

Keytesville Library is the Keytesville Chamber of Commerce's April Business of the Month
By Janet Weaver

The Keytesville Library, originally known as the Chariton County Library, has been in existence for approximately 70 years, having begun operation in the 1940's as a project of the Works Progress Administration during the administration of President Franklin Roosevelt. In May of 1966, the name was changed to the Keytesville Library and it has operated under that title since that time.

Current members of the Keytesville Library Board are Jean Marie Harvey, Pres., Ann Parks, Ardyth Delaney, Cecilia Richards, Susie Cox, Sharon Hutchinson, Eva Miller, Megan Fox, Vada Prewitt, and Suzanne Woolston. Anyone interested in becoming a Library Board member must express an interest in and willingness to participate in activities and decision making regarding the operation of the Keytesville Library. In addition, the prospective board member must be approved by a majority vote of the other current board members. At present, there are no term limits.

Funds for the operation of the Keytesville Library, which is a subscription library, are obtained by yearly subscription cards costing \$4.00 per year for an adult and \$1.00 per year for a child, as well as from donations, and fundraising projects. Since the Keytesville Library is not tax supported and thus is not a public library, it does not receive any money from the county or the state, and therefore does not offer some services that public libraries do such as interlibrary loan nor is it eligible to apply for grants offered to only tax supported libraries.

The Keytesville Library has approximately 12,000 books available to be checked out with murder mysteries and historical fiction being the most popular. In recent years the large print section has become increasingly popular.

Other services the Keytesville Library offers include computer access for personal as well as genealogical use. The Keytesville Library has a subscription to ancestry.com which allows computer users in the library to research and add to information about their family's history. A variety of books within the library can be used in house for further genealogical research. Besides genealogy, copies can be made (both black/white or color) for a nominal fee. Audio books, videos, and dvd's are also available for check out. Story hour for pre-school children is held the first Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m.

Long range plans for the Keytesville Library include: adding more and varied books to the large print section and working toward automation of the library's system which would assist with the check-out process and also help users search for books by author and subject matter much more efficiently.

Ms. Lexie Richards is the current acting librarian at the Keytesville Library. Hours of operation are: Mon. 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Wed. 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Fri. 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Tues. mornings 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The Keytesville Chamber of Commerce congratulates the Keytesville Library as the April Business of the Month.