

## **TRUSTEES MEETING**

**TUESDAY, MAY 17TH, 2011**

### **Technology**

Long distance calling has been interrupted since March 31<sup>st</sup> – a ticket was generated with Verizon. Yvonne worked with us to obtain a new service. Since the accident on Foster Street April when we lost power, we also lost internet access and we are waiting for Charter to do a site visit to investigate the problem. Both issues have since been resolved.

### **Budget**

There was a Council of the Whole meeting on May 11, where a discussion took place to return property tax to the FY10 rate and at the same time maintain services at the current rate. This proposal would mean a \$1.1 M cut in the proposed FY12 budget that was submitted as a balanced budget for discussion in March. The budget had already been through subcommittee and was on the agenda for May 16. At the budget hearing and subsequent Town Council meeting, the budget was passed without amendment. The library's budget is \$474,377.00. State Aid remains level funded at state level so we anticipate an unchanged grant in FY12.

### **Staffing**

Staffing is tight with the vacant Children's position and one staff on leave. However, the staff is always flexible and cooperative and we get by. The library has been given two additional Tax Abatement personnel, making a total of four.

### **Children's Position**

The Children's Librarian's job description has been updated to reflect changes since the last time this position was advertised eight years ago. As this is a union position, job bidding is permitted and will be advertised for eight days internally first.

### **Programs**

Professor Diane White of Anna Maria presented a program on domestic abuse was well received. Vacation week has seen an increase in the number of patrons due in part to having programs on each day. The week commenced with two sessions of bingo and on Wednesday we had chess instruction from Adam and Ben Piche who compete throughout New England. The chess instruction attracted members of the Massachusetts Chess Association and the Worcester Chess Club. The library has eight tournament level sets from a grant and one is set up and available for use at any stage. The staff is trying to encourage more players and possibly a club at some stage. Significant media coverage was given to the vacation programs. The YMCA swelled the number of attendees at the screening of the movie *Hoot*, in celebration of Earth Day. On Thursday we had two programs – Hip Hop for Teens, sponsored by the Southbridge Cultural Council and author Gary Greenberg presenting information about his book *Manufacturing Depression*. Poetry presenters met at the library to plan their presentation *Common Threads* – a state-wide poetry reading and discussion.

The library is now able to have art shows and receptions, in the Children's Room. This new service is a welcome expansion of our services and significantly affects the outreach opportunity. The artist reception for the YMCA Daycare in the children's room drew upwards of 60 people. As a follow up I was invited to read at the YMCA Day Care and visited four classrooms. This year we were delighted to

present Fr. Peter Joyce, as the guest reader for the annual celebration of Día de los niños/Día de los libros. Spring has been welcomed in with a series of oversize thematic decorations made by the staff, and installed throughout the Children's Room. The artists from Cut Paper Technique had a large gathering for their reception. The music was presented by Skot Veroczi of Boston and added to the enjoyment of the evening. There was a drawing for six scholarships for a class on the art form. *Common Threads*, the state-wide celebration of poetry was well attended and received good coverage in the media.

The number of programs supported by the Friends of the Library; and the Southbridge Cultural Council (\$4,085); is growing and attracting a more diverse audience to the library and to our services. With our line item for programming at \$300 in FY11, we have grown to depend on this funding.

### **Meetings and Trainings**

Some of the library staff participated in a webinar on email use using Outlook. I attended the Clerical/Library union meeting on a few occasions this month. I also attended a planning meeting on the Youth at Risk Behavior Survey, at Community Connections. As a member of Massachusetts Library Association Social Network group, I participated in a quarterly planning meeting. I attended the Southbridge Connections Open House and meeting with Brian Cummings of the DCF. It was an excellent networking opportunity. The one-day conference *Digital Commonwealth* in Danvers presented lots of interesting ideas and concepts to think about.

### **Outreach**

Ashley and I had a meeting with Jasmin Rivas of Voices With Choices to discuss areas of mutual interest and to plan a future program.

### **Friends of JEL**

A large donation of books has been received for the Friends book sale and we are sorting through the titles. Recruitment of new members is a priority and there have been a few offers of help. We hope we will have some more help at programs to effectively conduct a meet and greet when people are here in the library.

### **Professional**

Responded to two surveys – one for Worcester Community Action Council and the other from the MA Board of Library Commissioners on databases. Met with area library directors.

### **Donations**

Received a donation of \$100 for the Marcelle VanVooren book fund, in honor of Mother's Day.

### **Energy Audit**

An energy audit is scheduled for later today. An earlier appointment was cancelled and this was the soonest we could set up. It is hoped that there will be some suggestions forthcoming that will decrease the overall costs.

### **Ceiling**

There is a USDA Community Programs Direct Loans program that we are inquiring about in relation to the evaluation and assessment of the ceiling.

June 2011 Programs at JEL

Thursday June 2	Artful Friends Reception Group show – donation to FOJEL fundraiser	6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Main Hall
	Rob Adams and Rita Schiano Jazz	6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Reading Room
Saturday June 4	Southbridge FEST – JEL, Staff, Friends and Trustees participate in Parade promoting Summer Reading	10:30 a.m. – noon	SHS Cole Ave
Monday June 6	Mystery Book Club Postmortem By Patricia Cornwell	6:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m.	Reading Room
Monday June 6	Teen Center	4 p.m – 5:30 p.m.	Pioppi Room
Monday 6, 13, 20, 27	Inkwell Imaginings	6 p.m – 7:30 p.m.	Pioppi Room
Tuesday 7, 14, 21, 28	Knitting with Sonya	10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Reading Room
Tuesday 7, 14, 21, 28	Anime for Teens	3:10 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Pioppi Room
Thursday June 9	Library Box Office: The Country Teacher	6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Pioppi Room
Thursday June 16	Tom Ingrassia	6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Reading Room
Monday June 20	Friends Meeting		Mills Room
Tuesday June 21	Board Meeting	Noon	Mills Room
Thursday June 23	Pride in Southbridge: ChaCha Connors sponsored by CHNA5	6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Reading Room
Thursday June 23 TENTATIVE – contingent on end of school	Summer Reading Kick Off		Children’s Room
Thursday, June 30	Artful Friends Raffle	6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Reading Room