



Director's Report to Wilton Library Trustees July 2011

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

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

Staff

- Several staff members attended the CLA Leadership Conference in Hartford.
- Sarah Keller resigned her Circulation Assistant position and Alex Eustice resigned his Network Services Assistant job – both will be moving on to other exciting opportunities and we wish them well.
- Several staff members attended webinars on summer reading recommendations and mobile services.
- Staff input for the strategic plan continued through the month in conversations with Alan and Leslie Burger.
- Mary Anne Franco attended an iCONN database committee meeting to talk about possible cuts to statewide databases in light of CT budget difficulties.
- Our Reference team toured Ambler Farm to become more familiar with this local treasure.
- The “Social Committee” held an ice cream social as a fun summer treat for the staff.

Program & Service Highlights

- During July we had 14 adult programs (1,009 attendees), 14 teen programs (75 attendees), and 57 children's programs (1,470 attendees), for a total of 85 programs with 2,560 attending. We had a significant drop in program attendance because the Farmers Market is no longer held in our parking lot – this will impact the attendance for the rest of the year. Our Highest attendance figures were tallied for the four Summer Music & More concerts (590 attendees), the 67th Annual Summer Art Show reception (80 attendees), the sidewalk book sale (150 shoppers), Chris Merwin's *One World, Many Songs* (80 participants), Green Meadows Farm visit (132 attendees), and Spring Valley Puppets (95 attendees). Teen attendance for summer crafts was lighter this year than last.
- We continued to promote the Farmers Market at its new location on Danbury Road, and used social media aggressively for the summer concert series, the “sidewalk” book sale, and the Market.
- The Children's Library held tours of Ambler and Millstone farms and got terrific publicity for the Eearth Garden (our own organic raised bed garden on the Old Ridgefield Road side of our building). They also collaborated with Stepping Stones Museum for a special story time.
- In addition to summer reading program activities, the Children's Library continued WNRs Circle, Mythology, and Good Reads, Great Kids book discussion groups, held meetings of the Dinosaur and Chess clubs, and had a Tales to Tails program.
- Our Summer Music & More concerts, sponsored by the Village Market with wine donated by Michael Crystal, were extremely popular, with 100 or more folks enjoying the music and refreshments each time.
- The summer art show for local artists was hung and several works have been sold with 20% of the price benefiting the Library's Art Fund.
- Teens did lots of fun and interesting crafts, took part in yoga, tie dye, tai chi, and healthy snacks programs, and participated in the “Teens Take Part” community service and art project at Weir Farm (a collaboration with Wilton Youth Services, Weir Farm, and Trackside). A photo contest yielded 16 entries of amusing pet pictures.
- Weeding and refreshing the book club collection (an annual event) was completed.
- We created a new collection in the Children's Library and soon will begin to circulate “book bags” of preselected materials for busy families.

Circulation and Usage Statistics

- Circulation for July was down 10% from July last year. Our teen collection went out 10% less, children's materials circulated 11% less, and adult materials went out 10% less.
- Our website visits (71,673) were down 5% for July 2011 vs. July 2010.
- Library visits totaled 18,478 for July, down 25% from July last year! This is most likely due to the

improvement in the economy – a trend we have continued to observe in recent months.

- We had 572 drive-thru visits during July, averaging 23 visits per day,
- Rental of our rooms in July was light – we received \$275 from \$190 from study rooms. Among our renters were the Wilton Crest and Village Walk condo associations, and the Retiree Club. The Wilton Energy Commission, CERT, and Patch had no-fee uses of our rooms.
- We completed 25 notary transactions during the month of July.
- Our Facebook page had 148 visits in July with 27 wall posts and comments and a total of 162 likes.
- We now have 360 followers on Twitter and tweeted 47 times during the month of July!

Technology

- New hardware installed during the month included replacements for all meeting room laptops and several staff computers. Some printers were replaced as well on normal rotation. New iPads and Kindles are now in service. We will continue to sell off older models and have the most recent iterations of these devices available for the public to borrow and try.
- Meetings with our telephone system vendor and a competitor to better understand our options regarding our current system (end of life in 2014) and look toward the future. We are, as a result, changing the terms of our maintenance contract to reduce the annual cost for the next two years, putting the savings toward the purchase of a new system in 2014.
- Mary Anne Franco negotiated lower fees on several of our licensing agreements for database and online language products and signed a contract with OverDrive through the Library Connection consortium to allow our patrons to download a more robust collection of e-books through the Library. This service will go live in November.

Building & Grounds

- Dave Palmieri continued to work with Lucci Electric and Lutron concerning day lighting controls that will be paid for with Federal stimulus funds.
- We found out that the Town will not only put a “real” sidewalk on the property toward the corner of Godfrey Place and Old Ridgefield Road, they will also extend the curb to our drive-thru exit, eliminating the pull-up area near the back steps. Deliveries and used book drop offs will be relocated, although the curb cut for trash removal will remain. We will look into a more attractive gate for the trash area and install new book bins for donations near the new staff entrance (folks will need to park briefly in the drive-thru to deliver their books). And best of all, the sinkhole in our front lot will be repaired by the Town at no cost to us.
- Kathy and Dave attended more meetings with school system and town officials to discuss the “conduit/gas line project.”
- The free solar panel (30’x40’) installation project is proceeding with our application moving forward.
- We erected a bird house near the Eearth Garden.
- Plans for relocation of our used book drop bins and reconfiguration of the area around the old staff entrance on Godfrey Place are in development – the Town of Wilton will make the paving and sidewalk work part of the curbing project (no cost to us).

Development

- The Annual Appeal exceeded its goal of \$210,000 by \$9,300 and was the best Friends Campaign year ever (a late \$1,000 check just made the deadline).
- July was “thank you” month, with appreciation cards for more than 300 volunteers mailed out in lieu of a “thank you lunch” event this year. A three-free DVD rental coupon was included in these notes.
- We decided to send WLA birthday cards to all of our long-term donors for whom we can discover birthdays. Shelley Lindstrom created the card and Sue Sullivan is now in charge of getting them signed and sent in a timely fashion.
- We purchased a new paper cutter (heavy duty professional model) to aid in producing development materials.
- Planning continued for the August 26th Triple Play Party and began for the Ladies’ Soiree (October 6th).