

LIBRARY NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

by State Library Staff

LIBRARY USE INCREASING

The **Putnam County Public Library** has announced that library use is on the rise. Circulation is up eight percent and the number of registered borrowers has increased by more than 600. Despite construction projects, 2005 marked the busiest year ever for the **Allen County Public Library**. The library's total circulation eclipsed 5.4 million, its highest mark ever and a 6.1 percent jump from 2004. According to a report by Associate Library Director **Steve Fortriede**, the average resident of Allen County checked out 16 items from the library in 2005. Consistently, Allen County is ranked in the top five in the country in terms of use per capita. The **St. Joseph County Public Library** also set a circulation record, loaning over 2.8 million items, a 2.3 percent increase. **Jasper Public Library** has announced that usage at the Jasper, Ferdinand, and Dubois County branch libraries increased in 2005. Circulation increased at the libraries, Internet use was up 39 percent and 1,706 new borrowers were added.

NEW LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION

The **St. Joseph County Public Library** board has recently approved drawings and specifications and groundbreaking is expected this spring for planned new library branches in **Lakeville** and **North Liberty**. If plans proceed on schedule, the branches will be open in March 2007. The **Colfax Perry Township Public Library** in **Colfax** is currently undergoing a renovation and expansion that will nearly double the size of the library. During construction, the library is being housed in the Colfax Christian Church across the street from the library. Library Director **Judy Hemmerling** expects to move back into the library by September. The **Johnson County Public Library** will soon begin work on a new branch library in **Trafalgar**. The 20,000 square foot building is scheduled to open in spring 2007 and will replace the currently leased building. Work continues in Newton County as new branches of the **Newton County Public Library** are constructed in **Lake Village** and **Roselawn**. The Lake Village branch is scheduled to be completed this spring and the Roselawn branch will be completed in July.

COMPLETED RENOVATIONS

Noble County Public Library recently re-opened a branch in **Cromwell** after completing a \$1.1 million makeover. The renovations took almost a year to complete and included an expansion into a building that formerly housed the Cromwell Opera House. The **Hussey-Mayfield Memorial Public Library** in **Zionsville** recently re-opened after completing a renovation and expansion. The **Morgan County Public Library** in **Martinsville** recently hosted a "Welcome Back" open house to its patrons after completing renovations.

GRANTS AND DONATIONS

The **Oakland City-Columbia Township Public Library** has received a \$1,000 grant from Toyota Motor Manufacturing Indiana to support the "Story Times" program for 2006. The Montgomery County Community Foundation has awarded the **Crawfordsville District Public Library** and the Montgomery County Historical Society \$10,000. The funds will be used to purchase exhibit cases, conservation supplies, and software in the renovation process of the library building, which will be known as the Carnegie Museum of Montgomery County. Steel Dynamics, Inc. has



Construction of the Roselawn Branch Library in Newton County

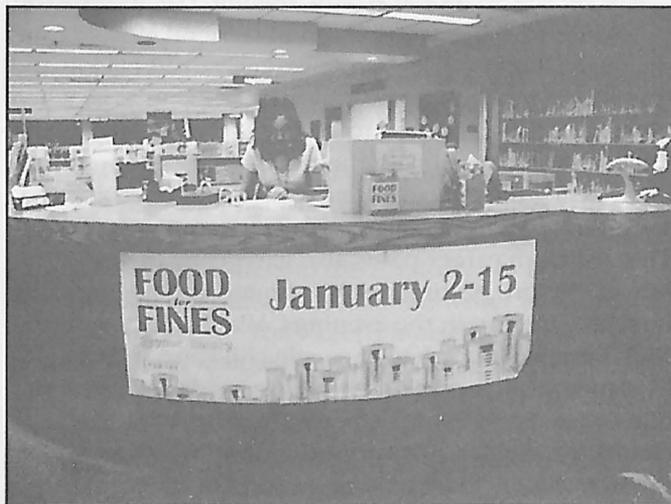
donated \$5,000 to the **South Whitley-Cleveland Township Public Library**. The funds were pledged during a fund drive to raise matching money for the recently awarded Community Development Block Grant. Construction for the library will begin this spring.

OTHER NOTABLE NEWS

For the 15th consecutive year, the **Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library** has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial

Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for its comprehensive annual financial report. The Certificate is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting.

Recently, the **Monroe County Public Library** held a Food-for-Fines program that collected 7,788 pounds of non-perishable food items. Patrons received a \$1 off their fines for each item of food that they donated. The food was delivered to the Hoosier Hills Food Bank, a United Way Agency.



Abril Molina at a checkout desk for a Food-for-Fines program at Monroe County Public Library



Cynthia Gray, Director of Monroe County Public Library, awaiting food pickup in the library garage for Food-for-Fines program



Noble County Public Library, Cromwell Branch stage area of the old "Smith Hall" built in 1910 before renovations



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