

*Oct 22nd Annual Meeting
Librarian Report*

First, I would like to thank the Corporators for your steadfast support for the library during my tenure as Executive Director.

I also want to recognize the dedication and efforts of our Board of Trustees, our staff and volunteers. We have collectively created a highly regarded community centered library. Thank you -- for all you do for our library and our community!

Our historic building on the Village Green has a stately appearance and is now graced by elegant Frederick Law Olmsted lampposts, year round benches, two new honey locust trees and most importantly -- a new sign: Norman Williams Public Library, Established 1883. Together we are part of a long line of stewards proudly contributing to the literary health of the community and together we will preserve the library for generations to come.

Here are just a few of the milestones we have achieved:

- A major initiative has been to promote digital literacy, a vital life skill through our one-to-one tutorials and classes. I can confidently say we have given more than 1,000 tutorials in the past four years*
- Patron visits are at an all-time high of more than 70,000 annually, which is attributable in part to our more than 400 free programs with monthly attendance often exceeding 1,000 patrons.*
- Programs include author readings and story hours. Classes range from memoir writing, history, poetry, the classics, and religion to how to use your iPad. We have heard world leaders including Judge Schwebel speak of his time adjudicating at The Hague and we have an upcoming program by Roger Payne and Lisa Harrow.*
- With thanks to our Library Art Advisory Committee, we exhibit the work of local artists on our mezzanine, where local musicians also perform.*
- Patrons value our reader advisory service and we currently have more than 3,500 active cardholders who borrow 45,000 to 49,000 books annually from our 55,000 book collection. We hope to broaden access to our resources by offering free library cards for this upcoming month of December.*
- Theater performances from Northern Stage as well as Barn Arts are previewed on our mezzanine where we have hosted Shakespearean performances enacted by the local raw Shakespeare Company. Most programs are videotaped by Macy Lawrence of WCTV for subsequent viewing. In fact, thanks to our webmaster, Wendy Spector, you can look on our website and view programs you may have missed.*
- Additionally, at Wendy's recommendation we are now hosting MOOC's (Massive Open Online Courses) via the Internet from Harvard and major universities -- sitting virtually side by side with students worldwide.*

- *Our facility is used by the community for meetings, and last year, St. James held their Sunday liturgical services here - during their renovation.*
- *The Children and Youth library provides story times, craft programs and after school movies. We create a safe place for children to go after school and Stem classes will begin this spring in coordination with Woodstock Elementary School*
- *Thanks to Charlet Davenport and Jamie Townsend as well as the Woodstock Garden Club, and Friends of the Library, the children's courtyard has a flowering "secret garden" with child-like wooden sculptures of a dog playing a guitar and Pooh-Bear going down a slide with a red fish*
- *Supporting economic development, our Wireless Woodstock provides free Internet access throughout the Village*

Strategic Plan:

This past spring, 50 members of the community defined a plan to create a state of the art library and defined two primary goals: to provide access to technology and to enhance the library as a place to socialize and engage in the exchange of ideas and learning.

The Strategic Plan resulted in an Inspirational Dream "To be the valued community hotspot, enriched by amazing resources, enabling adventures in lifelong learning, championing knowledge and wisdom. "

We anticipate the new library services and reconfigured library space will become highly popular and broadly valued by the community as a destination for all forms of creative learning! While we continue to learn from the experience of other libraries and consult with national experts on ways to make ours a world-class library, the implementation of the Strategic Plan will be carried forward by the new Executive Director.

MOST IMPORTANTLY WE HAVE FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP RESPONSIBILITY THAT enables us to meet our financial obligations through the town contribution, interest from reserves, successful annual appeals and book sale revenues.

Successful development efforts enabled us to contribute to our Endowment, as Linda Smiddy our Treasurer will note, and it is as a result of her guidance and that of the Investment Committee of Hank Smith, Joe Sheperd, Gail Dougherty and Garfield Goodrum -- that we have fared so well.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for allowing me to be involved in such a wonderful and tradition-rich institution. I remain humbled by the genuine ways that this community has welcomed me and continues to show appreciation for our work. I am particularly proud of our incredibly dedicated staff, and volunteers who bring a positive experience to patrons, every time they enter the library.

In summary, let me say, the library has been transformed. We have enhanced the stately presence of our Historic Building on the Village Green and upgraded the programs and services that have turned the library into a highly regarded center of the community. I am pleased to say that collectively -- together --we have created a library with a sound financial footing -- ready to face the challenges of the 21st century.

I am pleased to say, the state of Your Library -- is STRONG!