



May 26, 2010

Director's Report to Wilton Library Trustees April 2010

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

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

Staff

- Several members of the staff attended the Connecticut Library Association conference, Anne Rowlands attended the Association of Fundraising Professionals conference in Baltimore, and Mary Anne Franco and I attended the Computers in Libraries conference in DC. Reports on sessions attended were made to Library departments and committees. These conferences are important learning experiences for staff, allowing them to keep abreast of what's new, what's important, and how to manage resources most effectively and efficiently for our patrons.
- Six staff members were certified in CPR/AED (we now have 15 staff members who have current certification).
- All reference staff members are studying to become Notaries Public in response to growing demand for this service (we charge \$5 per notarization, offsetting the certification fees).
- We arranged to have Quark training for several members of the staff who needed to learn or brush up on graphics skills.
- Thanks to Mary Anne Franco and Karen Danvers, our rental documents have been revised and updated for clarity – they are posted on our website for customer ease of use and access to terms and conditions of facilities use.
- The Children's Library and Teen Services created several new readers' advisory booklets to guide selections and boost circulation of materials.

Program & Service Highlights

- We are now allowing renewal of Library cards by phone, making the process of maintaining access to resources easier.
- Our adult VHS collection was weeded down to a small core that includes only tapes that have circulated within the past year and have been checked out 30 or more times since purchase. As soon as possible, we will eliminate this collection altogether, but we don't want to leave our customers in the lurch and are proceeding methodically.
- Teens performed Poetry in Motion for more than 250 students and teachers at the WHS Little Theatre in April after two exceptional shows that took place at the end of March at the Library.
- Our reference collection was aggressively weeded to allow removal of two shelving units. We have been able to add seating now to accommodate more tutors and students in an appropriate area.
- Christopher Plummer spoke to a crowd of over 300, easily our largest audience during the month. We rented a small stage and special lighting to accommodate his interview by Zelig Pforzheimer.
- The Library participated in Aldrich Museum's *Draw On!* program by offering a *Cartoon Crazy* session to children in our community.
- Poetry programs for Poetry Month were well attended and received publicity from the local press.
- Authors John Barricelli (*The Sono Baking Company Cookbook*) and Connor Steadman (*All About Sustainability*) drew crowds close to 100, the Wilton Art Council photo reception drew 285, and our Connecticut's Own concert with Larry Shiller had 105 attendees.

Circulation and Usage Statistics

- Circulation for July through April was up 2.5% over last year for the same period, signifying a slowing of pace in the large increases we have seen the past two years. Our teen collection led the way with a 8.6% increase, children's materials circulated about the same, and adult materials went out 3.6% more.
- Our website visits so far (629,571) are up 12.9% from July-April this year over last.
- Library visits totaled 249,607 for July through April, up 6.2% over the same period last year. Our Book Sale added to April's numbers, while school vacation took the total down.
- We had 562 drive-thru visits during April, an average of 20 per day.
- Other indications of increased year to date usage include in-house use of books/magazines – up 10%,

reference questions – up 12%, and computer use – up 10%.

- During April we had 48 adult programs (3,726 attendees), 4 teen programs (280 attendees), and 43 children's programs (2,787 attendees), for a total of 95 programs with 6,793 attending.
- Room rental charges in April were \$390 for study rooms and \$1,080 for other spaces (\$1,470 total).

Technology

- We continued to work with ProBono Partnership on an audit of our website, particularly with regard to "terms of use" and "privacy" statements. The intent is to inform our patrons about how personal information is used by the Library and give customers a clearer understanding of our policies with respect to privacy and use of the website.

Building & Grounds

- We began talks about the flooding experienced this year and how to eliminate the problem in the future.
- Interior painting of the Library was begun – selected areas were chosen for repainting, including study rooms and the gallery.
- Lights were added to the courtyard fountain and repair work on lighting and electrical installations continued throughout the building.

Development

- We received a \$500 grant from the PTA Council to purchase text books for our Teen collection and \$500 from the Rotary Club to host a fall program on alternative therapies for children with handicaps (particularly those on the autism spectrum).
- The Village Market pledged a \$2,500 grant for our Summer Music & More concerts that will take place in July – our 10th year of providing this program to the community!
- 6,000 postcards were mailed regarding Wilton Reads! *That Old Cape Magic* (by Richard Russo), thanks to grants from Wilton Bank and United Way of Coastal Fairfield County.
- Hundreds attended our annual book sale – and we made record profits over the weekend. The addition of a \$5 donation per bag day (previously a donation of any amount) made a big difference in revenue.