

March 2009

For Immediate Release

Your Library- An Open Door Update – the Budget

Voting on the Lockport Public Library's 2009/2010 budget will take place on Wednesday, April 8, 2009, 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 \$30,374 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 26th, 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 2008 library services to the Lockport community include the following:

- 12,264 children, teens, adults and families attended 378 library-sponsored programs.
- The library's popular summer reading program topped 998 registrants.
- The library's community meeting room served over 80 organizations by providing a free and accessible public space.

- The library's second "One Book One Community" program offered multiple opportunities to purchase and discuss a single title, and to meet the author.
- The Children's Department designed a new bright and inviting paint scheme and provide a welcoming atmosphere for children and parents.
- Patrons with laptops who prefer the flexibility of a wireless connection now have access to the Internet in the building and patrons have 24/7 online access to reference services.
- 441,529 items were borrowed and 28,283 people have library cards.

"This is the 13th 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 16 years old."

Revision for email to US&J--**"This is the 13th 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. In 2008, staff and community representatives assisted in the development of a five year strategic plan that targets services to help better serve the Lockport community for the next five years. 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 16 years old. The roof on the new addition was replaced last year with funds from the Grigg-Lewis Foundation and the NYS Construction Grant program.”

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 7th.

Copies of the proposed budget are available at all service desks 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.