

Library district gathers local leaders

By REGAN TUTTLE

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This Friday evening, many Norwood leaders will come together in an inaugural community volunteer celebration. The event is scheduled for 7 p.m. in what will later become the ACE Hardware store building on Grand Avenue.

Norwood Public Library director Carrie Andrew developed the idea for the leadership event just months ago. She is also the Lone Cone Legacy Trust board president, Norwood Chamber of Commerce secretary and facilitator of the Norwood main street beautification initiative. Andrew's wish is to honor those in service to the town.

"This is for everyone who serves in our community in a leadership position, from the town officials to the Norwood Sanitation District and the Norwood Water Commission, the school board, the library board and more," said Andrew. "The reason the library district is doing this is that we realize many of these organizations, the people involved, give their time freely, and they don't get recognized."

The event is invitation-only, and 130 local leaders have been included for drinks, desserts and discussion.

"We will have hot beverages and will have, hopefully, a donation-based bar so that people can purchase drinks at a suggested donation," she said.

Arts, Community & Education director Sara Doehman will be assisting with the beverages. Andrew said that since the event is private, alcohol can be legally served.

Betty Greager and others will be crafting desserts.

"We've asked local 'celebrity' bakers and those who win at the fair to contribute," Andrew said.

Andrew said that she has requested that those invited come prepared to share their organization's accomplishments from last year and announce their goals for 2015.

"We want people to share with the group and talk about what they have done and want to do in the future," Andrew said. "It's the first time we have done this, and we recognize the hard work it takes to make the community run."

Mayor Chad Reed said he supports Friday's local leadership event and is enthusiastic about what the town can accomplish in 2015.

"This is good for the community because if we can work together, we can get much more done," he said. "I'm looking forward to the upcoming year."

Additionally, the Norwood Public Library is conducting a book drive.

Andrew said she would like all to know that as folks begin cleaning out closets and making space for the new year, the library is accepting used books.

"We will take anything that is not moldy, water damaged or bug infested," she said. "Those are our only requirements."

The book drive continues through Feb. 15 and supports the Norwood Public Library's growth.