From the Director

On behalf of the staff of Ames Public Library, I want to express my appreciation for the outpouring of support this year for the Library Renewal Project. The bond referendum to fund $18 million of the project was approved by an overwhelming 76% of the voters!

For the past three years, we have been actively engaged in community dialog to determine the future of Ames Public Library and the facility that will serve in the years ahead. Because of the support of the community, this library will continue to be an excellent resource for our growing city of readers, learners, and idea creators. We look forward to a ribbon cutting in late 2014 or early 2015.

In addition to the activity of the Library Renewal Project, the past fiscal year was a busy one for our regular operations. Attendance at library programs increased by 13% with nearly 57,000 people enjoying our events for children, teens, and general audiences. The number of visitors to the library also increased, and our Bookmobile and services for the homebound were busier than ever. Project Smyles remains a popular program for children in daycare and preschool. We are continuing to ramp up our e-book resources to support the demand of new e-reader and tablet owners. Watch the WILBOR catalog for more titles all the time.

It’s been an exciting year, and I expect next year to be even more so. See you in 2012!

- Art Weeks, Library Director

Boards & Leaders

Ames Public Library  
2010-2011 Administration  
Art Weeks, Director  
Lynne Carey, Assistant Director

Ames Public Library  
2010-2011 Board of Trustees  
Sherry Bradley, Harry Budd, Al Campbell, Dudley Luckett, Shazia Manus, Sherry Meier, Laura Rawlins, Sam Schill, Kevin Stow

Ames Public Library Foundation  
2010 Board of Directors  
Jane Acker, Gary Botine, Stevin Dahl, Dan Divine, Michale Hansen, Roger Kluesner, Sam Lyon, Sherry Meier, Monica Porter, Kevin Stow

Friends of the Ames Public Library  
2010 Board of Directors  
Sherry Bradley, Fred Brown, Harry Budd, Michale Hansen, Jean Meek, Marsha Miller, Kirsti Minion, Kay Outka, Joan Van Norman, A.J. Walter

Ames Public Library Friends Foundation  
2011 Board of Directors  
Jane Acker, Gary Botine, Fred Brown, Stevin Dahl, Dan Divine, Michale Hansen, Roger Kluesner, Sam Lyon, Jean Meek, Sherry Meier, Kirsti Minion, Kay Outka, Monica Porter, Kevin Stow, A.J. Walter
2010-2011 Highlights

Friends and Foundation Merge
In January 2011, the Friends of the Ames Public Library and the Ames Public Library Foundation merged into one organization: The Ames Public Library-Friends Foundation. The goal of this group is to support the library through fundraising and volunteerism.

Library Expansion Discussions
Library staff and Architect Jeff Scherer held a series of public forums to gain public input on plans to expand the Library. Over 800 people came to 22 meetings to share their ideas.

Five Years of Smyles
Project Smyles, Ames Public Library’s outreach program for children in daycares and preschools, celebrated its five year anniversary in February.

Pool Party Makes a Splash
The 2010 summer reading program included our first ever pool party at the Furman Aquatic Center for children and teens who completed the program. Despite the summer flooding, it was a huge hit with over 550 youth!

Library Card Sign-Up Month
Ames celebrated National Library Card Sign-Up Month with special deals at local businesses and a prize drawing at the Library. Over 350 people signed up for a library card, and hundreds more rediscovered its value!