

Bradley Beach Public Library Annual Report 2007

OVERVIEW

The Bradley Beach Public Library serves the community of the Borough of Bradley Beach. The Library has 6,124 patrons (for breakdown, see attached table of patrons divided by type). The collection has 32,090 volumes, including magazines and A/V materials (videos, CDs, etc.).

CIRCULATION & LIBRARY USAGE

Overall, circulation (books, magazines, videos, CDs, and interlibrary loans) has decreased approximately 3.18% over the past year. Adult circulation has increased by 5.97% and children's circulation is down by 7.75%. Interestingly, video and DVD circulation is the major reason for the decrease in overall circulation, suffering a decrease of 18.63%. Money collected from patrons for fines, video rentals and other fees is down by 10.4% (for specific numbers, see attached tables of Circulation and Library Use Statistics). The Library continues to serve the community at a steady level.

Computer usage at the library has increased significantly over the past few years, but balanced that increase in 2007 with a decrease of 14.87%. This does not take into account the Library becoming a wifi hotspot, making it possible for users to bring their own computers instead of using Library computers.

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

One thousand eight hundred thirty three (1,833) new books were added to the adult, young adult and juvenile collections (1,796 were new purchases and 37 of the titles were donated). Seventy-three (73) DVDs and videos were added to the collection, of which 1 was donated. One hundred twenty three (123) audio books were purchased and 4 were donated. The Library participated in a Continuous Order Plan for unabridged audio titles through Books on Tape. The Library joined a Continuous Order Plan for Young Adult and Children's audio titles as well. The Library also received Large Print books on standing order through Thorndike Press, an imprint of the Gale Group. These additions bring the total materials/titles owned by the Library to 32,090. For further details on collection totals, see attached table: Number of Materials by Type. Approximately \$36,000 was spent on collection materials, including books, audio books and videos.

The Library has access to a variety of databases that are currently offered free of charge through arrangements with the State Library and the regional Library cooperatives. These include EBSCOhost (full-text magazine and newspaper articles), Novelist (reader's advisory), APP Photo Archive (Associated Press current and historical photographs with captions), and eleven different Facts on File databases (history, science careers, etc.).

STAFF

Director Karen Klapperstuck has developed numerous contacts within the state and regional library organizations. She serves as a member at large on the Executive Board of the New Jersey Library Association (NJLA). She also continues to serve on the Executive Board of the Central Jersey Regional Library Cooperative. She is currently the Treasurer.

Ms. Klapperstuck continues to be active on the NJLA Conference Committee, which organizes and plans the annual NJLA conference each spring. She chairs the Leadership and Education subcommittee for the Professional Development committee. As chair, she runs the NJ Leadership Program entitled Emerging Leaders. She also participates in the Young Adult section of the NJLA, where she is a “reader” for the Garden State Teen Book Awards.

Ms. Klapperstuck was also selected to participate in the first ever American Library Association (ALA) Emerging Leaders program, which was held in 2007. As part of her commitment to ALA, she has been selected to serve on the ALA Council Committee on Education and on the YA (Young Adult) Galley Committee, both for 2-year terms beginning in July, 2008.

Grace Vetrano, Diana Luzsanyi and Louise Akins continue to provide excellent service to the Library and its patrons. Ms. Akins decided to leave the Library in the Fall of 2007 because of family obligations.

Megan Bezdek joined the staff at the Library in January of 2007. She was hired as the Programs Coordinator. She has made a fantastic addition to our Library family. Ms. Bezdek was also selected in 2007 to be an IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services) grant recipient, as administered through the NJ State Library. This grant is completely paying for her studies towards her Masters in Library Science Degree through Rutgers University.

John Moretto also joined the staff in of 2007. He is the Maintenance Engineer. He makes sure that the building looks and functions properly and safely.

FACILITIES

The Library began working with Sonnenfeld and Trocchia to develop a Conceptual Design Survey, a long-term building renovation and expansion plan. Throughout 2007, the director, staff and Board met with various representatives of Sonnenfeld and Trocchia to arrive at the floor plans and preliminary elevations presented at the December Board meeting. The Library has budgeted in previous years to start saving towards the building project. Currently there is \$253,515.26 in the Library’s Reserve account. The Library also has \$31,583.37 in a separate Building Fund account. The Building Fund was bolstered in 2007 by 2 large fundraisers: Mayor Schueler donated all the proceeds from the Annual Clambake to the Library Building Fund and the Library celebrated its 80th Anniversary with a fundraising Gala. The Library is currently investigating various grants and funding sources but the building project will need considerable financial support.

The Library is still not ADA compliant. Shelving is too close together in some sections, there is no elevator to/from the two levels, and there is no wheelchair ramp.

However, an analysis of the building has indicated that even a ramp cannot be added without doing major construction to the building. And a renovation plan begun several years ago indicated that any ADA accommodations would result in an unacceptable loss of space.

PROGRAMS

On-going programming includes the 2 regularly scheduled story times during the school year. Six hundred seventy six (676) children attended. A book discussion club also meets in the library approximately once a month and has 5 regular members and a number of drop-ins. Computer classes were also offered. The Library hosts a monthly craft bee, with 4 regular attendees and a number of drop-ins.

Twenty (20) juvenile programs were held in 2007. Paws for Reading is a popular semi-monthly program where children can practice reading out loud to therapy dogs. Six programs were held for the Summer Reading program, including 4 fun sessions of Crime Camp! Other programs include The Lizard Guy, ScienceTelling and the Cooks and Books programs. A total of three hundred forty three (343) kids attended all the programs.

Monthly teen programs were held all month, except July and August. Attendance ranges from 4 teens to over 30 teens, depending on the program, with a total of 177 teens attending the 11 programs. Program topics included a Hip Hop Dance class, Top 10 FREE Tech Tools, and a Fear Factor Halloween Party.

Thirteen (13) adult programs were held. A total of 289 patrons attended these programs. Topics covered include acupuncture, belly dancing, and a program on the environment and other "green" topics. The most popular of the 13 programs was the CSI program, with national crime expert Dr. Koblinski, from John Jay College.

ADMINISTRATION

Ms. Klapperstuck continues to maintain the website for the Library. The website was completely renovated in 2007. The website includes a web catalog, making it possible for patrons to search the library catalog from home. Other information is available on the site, such as library hours, staff, Library Board of Trustees information, events, etc. The site also includes photographs from projects and events at the library.

Ms. Klapperstuck, with the help of other library staff, continues publishing a library newsletter. The newsletter is issued on a quarterly basis and includes information on programming, computer classes, and book reviews.

The Library staff and patrons have begun participating in Operation Paperback. Operation Paperback is a non-profit organization that sends gently used paperback book to American troops deployed overseas. Paperback books have been sent to 22 soldiers.

The Library applied for a grant from Merck. The grant application was very well received. However, Merck decided to spend their entire corporate giving budget to help eradicate river blindness, in partnership with the World Health Organization. The Library will be eligible (and has been encouraged) to apply again in 2008.

FUTURE PLANS

The Board will continue to update current policies, with a view to creating an official Policy Manual that will cover all aspects of Library administration. Priority areas will be Security, Personnel, Purchasing, and a reexamination of Computer Use.

The Director and Board will continue to make restorative and renovating changes to the Library building.

The Board will continue to engage the continuing assistance of the Friends of the Library to raise funds.

The Board and Director will survey Library users and potential users regarding Library resources and services for planning purposes.

The Board, Director and staff will continue to look for and apply for grants.

The Library will begin to offer more book clubs and programming for all age groups.