

TUCKER FREE LIBRARY TOWN REPORT

At no other time has there occurred such a rapid change in society as brought about by the influx of technology. Why is it critical to keep on top of technology? In a recent NY Times OpEd piece, Thomas Friedman wrote that technology is such a central component in everyday life that to not keep up is tantamount to a “technological hurricane,” an economic disaster of great magnitude on both the individual and societal level. As an example of being left behind, one only needs to look at the makers of standalone GPS units. After Google Maps added navigation to their software and made it available to anyone who had a smart phone, the value of standalone GPS makers fell by as much as 85% (Gordon Crovitz, WSJ 1/5/14).

Trying to bridge the digital divide is not an easy task, but it is a task that is taken seriously at the Tucker Free Library. For the 33% of Americans who don’t have access to the Internet at home or technology then the chasm is great. National research supports that libraries are more critical than ever. According to a Pew survey, more than 25% of all adults use the Internet at a public library to apply for jobs, do homework, file government claims, or manage their finances. Similar usage is seen at our library in Henniker. Libraries represent what we should never take for granted; the freedom to read, to choose, and the sharing of ideas through information for all.

REVITALIZATION – 2013

Sixteen months ago, the trustees of the Tucker Free Library sat across from each other and grappled with terminology, specifically how to refer to the building project that we were hopeful would begin following the 2013 Town Meeting. Terms like renovation, carpeting job, paint job, quiet area construction, and building enhancements while descriptive components of the project, did not encompass the totality of the project. It wasn’t until the term revitalization was brought to the table that the project coalesced. Little did the trustees know when they decided on the term REVITALIZATION how far reaching their decision would be. Not only has the building been revitalized; community enthusiasm for the library has been overwhelming and this has resulted in some exciting changes for library services in Henniker. The excitement these changes have prompted can best be summarized by the exclamation of an out of town visitor made when they stopped in the library shortly after the project was completed, “Wow, a new old library!”

BUILDING ENHANCEMENTS: Soderstrom Revitalization Project

This past year we checked off a few major projects that have been on our to-do-list for several years. With the Soderstrom Revitalization Project we were able to create a quiet work space on the Main Floor complete with new furnishings and shelving, replace the 1960’s carpeting throughout the building, paint one of three tin ceilings, and refurbish both the terrazzo and hardwood flooring. With the relocation of the computer equipment and the development of a quiet area, the community area will again be used as designed, as a place for Henniker residents to gather, to spend some leisure time with neighbors, perhaps making new friends.

In addition to Ann Soderstrom and the tax payers of Henniker who supported the use of Soderstrom funds for this project, the following individuals and businesses were partners in the revitalization process and thus part of the institutional tapestry:

Granite State Glass - Construction/installation of sound proofing door

Marc and Rueven Aucoin – Wiring for computers, extra outlets for patrons to access, and phone & electric line for Business Center.

Jon Routon – Painting ceiling/walls of Soderstrom Area

Atkinson Carpet Company – Flooring and floor treatments

GraniteCor Department of Corrections – Work team

GraniteCor Department of Corrections – Custom furnishings

Library Bureau Steel – Parts to retrofit metal shelving

Endicott – Furnishings

Tom Baye – Removal and hanging of pocket door

Morgan’s Signs – Lettering on door to Soderstrom Area

BUILDING ENHANCEMENTS: Moose Plate Preservation Grant



At Town Meeting on March 16th voters approved the expenditure of \$10,000 to repair the stained glass windows if the library received a Moose Plate Preservation Grant. On August 7, 2013 we learned that the library was awarded a Cultural Conservation Grant to refurbish windows. Final approval from the Attorney General and the Executive Council was received on November 7. Our restoration expert, Tom Gloudemans is working to repair as many windows as possible within the funding parameters. Application for additional funding will be necessary to refurbish all of the stained glass windows in the building.

REVITALIZATION – THE FUTURE

BUILDING ENHANCEMENT – The Future

This year we hope to finish the physical revitalization of the library by refurbishing the youth areas. We are asking for the permission to use \$6000.00 of the Soderstrom Fund to purchase square craft tables for the children’s room so that when groups of children come together for activities the tables can be arranged so they can be engaged as one instead of separate groups. We also hope to purchase homework tables for the older children. Matching size appropriate

chairs will also be purchased. All this furniture will be built of hardwood by GraniteCor, the woodshop at the Correctional Facility in Concord.

