

### ***2006 Board of Chosen Freeholders***

George B. Melick, Freeholder Director  
Nancy I. Palladino, Deputy Freeholder Director  
Marcia A Karrow, Freeholder  
George D. Muller, Freeholder  
Erik C. Peterson, Freeholder  
Cynthia J. Yard, County Administrator

### ***2006 Library Commission***

Kenneth Jagel, Jr., Chairperson  
Nancy Fuchs  
Lucille Hornby  
Thomas Valasek  
Dr. Peter Craig

Library Director - Mark Titus  
Assistant Director - Floyd Saums

### ***Libraries in the Hunterdon County System***

#### **Hunterdon County Library Headquarters**

314 State Route 12, Bldg. #3, Flemington, 08822 908-788-1444  
Monday-Friday, 8:30-9:00; Saturday, 9-5 [Open Sundays 1-5 in Sept-May]

#### **North County Branch** 65 Halstead St., Clinton 08809 908-730-6262

Monday, Friday, Saturday, 9-5; Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 9-9

#### **South County Branch**

1108-A Old York Rd., Ringoes 08851 908-782-3564  
Monday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 9-5; Tuesday, Wednesday, 9-9

#### **Bunnvale Library** 7 Bunnvale Rd., Califon 07830 908-638-8884

Wednesday, 1-8; Thursday-Saturday, 10-5

#### **Frenchtown Public Library**

29 Second St., Frenchtown 08825 908-996-4788  
Monday 9:30-12:30; Tuesday, Wednesday, 3-5, 7-9; Friday, 9:30-12:30

#### **High Bridge Public Library** 71 Main St., High Bridge 08829 908-638-8231

Monday, Wednesday, 10-12, 3-8; Friday, 10-12, 3-7; Saturday, 10-2

#### **Holland Alexandria Free Public Library**

129 Spring Mills Rd., Milford 08848 908-995-4767  
Monday-Friday, 9-12, 3-8; Saturday, 9-3

#### **Readington Township Library**

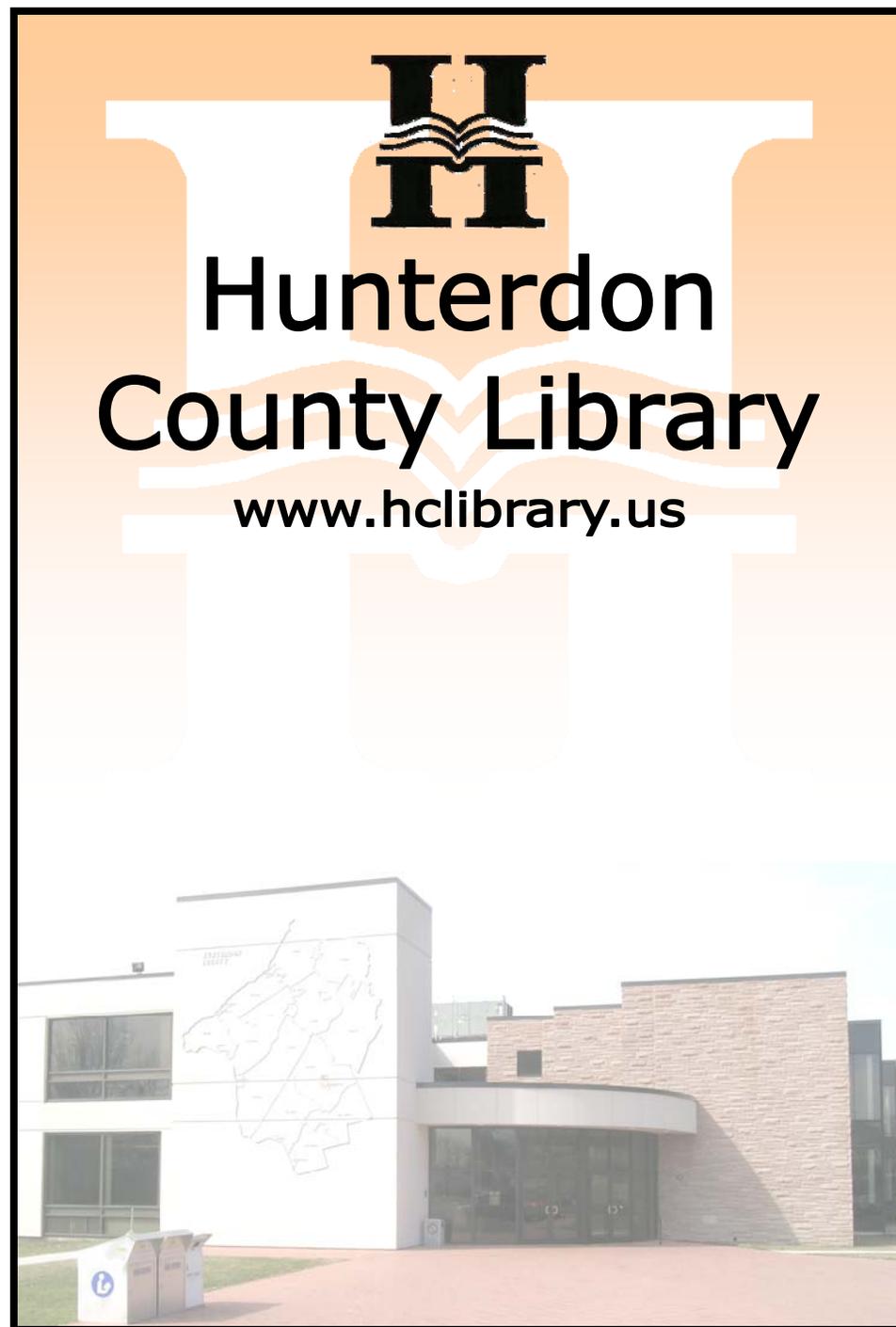
105 Route 523, Whitehouse Sta. 08889 908-534-4421  
Tues, Thur. 12-8, Mon., Wed., Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-12 (closed August)

