

March 2010

For Immediate Release

Your Library- An Open Door Update – the Budget

Voting on the Lockport Public Library's 2010/2011 budget will take place on Wednesday, April 7, 2010, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the community meeting room of the library. Registered voters of the Lockport City School District are eligible to vote on the proposed \$34,211 increase in the library's budget from property tax revenue.

The Library Trustees will hold a public meeting on the library's budget on Thursday, March 18th, at 7 p.m., in the library's community meeting room. Library Trustees and the Library Director will present the proposed budget and answer questions from the public.

Highlighted 2009 library services to the Lockport community include the following:

- **12,688 children, teens, adults and families attended 405 library-sponsored programs.**
- **The library's popular summer reading program topped 1,276 children and teen registrants.**
- **The library's community meeting room served over 80 organizations by providing a free and accessible public space.**
- **The library's third "One Book One Community" program offered multiple opportunities to purchase and discuss a single title, The 19th Wife, and to meet the author, David Ebershoff.**
- **Two ongoing book discussion groups are coordinated by our librarians.**
- **The library's web site has been redesigned and an active Facebook page has been established.**
- **The library now has wireless access to the Internet throughout the building.**
- **436,859 items were borrowed and 30,371 people have library cards.**
- **The first John Koplak Memorial Lecture featured a presentation by Joyce Carol Oates.**
- **The library now offers 27 public access workstations and also provides a quiet zone for patrons seeking study and research using Internet resources.**

"This is the 14th year residents of the Lockport City School District have been able to vote on the library's budget," said Marie Bindeman, Library Director. "The increase will help support operating costs for the library including not only the materials budget, but also utilities, staff, and building maintenance. We have tried to offset reductions in our spending power with creative solutions using technology and partnerships, but we need to keep up with the demand from our library users for new materials. Our beautiful building is a source of pride for the Lockport community but it is in need of repairs and maintenance because the new addition is now nearly 17 years old. Carpeting has been

replaced around the 2nd floor circulation desk, 21 windows were replaced, and energy-saving software was installed for the HVAC units.”

Our staff is in the process of implementing a new five-year strategic plan which states that our vision is to be the first place the community of Lockport thinks of for information and insight in a welcoming environment.

Other income sources for the Library include a share of funding allocated to the Nioga Library System from Niagara County, overdue fines and printing/copier fees, interest earned on deposits, donations, and State incentive aid. The Library also receives some funding from the Towns of Pendleton and Lockport for those residents who use the library but who are not residents of the Lockport City School District.

Absentee ballot applications are available for those who will be out of town or ill on the day of the vote. Absentee ballots must be postmarked by April 6th.

Copies of the proposed budget are available on all three floors at the staircase displays and on the Library’s website, www.lockportlibrary.org. Library hours are Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. until 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.