



Director's Report to Wilton Library Trustees August 2011

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

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

Staff

- We interviewed and hired five (5!) new shelvers to replace those going off to college and other jobs: Alex Lupinski, Hayley Nicholas, Calvin Reedy, Adam Toris, and Grace Williams. What a great crop of kids!
- Two new Circulation Assistants, Pam Brown and Sharon Virgulak, were hired and began work on August 30th. They got an eye-opening training as we coped with the influx of Irene victims that first week following Irene.
- Circulation Assistant Cathy Merulo underwent major surgery in August and will be out for about 6 weeks.
- Technology Assistant Michael McLaughlin resigned and Kevin Schoonmaker assumed his duties.
- Our Children's Library staff attended a PowerPoint class given by Mary Anne Franco.
- Mary Anne Franco spoke to the Wilton Rotary Club about eBooks.
- I became President of FLAG, our regional group of library directors.
- Melissa Baker, Sally Gemmill and Lauren McLaughlin attended a Library Journal webinar on new fall books.

Program & Service Highlights

- During August we had 11 adult programs (346 attendees), 8 teen programs (136 attendees), and 36 children's programs (1,146 attendees), for a total of 55 programs with 1,628 attending. Our Highest attendance figures were tallied for the reception held for former WHS art teacher Ed Mack's students (150). What a legacy he left! The Triple Play Party hosted 150 as well, and Farmer Minor and Daisy the Pig proved as popular as ever (133). The teen band Heatherbird brought in 80 attendees.
- Book clubs, drop-in craft sessions, movies, story times and our garden and dinosaur clubs kept kids engaged in August as the summer reading program wrapped up.
- Yoga and fruit smoothies continued to attract teens. 28 of them enjoyed the summer reading program for teens and 16 were involved in the "dog days of summer" photo contest.
- 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.
- We added programming "on the fly" in the days following Irene, creating signage and other publicity to alert residents and business people regarding our availability.
- All remaining foreign language tapes were removed from the collection (we have ample language learning tools online and on CD).

Circulation and Usage Statistics

- Circulation for August was up 12% over August last year. Our teen collection went out 7% more, children's materials circulated 16% more, and adult materials went out 10% more. The tide may have been turned by Irene – or perhaps we are truly back to normal.
- Our website visits (76,646) were up 2% for August 2011 vs. August 2010.
- Computer use in the Library during August was more than double what it was in August last year, our visitor count was up 22% and reference questions were up 27% as new folks "flooded" in.
- We had 590 drive-thru visits during July, averaging 22 visits per day.
- Our only room rental in August was by the Retiree Club.
- We completed 29 notary transactions during the month of August.
- Our Facebook page had 163 visits in August with 7 wall posts and comments and a total of 169 likes.
- We now have 382 followers on Twitter and tweeted 51 times during the month of August!

Technology

- New hardware Our Network Services department was able to save \$1400 on our phone maintenance

contract, and \$800 on the annual contracts from two database vendors.

- Work is underway to upgrade our website and web server.
- We installed a new wireless router with more capacity to better serve patrons during the “storm surge.”

Building & Grounds

- The free solar panel (30'x40') installation project is stalled for the moment because the company that manufactures the solar panels has gone bankrupt. There is still hope – stay tuned.
- Curtains were added to the Craft/Story Room to darken it for movies.
- The second floor public bathroom was fixed.
- Two new sewer ejection pumps were added to the other new pumps in the basement and the basement stayed dry!!!
- Extra cleaning took place because of the Triple Play Concert and the hurricane crowds.

Development & Fund Raising

- The two summer art shows brought in \$850 for future purchase of materials on art and art instruction or for the purchase of art for the Library itself.
- A generous donation of \$6,000 from the Steve & Alison Sherman Family will be added to money formerly donated to purchase an interactive kiosk for the Library entrance. The kiosk will provide better access to our collections, services and programs.
- 1,750 Ladies Soirée invitations were created and mailed for our October 6th event.
- The August 26th Triple Play concert and party was a resounding success...adding to the net from our Beyond Words benefit where it was an auction item.
- We worked on the wording for a Cornerstone Fund mailing and the committee isolated a number of top prospects to receive the appeal. In addition, we devised a letter for those who have given us permanently restricted funds to ask them to become founding members of the Cornerstone Society.