

A new face in town



DAILY NEWS / ERICA HOBBS

Cory Grimminick is the newest library director for the Hillsdale Community Library. Grimminick hopes to use her background in marketing and libraries to help bring people to the library and make it an integral part of the community.

MADAM LIBRARIAN

By ERICA HOBBS
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

Name: Cory Grimminick (pronounced "Grimnick")

Age: 37

Education: Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Chicago, master's degree in library science from Simmons College in Boston

Hometown: Grand Haven, Mich.

Favorite Book: To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee; "It's the perfect book. There are huge themes conveyed in a way you just feel it."

Funny Story: At the 70th birthday party for Maurice Sendak, author of "Where the Wild Things Are," Grimminick was asked to dress up as a "wild thing" monster from the children's book. When it was time to take pictures, someone shoved Sendak in her direction. "They didn't realize how big the head was on the costume," Grimminick said. "I knocked him over with my head!"

Notable Quote: "I'm a geek, I can admit that"

A trained archivist with a passion for young adult literature is the newest library director for the Hillsdale Community Library.

Cory Grimminick (pronounced "Grimnick") started her position Monday and, after spending much of her career in big cities, is happy to return to a small-town atmosphere similar to her hometown of Grand Haven.

"I'm from a relatively small town," she said. "I miss the small-town atmosphere."

Grimminick holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Chicago and a masters degree in library science from Simmons College in Boston.

The 37-year-old started her career in books in New York City working as a publicity assistant for HarperCollins Publishers.

"It was nice to meet all the authors I've always loved," she said.

During her four and a half years at HarperCollins, Grimminick worked her way up to senior publicist, meeting famous writers including Katherine Paterson, Judy Blume and Maurice Sendak. In New York, Grimminick realized her passion and interest in library science and moved to Boston for graduate school. It was in Boston where Grimminick joined the World Library

Partnership's "Inform the World" program, that travels to rural communities to set up libraries. Through this program, Grimminick traveled to South Africa for six weeks to help set up a library, only a few years after the end of apartheid.

"The amazing thing about being there was that we toured government buildings with a mixed group of whites and blacks," she said. "The blacks in our group kept telling us that just five years ago, they would have been arrested for even going near the building."

Most recently, Grimminick has worked in Michigan at both the Kent District Library in Wyoming, Mich. and then in Kalamazoo working as the youth librarian and lead librarian of teen services respectively.

Now the library director in Hillsdale, Grimminick hopes to use her background in publicity and libraries to reach more people to attract them to books.

"I've always dreamt to combine my love of libraries with my marketing background," she said. "I think it's a great library. One of my focuses would be outreach and just really see what kind of partnerships we can do. I want to see who's not coming (to the library) and see what we can do to make it worth their while."

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