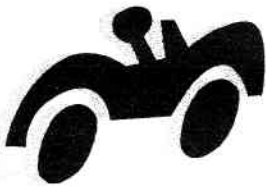


Biblio File

NEWSLETTER OF THE DAVID & JOYCE MILNE PUBLIC LIBRARY
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Books on Wheels - Off to a Good Start



By Pat McLeod

Over the last several decades, growth in our elderly population has increased the demands for many types of services. When the library became aware that several of our faithful older patrons were no longer

able to get here, we created a new service. "Books on Wheels" is designed to help less mobile patrons maintain their connection to the library.

The program delivers books, videos, and other library materials to homebound residents of Williamstown. A volunteer student driver from Mount Greylock Regional High School (Maxx Sann) makes the pick-ups and deliveries weekly at a time arranged with each patron. The library receives the patron's requests and holds those items until the

following week's delivery. As a further extension of our facilities to the senior community, the library rotates collections containing a variety of materials through the libraries at Sweetwood and the Harper Center.

Books on Wheels has begun with three users and it is the library's mission to meet the needs of any Williamstown resident who is unable to get to the library. If you are interested, or know of someone who could benefit from this service, please contact Pat McLeod, Library Director.

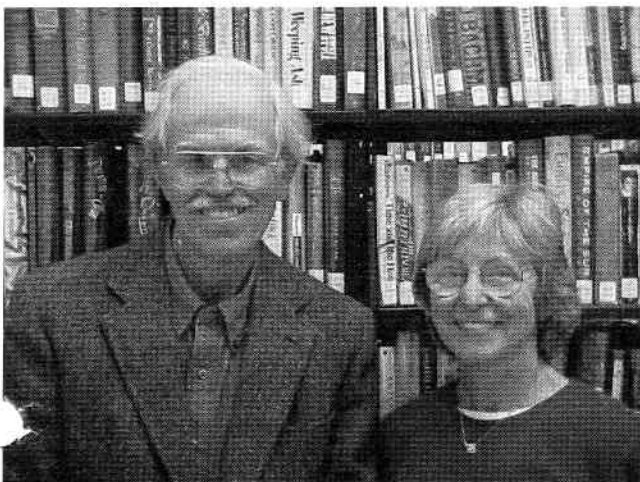
Library Celebrates 5th Anniversary

It is hard to believe that it has already been five years since the new library was dedicated on November 23, 1996. Sparked by David and Joyce Milne's generous gift of the Main Street building, along with a community capital campaign for the costs of renovation, the new facility has become a true community success.

The library has grown and changed

tremendously in the past five years. In addition to many improvements to the physical structure, a state grant funded the establishment of the Homework Center, cataloging and circulation are now fully computerized thanks to the Friends of the Library, we've purchased an entire video store collection, a new Director is in charge, and we now have a number of beautiful areas outside the building for walking and enjoying a good book.

Although the old library was rich in history and cozy reading chairs, the new facility has allowed the growth of collections and services that are vital for the expanding role of the library. The more efficient space provides many new features including meeting rooms, expanded parking, a Children's Room with breathing space, a huge circulation area, and nine computers for public use. Happy Birthday!



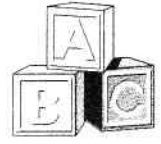
The library is pleased to have two new Trustees: Stewart Jones and Linda Becker.

New Trustees "On Board"

The library would like to welcome Stewart Jones and Linda Becker, the newest members of the Board of Trustees. Linda won election to the Board in May, replacing MacAlister Brown, who retired from the Board. An English teacher at Pine Cobble School, Linda says, "I love books, I love libraries. This seemed like a good chance to do something for my community." Stewart, who is retired from a practice in urology, was appointed to replace John Howgate after he moved from the area. He notes, "I'm impressed by the high quality of the library leadership and by the commitment of the Board." They join current Trustees Liz Costley, Lisa Hiley, and Kim Rozell.



The ABC's of Libraries



by Pat McLeod

Editor's Note: Continuing our series on library basics, Director Pat McLeod offers an explanation of library fines

F is for Fines

(f in) *n.* A sum of money imposed as a penalty for an offense.

Just as death and taxes are a part of life, so are library fines. Libraries since the beginning of time have charged fines for overdue materials to encourage borrowers to return them promptly for the next user. It has always been just a few pennies, but multiplied by a few days and a few items, fines can mount quickly.

Add \$1.00 a day for overdue videos (which is the national standard) and your

wallet can really get hit. Until the library automated its circulation system, there was no structure in place for assessing fines. Unless library patrons confessed their late status, no fines could be calculated.

