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Longtime children's librarian Carol Arnold receives love, cards at retirement celebration

Carol Arnold's career as children's librarian started as a fluke in 1971.

Louise Griner, then Hoopeston Public Library's head librarian, thought a resume submitted for the position came from Arnold and called her in for an interview.

Although Arnold did not send a resume, she got the job, a position she held for 47 years.

On Friday, a steady stream of children and adults came to honor Arnold for her years of dedication to Hoopeston's children. Over the years, many of the first children in which she nurtured a love of reading returned with their children and then grandchildren. And Arnold still remembers many of them, reminiscing about how one came to the library with a red wagon to carry books home, or how another was shy and always in the back of the room during activities.

There were always activities. You just never knew what Arnold was going to do. It could be making green eggs of the Dr. Seuss classic "The key is to put the food color in before cooking," she said. "It turns a nice yucky green." Or perhaps she would dress as a book character, like *The Cat in the Hat* or Lilly the pig from *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse*.

Sometimes Arnold would take her whimsy on the road, like in 2004, when she, dressed as The Cat in the Hat, visited residents at Country Terrace Independent Living Center.

It was not a loss of love for her job that led to Arnold's retirement. After suffering considerable pain for some time, Arnold had hip replacement on October 2. Faced with recuperation and rehabilitation, she stepped down from her job.

At Friday's reception, Arnold, who mostly sat, said she is making progress healing. After the surgery, she was at Heritage Health for physical therapy, where she moved from a wheelchair to a walker and is now able to walk using a cane, which she also plans to outgrow. I've got things I want to do," she said. I'm



Carol Arnold, center, reads a handmade card from Chelle Roberts and Marley and Rhyan O'Neal at a retirement reception Friday, as Josh Sanford looks on.

not just going to sit."

Among the things she plans to do is volunteer - perhaps at the library. There is reading she has put off and there is always shopping. Arnold admits she does not really need anything, but then says a new pair of shoes would be nice. And maybe a purse. "I like purses."

She might also travel, but if she is not up to that, she may return to writing letters to famous people, something she did often but not in recent years. In each letter, she would ask questions about their lives and always, always would ask each about a favorite book. She has an album full of responses from people like

See **LIBRARIAN** on other side

Italian Night
 Thursday 4:30-7 p.m.
First Church of God
 1004 E. Orange, Hoopeston
 Spaghetti/meat sauce or Fettuccine
 Alfredo/chicken, salad, garlic bread, drink, dessert
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Librarian continued from other side

Barbara Bush, George W. Bush, Jimmy Carter and Colin Powell. "He liked *The Call of the Wild*," she said.

Arnold admits her job might not be for everybody. "A lot of people wouldn't want to work with kids," she said, "but I've loved it." Arnold said she treated all children the same. It didn't matter to her whether they were rich or poor or whether they came from good homes or bad, in the children's library, they were all on even footing.

Working with children, Arnold got to practice her philosophy of life everyday: to do the best you can every day and be as nice as you can to everybody."

Local people were not the only ones to take note of Arnold's retirement. She received a certificate from the Illinois House of Representatives, congratulating her on her 47-year career.

"Forty seven years and two months," she corrects.



Carol Arnold, as The Cat in the Hat, visits with residents of the former Country Terrace in 2001.

From the Blotter

A manager at McDonald's, 824 S. Dixie Hwy., reported at 2:10 p.m. Saturday that someone spray-painted graffiti in the dumpster area.

Terrance Irvin, 25, of Hoopeston, was arrested after police were called at 5:17 p.m. to a disturbance in the 400 block of West Orange. He was charged with possession of cannabis and released on a notice to appear in Hoopeston City Court.

Briefly

At the library

Cooking the Books. This month's theme is Cookie Exchange. Select your favorite holiday cookie recipe. Make at least three dozen - one dozen for tasting and two dozen for the exchange. Bring your cookies and a container for filling and join us for a fun evening of cookie sampling at 6 p.m. Thursday. Please drop off a copy of your recipe at HPL no later than Wednesday, Dec. 12 so copies can be made to share.

Classifieds

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

1 BR, single/double occupancy efficiency apartments available at Princess Apartments, Hoopeston. \$450/mo., \$450 deposit. Clean, secure building. All utilities, refrigerator, stove included, coin laundry available on premises. No pets. Pick up application at Bricks and Ivy Sports, 201 E. Main St.

1 & 2 BR apts. at Rosewood Terrace 2 BR \$450 first and last month rent plus deposit. 1 BR, \$400 first and last month rent plus deposit. Stove fridge, washer dryer included for both. Quiet area. No pets. References needed. (217) 283-6261.

HELP WANTED

Openings available for construction workers. Concrete experience would be helpful. Apply in person at Silver Brothers Construction Co., 105 E. Washington St., Hoopeston.

Part-time CNA, 2nd & 3rd Shift, every other weekend off, please no phone inquiries, apply in person at Autumn Fields Adult Community, 325 E Orange St, Hoopeston IL 60942

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Fire Calls

Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 6:17 p.m. Saturday for an activated carbon monoxide detector in the 600 block of East Elm. Nothing was found.

Firemen were called at 1:45 p.m. Sunday to Centennial Manor for smoke on the second floor. Upon arrival, nothing was found.

Court Dispositions

November 1

Heidi Cano, Hoopeston, failed to appear, found guilty by default in two general nuisance cases, fined \$230 in each; status hearing December 6.

Terrance Irvin, Hoopeston, failed to appear for possession of cannabis, possession of drug paraphernalia; found guilty by default, fined \$200 in each case; status hearing December 6.

Linda Drollinger, Hoopeston, pleaded not guilty to disorderly conduct; trial December 6.

Weather

Sunny today. High 38. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 26. Tomorrow, chance of wintry mix, then rain. Low 39.