

## Mayor's Message – August 2015

“Your friendly, hometown library” is the mission statement of Murray City Library. Independent from the Salt Lake County and the Salt Lake City library systems, Murray’s library can focus directly on the needs of its residents. Over half of the current employees grew up in Murray and many of these employees have never lived anywhere else. They love Murray and are here to serve you!

In studying the early history of the city, the first Free Public Library is mentioned as early as December, 1908. The history continues that the Women’s Club maintained the library and reading room with a few books until 1912 when they petitioned the city to take over the operations. The library has had several different homes since that time and is currently housed at 166 East 5300 South.

The library is managed by the Murray Library Board that meets monthly to set policy, oversee the budget and make recommendations about services. The board consists of seven members who are appointed by the mayor with recommendations, advice and consent of City Council members. Our current board members are: Pepper Pehrson (secretary), District 1; Holly Hult, District 2; Valerie Harsh, District 3; Patricia Griffiths, District 4; Lois Holt, District 5; Traci Black (president), At Large; and Gamal Herbon (vice president), At Large. These dedicated residents volunteer their time and we are very appreciative of their service.

Kim Fong is the library director. With her leadership and knowledgeable staff, they are able to provide programs which create a very busy library that far exceeds most other libraries in the area. They have daily programs and offer activities for all ages.

Murray Library avidly promotes reading and learning. There are reading incentive programs during the summer for children, teenagers and adults. Employees are always ready to suggest the next great thing to read. Or, you can always join one of the book clubs, which are offered for all ages. If you already have your own book club, there is a book club collection with multiple copies of many popular titles that can be checked out.

Technology has demanded changes to libraries in recent years. Our library was recently remodeled to accommodate self-check machines. This allows for easier material handling for everyone. The system also processes the fee and fine payments, assuring that all dealings are accurately credited to each patron.

If you don’t have time to go to Murray Library, you can visit them online. Patrons can participate in a story time on Murray Library’s YouTube channel or check out e-books or e-audiobooks to enjoy while on the go. Also many online reference materials are available on their website which can be accessed through *murray.utah.gov*.

I hope you will take the time to either visit the library in person or online and enjoy the services offered to you through this wonderful city resource.

Sincerely,



Ted Eyre, Mayor