



Wadleigh Memorial Library

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LIBRARY TRUSTEE'S 2015 Annual Report

At the Wadleigh Memorial Library, our incredibly dedicated staff works hard to make the library a welcoming environment for all Milford residents – regardless of age, interests, or needs. The Wadleigh continues to be the most heavily used building in town aside from our schools. We are proud of that fact and work hard to maintain the level of service that our residents expect.

People

Over the past year, many of our staff members and Trustees attended regional meetings and conferences. Here, we were able to confer with other library staffers and Trustees to share notes and ideas. This forum provides an invaluable opportunity to discuss the ever-changing landscape of public libraries in New Hampshire and beyond. Among the topics discussed were: fundraising, new technology, grants and program ideas for all ages.

Early in the year, we welcomed Kathy Prevey-Levin to the staff. Kathy works part-time as a Library Assistant in the Technical Services department.

Facilities

Director Michelle Sampson and our staff have continued to work hard to improve the aesthetics and functionality of the library. Due to space constraints and maintenance issues, this is not an easy task. The Wadleigh Memorial Library is well below the state average for square foot per capita.

Over the past year, we as the Board of Trustees (along with Michelle and our amazing staff) have worked tirelessly on our renovation/expansion project. In March of 2015, our warrant article received over 40% of the vote needed to pass. We were thrilled! We continue to work with architect Ron Lamarre of Lavallee Brensinger, PA to help us with our project. Our warrant article will be back on the ballot in March of 2016. Due to the deterioration of the original building and the costs associated with bringing it into good repair, we decided to stick with our original plan of rebuilding and expanding the existing structure as opposed to renovation only. Our plan calls for a phased approach, which will include an 8,100 square foot addition to the front of the library, then rebuilding the remainder of the library using the same foundational footprint as the existing building. We continue to do community outreach for our project – having a presence at events around town where we can personally talk to voters. Co-Chairs Jennifer Hansen and Deborah Faucher have also made presentations in front of town committees including the Budget Advisory Committee and the Board of Selectmen.

While the total price of our project is slightly more expensive than it would have been had it passed last year, the Trustees plan to offset the cost with a contribution of \$500,000 towards the project, thereby reducing the cost to taxpayers. The Trustees have furthermore reduced the cost of the project by spending approximately \$500,000 more in years past with the purchase of two contiguous properties (see below) to expand parking; the purchase of new

furnishings for most of the public areas; the demolition and landscaping of a third adjacent property; the cost of various consultants and an architectural design and cost benefit analysis. Given the state of the economy, there will never be a time when the cost of our plan will be less.

Joel Trafford, our Facilities Manager, takes on many of the repairs needed and continues to anticipate and correct many building problems that arise due to age and environment. After 2014's unexpected and costly AC compressor failure, this year was relatively quiet. We had to replace a programmable timer with a battery backup for the



HVAC; deal with new leaks in the Director's office; and remove several compromised trees to prevent damage to neighboring property. We are continually amazed at Joel's ability to keep the library functioning with little disruption to our patrons or staff.

Programs and Services

In 2015, we continued to offer programs and services that fit the needs of all Milford residents. A broad range of programs and activities were rolled out to reach a wide variety of patrons. During the fall, winter and early spring months, many people come out to the library to listen to a diverse selection of music during the Acoustic Café, now in its sixteenth season.

Our adult population has access to a large variety of classes, programs and groups. There are many services available at the library, including income tax assistance; the knit/crochet club; conversational Spanish and book clubs for all ages. The 3D printer located at the Circulation Desk continues to be very popular with patrons. We are proud to provide access to such a cutting edge piece of technology.

Our children's programs continue to be very popular. We are very fortunate to have a creative, energetic children's staff in Letty Goerner, Trina McLennon and Tanya Roberts. Programs throughout the year included: baby lapsits, family story times, Paws to Read, wildlife programs, arts and crafts, art and science classes, as well as a new Makerspace Afternoon and Lego parties. Museum passes are available courtesy of the Friends of the Library. The summer reading program was a great success. Our young adults are incredibly lucky to have librarian Katie Spofford as their leader! She works hard to keep our teenagers interested in the library by organizing book clubs for middle and high school students, Anime

and Doctor Who clubs, deconstructing electronics, and various craft programs. Our sincere thanks go out to our dedicated library staff for all of their hard work.



Kids & caregivers busily tend to their tie-dye projects outside the Children's Room.

Our library is very fortunate to have many citizens who donate to various programs and initiatives of the library. We are also very often the recipient of many kind and generous memorial gifts honoring lost loved ones in the community. We are so grateful and appreciative to all these donors who treasure the library as we do. Thank you so very much for your support.

Other Library Properties

Both the 29 and 39 Nashua Street properties were vacant and winterized. Towards the end of the year, we began renting the 29 Nashua Street property. We are finishing repairs at 39 Nashua Street, and that property will soon be on the rental market as well. The profits from the rent will go to offset the cost of our building project.

Conclusion

The mission of the Wadleigh Memorial Library is to be “the educational, cultural, technological and social center supporting lifelong learning and improving quality of life by connecting the community to resources and services.” We work hard to achieve this goal on a daily basis. By working to plan for future needs, providing expanded access to information and life-long learning resources, sustaining interest in young readers and instilling a sense of pride in the community, The Wadleigh Memorial Library Board of Trustees was very busy in 2015. We know that all Milford residents benefit from the dedication of our Board and staff. As we enter 2016, we continue to move forward to meet the ever-changing role of public libraries in our lives. As always, we welcome input from the Milford community as to how we can make the Wadleigh the best library to fit everyone's needs.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Hansen, Co-Chair
Deborah Faucher, Co-Chair
Wadleigh Memorial Library Board of Trustees