CONCERN	FUTURE PROJECTS	ESTIMATE
Safety	Purchase emergency exit door for J-Room	\$1,800.00
	Installation of emergency exit door for J-Room	\$1,000.00
Safety & Security	Construction of Handicapped Accessible Restroom on Main Floor	\$30,000.00
Security	Enhancement of video surveillance system	\$4,673.00
Maintenance	Paint the ceiling and walls of Main Floor Stack Area	\$3,000.00
Maintenance	Paint the ceiling and walls of Main Floor NH Room	\$2,500.00
Maintenance	Current roof is nearing the end of warranty period therefore lifespan (installed in 1987 & 1994)	Y-T-B-D

LIBRARY OUTREACH, PROGRAMMING, HOURS & SERVICES

Having completed a large part of the revitalization of the physical plant, focus shifted to ways to revitalize other components of the library. Most notably, at their November 13, 2013 meeting the Board of Trustees voted to expand hours of service at the library to include more hours on Saturday and opening on Sunday. Starting on January 1, 2014 the hours were changed to:

- Tuesday 10-8
- Wednesday 10-8
- Thursday 10-8 (expanded from 10-5)
- Friday 12-5 (decreased from 10-5)
- Saturday 12-5 (changed from 10-1)
- Sunday 12-5 (new hours)

Library trustees recognize that 75% of our community commutes over 25 minutes each way so they felt it was necessary to provide additional hours to better serve these Henniker residents. It is hoped that community members will come in, read the Sunday newspapers, participate in a crossword puzzle competition, or just select materials in a relaxed manner.

To accomplish this change in hours without a substantial increase in the library budget required extreme creativity. A new paradigm for staffing was developed that included hiring several new employees. A schedule was designed that has fewer staff members working during the daytime hours, while personnel resources have been realigned to cover the more non-traditional hours. When hiring our new staff members we looked for individuals who would reflect the changing face of our patrons; young families, men, middle school boys, and teenagers.

BOARD MEMBER RECEIVES STATEWIDE RECOGNITION: 2013 NH LIBRARY TRUSTEE OF THE YEAR



Patti N. Osgood, chair of the Board of Trustees of the Tucker Free Library was awarded the Lillian Edelmann Trustee of the Year award. Patti has been of the board for thirteen years, serving as chair since 2009. Navigating through difficult budget seasons, her tenacious resolve resulted in adequate funding for the library. She has served as an excellent steward of the library building, supported and developed library staffing, and brought positive attention to the library through public relation activities. “Osgood embodies all the qualities of an exemplary trustee, brings extraordinary determination and dedication to the elected office, and surpasses the criteria for the award of Trustee of the Year.” (New Hampshire Library Trustee Newsletter, winter 2013-14, volume 29, no. 4, page 6).

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO SUPPORT THE TUCKER FREE LIBRARY

During the renovation project, the staff of the Tucker Free Library performed above and beyond their normal job descriptions. They worked through the chaos and confusion, spending a full week shining up the entire facility from top to bottom. Their tireless efforts made the project a complete success. Heartfelt thanks go out to Lori Roukey, Denise Getts, Kristin Mason, Lynne Lawrence, Erin Longan, and Donna Plant.

Former community members, trustees, and friends have established funds to provide financial support for the library over the years. These funds continue to benefit the operation of the library and allow for the purchase of equipment, books, and media in specific categories. These include not only the George W. Tucker and the Ann S. Soderstrom Funds but also funds established to honor Marjorie B. Bennett, Scott J. Berry, Helen M. Cammett, Anna L. Childs, D&W and E.L. Cogswell, L.A. Cogswell, Willis Cogswell, Alice Colby, James W. Doon, Robert N. Fitch, Francis O. Holmes, A.D. Huntoon, Mary F. Kjellman, Henry Preston, and Walter K. Robinson. Prudent management of these funds by the trustees of the Tucker Free Library throughout the ages has guaranteed the future solvency of the library. Thanks also to families, friends, and patrons who supported the library with gifts during the last year.

DONATIONS IN 2013

- ❖ John & Eleanor Kjellman for the Mary F. Kjellman Fund
- ❖ Lois Fitch for the Robert N. Fitch Fund
- ❖ Martha Nemiccolo for the Mary F. Kjellman Fund
- ❖ Alicia & David MacLeay for the Mary F. Kjellman Fund
- ❖ Joseph & Joanne Grady for material for youth
- ❖ Rob & Sachi Howard for General Fund
- ❖ Henniker Rotary Club for Walter K. Robinson Fund
- ❖ Emily Funston. A visitor from Frederickstown, OH who stated she was a descendant of George Tucker
- ❖ Doreen Connor for the Mary F. Kjellman Fund
- ❖ Gary and Melinda McGrath for the General Fund
- ❖ Ellen Chase-Lucard for the General Fund
- ❖ Rebecca & Peter Josephson for General Fund
- ❖ Helen B. Holmes for the Francis O. Holmes Fund
- ❖ John Echternach & Judith Englander in honor of Patti N. Osgood for the General Fund
- ❖ Carolyn & Rodney Patenaude for the Robert N. Fitch Fund.

Submitted on behalf of the Trustees of the Tucker Free Library



Lynn M. Piotrowicz, M.A., M.L.S.
Director

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Patti N. Osgood	Chair
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