



### Blakesburg Public Library Begins Strategic Planning Process

In FY19, the Blakesburg Public Library Board of Trustees and Library Staff began the process of preparing to renew its accreditation, with a goal of moving to a Tier 3, fully-accredited status with the State Library of Iowa.

The library is currently accredited as a Tier 2 Library, improving the tier status means the library will be eligible for additional state funding, and that the library is meeting required standards of service to certify at a particular level. The State Library revised the

standards for libraries that were renewing their status for FY20 and beyond.

The process began with a meeting with State Library Consultant for Southeast Iowa, Becky Heil. The board and library director identified possible community stakeholders, who were then invited to two meetings to complete a SWOT (Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis of the community and discuss aspirations for its future. The input from  
*(continued page 2)*

### Community enjoys Crock-Pot Cook-Off

A number of community members enjoyed coming out and sampling some delicious recipes in the library's 5th Annual Crock-Pot Cook-Off in October.

Winners were: Sawyer Deevers (Slow Cooker French Dip), Penny Fisher (Slow Cooker Gingerbread Pumpkin Latte), Cheryl Talbert, (Creamy Bacon Corn Chowder) Bill Hinshaw (Loaded Mashed Potatoes), and Dave Talbert (Peach Cobbler).

Ten cooks prepared 20 recipes for the public to judges. Categories were Appetizers/Beverages, Soups & Stews, Entrees & Sides, Breads and Desserts and Youth Category. This is one of the library's most popular events.



### FY19 Revenue & Expenditures

City Allocation	\$ 4,500.00	Salaries	\$ 7,912.00
Payroll Levy	\$ 1,820.00	Employee Benefits	\$ 3,112.00
State Library	\$ 1,088.00	Books	\$ 765.00
Wapello County	\$ 6,447.00	Audio Books	\$ 81.00
Fundraising, donations	\$ 3,990.00	Videos	\$ 181.00
		E-books & E-audiobooks	\$ 332.00
		Streaming Video	\$ 7.00
		Databases	\$ 43.00
		Other expenditures	\$ 4,925.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 17,845.00</b>		<b>\$ 17,358.00</b>



### Library undergoes Planning for Results process as part of FY19 activities *(continued from page 1)*

community was used to develop the Library's 5-Year Plan.

The Library had a big year participating in the Corn Carnival, and Small Town Christmas, and holding its annual Crock-Pot Cook-Off, Father-Daughter Dance, a Mother/Son event, Summer Reading Program, and Pop-Up Lib-

rary at the ballpark.

The Library partnered with EBF Schools, Friends of the Library, Loving Shepherd Food Pantry, Boots & Blue Jeans & Clover Kids 4H, Summer Ball Parents, the Corn Carnival Homecoming Committee and BHPS.



*Library Director Cheryl Talbert, the Danner & McSparen families and Jackson & Gabriel Leffler helped create and rode on the Friends of the Library's float in the September 2018 Corn Carnival Parade honoring our troops, especially the M\*A\*S\*H units that saved lives.*

### About the Library

**Library Staff** — Director, Cheryl Talbert; Assistant Director, Chris Johnson; Library Assistant.

**Library Board of Trustees** — Board President, Sonni Deevers; Board Secretary, Penny Fisher; Board members Ed Hannan, Michael Potts and Kathy Hunt.

**Library Services**—We provide a collection of books, audio books, e-books, and videos for all ages; programs for all ages; Interlibrary Loan and reference service; research assistance; photocopying; faxing; access to WI-FI; 8 computers; databases; notary public; and meeting space.

### FY19 Library Statistics

Visitors	2,128	Total Items Circulated	1,877
Books	6,737	Savings to Community	\$46,925
E-Books	49,444	City Circulation	1,388
Total Books	56,181	Rural Circulation	489
Audio Books	200	Interlibrary Loan Sent	193
E-Audio Books	22,519	Electronic Info Retrieval	94
Total Audio Books	22,719	E-Books Downloaded	140
Videos	688	Audio Books Downloads	244
Download Videos	50	Annual Computer Use	878
Total Videos	738	Number of Programs	42
Other Materials	127	Program Participants	458
Web Page Views	1,561	Downloadable Magazine Subscriptions	75
Total Physical Items	7,752	Physical Collection Value	\$193,800
Total Download Items	72,013	Total Download Value	\$1,800,325
Total Collection Items	79,765	Total Collection Value	\$1,994,125