#### **Tewksbury Public Library**

31 Old Turnpike Rd., Oldwick 08858 908-439-3761  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10-6; Thursday, 12-8; Saturday, 10-3

#### **Three Bridges Library**

449 Main St., Three Bridges 08887 908-782-2908  
Mon., Thu., Fri., 9:30-5:30; Wed., 12-8; Sat. 9-12 (closed August)



# **2006 ANNUAL REPORT**

## ***Message from the Director***

It's good to look back from time to time. This year's Annual Report helps us realize how much we accomplished in 2006 while managing to have a lot of fun, too! Many of you have commented on the welcoming, friendly atmosphere of our libraries. We take great pride in this achievement. It comes from the collective energy and commitment of our staff, Friends, and community partners. We continue to remain focused on our mission of providing quality library services to our communities.

Thank you for your support.

-Mark Titus, Library Director

## ***2006 - The Year in Review***

The year began with the Library Headquarters building closed while the final renovation work was completed. While delayed from its original re-opening date, the Library finally did open again on February 9<sup>th</sup>. The library users were immediately impressed with the totally transformed library building. What had been a cramped, overcrowded space had been transformed into a dramatic, dynamic new building with lots of space for the collections, seating everywhere, and with an organization and staff ready to meet the challenges of providing informational, educational and recreational resources for the community in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. A dedication ceremony was held in September, attended by the Freeholders and many other County and State officials, to celebrate the beautiful new building.

Circulation of materials immediately skyrocketed in the new building, while concurrently staying strong in the branches and community libraries as well. Hunterdon County's residents love, and use, their libraries!

Among the new services the Library instituted during 2006 were:

- All new public internet stations, with SAM software so that patrons can self-manage their internet use and printing.
- "Overdrive" downloadable audio books. Library patrons can now listen to books they download to their home computers or MP3 players, without having to come into the library.
- Greatly increased collections of DVDs. The Library doubled the budget for the purchase of these popular items, available system wide.

By the middle of the year, the Library had also selected a new vendor for its ILS (Integrated Library System) software to provide up-to-date circulation and online capabilities. This system would be installed in February, 2007 and provide the Library's patrons with enhanced services, including the ability to place their own item reserves, and to view the Library's holdings in Spanish.

Libraries are so much more than repositories for books now. Delivery of services occurs in many new ways, unheard of only a few short years ago, and the Hunterdon County Library system is changing constantly to keep current with new technology and new expectations. The traditional roles of the Library are not going away; they are only being enhanced in wonderful new ways, keeping the Library relevant and exciting to our many users.

