

## *Change is GOOD for the GOODwin Library!*

The Goodwin Library had an amazing year with CHANGE at the center. In the past year you may have noticed several staffing changes: Former Assistant Director, Tami Larock, was hired as the Director; Amy Cornwell was hired as the Assistant Director; and Kayla Morin is now the Program Coordinator/ILL Librarian. Within a couple months, two long-time staff members made life changes, one leaving, the other drastically reducing her hours. We were blessed to have these ladies on staff; our two new hires certainly had big shoes to fill!

There were many other changes as well: We hired a new Network Administrator, as well as a former employee to be our custodian/substitute librarian, and revamped our ordering and other processes to improve efficiency and save money.

We now have a Notary Public on staff who will notarize your documents for free or willful donation.

Also, all staff members have been certified in CPR and the use of an AED device. Thanks to the initiative of the Farmington Fire Department seeking to make Farmington a Heart Safe community, our Friends of the Goodwin Library were able to purchase an AED unit for our library at a fraction of the usual cost!

The library witnessed increases in most statistical categories for the year 2016. The **STATISTICS** below reflect the patron usage and demand of Goodwin Library for the past year:

- Cards Created (includes renewals) - **522**
- Circulation - **37,394**
- Money patrons saved by using the library - **\$469,689.17\***  
*\*Cost of materials if purchased*
- Reference Questions - **4,373**
- Computer Use (sessions) - **4,145**
- Number of Programs - **193 total** (107 Children's, 20 Teen, and 66 Adult)
- Program Attendance - **5,679 total** (4,497 Children's, 221 Teen and 961 Adult)

In addition to maintaining patron services, the library staff worked diligently to enhance our programming and outreach to our patrons and the community. All of our programs are free and open to the public.

### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- **One-on-One Computer and Device Classes:** Due to the diversity of technology needs in the community, the library provides one-on-one computer or device training to patrons. The subject of these classes ranges from basic computer use to selling online and more. Appointments are required.
- **Community Cinema:** Each month the library invites the community to view (mostly) newly released movies. We provide the popcorn; you provide the camaraderie and laughter!
- **Homesteading Roundtable:** This monthly program focuses on teaching skills that range from gardening to ice cream making, or a make and take craft. Many local donations of materials, as well as time, keep our costs low. Topics this year have included home canning, plant-based diets, winterization, pumpkin decorating and our first annual gingerbread house competition!
- **Polar Express Event:** This continues to be a much anticipated and beloved community event. We celebrate the magic of Christmastime through stories, caroling, hot cocoa and yummy baked goods, as well as a craft to take home and pictures in our own "Polar Express". Santa even made a surprise appearance this year!
- **Story-time Sessions:** Reading aloud to children enhances their vocabulary and improves their ability to read. The group setting can also help children develop social skills. Our librarians engage the children with age appropriate read-aloud stories, songs, crafts and activities. Story-time groups are hosted once a week for six weeks and are currently offered in the winter, spring and fall. Pre-registration is required.
- **1000 Books Before Kindergarten:** This is a state and nationwide early literacy initiative to encourage parents and caregivers to read aloud to children. We offer incentives for levels of completion up to and including achieving 1000 books read! So far over 3600 books have been read by participants since we started the program on 9/1/2016!
- **Summer Reading Program:** The library hosts a Summer Reading Program (SRP) for youth and families to encourage reading year-round. It is our the biggest event of the year! This year, we applied for a chance to bring the Boston Bruins Mascot to our library. We were thrilled to be 1 of only 9 libraries in NH to be awarded this opportunity! We also applied for, and received two other summer grants: The Kids, Books and Arts (KBA) grant that helped us to bring juggler Bryson Lang to perform at our SRP kickoff (over 100 people attended!). We also received the Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF) Summer Reader's Grant, which allowed us to host storyteller Simon Brooks and award 2 brand new books to each child who attended.

We are extremely grateful to area businesses who donated prizes that were awarded to participants who met their reading goals. Young readers who far exceeded their goals were invited to a special event, "Night at the Library", for food, fun and crafts in a small group setting. Overall, our SRP participants read over 2086 books in six weeks!

- **Outreach:** We brought Robotics to three very excited 4th grade classes, using Ozobots and Cubelets borrowed from the state library. In collaboration with Community Action Partnership (CAP), we hosted a Baby Soothing

Workshop, CAP crock pot cooking classes, and CAP crafts. We hosted FREE Federal income tax preparation and Low Income Homeowners Tax Relief filings through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, who provide these services. Our Homeschool Meet & Greet, an information night for local homeschool families, was well received!

- **Eagle Scout Project:** The library worked with a local Eagle Scout to complete a project that laid brick pads for our park bench (located near the back entrance), and bike rack at the front for our patrons. These bricks are from a years-ago expansion project of the Goodwin Library, and were generously donated back to the library!

The Friends of the Goodwin Library have had an extraordinary year of fundraising! The Friends group raised money through the Hay Day Book sale, Yard sales, Plant sales and several Raffles throughout the year, all to benefit the Library and thus, our patrons! This allows us to purchase items or provide services our budget does not cover. In 2016 our Friends group funded: several area passes (Farm Museum, Castle in the Clouds, Strawberry Banke, Children's Museum and the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center) that offer free or reduced rate entry for our patrons; Poet's Tea prizes, Heritage Quest genealogy database, our Movie License, a bike rack, two air conditioners, a baby changing station, and an AED device. Our Friends also provided delicious baked goods for several of our events.

The Friends welcome new members! For more information call the library at 755-2944, option 2

We are able to provide these and many more programs and services only with the support and participation of the people and the community of Farmington, as well as area businesses, town departments and nonprofits including: Farmington Police and Fire, Farmington School District, Farmington Historical Society, Farmington Woman's Club, Dover Adult Learning, New Hampshire State Library, Rochester Area Librarians, UNH Cooperative Extension Service, Vita Tax Prep, Servicelink, Goodwin Community Health, Community Action Partnership, Lone Oak Ice Cream, Dr. Tomato, FCC Food Pantry, Barnes and Noble, Crowley's Variety, Studley's, Butternut Farms, Piscatqua Landscaping, and many more!



Front Row: Pam Groat, Kayla Morin, Susan Blum and Amy Cornwell  
Back Row: Morgan Barrett, Joyce White, Tami Larock, Linda Seaward, and Patience Taylor

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 strives to provide quality services and resources to the community, while cautiously spending and using the funds available in a responsible manner. The library is able to do this because of staff teamwork, volunteer hours (693 hours in 2016!), support of the Friends group 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 the community.

In closing, the Goodwin Library would like to extend an invitation to all people who live, work, or own property in Farmington to visit us and sign-up for your free library card. For more information, please stop in or contact us at 603.755.2944 or [circulation@goodwinlibrary.org](mailto:circulation@goodwinlibrary.org). We are open M/F 10am to 5pm, T/R 2pm to 8pm, and Sat 10am to 2pm.

The staff looks forward to welcoming all new and returning patrons into the library family!

Library Director,  
Tami A. Larock