

Library to consider offer from DigitalWorks to become training site

Written by Nancy Spencer

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DELPHOS — The Delphos Public Library could be a future training site for DigitalWorks, an initiative of Connected Nation, Inc., the parent organization of Connect Ohio.

Connect Ohio is a technology organization committed to bringing affordable high-speed Internet and broadband-enabled resources to all Ohions and raises awareness of the value of broadband. It is funded by federal and state grants as well as private donations.

Jeff Beebe, a Connect Ohio representative gave a presentation to the library board of trustees at Wednesday's regular meeting. Beebe outlined what the program would need including 12-15 work stations, 1,500-2,400 square feet and high-speed Internet.

"The is building we are in [The First Edition Building] is perfect. We would make some security upgrades with grants we can apply for and we would need little else," Beebe said.

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The DigitalWorks training program includes five gates: recruitment, screening, training, placement and mentoring and focuses on customer service representatives and computer programming. Students will complete 144 hours of training at their own pace with three milestones: 20 hours of basic computer skills; 20 hours of English and grammar skills; and 104 hours of customer service skills.

Beebe assured the trustees background checks are done on all participants and a program facilitator would be on-hand whenever anyone was in the building.

“We would hire a facilitator for the program and every applicant is checked thoroughly,” he said. “We want to provide affordable and customizable high-skilled training programs to meet the needs of our corporate partners.”

Training sites are already established in Zanesville, Portsmouth and Logan. Beebe said DigitalWorks is looking for a total of 10-12 sites on Ohio.

Trustees took information from Beebe and will discuss the proposal at future meetings. Director Kelly Rist said she will call the communities where the other sites are located and get feedback for the next meeting.

In Rist’s report, she told the board while August is usually a slower month at the library, this year’s circulation was up 4,000 from 2012.

“People are excited about the library and our offerings and we are loaning quite a few more items than we are requesting back through the inter-library loan program,” Rist said. “We are busy.”

Rist also announced the library’s participation in the Big Library Read. The program is offered through OverDrive of Cleveland, the nation’s largest distributor of eBooks and audiobooks. From Sept. 16-30, “Fancy Nancy: Nancy Clancy, Super Sleuth” by Jane O’Connor and Robin

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Preiss Glasser will be available free to eBook and audiobook users.

Rist added the program offers free materials every two months.

The library will also participate in Canal Days in the Children's Tent from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sept. 21 and is holding a book sale in conjunction with the celebration on Sept. 19, 20 and 21 in the library's activities room.

Rist also talked about the progress on the library's new website, the availability of the card catalogue on Facebook through an app and a proposal to have the library's yearbook collection digitized for free.

The next meeting will be held at 4 p.m. Oct. 9 in the First Edition Building.