

More than Books

If You Can't Come to the Library, the Library will Come to You

A friend of mine slipped and sprained her ankle one morning when our sidewalks and steps were covered with snow and ice. Since then, I've been reminding people that Freeport Library offers free delivery of materials to anyone who is temporarily incapacitated by an illness or accident, as well as to those who are who are in need of long-term service because they are physically unable to visit the library.

You may request specific titles or have a librarian or trained library volunteer select them according to your own interests. Then we schedule a home delivery for a convenient mutually time.

The Outreach Program is not a books-only service! Materials available through the Outreach Program include both regular print and large print books, magazines, audiobooks, DVDs, and CDs.

Eligibility for Delivery

Residents of Freeport, of any age, who are confined to their home or an institution, for any reason, (permanent or temporary) are eligible for the Outreach Program's home delivery service. Just call the library's Circulation Supervisor Lois Rees at 815-233-3000 with your questions or to make arrangements for an initial contact. Of course, if you're a friend of mine with your ankle in a cast, you can just give me a call.

Other Outreach Services

Service to the homebound is only one of the ways the library reaches out to the community. Books and tapes are delivered regularly to retirement facilities in Freeport. The library also offers assistance in obtaining materials from the Illinois State Library Talking Book and Braille Services.

Looking for a Speaker?

Is your club or organization looking for a speaker? Each new year on the job, I resolve to renew my commitment to making public presentations about what the library has to offer.

When I moved to Freeport in 2004, I spoke to a lot of service clubs and social organizations by way of introducing myself to the community and hearing ideas from those groups about how to make our library the very best it can be. I remember with appreciated the warm welcome and the useful information I received.

Now that I'm going into my tenth year at the library, I'd love to be contacted by a group to whom I haven't talked or to make a return appearance where I've already spoken. Just two weeks ago I was a guest speaker at a meeting of the Freeport Lions Club.

I am available to speak on topics as varied as "Services for Seniors" to "Raising a Reader" to "The Library Today and Tomorrow." I enjoy addressing "Stereotypes of Libraries and Librarians," and I welcome the opportunity to tell alarming stories about "Banned Books." My contact information appears at the end of this column if you are interested in booking a speaker – free of charge.

Tour the Library

A customized tour of the library can be designed to meet the needs of just about any group. If a club or organization or a group of friends would like to learn more about what the library has to offer, we can tailor something to your interests, such as a tour of the Local History Room or a focus on some of our newest technology.

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