



July 15, 2010

Director's Report to Wilton Library Trustees June 2010

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

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

Staff

- We hired two new staff members in June – part time positions that will allow us to have technology staff on site whenever the Library is open and give us more support for the higher level of service our Network Services Department must deliver to both staff and public users. Oliver Caner and Karen Tatarka (our former Head of Circulation) will be wonderful additions starting in July. Ryan Fisher will be maintaining our website from Malaysia on a part time basis.
- Our Children's Library staff visited Miller/Driscoll, Cider Mill and Our Lady of Fatima schools to book talk and promote the summer reading program.
- All members of the Reference staff plus our Rentals Manager became Notaries Public this month so that we can better serve the community (we have had an average of three to four notaries on staff over the past several years, but there is a growing need as banks are less apt to perform the service).
- Dave Palmieri, our Systems Administrator and Head of Building Operations, achieved his Comptia Network+ certification, an international, vendor-neutral training and test that proves a technician's competency in managing, maintaining, troubleshooting, installing and configuring basic network infrastructure.

Program & Service Highlights

- Our family of ducklings was removed to summer quarters in Ridgefield because of a predator threat.
- The summer reading program kicked off with a terrific carnival that drew more than 200 participants. The Rotary Club pitched in by selling hot dogs, drinks and chips.
- Our fish tank welcomed its latest inhabitant, a Yellow Tang – we are now at capacity for fish, but will continue to add invertebrates. A donation box has been ordered to solicit ongoing maintenance for the tank.
- Children's programs featured collaborations with the Kiwanis Club, the Barnum Museum, Green Meadows Farm and a former NASA employee.
- The new mural for our Book Nook is in process – stop by and check it out! Our Art Chairman, Ed MacEwen and his daughter Bonnie are painting a ceiling to floor garden.
- The entire VHS collection has now been withdrawn and will be offered for purchase at the summer sidewalk sale. We will soon begin offering a new format in our media collection – Blu Ray videos.
- Our biggest programs during the month had to do with this year's Wilton Reads! Two book discussions and a visit from the author Richard Russo drew hundreds.
- The Wilton Farmers Market got into fuller swing with 200 or more showing up each week to buy baked goods, produce, plants, flowers, and soap.

Circulation and Usage Statistics

- Circulation for July through June was up 1% over last year for the same period, showing the slowing of pace in the large increases we have seen the past two years. Our teen collection led the way with a 9% increase, children's materials circulated about 1% less, and adult materials went out 2% more.
- Our website visits (793,533 year-to-date) are considerably above last year's total, up 21% from July-June this year over last. We are investigating the source and composition of this increase.
- Library visits totaled 284,682 for July through June, up 5% over the same period last year.
- Other indications of increased year to date usage include in-house use of books/magazines – up 5%, reference questions – up 10%, and computer use – up 8%.
- During June we had 19 adult programs (2,220 attendees), 5 teen programs (42 attendees), and 27 children's programs (1,120 attendees), for a total of 51 programs with 3,382 attending. Programs year-to-date are up 16% in number and 18% in attendance over the same period last year.
- Meeting room rentals brought in \$1,415, while study room rentals added another \$220.

Technology

- We installed a new firewall for our networks (public and private).
- We signed a contract to start offering language learning software via our website starting in August.
- We prepared to move our email to Google Apps to save money, increase security, and allow us better administrative access.

Building & Grounds

- A huge tree fell in our front parking lot, damaging our new sign and a small dogwood tree, but missing cars, power lines, the building, and our patrons. Tree cleanup was taken care of by the Department of Public Works, and new trees will be planted via the donation system for the town tree plan. We will need to pay to repair the sign and remove the stump.
- We signed a new fire/sprinkler inspection contract in order to comply with Fire Department regulations.

Development

- An end of year mailing and evite resulted in our surpassing our Annual Appeal goal by \$17,000.
- The Annual Meeting was well attended and remarkably upbeat in response to the successful year we've had as a result of AND in spite of the downturn in the economy.