-Floyd Saums, Assistant Director

## ***Friends of the Hunterdon County Library***

With membership at well over 600, it was another exciting and busy year for this impressive group. The 2006 Book Sale continued to break records, bringing in a net of \$80,000. Donations to the library included train tables for Youth Services areas of HC, NC and SC, a new aquarium for HC which the kids were clamoring for, book sets for Youth Services such as the I Spy series, and Lee Ames drawing books, refreshments and drawing prizes for the Grand Opening at Route 12, and drawing prizes for the library booth at the Hunterdon County 4-H Fair. The member libraries also received financial support for varying projects and items. The Friends continued to fund the hydroponic plants at both HC and NC which really add a beautifying touch to the library atmosphere.

This was the first year of the "Books for the College Bound" scholarship program. Out of 15 applications, there were 5 awards, one to a student from each of the 5 county high schools. Both the Outreach program which delivers library items to the homebound and the Friends Book Club were continued with good success.

## ***Adult Programming/Public Relations***

HCL partnered with local businesses in 2006 and began a new program called "New Neighbors." All new homeowners in Hunterdon County received a mailing from the library that included a library card application and other library information, plus coupons from local businesses to help welcome the new members of our community.

### Programs at HCL Headquarters

The new HCL Headquarters Meeting Room was ready to host programs in March and HCL Headquarters treated 1147 patrons to a variety of musical programs, workshops and lectures in 2006. The library was assisted in the funding of these events with a grant from the New Jersey Council on the Arts administered by the Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission. HCL also tested a family theme night at the library in October called "Friday Night Frights," with programs and activities for kids, teens and adults throughout the library. This series will continue in 2007 as "Festive Fridays" and will be sponsored by the Friends of HCL. HCL was also honored to host the "Special Eyes on the Environment" Photography Exhibit and Gala Opening for special needs children, hosted by S.E.E. founder Ross Lewis.

### Programs at North County Branch Library

The North County Branch Library finished off the year featuring lots of musical programs. The Library hosted return visits of Marlene VerPlanck, the tenor/piano duo of Rosetta Stone and Steven Snow, the Travis Wetzel Trio, and the rather unique Four-Hand Piano concert with Paul Kueter and Carolle-Ann Mochernuk. Fred Miller continued to please his monthly Wednesday afternoon audience with his "Lectures-in-Song" series, highlighting Twentieth Century music. The big hit of the season was the "This is Mozart" program, which covered the life of Mozart with a slide presentation and discussion of his music. The music was presented through both recordings as well as the lecturer, Catherine Sprague, playing on the piano. This fall's series of musical programs brought almost 480 patrons to the North County Branch Library, confirming that the library is more than just a place for books.

## **Reference Department**

### SAM Internet Management System

A new self-serve system for Internet use and printing was installed at both HC and NC. Staff and patrons got used to it readily and patrons now seem to enjoy the independence it gives them from having to sign in at the Reference Desk to use the Internet stations.

### Overdrive

Hunterdon County Library was one of eight library pioneers in the Highlands region to be involved in HRLC's downloadable audio books pilot project. This service was launched to the public on July 5, 2006, with 406 different titles. The collection grew to 577 different titles by the end of the year. From July through December, 415 checkouts were performed by 331 patrons from our library. Along with HRLC and BCCLS, HCL has been instrumental in the ongoing administration of this project. Terry Edwards, one of the reference librarians, oversees this project for HCL.

### Help Desk/Roaming

Due to the expansion of the Rt. 12 library, it became necessary for staff to change their approach to helping patrons. To that end, reference staff members have been routinely assigned to cover an additional "Readers' Service" or "Help" desk on the lower level. They are also "roaming" throughout the library to make sure patrons are finding the materials they need without having to go upstairs.

### Electronic Resources

These excellent online sources continue to be offered, providing a wealth of information on a variety of subjects. Digital Sanborn Maps online was added to our list this year. Sanborn fire insurance maps (1867-1970) are detailed property and land-use records from the Sanborn Map Company, publisher of fire maps for over 100 years. This database, which provides access to 1,237 large-scale maps of 265 New Jersey towns and cities, is available from home or office as are most of our database offerings.

