

The Next Chapter

Newsletter of the Elyria Public Library System | Spring 2011



Lorain County's Oldest
Public Library
1870 - 2010

2010 Annual Report 140 Years of Library Service From Books to E-readers 1870 - 2010

"I remember walking up the very steep and narrow steps of the Elyria Public Library's original location on Broad St. overlooking Ely Square. Those old wooden floors really creaked when you walked on them but I just loved going to the library," said Lucille, at 92, the oldest patron to visit us during the 140th Anniversary celebration.

Public Library Funding Update

Currently, the **Public Library Fund of the state of Ohio** is funded at **1.97%** of total state tax revenue instead of the **2.22%** passed in the previous biennium budget. The result of this has been a 30% loss of funding in 2010 for the Elyria Public Library System. Nearly 48% of our monies are provided by the PLF.

Governor Kasich will present his budget to the state legislators no later than March 15. Libraries, as all state-funded entities, must watch and wait until the new budget will be finalized July 1, 2011. We will keep our community apprised of the Library's state funding as we receive news.

We are very grateful for local library funding, however due to the re-evaluation of property values in Lorain County our income from these levies was down approximately 6% - 8%.

- **2009 Replacement and additional operating levy of 1.9 mils** was approved by Elyria voters, providing a projected amount of \$1,830,000 million per year to the budget of the Elyria branches.

- **2009 New Operating levy of .8 mils** was approved by LaGrange Township voters, providing a projected amount of \$121,000 per year to the budget of the Keystone-LaGrange Library.

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In 1864 Charles Arthur Ely, son of Elyria's founder, died and left a Will establishing a public library for Elyria and the vicinity. The Industrial Revolution was in full swing when on June 10, 1870, the doors of the first Elyria Public Library opened on the second floor Broad Street Building overlooking Ely Square. Starting with 2,000 books, a paid member of the Library had borrowing privileges, non-members could only use the books during regular business hours.

One hundred forty years later, the public library offers so much more than books. The Board of Trustees and Library Staff, are dedicated to the Library's mission: offering unlimited possibilities of lifelong learning for all and free resources to everyone in the community it serves.

2010 EPLS Financial Data

INCOME

Public Library Funding	1,895,631.00	47.89%
Elyria & LaGrange Levy	1,931,939.00	48.81%
Other Income	130,633.00	3.30%
	\$3,958,203.00	100.00%

EXPENDITURES

Salaries & Benefits	2,275,611.00	66.88%
Operating	692,772.00	20.36%
Materials	433,994.00	12.76%
	\$3,402,377.00	100.00%

2010 Highlights:

- **1,149 children, 112 teens & 71 adults, for a total of 1,332 people**, participated in the Summer Reading Programs, sponsored by the Friends of the Elyria Public Library System as well as the Friends of the Keystone-LaGrange Community Library.
- **1,107,688 items** were circulated
- **1,215 programs** were offered throughout the system
- **23,965 patrons** attended those programs
- **410,136 people** visited the library branches
- **83,197 patrons** used library computers with free Internet access

ELYRIA PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
Unlimited Possibilities