



March 25, 2009

Director's Report to Wilton Library Trustees

Our vision: *The center for discovery in the heart of our community.*

Our mission: *Informed and inspired minds, enriched and connected lives.*

Staff

- G We hired a new Head of Children's Services, Andrea Falkner. Eileen Caulfield, with us for only 8 months in the position (and an outstanding leader of the department) and her husband had to return to Long Island after not being able to sell their house. Eileen and Andrea are working together in a novel arrangement that allows for training, oversight of the department and a smooth transition between now and mid-May, when Andrea completes her masters degree in education (she will begin the MLS program in January 2010).
- G Training for department heads took place via audio conference on dealing with difficult situations, customers, and employees. Training for department heads took place via audio conference on dealing with difficult situations, customers, and employees.
- G Our librarians participated in a webinar for the Gale Literary Criticism Online database so that they can better serve customers who are searching for information on authors and titles.

Program & Service Highlights

- G Drive-thru visits are averaging about 18 per day, with less use of the window on weekends (when we have fewer open hours).
- G New procedures for DVD cleaning and shelving is getting these income-producing items back on the shelf and ready for their next use more quickly.
- G Our adult fiction collection has been weeded and shifted to "prune dead wood" and make way for newer items (940 books were withdrawn in February alone at the end of this months-long effort).
- G Major programs during February included 3 Lincoln series segments (Ron White and Fred Kaplan at WLA and David Blight at WHS), author talk by Bliss Broyard, Lights Out at the Library sleepover for kids, the HSBC sponsored Nutmeg Award intermediate readers sessions, and a visit from Abe Lincoln (aka Rob Sanders) on his birthday,
- G Program initiatives included revival of our Chess for Kids and Tales to Tails (reading to pooches) and a new "Little Linguists" language and culture sessions using au pairs from different countries – all have proven popular with the young set.

Circulation and Usage Statistics

- G Renters included bar mitzvahs, birthday parties, condo associations, the Retiree Club, a Brownie troop, and the local ACLU. Our spaces were provided free of charge to the Board of Finance, the Wilton Energy Commission, Wilton Arts Council, Wilton Parents Forum, and CERT.
- G We held a total of 95 programs in February with a total attendance of 2,072, more than half of them children.
- G 52 study room uses took place in February – use by student teams, ESOL classes, individuals desiring acoustically separate space for study and work, tutors and their students, and small meetings.
- G Circulation was up almost 9% for July 2008-February 2009 over the same period last year, with teen circs leading the way at more than 15%, followed by adult circs (up 9%) and children's circs (up 8%).
- G Year-to-date (July-February) statistics show some robust usage in additional areas: In-house use of books and magazines was up 21%, Computer use was up 19%, room rentals were up 26%, reference questions were up 29%, interlibrary loan was up 20% for items both borrowed and loaned. Library Visits were up 9% and website visits were up 6% year to date. These statistics are soaring as the economy worsens.

Technology

- G We are investigating the expansion of our Kindle loaning project due to its popularity and the potential for private funding of several more devices.
- G We were able to use a camera and projection on the big screen to show performers (and their hands) from a new perspective during a jazz concert – an amazingly effective (and cool!) thing.
- G We have engaged a guest instructor to teach advanced computer classes. A tuition charge for these classes will cover her fee.

Construction, Building and Maintenance

- G We have been investigating the installation of a solar panel on our roof that will be attached to a computer kiosk to be used as an educational tool teaching how the electricity is generated and used. This installation will be done at no cost to the Library and came about via our friends on the Wilton Energy Commission and the Board of Selectmen.
- G Our front door replacement project was completed with the exception of staining the frame to match the new doors (we are waiting for better weather to finish the job).
- G Although we thought we had repaired it, the gas fireplace continues to be a source of problems and we'll continue to

get it up and running (finally).

Development

- G A thermometer of progress with the Friends campaign made its debut on our website.
- G A Valentine's Day e-vite netted 7 gifts totaling \$862.
- G Our Friends campaign continues to run about 13% behind last year's results. Our total number of donors is not down significantly, but the average value of each gift is less. Accompanying the gifts have been an unusual number of positive comments in support of our efforts.
- G Anne Rowlands attended a webinar titled "Using Social Media to Expand your Fundraising Horizons and learned about how Twitter, Facebook, and blogs can be used to augment our solicitations.