

# Library

***"This library is like my second home."***

Marcelle Kosersky, author and Sudbury resident

The Goodnow Library continues to be a cherished institution in Sudbury. Although the library is no stranger to the strains of these tight economic times, the dedicated and professional staff continue to provide cheerful and efficient service to the community.

This was a year of transition at the Goodnow Library. There were two key changes in leadership: in March, Esmé Green replaced Bill Talentino, director of 23 years, and in August, Heather Wilkinson replaced Betsy Mosher, Children's librarian who retired after 38 years. Coincidentally, these personnel changes have come at a time when libraries are changing the way they do business to meet the changes in our world today. The challenge is to transform from a "warehouse" model to a community hub, where patrons come not only to meet one another and enjoy free cultural programming, but also to take advantage of one-stop-shopping for books, music and movies in all formats, notably the "e" format.

***Digital books and music have their own line item in the library's materials budget for the first time.***

As librarians, we often think about what's ahead so that we can anticipate what our patrons want from their community library. The current enthusiasm for all things mobile, and desire for e-books is making things even more interesting! The Goodnow Library is positioning itself to meet these changes by embarking on a new long range plan (FY13-FY17), where we will directly solicit your feedback in surveys and focus groups. In the meantime, we are working hard on increasing our "e-offerings," by purchasing additional downloadable e-books and online resources and increasing publicity efforts through our website, Facebook page and email announcement lists.

The Library continued to play its role as a lifelong education center, with a focus on literacy activities from birth through adulthood. To meet the demands of parents seeking free early literacy opportunities, the Children's department dramatically increased programming offerings. Author visits, concerts and art exhibits were offered for all ages. *Freegal*, an online service that allows library patrons to download free and legal music was added, and an adult book group, called "The Bookies" was introduced. The Young Adult Room initiated a Teen Art Exhibit Series and created a computer game collection. To raise visibility online, the library joined Facebook and began publishing a monthly e-newsletter of library events and happenings.

The library is grateful for the ongoing support of many dedicated volunteers and community groups such as the garden clubs. This year 45 volunteers donated over 5,000 hours of their time in support of the library, helping with many special projects. In June, five seniors from LSRHS came to the library as part of the program "Seniors Give Back to the Community Day" to work throughout the library with a variety of projects.



*Richard and his mother showing their enthusiasm for gingerbread house making!*

## ***New Initiatives for Children***

Besides pajama story times, crafts and book groups, the library began offering family movie screenings, monthly Sing-a-Longs with Peter Sheridan, and Jam Time science programs for children ages three to seven. Also, the library has arranged for a certified therapy dog named Benson. Emerging and reluctant readers can sign-up to read to Benson to help develop important literacy skills. This fun program is a

great way to help make children excited about reading and visiting the library.

This year also marked the start of the library's first Lego program. What's the connection between Legos and books? Promoting play contributes to early literacy development by increasing attention span, memory, creativity, and language and vocabulary skills. Library staff solicited donations from the community to start the collection. The response was overwhelming, and we ended up with more than 100 pounds of Legos! Our first program was attended by fifty-one children.

### **Truck Day**

Another fun-filled Sudbury Truck Day was held in July when nearly 600 kids of all ages came together at the Goodnow Library parking lot to get up close to a variety of town vehicles including a fire engine, ambulance, police cruiser, front loader and snow plow. This marks the Library's sixth Truck Day, when kids, parents and grandparents get to see and sit in a variety of large and curious looking vehicles.



*Three youngsters climb aboard Engine No. 5*

### **Children's Summer Reading Program**

The Goodnow Public Library participated in the statewide Summer Reading Program for children, themed, *One World Many Stories*. The eighty children who participated in the program, read almost 600 books. The library also participated in weekly Heifer programs, which attracted over 250 people throughout the summer. Special guests included honey

bees, chickens, earth worms, bunny rabbits, and a goat.

***On behalf of the children's' reading effort, the Friends of the Library generously donated a beehive and a pig to needy families through Heifer International.***

Especially popular with the younger set was Gulliver, a little library gnome who visited different places in Sudbury each week and sent postcards back to the library with clues about where he was. Some of his destinations were the Assabet Wildlife Refuge, Buddy Dog, and the Wayside Inn.

### **Friends of the Library**

The Friends have been busy this year! Besides running the Sunday Afternoon Program Series, holding two book sales, and funding museum passes and other crucial programming, they redesigned the gardens by the Library entrance.



They now produce their quarterly newsletter online.

*The Friends of the Library funded museum passes for 16 different museums. Those passes sponsored 1,804 museum visits by Sudbury families in 2011.*

### **The Goodnow Library Foundation**

Many of the goals that came out of the FY07-FY12 strategic plan have been realized, particularly the formation of the Goodnow Library Foundation. The Foundation's goal is to establish a substantial and sustainable endowment that will provide on-going income to support the Goodnow Library. Its mission is to support the improvement and enhancement of the Goodnow Library and to promote its use

in Sudbury. The Goodnow Library Foundation helps the Library continue to develop as a 21<sup>st</sup> century library: a marketplace of ideas, a community meeting place, an innovative technological hub that serves library patrons of all ages and interests—anywhere and at any time.

***“The fundamental responsibility of libraries is the dissemination and preservation of knowledge.”***  
***-Goodnow Library Foundation***

**Projects for 2012**

Goodnow will continue many of its ongoing goals, such as enhancing programming for all ages, focusing on outreach to schools, community groups and town agencies, and assessing staffing, collections and the facility. Additionally, the library is working on redesigning the library website, building the e-book collection, evaluating the preservation needs of the library’s historical collections, and creating a comprehensive technology plan. A new initiative is to investigate ways for the library to “Go Green,” by seeking ways to reduce our carbon footprint, save energy, and become an educational resource for the community. In addition, the library will develop a new five-year strategic plan.



*Library Staff Development Day*

**2011 Statistics**

- The total circulation of materials for 2011, was 414,780. Goodnow ranks fourth of the 53 libraries in its population group in Massachusetts for the number of items circulated per staff person (over 27,000) and seventh overall when compared to the total number of items circulated.
- Self-check accounted for an average of 70% of checkouts.
- There were 269 programs held for children with over 4,000 children and their caregivers attending.
- Our community meeting rooms were used at least once every day—often more, by 150 different community groups.

Financial Report FY11 (July 1, 2010-Jun 30, 2011)		
Source	Fees, State Revenue	Receipts, Expenditures
Lost Books Fund	\$ 6,791	\$ 4,275
Multi-Purpose Revolving Fund	\$ 4,828	\$ 460
MA Equalization Grant (MEG) Fund	\$ 3,474	\$ 3,107
Library Incentive Grant (LIG) Fund	\$ 8,187	\$ 5,848
Non-Resident Circulation Fund	\$ 10,600	\$ 2,619
Fines	\$ 24,273	

Senior Library Staff

- Esmé Green, Director*  
*Karen Tobin, Assistant Director*  
*Michael Briody, Circulation Manager*  
*Heather Wilkinson, Children’s Librarian*  
*Elizabeth Rose, Head of Technical Services*

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