

## **2008 Hunterdon County Library Commissioners**

Dr. Thomas Valasek, Chairman  
Dr. Peter Craig, Vice-Chairman  
Dr. Ken Jagel, Jr, Finance  
Mr. J. William Newitt  
Ms. Margaret Waldock  
Mark Titus, Library Director  
Floyd Saums, Assistant Library Director

## **2008 Hunterdon County Freeholders**

Erik C. Peterson, Freeholder Director  
William Mennen, Deputy Director  
George B. Melick  
Ronald Sworen  
Matthew Holt  
Cynthia J. Yard, County Administrator

## **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

Tuesday, Thursday. 12-8; Monday, Wednesday, Friday 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

Monday, Thursday, Friday, 9:30-5:30; Wednesday, 12-8; Sat. 9-12 (closed August)

### **HCL Bookmobile**

Call 908-788-1421 for schedule.



# **Hunterdon County Library**

**[www.hclibrary.us](http://www.hclibrary.us)**



# **2007 ANNUAL REPORT**

## Message from the Director

*In the sweetness of friendship let there be laughter and the sharing of pleasures.*

– Kahlil Gibran

Sharing with others is good for the soul. 2007 was the year that the concept of “shared services” really started to take off. If you Google “shared services” and “New Jersey” you’ll get 224,000 hits. The Hunterdon County Library was built on the concept of maximizing shared resources to provide effective, efficient, outstanding library service to our communities.

Sharing has allowed us to grow our services, with more programs, materials, and vital information than ever before. Our circulation hit an all-time high of 1,332,907 items – a 34% increase over two years! Just do the math. That means that... at this very moment... hundreds of folks are curled up in easy chairs with a good book... or listening to a favorite author on CD during the rush hour commute... or researching a subject in our databases from the comfort of home (or on our public PCs)... or watching the latest DVDs... or downloading audiobooks onto an MP3 player... or...

*That’s a lot of laughter and pleasure!*

On behalf of the staff, the Library Commission, the Board of Chosen Freeholders, and the Friends of the Hunterdon County Library, I want to thank you all for your support and for sharing your library experience with us.

–Mark Titus, Library Director

## Friends of the Hunterdon County Library

It was a banner year for the Friends as they hit the \$100,000 mark for this year’s book sale. Grossing \$101,002.61, there was a net benefit to the libraries of \$96,771.05 after adding in direct donations of books and other materials. Over 200 volunteers gave thousands of hours of their time to help make the sale the most successful so far.

Many gifts were made to the libraries, including sponsorship of the monthly Festive Friday programs, fish tank maintenance and shelving for Youth Services at HCL Headquarters, prizes for the children’s summer reading club program and the Flemington Fair, as well as National Library Week. Additional items included folding tables for the HCL Headquarters meeting room, a digital camera for NCB, a laminator for fliers and posters, book display furniture and panels, and picnic tables for staff. Member libraries again received monies to support their endeavors totaling \$10,500. For the first time, the Friends decided to create a Long Term Development Fund, allocating \$40,000 to start.

A very exciting new venture was the Friends of Hunterdon County Library Friendship Garden at Headquarters to which the Friends donated \$30,000. Complete with an in-ground irrigation system and bluestone stage for outdoor programs, the garden surrounds the library and contains thousands of perennials and flowers.

There was continued service for the Outreach program for homebound patrons and another round of winners (5 out of 27 applicants) for the “Books For the College Bound” scholarship. The Friends Book Club is still happily active, alternating meetings between HCL Headquarters and the North County Branch Library.

The staff held two celebrations for the Friends, the Starry Night Reception in May to congratulate the Friends and all book sale volunteers on their amazing accomplishment and, for National Friends of Libraries Week in October, the “We Treasure Our Friends” display featuring a treasure chest filled with a decorative sampling of items and services they have given to the library recently. The display was moved and set up at NCB as well. It was one of just five libraries nationally that won a \$250 award offered by FOLUSA.

## Adult Programming/Public Relations

### Programs at HCL Headquarters

HCL Headquarters hosted 42 musical programs, lectures and workshop in 2007. Attendance for the series was 3,538 patrons, which is more than triple the 1,147 patrons that attended programs at HCL 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.

Highlights of the 2007 schedule included the new Festive Friday series. These monthly family events were extremely popular with patrons. “A Night at Hogwarts” in July, which included a sleepover at the library for several lucky children, was attended by over 400 patrons. HCL also participated in the statewide program “Family Week at the Theatre,” which featured well-known magician and actor Robert Aberdeen. WDVR’s Heartland Hayride broadcast a live performance from HCL’s Meeting Room in October. Hunterdon County 4-H held their first annual “Day at the Library” in 2007. HCL Headquarters even made a Wii available on Wednesday nights and patrons were invited to come and play!