Now the library has an automated system for checking out materials and determining fines. It also can remind borrowers of unreturned items. When an item is returned, it is checked in that same day. Materials deposited in the book drop are correctly back-dated to the last day the library was open.

Patrons may access their library record, containing the status of their borrowed items, at the library's website at www.milnelibrary.org. Click on *Search the Catalog* and *Your Library Record*. Input your name, barcode, and PIN, and

all materials currently checked out to you are displayed. You may also see if you owe any fines and the status of any holds you may have placed.

Because the library does not want to empty your savings on tardy books, there is a maximum fine per item. A reminder postcard is mailed when an item is two weeks overdue; after four weeks, a replacement bill is sent.

On January 1, 2002, the fine structure will change in order to make the fines and loan periods uniform for all CWMARS (Central/Western Massachusetts Automated Resource Sharing) libraries:

- Books, audios, magazines - \$0.10/day
\$3.00 max. per item
- Videos and DVDs - \$1.00/day
\$5.00 max. per item



Are You a Friend?

The Friends of the Library is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to support the David and Joyce Milne Public Library. It is separate from the library, its staff, or trustees.

The 2002 annual membership drive for the Friends of the Library is currently

under way. It is not too late to become a Friend and enjoy a 10% discount at Water Street Books. All membership fees go entirely toward supporting the library with goods and services.

Pick up a membership form at the library or send a check in the amount of

your choice to the Friends of the Milne Public Library at 1095 Main St., Williamstown, MA 01267.



Borrowers this fall might have been greeted by junior librarians (Marta, Laura, Sirianna) or other library friends (Will and scarecrow).

DID YOU KNOW?

We have a Readers Bulletin Board near the restrooms and we encourage patrons to post suggested books and short reviews

Over 6,000 E-books are now available in our computer catalog. Ask us for help!

Homework tutors from Williams College are available Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons in the Homework Center

Library book bags, now only \$8, make a great gift for the holidays!

There is a great teen website at www.milnelibrary.org

The library circulated over 30,000 items this summer - highest ever!

News from the Children's Room

by Mindy Hackner

Things have never been better or busier in the Children's Room. We've had lots of help, lots of visitors, and lots of additions!

Hard to believe it's already been a year since Helen Olshever came to work in the room. We've also moved the circulation desk for children's material into the Children's Room, which means Marvel Monette is now one of our afternoon staff.

Long-time volunteers Yumi Farwell and Judy Madden are still checking the accuracy of catalog entries in our database. Our high school helpers are Aaron Souza, who maintains the webpage, and Crystal Martelle, a returning summer intern who helped tremendously with summer reading and circulation. We're delighted to have Gisela Lehovec back, still packing them in for Tuesday morning story time... this must be Gisela's eighth year of volunteering!

Junior librarians

With Helen's deft hand and quiet reassurance, we've trained ten junior librarians. These young volunteers give many hours to the library, shelving, preparing craft materials, filling displays, and helping parents and children find their way around the room. If you have a question about the children's room, find a junior librarian!

We also have an active book group meeting every Monday afternoon. Every other week we select a few books at random and give a small report to the group on what's a good read.



First of
All...
READ!

Once again, the summer reading program was a tremendous success! We had sixty children complete the program by reporting with book logs and receiving a "First of All... READ!" certificate. I spent the night up on the roof as promised, but it was a quiet affair, especially since I'm afraid of heights and didn't

know if I could really climb up the ladder and stay there for long. I will tell you, there were bees... yellow jackets, to be more specific. And the flat roof was rubbery and hard. But it was great fun to wake up with dew rolling off the one-person pup tent! So congratulations to our children for reading more than a ton of books in a ten-week period over two summers.

New acquisitions

Since the beginning of Fiscal Year 2002, we've added over 50 new books, over 30 videos, 30 book/tape kits, the New Book of Knowledge encyclopedia, a four-volume encyclopedia of Native American studies, 12 music CDs, 10 CD-ROM computer games, and two new magazine subscriptions. Of course, we've had to shift things around to accommodate the growth.

This summer, parent volunteers Lee Venolia and Susan Abrams carefully examined our 'Easy Reader' collection marking the books as easiest (yellow), moderate (orange), and most challenging (blue) with color-coded tape to help emergent

readers choose the best books. Easy Reader books are now more accessible on the first row of low shelves as you enter the room.

