018 - [As Chicago burned: Urbana's fire of 1871](#)

November 26, 2018 - [Library events, Nov. 25 - Dec. 2, 2018](#)

November 21, 2018 - [Library events, Nov. 18-25, 2018](#)

November 21, 2018 - [Friends of Urbana Free Library's next used-book sale starts Thursday](#)

November 21, 2018 - [Well, I guess kids are cute](#)

November 21, 2018 - [Apprenticeship guides future librarians](#)

November 21, 2018 - [Installation of RACES sculpture delayed until December](#)