### Computer Classes

The North County Branch reference department offered monthly computer classes. From January to June, 2006, classes included PC Basics, Internet Basics, and Searching Basics. Fall classes introduced Windows, Word, and Excel. Signup response for this instruction was positive and participants were quite happy with this learning experience.

### Reference Book Use Survey

Also at NC, a survey was conducted to determine subject areas that needed to be expanded, updated, or downsized. Signs were posted on every stack end requesting patrons to leave unshelved all reference materials they used. Staff did the same with the materials they used. Reference staff then noted each of these titles before reshelving them. They are continuing this process in 2007 to obtain a valid picture of local use, current needs and future direction. In 2006 the most popular subjects were New Jersey local history and genealogy, financial information, United States history, maps, and medical and legal information.

## **Community Libraries**

During 2006 the Community Libraries once again proved to be vital parts of our library system. During the first part of the year, many of these libraries continued to welcome the patrons who were displaced by Headquarters closing while the renovation/construction project was completed. Many of our patrons were pleased to discover these smaller, community libraries and have continued visiting even after Headquarters reopened. We were pleased to welcome some of the Community Libraries staff to our in staff service day in June. The libraries were pleased to have summer programs for school aged children presented by staff members from the Hunterdon County Library. During December the staff of these libraries traveled to Headquarters and North County Branch where they began to train on the new library circulation system that was planned to be implemented in early 2007. Spending time with the staff of these libraries reinforced to all what an important part these community libraries play in the Hunterdon County Library.

At the Bunnvale Library children enjoyed having their picture taken in the pet shop Marie Taluba created for the summer reading club; children also enjoyed reading in the igloo Marie created out of tissue and cereal boxes.

In Frenchtown, story time has started again during the year and there has been a good response; their reading group has also doubled in size.

The High Bridge Library once again welcomed a wonderful storyteller, Mary Ann Paterniti; three programs were held and over 100 children and adults attended.

The summer reading program was a huge success in the Holland Alexandria Library with 1,600 books read and over 85 children participating.

Readington Township Library, located in an old railroad station, celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this December; two of their faithful volunteers, Peggy Wilcox and Dolores Fischer, also celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the library.

The Tewksbury Township Library was pleased to increase their hours to five days a week and their patrons have shown their appreciation as the circulation increased!

The Three Bridges Library once again showed its support of the Friends of the Hunterdon County Library as they ran their own very successful membership drive in conjunction with the one held at Headquarters, North County Branch and South County Branch.

The Hunterdon County Library Bookmobile continued to be popular with its patrons. In addition to its regular weekly scheduled stops, the bookmobile visited several public schools and nursery schools during the year and went to High Bridge Community Day. Plans to replace the bookmobile during 2007 are being made.

The South County Branch Library opened on Mondays during the beginning of the year to accommodate patrons while the renovations to Headquarters were finished. Patrons continue to enjoy the "small town feel" of this burgeoning Branch.

## 2006 Budget Highlights

Salaries & benefits	\$3,573,011
Books	\$529,850
Newspapers, magazines, microfilm, indexes	\$60,350
Music, DVDs, books on tape, etc.	\$204,350
Online database subscriptions	\$60,000
Furniture, equipment, supplies	\$108,700
Youth & adult programming	\$20,500
Capital reimbursement	\$415,000
Library development reserves	\$120,000
Conferences & training	\$16,000
Bookmobile maintenance and gas	\$12,000
Total Library Budget for 2006	\$5,907,411

## Circulation Statistics for the Year

Books	705,150
Magazines	24,852
Music (CDs, cassettes, LPs)	60,693
Books on Tape	21,666
Books on CD	35,334
Videotapes	102,096
DVDs	222,089
CD-ROMs	4,123

## Items Borrowed Per Library Location

Headquarters	408,111
North County	443,196
South County	90,060
Readington	72,305
Holland Alexandria	39,946
Tewksbury	33,811
Three Bridges	29,087
Bunnvale	29,689
Bookmobile	11,652
High Bridge	11,665
Frenchtown	6,481
Total	1,176,003



HCL staff created a gingerbread model of the library in 2006 which was featured in "American Libraries" magazine and won 1st Place in HRLC's "Award-Winning PR" contest.