

REPORT OF THE LIBRARY

The mission of the Hampden Free Public Library is to provide materials of popular interest to our adult and juvenile patrons, and to provide materials and services to help local residents satisfy their informational, entertainment, and educational needs.

If there was a theme for fiscal year 2004, it was "service to children." Because of the renovations to the Green Meadows School Media Center, an average of 120 students came weekly to our library and were treated to a story and then allowed to borrow books. Additionally, our weekly story time program for children ages 3 ½ to 5 saw regular attendance of 13 per program and the weekly toddler time averaged 15 toddlers with caregivers. A total of 329 children's programs were offered with attendance of 7,928.

It was also a busy year for the middle school students. During the 2003-2004 school year, our Center for Success, a homework center for middle school students, had attendance of 1,285, an increase of 230% over last school year. The center was used for a variety of purposes including homework, group projects, and research. The center was equipped with 3 computers, which were in constant use. In order to purchase another computer, a raffle was held during the summer with prizes donated by the Rauscher family in memory of their daughter, Devon. Thanks to a matching donation we were able to add a fourth computer for the 2004-05 school year. The table to expand the computer workstation was purchased through a generous and unexpected gift from the Hampden Lions Club.

Summer was another busy time with the summer reading program, "Explore Other Worlds @ Your Library. One hundred and sixty-two children from preschool to entering grade 5 participated with 142 reaching their reading goals. We also had 57 children entering grades 6 through 9 who participated with 46 reaching their goal. Certificates, raffle prizes from local businesses and a paperback book were awarded to all the children. A \$1,500 literacy grant from Wal-Mart made this summer especially exciting. Weekly live performances were available for the younger children and a variety of programs and workshops were held for the middle school children. These were made possible by contributions from the Hampden Cultural Council, Monson Savings Bank, and the Friends of the Library. An added bonus was a grant from the Boston Science Museum who brought an exciting show to the children. We would like to thank Jan Kibbe and Karl Martini who donated their talents to conduct workshops for the middle school children. All participants in the summer programs were rewarded with a free skating party provided by Interskate 91. Finally, there were 12 students in the babysitting class, supported annually by the Hampden Lions Club.

The entire summer program would not be possible without the support of our local businesses: Monson Savings Bank, Country Bank for Savings, MA Regional Library System, Village Food Mart, Fenway Golf, Friendly's, Blockbuster, Dave's Soda and Pet Shop, Fazio's, U.S. Academy of Martial Arts, Rediker Software, A W Brown Pet/Garden Store, RockCats Baseball, Eastfield Mall, and Radio/Disney Hood.

For the adults, we again had the summer reading program and continued to offer two monthly book discussion groups, one meeting in the afternoon and the other in the evening. A new program was also started called "The Second Saturday Club" which meets on Saturday morning with programs on a variety of topics. One particularly popular one was about Native Americans in the Connecticut Valley.

Our local history collection has now been inventoried and an Index was created thanks to a Documentary Heritage Grant done in partnership with Wilbraham. The focus of this grant was the shared history of the two towns and the index and documents are available at the library.

The use of technology in the library continues to expand. The acquisition of a new server has made the circulation system run more efficiently. The three Internet workstations in the Main Library are in constant demand, resulting in a policy limiting time to 30 minutes. Further expansion of Internet services will be required.

There are many people and organizations to thank for our success. We are especially grateful to the ongoing support and generosity of the members of the Friends of the Hampden Public Library. They make it possible for us to provide children's programs, and purchase DVD's, videos, CDs and audio

books. Also, once again the Hampden Garden Club decorated the library with holiday decorations in December and we looked beautiful.

As always, we are very grateful for the volunteers who give so generously of their time. Special thanks go to Peg Therrien who gave many hours of her time covering books. Thanks also go to Shirley Gouvan, Judy Jackson, Barbara Ogonowski, April Downey, Florence Joubert, Mary Butova, Danielle Granger, Rachel Kuznicki and Dick Jalbert.

As always, our library staff has risen to the challenge and continues to provide quality service to the town: Ellen Bump, Director, Dianne Regnier, Children’s Librarian, Christina Fairman, Young Adult Librarian, Cindy Rowley, Technical Services Librarian. We also welcomed 2 new employees: Margie Thomsen as library assistant and Allison Rief as page. Our thanks to Robyn Janczulewicz and Samantha Bearse who are pursuing other careers.

LIBRARY STATISTICS

General Services FY 2004

Circulation

Print Material - Adult	13,200	Volumes Added	1,181
Print Material – Juvenile	19,137	Volumes Discarded	1,874
Magazines	2,255	Total Collection	29,691
Non-print Material	12,318	Magazine Subscriptions	54
Total	46,910	Registered borrowers	4,457

Finances FY2004

RECEIPTS

Municipal Appropriation	\$97,508
Revolving Account	1,536
State Aid	2,429
Monetary gifts, trusts, endowments	1,839

TOTAL Receipts \$103,312

EXPENDITURES

Wages	\$73,076
Books and Materials	23,611
Maintenance Agreements	2,922
Other Expenses	3,703

TOTAL Expenditures \$103,312

CAPITAL INCOME

Appropriated	\$ 1,600
Gifts	5,092
State Aid & Grants	3,563

TOTAL Capital Income \$10,255

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

Library Materials	\$ 159
Other operating	5,092
Server	1,600

TOTAL Capital Expenditures \$6,851

(Note: The status of the library’s trust funds is listed in the “Report of the Town Accountant.”)

Respectfully submitted,
 Beth Burger, Trustee Chair
 Kathy Hutchison, Trustee
 Elaine Kingsbury, Trustee