

Check It Out Column for week of March 1-7

“Just the facts, ma’am”

By Kathy Stutzman, Community Relations Assistant

Recall the television show, *Dragnet*? Remember that famous catchphrase made by Sargeant Joe Friday as he investigated crimes, “Just the facts, Ma’am.” This week’s column is following Sgt. Friday’s lead as we share some mind-boggling and downright interesting facts from our Warsaw Community Public Library 2008 Annual Report. Let’s begin our “crime scene” investigation...

- Cardholders checked out a record-breaking number of items in 2008...549,245 in fact!
- An estimated 264,160 visits were made to the Library.
- Over 48,051 people used the free Internet and wi-fi services.
- 694 programs were presented with an attendance of 19,599.
- 14, 713 videotapes, DVD’s and CDs were circulated.
- 1,124 people called into our Story Line.
- 137 non-library sponsored programs, events, meetings were held at the Library.
- Patrons were connected to nearly 195,000 entertainment, education, and information in-house resources throughout the year.

Further investigation revealed new services that were offered to make Warsaw Library even better:

- A fiber optic Internet upgrade was made, tripling data speed, which made signing on and surfing the Internet a lot faster for patrons.
- “Green” reusable bags were made available, saving energy and resources.
- Our goal to be more tech savvy was furthered with a blog, www.bookshelfbuzz.blogspot.com

”Revealed evidence” showed partnerships developed to bring special exhibits to Warsaw:

- The Library hosted The Remnant Trust Collection of original and first edition historical documents, in partnership with Ivy Tech, Warsaw. Over 400 attended.
- A Billy Sunday photo collection from the Ft. Wayne Museum of Art was displayed.

Additional partnerships with local non-profit organizations were discovered during the “shakedown”:

- We served as a drop off point for food collected for Combined Community Service’s (CCS) food bank.
- Over 430 pounds of care package items were collected for troops overseas, working with Salvation Army’s *Operation Compassion* program.
- Library staff donated over 82 books for Head Start’s preschool children.
- WCPL served as a pick up point for the Big Read project, making copies of their selected book available to patrons.

Okay, we “confess”. WCPL is “guilty” of the “crime” of providing top-notch and unique services to its patrons. The “clues” were followed, ‘evidence sifted”, and “confessions” extracted from “witnesses” at the scene.

Interested in seeing more of the “evidence”? Copies of the 2008 Annual Report are located throughout the Library building for you to sift through.