



REPORT TO MUNICIPALITIES
AND
STATE LEGISLATORS

February, 2016

Mini-Golf at the Library - 320 People!

How to celebrate the long Valentines/Presidents' Weekend when you don't go away (and it's really cold outside)? Try a round or two of mini-golf right in the library, on Saturday, February 13. Over 300 kids and their parents enjoyed a relaxing day of golf, away from the snow and chilly temperatures, right in the library. All 18 holes were decorated differently, and prizes were awarded for holes-in-one, smallest score, largest score, and more.

Several years ago, the Penn Valley Church built a mini-golf course for IVPL, which has been used for fundraisers and also for just-plain-fun events over the years. The course, which has never been laid out the same way twice, meanders through the library and offers participants of all ages a lot of fun on a chilly winter Saturday.

Who's coming to the library?

Our Strategic Planning Committee, in forming a vision statement with goals for the future, was recently surprised to learn a number of interesting community connections:

- Residents and staff from Peaceful Living, Indian Creek Foundation, and other group homes come to IVPL once a week or more to read, enjoy crafts, see neighbors, and view films.
- Knitters, crocheters, gamers, chess players, and more meet at the library once a week to knit, crochet, compete, and enjoy being with others.
- Congressman Fitzpatrick's staff meets with constituents at the library every Saturday, 10 am to 1 pm, to help with constituent concerns.

- ESL students and ESL families regularly visit the library on their own or with Indian Valley Opportunity Center.
- Police officers! Our Badges and Books storyhours on Wednesday evenings feature police officers reading to children once/month. On other Wednesdays, families hear stories read by a librarian.
- People who don't have computers at home rely on IVPL's computers, printers, and scanners to complete job applications, find social-security benefits, check bank accounts, and remain in touch with others through email.
- Homeschoolers from all over Bucks and Montgomery Counties regularly meet at the library for craft workshops, informational classes, and socializing.
- Dogs! Our "Ruff Ruff and Read" Saturdays (once a month) allow children to sit with a friendly dog and practice reading with them. It allows reticent children to feel free to make mistakes and try again - and make a new furry friend.

"Story of Bucks County" Author Program

Author Ray O'Brien will be here at IVPL on Saturday, February 27, 1 pm. His new work includes more than 70 sketches, photographs, maps, and satellite images. You'll learn about the literary and theatrical world of New York and New Hope and much more. Copies of the book will be sold and can be signed.

Tax Help

Again this year, volunteers from the United Way and AARP are here at the library to help area residents fill out tax returns. Appointments are made by phone or at the Front Desk. Every year, hundreds of area residents receive free, informative tax help from well-trained and knowledgeable volunteers. We are happy to provide free space for this to happen here at the library.

Did you know?

Twenty years ago (February 1996) IVPL was beginning its year-long process of automating the library. All books were barcoded into the new computer system, and the printing of catalog cards was phased out.

Looking at the Numbers for January:

People coming into the library:

*19,316 people came to IVPL in January
(Average 689 people every day)*

Books and materials checked out:

30,649 books and A-V items were borrowed in January

Programs/ workshops/ classes for kids and adults:

*29 storyhours and programs for kids
For 377 children and 223 adults
57 programs for adults
Involving 444 people*

Internet and word processors:

Computers were used 2899 times in January

Library card sign-ups and usage:

Franconia	7825	
	(60% of total pop. of 13,064)	
Lower Salford	8085	
	(54% of total pop. of 14,959)	
Salford	1511	
	(60% of total pop. of 2504)	
Souderton	5400	
	(82% of total pop. of 6618)	
Telford	4065	
	(87% of total pop. of 4680)	
TOTAL borrowers from the 5 municipalities:		26,889
TOTAL borrowers from other areas:		10,905

Reference questions:

1448 questions were answered in January

Meeting rooms were used 23 times by 345 people.

What you can borrow at the library:

There are 158,537 items in the collection.