

WILTON LIBRARY



## NEWS

Contact: Janet Crystal  
Wilton Library  
Phone (203) 762-3950 Ext. 226  
Fax: (203) 834-1166  
E-mail: [janet\\_crystal@wiltonlibrary.org](mailto:janet_crystal@wiltonlibrary.org)

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **Trust gift gives greater access to Wilton Library**

Wilton, CT – Virtual access to Wilton Library has been a breeze for a few years with the library's website, [www.wiltonlibrary.org](http://www.wiltonlibrary.org), and now thanks to a very generous donation from the Sheldon T. Shoff Trust, actual access to, from, and within the library will be much improved. The Shoff Trust gift will provide a new ramped front walkway, a covered canopy to shield patrons from inclement weather as they enter and exit the front entrance, a mobility cart or scooter for patrons needing assistance, new outdoor signage for the library, and an improved drive-up drop box to return items.

The gift is made in memory of Sheldon and Louise Shoff, former Wilton residents. The Shoffs lived in Wilton for almost 30 years from the '50s to the '80s in the house that is now the Wilton Volunteer Ambulance Corps, and always considered Wilton their hometown. Trustees of the Shoff Trust, Thomas T. Adams, of Gregory and Adams, and Richard L. Mason, a nephew of the late Louise Shoff, recently bestowed the gift on the library. According to Adams, "The Shoffs always had a place in their hearts for Wilton, so it is fitting that the Wilton Library should be a recipient of a gift from the trust." Richard Mason, on a recent trip from Atlanta, where he lives with his wife, Tonya, concurred, "The library is a beautiful gem in the heart of Wilton and I'm happy that the trust donation can continue to make improvements that benefit the community. I think my aunt and uncle would have been pleased and proud."

Construction on the revised front entrance will begin in the next few weeks and should be completed by mid-May. The steps will be removed and a gentle sloping ramp will be engineered from the front doors almost to the curbside. This will provide easier access for disabled individuals and parents and caregivers with children in strollers. The canopy over the main entrance has already been installed, just ahead of the April rains. The scooter is ready for

(More)

## Wilton Library/2

anyone's use with mobility problems and is located just off the gallery. A key is required to engage the scooter and patrons may use the newly-installed telephone near the coat rack to call the front desk for assistance. A staff member will provide the key to the cart and the patron may use it for his or her length of stay in the library. The staff member will provide "driving lessons" if the patron is unfamiliar with the scooter. Patrons will have easier access to books in the fiction and non-fiction sections of the library, the monthly art exhibitions that adorn the library gallery and interior walls and the Internet computers or study rooms for meetings. A new book bin is on order and will be installed in the next few months. The bin is motorized, making it easier for staff to bring the books in from the parking lot more often during the day. It is anticipated that returned items will be processed faster and replaced on the shelves more quickly.

According to Kathy Leeds, executive director of the library, "The final part of the gift will help us create new site and building signs for the library, identifying it from the road and from the parking lot, letting visitors know that this beautiful jewel of a building is, in fact, the Wilton Library. We are so grateful to Tom Adams and Richard Mason for recognizing the importance of Wilton Library, and for helping us to improve our access, enabling many more people to freely enjoy this institution."

Wilton Library is located at 137 Old Ridgefield Road in Wilton Center. For information: [www.wiltonlibrary.org](http://www.wiltonlibrary.org) or call (203) 762-3950.

# # #

03/26/08



**Caption:** (l-r) Kathy Leeds, Wilton Library executive director, Thomas Adams, Shoff trustee, Tonya and Richard Mason, Shoff trustee, and Kathy Welling (seated), past president of the Wilton Library Association, show off the new mobility cart made possible by a generous gift from the Sheldon T. Shoff Trust. Additional improvements at the library will be signage, a new ramped and canopied front entrance, and a new drive-up book bin.