2007 marked the first ever Adult Summer Reading Club at Hunterdon County Library. The program was very popular, bringing in 177 adult patrons as members, who collectively read 895 books over the summer! Paralleling NJLA’s youth services’ summer reading club theme, “Get a Clue @ Your Library,” the adult club included a murder mystery, “Who Murdered the Library Director?” which club members could solve for a chance to win a prize. We celebrated the culmination of the summer with a party. Refreshments, certificates of recognition, prizes, and a literary Jeopardy game combined to ensure that a good time was had by all. The club members responded with very positive feedback to the Adult Summer Reading Club and requested that we repeat the club in summers to come.

### Programs at North County Branch Library

The North County Branch Library (NCB) had a very exciting year in its programming. The number of programs went from 21 in 2006 to 50 in 2007, an increase of 125%. The additional number of patrons attending was also impressive, going from 1290 in 2006 to 2794 in 2007, an increase of 117%. Also noteworthy was the expanded scope of the programming. In 2006, all but one event were musical in nature; in 2007 NCB added non-musical programs to the mix. Of the 50 total programs, 22 were musical, and 28 were non-musical. These programs were meant to include a broad spectrum of the community, not just those inclined to music. The new areas covered were crafts, health, history, nature, hobbies, finance, and literature. The total attendance for these non-musical programs was 1408. Another innovation was adding a Saturday afternoon time slot for programs. In all, nine programs (3 musical, 6 non-musical) were held on a Saturday, with 609 patrons attending.



## Reference Department

Service continued to expand with reference statistics increasing 9 % over 2006. The total number of questions were 12,111 at Headquarters and 9,357 at the North County Branch.

Interlibrary loan numbers were also up. 2007 saw a total of 2,753 items borrowed and 1,146 items loaned. In 2006, 2,185 items were borrowed and an estimated 1,132 items were loaned.

Two new electronic databases were added to the collection—Rosetta Stone Language Learning Center and Chiltonlibrary auto repair. Staff members have received many pleased responses that these resources are now available.

Displays are a form of marketing what we have in the collection for patrons to borrow. In 2007, Linda and Terry at Headquarters developed a book display project with multi-locations that has been implemented throughout the building. This project, which showcases not just books but DVDs, videos, CDs, and audiobooks, has involved the entire staff's suggestions and contributions. Utilizing creative ideas, signage was improved and the overall increase and popularity of these displays has contributed to an increase in circulation statistics.

To meet the needs of the ever-growing proliferation of book discussion groups, we have assembled 17 book group kits. Each kit is made up of 8 to 10 copies of a good discussion book, along with a printed author interview and a set of discussion questions. The kits are then loaned out to members of book groups. The Friends of the Library donated the books from their annual book collection.

The library has also started two popular monthly book discussion groups of its own. "Book Break," happening at Headquarters, and "Cookies and Books," meeting at the North County Branch, are both moderated by reference librarians. These groups sometimes make use of the book group kits as well.

## Volunteer Activities

Volunteers contribute many hours of very valuable assistance to the daily running of the library. We have both adults and teens who offer their time and effort throughout the year. In 2007, at HCL Headquarters, over 1,200 hours were donated by 47 individuals, and NC had 30 volunteers who gave almost 900 hours.

Activities range widely in level of expertise as well as type. The following are just some of the many ways in which members of the community help the libraries to operate optimally.

Special projects include indexing of the Beers Atlas of Hunterdon County c.1893, the library scrapbook and the stuffing of envelopes for the library's Welcome to the Community packets which are mailed to new homeowners.

Ongoing assistance is provided by keeping the brochure racks and bulletin boards updated, re-stocking paper in printers, scrap paper and pencil holders, and pulling display books as well as books for children's storytimes. New York Times and Publisher's Weekly bestseller lists are photocopied, annotated and posted. 14-day books and other items are transferred to 28-day shelving areas and stacks are maintained through shelf reading and straightening.

More involved ongoing projects include updating the NJ Administrative Code and Federal Tax Code, searching for misplaced books, CDs, DVDs and videos, and indexing assistance.

Volunteers also have provided help for the monthly Festive Friday events as well as Youth Services craft activity assistance.

## Community Library News

During 2007 the Community Libraries all enjoyed a surge of increased circulation as the new Polaris Circulation System enabled patrons to place their own holds from home increasing the number of books that are being delivered throughout the county to borrowers, getting requests to patrons faster than ever. The libraries all participated in the Hunterdon County Library's Summer Reading Clubs for children and adults and many of the smaller libraries enjoyed story times and craft programs presented by librarians from the Hunterdon County Library. Weeding continues to be a top priority at all locations. Withdrawing worn and outdated copies makes room for all the bright shiny new books and DVDs that arrive daily. Remember, your Hunterdon County Library card may be used at any one of these libraries.

**Bunnvale Library** signed up more participants for the first Adult Summer Reading Club than any other member library. Their participants won many of the random weekly prize drawings.