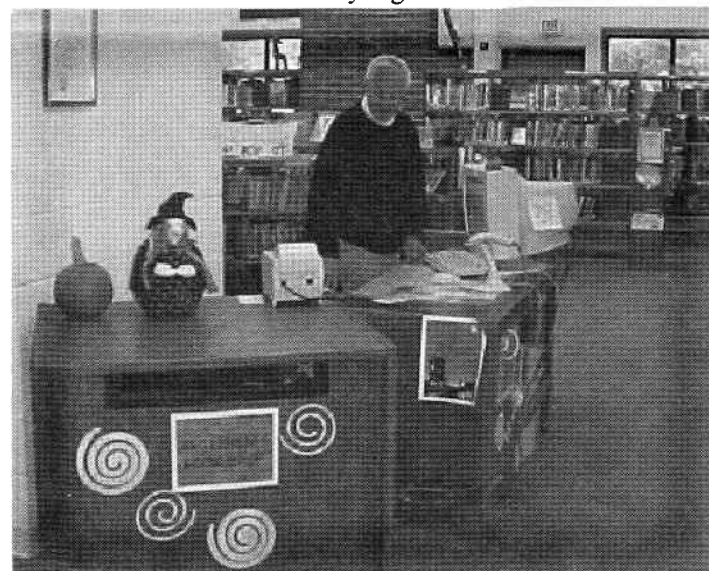
Moving a circulation desk into the Children's Room has successfully cut down on misplaced and lost overdue books. It has also provided us with more opportunities to talk with parents and kids about the books and materials

they want, which helps us create a better collection. So we intend to make it a permanent part of the room and we are in the process of acquiring appropriate furniture and figuring out the best location for it. We've already got a new book drop which prevents patrons from inadvertently picking up returned materials that haven't been checked in yet.

For more information about changes in the room, upcoming events, lists of new materials, cool homework and entertainment links, a printable survey form and e-mail links to the staff, visit our website at www.milnelibrary.org



The Children's Room's comfy armchairs encourage families like the Swoaps to enjoy reading together.



The new Children's Room book return helps library workers like Milt Pharr keep better track of returned materials.

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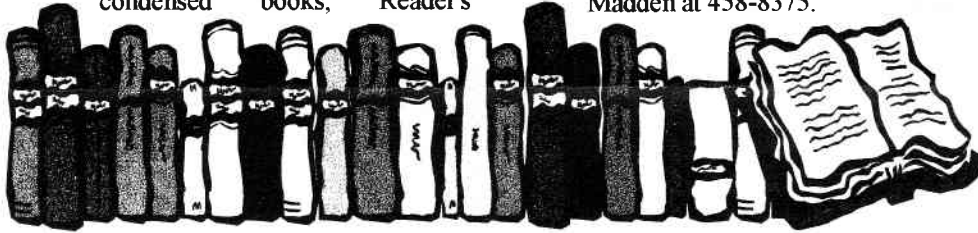
Get Ready for Book Sale 2002

Circle Friday and Saturday, April 19 and 20, on your 2002 calendar for the dates of next year's Friends of the David and Joyce Milne Public Library Used Book Sale at the Williamstown Elementary School. This is always a big event for book lovers, and next year's sale promises to follow the tradition of a great community event which raises thousands of dollars for the library.

Books for donation can be dropped off at the library during open hours. However, we do not accept textbooks, magazines, condensed books, Reader's

Digests, or books in poor condition. If you have books to donate and would like help transporting them, contact Pat McLeod at the library.

Some volunteers have already begun the enormous task of sorting and organizing the donated books, but as the time of the sale nears, many more volunteers will be needed for a wide variety of jobs. To get a sneak peak at the books and be part of this effort, please look for sign up sheets on the bulletin board at the library in 2002, or call Judy Madden at 458-8375.



Everybody has
a story...

And if you would like to tell your book- or library-related tale, or if you have a suggestion for an interesting programming idea, please contact Ron Gallagher at rgallagher@williams.edu

STAFF

Library Director - Pat McLeod
Associate Director - Deb Felix
Children's Librarian - Mindy Hackner
Reference & Interlibrary Loan Librarian - Fern Sann
Children's Library Assistant - Helen Olshever
Circulation - Nancy Morin, Patt Patterson, Marvel Monette,
Priscilla Coulter, Norma Delisle, Milt Pharr
Students - Veronica Bosley, Darlene Forde, Emma Markland,
Jessica Tierney
Errands - John Los

HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
 Wednesday
 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
 Saturday
 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Contributors

Susan Abrams - *editor*
 Mary Jo Carpenter
 Mindy Hackner
 Pat McLeod



Friends of the David & Joyce Milne Public Library
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