

Michael's Message

By Michael Seigler, Director, Smyrna Library



Change can be stressful, but it can also be very good. The Smyrna Library is constantly changing and for the most part, the changes have been good.

Let's begin with the physical changes. The library is looking better now than it has for several years.

The exterior has been repainted and the steps have been steam-cleaned. The building looks almost new again.

There's new carpet downstairs. The carpet has a light pattern and brightens up the entire library. This high-end carpet is treated to be stain resistant. In the event something can't be cleaned, the squares can be pulled up and replaced.

As is mentioned elsewhere in the Link, two new stained glass windows were installed in the Library. The windows were designed by Jennifer's Glassworks and are absolutely beautiful. The windows were dedicated to the memory of Lynda Crumley in August and will be appreciated by library users for many decades to come.

The library has a new webpage. Jennifer Bennett, the city's Community Relations Director, designed a new page for us. The new page is both more colorful and more professional looking than our old page. It has several features that weren't available, including quick links to the catalog and the events calendar.

The library also has new catalog software. We've upgraded from SagebrushSpectrum to Sagebrush Infocentre. This is a more stable internet-based system with many features that weren't available on the old software. Among other features, patrons will be able to check their accounts, reserve

materials and renew books online twenty-four hours a day.

It's a minor thing, but we also have a new website address—www.smyrnalibrary.com. You don't have to put a dash in it anymore. The old address www.smyrna-library.com will still work, too.

I haven't mentioned this in a while, but the Library is a subscriber to the GALILEO database service. GALILEO provides statewide access to hundreds of online databases. Many of these databases would cost hundreds of dollars for a personal subscription.

GALILEO is constantly changing and two changes may be of special interest to Smyrna residents. First, they have added HeritageQuest to their available databases. That's a major genealogy site that provides online access to census records, vital statistics, and family records. Second, GALILEO is now much easier to use. They have gone to a unified search system similar to a Google screen. All you need to access the databases is a password from the library. GALILEO is a research library that's available on your computer.

Finally, a new store Grand Mart opened in Smyrna in August. I was very pleasantly surprised when they donated \$1,500 to the Library. We'll use this donation to make even more changes by upgrading our travel collection.

Check us out! There's always something new at the Smyrna Library

Michael

Naturally, change wasn't limited to building improvements. There have been several other changes in the past three months.