

Hunterdon County Library
Director's Report
May 2007

South County Branch

Mark Titus, John Glynn, Director of Roads, Bridges and Engineering, and Frank Bell, County Architect conducted a public forum at the East Amwell Municipal Building on April 30th. Elected officials and local residents heard about our tentative plans for construction of a regional library at South County Park on Route 179.

The SCB is preparing to open on Mondays, beginning June 4th. One of the newly approved 12 hour per week Library Assistant positions has already been filled, and we are accepting applications from others interested in the second position. Interviewing will be taking place within the next two weeks.

Inventory Project

Staff members from the Extension Services department have begun a pilot project using Polaris Inventory Manager software. A set of item records is loaded into a Tablet PC for staff to scan for missing items. The initial project is to scan and analyze the Headquarters Library DVD collection.

When the project is completed, decisions can easily be made concerning the missing items, to replace or withdraw, so that our available collection is accurately reflected in our Public Access Catalog.

Bookmobile

The draft RFP for the new bookmobile underwent a final staff review. Minor corrections and additions were made and sent to Purchasing for completion of the RFP. We look forward to having a new vehicle by the end of the year.

Public Relations Committee

The new Public Relations Committee that was formed in the fall of 2006, has already made great strides in increasing the level of attendance for library programs. The library is now also presenting a more varied list of entertainment and the frequency of these programs has increased as well. Newspaper and radio publicity has increased dramatically, thanks to the efforts of Reference Librarian Karen Kilpatrick, and the library's reputation for hosting quality programming is growing.

Besides the writing and genealogy workshops, which can only accommodate a small number of participants, the attendance for lectures and concerts at both HCL Headquarters and the North County Branch Library are generally near or at peak attendance. These numbers should only improve as word continues to spread and new programs are added to the schedule. May, 2007 is by far the busiest month of programs we have ever attempted and most are already approaching attendance capacity.

The enthusiasm and efficiency the members of the Public Relations Committee demonstrates has benefited the Hunterdon County Library greatly and they should be commended. They are:

Jim Thatch, Chair
 Kathleen Connors
 Jennifer Winberry
 Elizabeth Erwin
 Karen Kilpatrick
 Dana Neubauer
 Terry Edwards
 Les Moore

Mother's Day Wreaths

On May 5th mothers and daughters celebrated Mother's Day by creating a wreath together. In a class led by Marie Saldarini, the "Wild Gardner," twenty-two mothers and daughters made wreaths from Artemisia Sweet Annie, a plant that grows wild in Ms. Saldarini's yard. She pointed out that almost anything can be made with nature's bounty and displayed miniature baskets made from a blade of iris grass wrapped around her thumb. Everyone loved their finished creations and learning more about these gifts of nature.

Teens and Tweens at NCB

Teen Café met on May 9th and each teen brought a favorite mystery to share as part of the summer reading club theme "Get a Clue." The group read together "A Ghostly Murder," which is part of a Clue Mystery puzzle. In order to solve the mystery, the participants need to put together a 500 piece jigsaw puzzle to discover the hidden clues. Teens began to put the puzzle together at this first Mystery Night and after the program the puzzle will remain on display in the Youth Services department for all to work on. On June 13th, Teen Café will hold Mystery Night 2 for participants to finish the puzzle, review the clues, and unravel the mystery.

"Tween Zine" magazine was released at a Tweens meeting on May 10th. This zine is the capstone project for a series of writing workshops for fourth, fifth, and sixth graders. Contributors and their guests received the first issue of the zine and listened to readings from fellow authors. These stories, poems, and descriptions of family trips to the beach, Cooperstown, and even Tokyo illustrate the impressive talent and creativity of our young patrons.

Circulation Statistics

	April 07	March 07	% Change	April 06	% Change	FYTD 07	Last FYTD	% Change
Headquarters	39,431	44,904	-12.2%	34,777	13.4%	164,389	102,422	60.5%
North County	38,613	40,981	-5.8%	33,496	15.3%	154,215	149,716	3.0%
South County	7,255	8,184	-11.4%	6,515	11.4%	31,361	31,623	-0.8%
Bunnvale	2,824	3,440	-17.9%	1,783	58.4%	11,864	8,637	37.4%
Readington	5,831	7,013	-16.9%	5,219	11.7%	24,565	22,342	9.9%
Holland/Alexandria	3,673	3,485	5.4%	2,884	27.4%	13,751	13,412	2.5%
Tewksbury	3,178	3,679	-13.6%	2,379	33.6%	13,279	8,107	63.8%
Three Bridges	2,376	2,860	-16.9%	2,107	12.8%	9,654	9,667	-0.1%
High Bridge	845	918	-8.0%	833	1.4%	3,545	3,337	6.2%
Frenchtown	515	590	-12.7%	417	23.5%	1,956	1,883	3.9%
Bookmobile	753	1,056	-28.7%	848	-11.2%	4,028	3,939	2.3%
Total	105,294	117,110	-10.1%	91,258	15.4%	432,607	355,085	21.8%