



Chris Taylor

Director of the Upper Arlington Public Library

Bill Shkurti

Library Board Member

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Kevin Brown introduced today's program. Our speakers were **Chris Taylor**, Director of the Upper Arlington Public Library and **Bill Shkurti**, a library Board member.

Chris shared a slide presentation highlighting some interesting facts about the UA Library. There has been a public library presence in Upper Arlington for nearly 70 years. The original library service in the community came through a branch of the Grandview Heights Library. UA's original library – Miller Park – was opened on December 1, 1946.

Sixty percent of Upper Arlington residents have a library card. In fact, there are probably a good number more people who use the library services since some cards are used by multiple family members and some children participate in programs without a card.

The library is very highly rated nationally. In all eight years that the Library Journal (a national industry publication) has posted ratings for public libraries, UAPL has ranked in the 99th percentile for its programs and services.

The current election features a library request for renewal of its operating levy. A key point about this renewal is that, if approved, the levy will continue to generate the same revenue as previously.

Increases in property values are accounted for and the effective millage applied is reduced to assure that the amount paid does not increase.

Upper Arlington Public Library has one of the smallest millages among Franklin County libraries. Every library in the county relies to some extent on levy generated dollars.

The funds from the levy account for over half of the library's total revenue. The current library levy expires in 2017. Thus, if the renewal request is turned down by voters in the current election the request will be re-submitted to the voters next year.

State funding has been reduced since 2007. The library's 2015 state funding is less than it was in 2009. When the funding was reduced (and since it has remained at the cutback levels) the focus was to find ways to continue to maintain and improve services with fewer dollars.

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GREETERS

November 1

James McKinney
Molly Fontana

November 8

Steve Risk
Carl Aschinger

November 15

David Johnson
Steve Lichtblau

REGISTRATION DESK

November 1

Jim Hamilton
Rich Simpson

November 8

John Hansel
John Cleland

November 15

Keith Schneider
Debbie Johnson

CALENDAR

November 1

TBD

November 8

TBD

November 15

TBD

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

October 29th

Special Olympics Swim Meet

November 5th

Senior Service Saturday -
8:45am-12:00 noon.
Contact Jim McGovern
if interested in participating

December 20th

YWCA - 5:30-7:00pm
Contact John Huneck
for more information

Please submit your volunteer opportunity to herb@herbgillen.com for inclusion in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

SOCIAL EVENTS

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Chris cited a variety of strategies the Library is using to address the situation. Here are some of them:

- Find opportunities for shared services with other organizations. Joining the library consortium is an example. Another example is the shared newsletter which is jointly produced by the UA Library, The city of Upper Arlington and the Upper Arlington Public Schools.
- Look for alternate revenue sources. For example, passport services are now available at the UA library.
- Provide fee-based services to other libraries. Bexley Public Library uses the UAPL for its cataloging services.
- Engage in fundraising programs. UA's Friends of the Library program is active and robust. The library also supports and promotes February as "Library Lovers Month".
- Focus on operating improvements.
- Engage in good people management. Initiating "pay for performance" is a near term goal for the library.
- Fact sheets about the library and the levy renewal were on each table.

UA Library Board member Bill Shkurti spoke to the importance of the library to the community and to the library's focus on establishing and maintaining excellent relationships with the City of UA and the UA School District.

Bill also acknowledged Chris Taylor's excellent leadership. He noted that one of the most important functions of a Board is to identify and hire good management and he believes the Board did just that when Chris was brought on board.

He reiterated the importance of the levy to the library and also reinforced the point about the effective millage adjustment that keeps tax payments level.

In the past renewal campaign, the approval rate for the levy was 80%. This, however, is not the time to be complacent. This election is unusual in that the top of the ballot race is so contentious. Bill wondered if that fact might turn some past voters away from voting at all – which could potentially keep library supporters away from the polls. He also noted that the presidential race will also draw some voters who may not have participated in the past and whose level of support for the library is unknown. Thus, diligence is in order.

He encouraged supporter to get involved by doing such things as writing letters to the editor, volunteering for activities like distributing door hangers and putting yard signs up.



The Meeting

President **Chip Knoop** asked **Steve Rish** to offer the Invocation and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

We were joined today by special guest **Bob Holland**, a charter member of UA Rotary. Chip joined those present in welcoming Bob.

President Knoop reminded us that we'll be meeting at Scioto Country Club for the balance of this year's meetings.

He also reminded us that this Thursday, October 27 is the Honda plant tour organized by **Bob Edler**. Participants should be at SCC by 7:45 AM. Bus departs shortly after 8:00. We thanked Bob for his good work in organizing the tour. About 30 people will participate.

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Notes and Announcements

Linda Cummins announced that next week's Rotary Roundtable (Tuesday, November 1) will feature presenters from City Barbecue who will discuss the history of the enterprise and some of the challenges for the future.

Saturday, November 5 is Senior Service Saturday. If you would like to help contact **Jim McGovern**.

The next YWCA Family Center meal service is Tuesday, December 20. Contact **John Huneck** if you'd like to chip in.

Anne Croskey is looking for the owner of a set of car keys left here about two weeks ago. She surmised that the owner was not likely to be here since she has the keys to the car.

Alan Yarletts reported that there was an Interact Club picnic at his house on Wednesday, October 19. Twenty five Interact members participated and six UA Rotarians joined in. Alan noted that there is a good amount of buzz about the Interact Club at UAHS. He also reported that there are three Rotary Youth Exchange students interested in participating next school year.

We were also reminded that this Saturday, October 29 the Special Olympics Swim Meet will take place at the UAHS natatorium. Rotary volunteers are needed. Let Alan know if you are available to help. Twenty students are also volunteering.

Steve Lichtblau reported on the sad passing of Jim Ayers' son-in-law. He noted that part of the Sunshine Committee's purpose is to keep all members apprised of such events that impact or directly involve club members. He encouraged members to let him or **Carl Aschinger** know when they become aware of such things.

Dave Dewey reminded committee chairs to provide descriptive information about their committee's membership and activities so that he can complete the preparation of a reference booklet for potential committee members to review.

Dave also announced that we will try to have club leadership nominee names for 2017-18 available at next week's meeting.