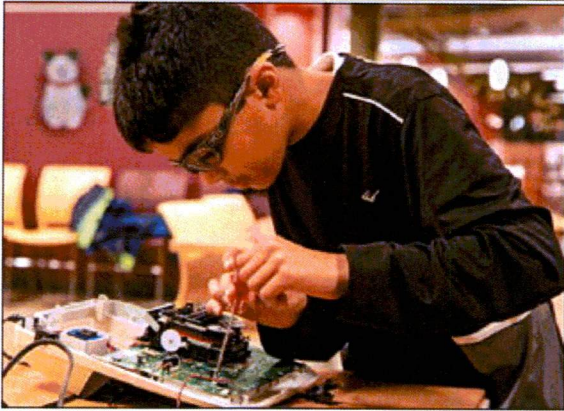
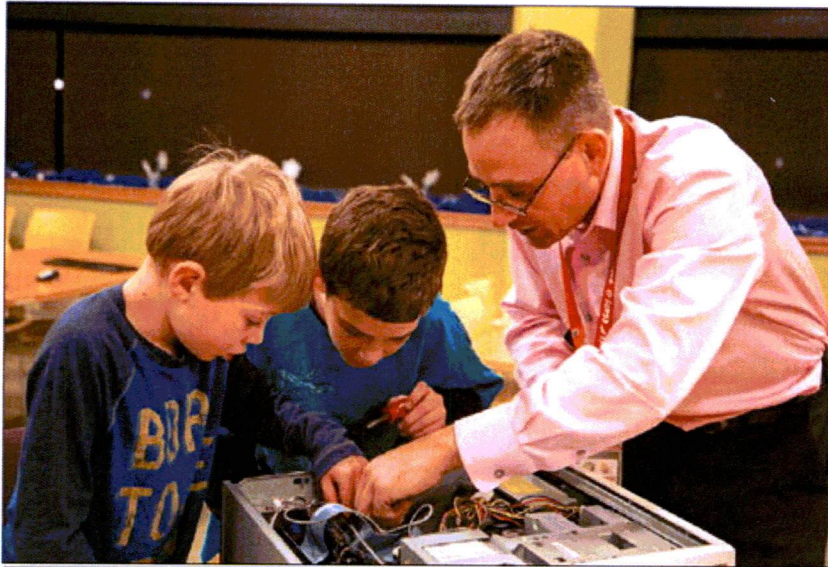


## Open Wide! What's Inside?



As a part of the Open Wide! What's Inside? program offered by the Waukesha Public Library Wednesday night, children's librarian Chris Sturdevant helps Gavin Pearson, 8, and Aidan Pearson, 10 of Waukesha see what's inside an old computer that they had taken apart.

At right: Nimai Mehta, 10, of Waukesha learns what the inside of an electronic calculator looks like during the Open Wide! What's Inside? program offered by the Waukesha Public Library Wednesday night.

*Photos by Don Weltzien, Special to The Freeman*

### Library official: Book drop operations have improved

WAUKESHA — Despite persistent glitches following its installation, the Waukesha Public Library's book drop and sorting system appears to be functioning with far fewer hiccups these days, according to library officials.

"Compared to 13, 14 months ago, it's night and day," Executive Director Grant Lynch said. "Ever since January 2016, we've seen a huge increase in the amount of people using it. As a matter of fact, over New Years, we were closed for three days straight, we probably took in about 8,000 pieces of material."

The \$190,000 material sorting system installed in late 2015 includes both an indoor and drive-up return station, which feed into a unit that checks in and sorts materials.

It replaced the former aging book drop and was intended to alleviate backlogs in the circulation department and allow books to be put back on the proper shelf faster, while also reducing the amount of physical strain on employees.

But the outdoor sorting system encountered several issues including temperature- induced problems, a problematic incline of the system's conveyer belt and errors from patrons placing too many items onto the belt at once.

Lynch worked with the staff of the system's manufacturer, Germany-based mk Solutions, Inc., for months to correct many of the issues plaguing the system. And for about the last year, Lynch said, the machine has been functioning better than it ever has.

Some of the more common issues today are related to patrons feeding multiple materials into the machine at the same time.

Lynch said the library is exploring the possibility of making adjustments to accommodate that issue in the future.

"I think when people drive up to the outside return, they really have this drop their stuff and go (mindset)," he said. "So I think as we look over the next two or three years, I think we'll probably evolve into a system where you just drop and go outside and then they'll all go into a bin and we'll take it from there."

Meanwhile, Lynch said, the inside check-in and sorting system "works beautifully."

— Lauren Anderson, Freeman Staff



The book return at the Waukesha Public Library in December 2015.

Freeman file photo