

Check It Out column for week of April 4-11
By Kathy Stutzman, Community Relations Assistant

National Library Week is April 12-18

In the past few months, libraries have taken on a new importance as the nation, and our area in particular, has gone through tremendous economic challenges. Libraries have extended hours, teamed up with businesses and individuals to offer classes highlighting resume writing and job searching techniques, and partnered with employment services to help the unemployed. All of this in the midst of facing financial cutbacks themselves.

However, while the economy has slumped, library usage has increased and the Warsaw Community Public Library is no exception. In the past few months, figures have jumped as patrons have come in to explore job-related resources, check out books and DVDs to save money, attend computer and job search classes, and file for unemployment online. Basic computer classes are currently being filled within 8-10 minutes of posting.

A library's presence in a community is critical. Imagine a community without a library. No free access to the Internet for the unemployed to search for jobs or senior citizens to apply for benefits. No free place for community meetings and programs. No safe haven for teens to gather. No early literacy programs for preschool children and their parents. Envision the money saved from borrowing best sellers versus purchasing them. Consider the cost of private Internet access or a night at the movies alone. And let's not forget the financial benefit of free computer classes versus paying.

During the week of April 12-18, communities around the nation will be celebrating National Library Week. WCPL is recognizing National Library Week with a plethora of programs.

On Tuesday, April 14, WCPL is having a book sale, 10-5 PM. 'Buck a Bag'manned by Kohls' volunteers. Two evening classes are being offered that same day, a stamping class at 6 PM and a Resume and Cover letter class at 6:30 PM. For the children, the Library is offering Story Hour at 10 AM, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday with Book Buddies on Friday, at 10 AM. On Wednesday, April 16, 1-4 PM, patrons will have the opportunity to have their picture taken for a Read Poster, highlighting this year's Big Read, Tom Sawyer. (Limited to the first 15) This important week ends on a special "note" with an IPFW classical guitar duo performing on Saturday, April 18, at 1 PM.

Visit the library during this week and discover what the Warsaw Community Public Library has to offer its patrons.