Farmington Public Library Association

The Goodwin Library

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*Only **GOOD** news from the **GOODwin Library**!*

The Goodwin Library had an amazing year with increased usage, dynamic programming, valuable community partnerships, and facility improvements. Daily, patrons found the library bustling with activity and usage with computers full and tables occupied. The Library Trustees, Director, and staff are very proud of these achievements, and take pleasure in sharing such an optimistic, upbeat report.

The library witnessed increases in all major statistical categories for the year 2014. This is largely due to the positive promotional efforts of the staff and a growing reputation for outstanding services. The ***STATISTICS*** below reflect the patron usage and demand of Goodwin Library for the past year.

- Cards Created (includes renewals)- **298**
- Circulation- **43,910**
- Money patrons saved by using the library- **$579,528**
- Reference Questions- **3,706**
- Computer Use (sessions)- **4,905**
- Number of Programs- **186**
- Program Attendance- **5,223**

In addition to maintaining patron services, the library also worked hard on numerous projects at the library. The ***HIGHLIGHTS*** were:

- **New Hampshire Historical Registry:** The library submitted an application to the New Hampshire Historical Registry. It was a lengthy process, but the library has been awarded historical status with the state.
- **Eagle Scout Project:** The library worked with a local Eagle Scout to complete a project that improved landscaping, signage, and the back entrance.
- **Policy Updates:** The Director and Trustees have updated a large number of the policies to reflect current library standards and trends.
- **Community Surveying:** Throughout the summer and fall, data was gathered from the community as part of the Strategic Planning Process. Feedback in the form of quantitative numbers and qualitative narratives were documented from multiple exercises, including an extensive survey. The continued goals of this process are to produce firm, achievable goals and create a shared vision for the future of the library.
- **Facility:** Staff rearranged shelving and materials to highlight the historic entryways and fireplaces, which added programming space. Additionally, each month employees and the director clean out areas of storage to increase overall space and enhance efficiency.

The library ***PROGRAMS*** that occurred last year and continue to be a success at the Goodwin Library include the following:

- **Community Cinema:** The library brings patrons together with movies and popcorn each month. The library featured films in 2014 such as *Maleficent, Frozen, Planes 2, and Despicable Me 2*. Patrons of all ages attend this program each month; producing laughter, comradery, and family togetherness.
- **Homesteading Roundtable:** This group meets monthly to teach a skill or craft that patrons can take home. It brings in a solid number of patrons, and has little or no cost associated with the program due to the local donations made by businesses and time contribution by presenters. Topics this year have included maple tapping, knitting, pumpkin decorating, gardening, etc.
- **One-on-One Computer Classes:** Due to the diversity of technology needs in the community, the library provides one-on-one computer classes to patrons. The subject of these classes has ranged from using a mouse to creating an email account. Patrons find it to be a friendly environment to advance their computer skills.

- **Polar Express Event:** Goodwin Library celebrates the Polar Express and the magic of Christmastime with our families by offering stories, caroling, hot cocoa and baked goods. Despite the challenge of finding a suitable space for the event, the efforts of the Youth Staff enabled the program to take place again in 2014 with much success.
- **Storytime Sessions:** Librarians feature read-aloud stories, graduated levels of craft-making, appropriately-aged activities, songs, and other creative ways of experiencing reading and learning for children, from toddlers up through fifth graders. The storytime series take place three time a year, including spring, summer, and fall.
- **Summer Reading Program:** The library hosts a summer program for youth and families to encourage reading year-round. The staff makes reading in the summer fun with performers, activities, and crafts that tie into a national reading program theme. Performers and activities in 2014 were primarily funded through a grant sponsored by the New Hampshire State Library. However, local businesses provided prizes for the youth, which were greatly appreciated!
- **Teen Gaming:** The library hosts a fantasy card game every Tuesday night called Magic the Gathering. The library provides the venue, but the group of players manages the game. This program was requested by local teens, and it's popular every week.

The library is able to move forward and provide excellent services and resources due to the supportive community of Farmington. In the last year, the library has maintained and developed relationships with numerous businesses, non-profits, town departments, and performers including: Dover Adult Learning, New Hampshire State Library, Farmington Parks and Rec, Farmington Police and Fire, Farmington School District, Rochester Area Librarians, Farmington Para-Educators Group, Farmington Historical Society, Farmington Women's Club, UNH Cooperative Extension Service, Vita Tax Prep, Servicelink, Goodwin Community Health, CAP, Lone Oak Ice Cream, Dr. Tomato, Food Pantry, Barnes and Noble, Crowley's Variety, Studley's Flower Garden, Butternut Farms, York's Wild Kingdom, and many more!

The Friends of the Goodwin Library have been very supportive this last year as well. The Goodwin Library is unable to fundraise, so the Friends Group is an invaluable resource, which sponsors the museum passes and databases. In 2014, the group was able to double the profits from the Hay Day Book Sale, and accepted a memorial donation from the Swigert Family. After a strong year, the Friends of the Library look forward to additional fundraising efforts in the near future.

Back Row: Kayla Morin, Tami LaRock, Randi Gallaghar, Amy Cornwell; Front Row: Joyce White, Kari Therrien, Patience Taylor, Shanna Smith; Not Pictured: Sarah J. (Teen Page).

The Goodwin Library is presided over by a Board of Trustees with a constitution and bylaws dating to the 1890's. Although the Trustees govern, manage, and have custody of the library, it is primarily supported financially by the Town of Farmington. Therefore, the Goodwin Library makes an effort to provide quality services and resources to the community, while cautiously spending and using the funds available in a responsible manner. The library has demonstrated increased usage, but the organization continues to operate with level funding despite the growing demand for services. The library is able to do this because of staff teamwork, volunteer hours, and updated processes and procedures; all of which contribute to increased efficiency. The library proves to be a valued institution in the Town of Farmington, so the Goodwin Library appreciates the support for past years and the years to come by the Selectmen, Budget Committee, and community.

In final, the Goodwin Library would like to again extend an invitation to all people who live, work, own property, and go to school in Farmington to visit us and sign-up for your free library card, which allows you to borrow up to 30 items at a time, including 2 movies. The staff looks forward to welcoming all new and returning patrons into the library family!

Library Director Shanna Smith