

## Amanda Kowalcze Appointed as New Library Director

Welcome to Amanda Kowalcze as new Library Director for the Frankfort Public Library. Appointed by the Library Board at the May 27 Board Meeting, Amanda will start her position on June 21. Amanda replaces former Director Pierre Gregoire who retired last December. In her application Amanda noted the “robust foundation and strong community support” Director Gregoire built into the Frankfort Public Library. Committed to continuing this excellence reflected in the Frankfort Library staff, resources and service to patrons, Amanda brings to the position her experience, dedication and enthusiasm to leading the Frankfort Library in existing services and offering opportunities for a future.

As Head of Youth Services at Green Hills Public Library District in Palos Hills, Amanda has experience in many areas that service library business, working with staff, developing resources and helping patrons best utilize the library offerings. Her work at Green Hills as well as her professional/ leadership work in ATLAS (Area Training for Librarians and Staff) provides a transition into Director that supports both the Mission Statement and Vision of the Frankfort Library. In her application and interviews, Amanda reflected the commitment of the Library Board and staff to enrich the community through innovation and imagination, to be a model of respect for ideas, and to support a place for all to explore resources opportunities.

Community involvement was a strong point in Amanda’s profile. She lives in Green Garden Township and knows the Frankfort Community. She is looking forward to not only being involved in the community as Library Director, but involved in the activities around town. Having a person who was part of our community and active in our community was an important aspect to the search, and Amanda’s excitement for such an opportunity supported our Library Director Profile.

The Library Director Search was a dedicated effort by Library Board Members, both former and newly elected as of April, the Library staff lead by Interim Director Melissa Rice, and guided by a professional consultant. According to Jan Look, Library Board President, “This effort provided the Library Board, the Library staff and the community with the right person for the job.”

We welcome Amanda as that right person to support our Frankfort Library Mission Statement of “forward thinking” We look forward to the leadership and resources she can provide Library staff and service to Frankfort patrons.

Amanda received a Master of Library and Information science from Dominican University and a Bachelor of Arts in English and History from Illinois Wesleyan University.