

Hunterdon County Library
Director's Report
March 2008

Our Patrons Love our Library!

NJLA declared February as *Love Your Library Month*. At Headquarters, North County Branch, South County Branch and the Bookmobile, we put out signs and forms for patrons to fill out telling us why they love their library. We received over 250 responses that ranged from "Because the fishes are here" to "The employees. The nicest group of people I have ever met in a government facility..." to "It's free! And may it always be."

Patrons responded that we have a better selection of DVDs than Blockbuster (and ours are free) and, that as they grew older and their eyesight deteriorated, they were grateful for our large print collection. Some patrons commented on the quiet atmosphere in which to study, or using the library as a place to escape reality.

Senator Leonard Lance offered his praises of the library as well. "I have been a longtime patron of libraries and have found the Hunterdon County Library to be an extremely valuable resource tool," he wrote. "I encourage everyone to visit one of the branches [during "Love Your Library" month]. From books to CDs and videos, there is something worthwhile for everyone at the Hunterdon County Library."

Patrons were randomly selected to win weekly prizes and four patrons, Ann Staudt from Headquarters, Barbara Mushalko from North County Branch, Lissa Richardson from South County Branch and Robert Rasmussen from the Hampton stop of the Bookmobile won blank books in which to keep lists of items to check out at the Hunterdon County Library! The books were donated by the Friends of the Hunterdon County Library.

Polaris Update

The upgrade to the new software release, Polaris 3.3 occurred on Tuesday, February 26th. While it did not go as fast as we had hoped, it did upgrade fairly smoothly, with only minor glitches involving the receipt printers. There have already been positive comments from the public about the new look and functionality of the PAC, and the staff in all libraries seem to have had no problems using the system.

Bookmobile

Now that the contract for the new bookmobile has been sent, OBS, the vendor, has ordered the basic chassis, and they have begun communications with us concerning the specifics of how it will be outfitted and finished when the basic vehicle is received by them. We look forward to a smooth working relationship with them, and the vehicle should be delivered to us in the Fall.

Member Libraries

Floyd Saums will be resuming site visits to the member libraries this month, with Jennifer Winberry, to assist them with weeding their collections and to help them with any specific problems they have.

Youth Services

Storytimes at HQ, NCB and SCB are filled and most have waiting lists. The Tween Zine program has begun again at NCB with monthly author visits and a new website.

Aimee Wolsko went to Bloomsbury School to participate in an evening program for parents interested in helping their children with their reading skills. It was very well attended and she was able to explain all that HCL has to offer from the bookmobile to booklists to storytimes and other programs.

Circulation Dept.

Lee Hughes has been meeting with the Circ. staff at NCB to address their operational questions and concerns. NCB has been extremely responsive to her suggestions.

North County Branch

In February NCB had five adult programs with a combined total of over 230 patrons attending. March is also looking very strong with seven programs scheduled, two of which (*Antiques Appraisal* with Alan Snyder and Fred Miller presenting *Songs the Oscars Forgot*) fully booked up within twelve days.

Circulation Statistics

	Feb. 08	Jan. 08	% Change	Feb 07	% Feb.	FYTD 08	FYTD 07	% YTD
Headquarters	45,261	45,442	-0.4%	39,137	15.6%	90,703	80,054	13.3%
North County	43,354	43,113	0.6%	35,502	22.1%	86,467	74,621	15.9%
South County	8,773	8,752	0.2%	7,732	13.5%	17,525	15,922	10.1%
Bunnvale	3,862	3,400	13.6%	2,864	34.8%	7,262	5,600	29.7%
Readington	6,190	6,165	0.4%	5,644	9.7%	12,355	11,721	5.4%
Holland/Alexandria	3,855	3,977	-3.1%	3,164	21.8%	7,832	6,593	18.8%
Tewksbury	4,404	4,416	-0.3%	3,215	37.0%	8,820	6,422	37.3%
Three Bridges	2,867	2,999	-4.4%	2,069	38.6%	5,866	4,418	32.8%
High Bridge	1,023	1,123	-8.9%	737	38.8%	2,146	1,782	20.4%
Frenchtown	575	540	6.5%	410	40.2%	1,115	851	31.0%
Bookmobile	1,336	1,264	5.7%	1,041	28.3%	2,600	2,219	17.2%
Total	121,500	121,191	0.3%	101,515	19.7%	242,691	210,203	15.5%



