**More than Books**

**Last call for children's books or bucks for books**

A local social worker tells me many of the homes she visits don't own a single children's book. You can change that grim reality with a donation to the library's annual holiday book drive for needy children.

Please consider picking up a children's book or two at Book World in Meadows Mall or another location that carries books, but do it the very next time you're out and about. The donation barrel will be in the library lobby through this Sunday, December 21.

Cash donations are also appreciated, particularly as it can be more daunting to select a book for an older child. A cash donation allows Youth Services Supervisor Anna Doyle to do the selecting for those of us who don't have a clue as to what today's 13-year-olds are excited about reading.

If you have a shelf of books your children or grandchildren have outgrown, and if they are in like-new condition, we will happily accept them also.

The books will be sorted and available at the Salvation Army, along with the Salvation Army Christmas baskets and toys for families who qualify for help. This method of distribution allows children of those families, who are in line for a Christmas basket, to select books of their own choosing at the same time families picks up the baskets.

I realize, from past experience, that we continue to get new packets of books up until the very last day of the drive, but I still get concerned about whether or not we'll have enough. Remember, the book you donate could be the very first one a needy child owns.

**Community Festival of Trees**

This is still time to vote for your favorite out of the 25 beautifully decorated trees here at the library for the FHN Community Festival of Trees. Although a panel of judges will be awarding first, second, and third prizes, you don't have to be one of those judges to be a voter.

FHN has generously included a People's Choice Award category that has a whopping $500 prize. Vote early and often, by Saturday, December 20, and your favorite tree (and organization) may be the People's Choice winner.

**Santa's December Schedule**

There are still a couple of opportunities to visit with Santa here at the library. Santa will be working this weekend, from 1 to 3 p.m., both Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Santa's visits as well as a little gift from Santa are courtesy of FHN.

**Holiday Schedule Reminder**

At the risk of nagging, I want to remind you to stock up on library materials before December 24 as the library will be closed on both Wednesday, December 24, and Thursday, December 25 for the Christmas holidays. The library will also close Thursday, January 1 for the New Year's holiday.

*Library Director Carole Dickerson may be reached by phone at 815-233-3000, ext. 216, or by email at cdickerson@freeportpubliclibrary.org.*