**Frenchtown Library** has a book discussion group for adults that has grown greatly. They meet the third Wednesday of the month and the response has been positive. They have read a diverse collection of titles and the members have enjoyed all of them. The Frenchtown Elementary School brings children's art work to display in the library. Story time has also grown—there are not enough chairs for everyone any longer—and the crafts decorate the library. Frenchtown Library also was the recipient of the Frenchtown Art Festival flowery dog Sasha who now has a place of honor in the library. Frenchtown Library has also added Wireless Internet, so bring your laptop and work at the library!

**High Bridge Library** reports that everyone had a wonderful time at the summer programs presented by the County Library. Our story hours in the summer, at Halloween, and at Christmas went very well. We have a great number of children who love using the Internet. The library is becoming a popular stop for children after school.

**Holland Alexandria Library** was excited, after waiting many years, to receive new doors, giving the library a fresh new appearance. Stop by for a visit!

**Readington Township Library** hosted the Whitehouse School kindergarten classes as they made their annual field trip to the library. The students who did not have library cards received library cards, enjoyed a storytime and got to explore the library. The Stanton Learning Center continues to make a weekly trip to the library part of their program.

**Tewksbury Library** was very excited when the Board of Directors took title of the Oldwick Community Center this year. This means there are a lot of plans for 2008 to enlarge the library and make it even more welcoming for all its patrons.

**Three Bridges Library** increased its hours to 35 by opening three hours earlier on Wednesday and on Thursdays (see library hours on last page for current hours).

**The Hunterdon County Library Bookmobile** has taken its first steps to purchasing a new bookmobile to replace the current one that is seventeen years old! Bookmobile patrons are loyal users and are looking forward to a new model during the upcoming year.

**The South County Branch Library** opened six days a week beginning in June, adding Monday hours to their already busy schedule. The patrons continue to enjoy the expanded children's program offered, including occasional bedtime stories.

## 2007 - The Year in Review

The Library's Headquarters building entered its second year of operation after the dramatic changes that were the result of the addition and renovation project. Use of the newly enlarged building continued to climb, with impressive increases in the numbers of patrons who used the facility to attend the myriad storytime programs, summer programs for children, concerts, lectures, and Festive Friday family programs, in addition to borrowing hundreds of thousands of books, DVDs, music and spoken word CDs, etc.

In February, the Library was able to replace the 20-year-old Dynix circulation system with a new computerized circulation system from Polaris, which greatly enhanced our patrons' abilities to monitor and enable their own library experiences. For the first time, patrons were able to place their own reserves on books, etc. that they wanted to borrow. In the first ten days, over 4,500 patron-placed reserves were made, mostly from home computers.

With the new system in place, patrons were also able to create their own reading lists, and could choose to receive automatic email notification about reserved items and items that were about to become overdue. Searching the online catalog, and at-home use of the electronic databases to do research in addition to placing reserves, became routine components of many peoples' library experience.

New plastic library cards with handy keychain tags were introduced in September. Patrons loved the bold new design, and over 15,000 were issued by the end of the year. The old restriction that a child had to be five years old to get a library card was lifted, and now newborns and up can have cards issued in their own name, a great source of pride for our younger library users.

The Library bookmobile, now seventeen years old, was designated for replacement with a new vehicle. The staff and County worked diligently to prepare bid specifications, and the award for a new vehicle was made. The new vehicle should be delivered in the last quarter of 2008 to replace the current vehicle and enable the Library to expand its mobile services to those areas of the County that are furthest from other facilities, and especially to nursery schools, day care centers and senior citizen complexes.

The other libraries in the County system, including the two actual branches, North County and South County, and the seven community libraries, all continued to thrive, with significant increases in circulation everywhere, a sign of a healthy, responsive library system.

The Library will continue its mission to provide for the Community's educational, recreational and informational needs, by keeping current with affordable new technologies, and providing the vast wealth of information that it holds for all of the County's citizens, in traditional and innovative ways, well into the future.

-Floyd Saums, Assistant Director

## Youth Services Department

2007 Summer Reading Club had 1,211 active participants who read 26, 572 books! Youth Services also had 722 total programs in 2007. 10,961 kids and 5731 adults attended!

## 2007 Budget Highlights

Salaries & benefits	\$3,747,808
Books	\$635,944
Newspapers, magazines, microfilm, indexes	\$67,300
Music, DVDs, books on tape, etc.	\$271,700
Online database subscriptions	\$95,000
Furniture, equipment, supplies	\$94,699
Youth & adult programming	\$31,200
Capital reimbursement	\$415,000
Library development reserves	\$120,000
Conferences & training	\$18,000
Bookmobile maintenance and gas	\$14,300
Total Library Budget for 2006	\$6,147,149

## Circulation Statistics for the Year

	2006	2007
Books	705,150	798,418
Magazines	24,852	25,350
Music (CDs, cassettes, LPs)	60,693	64,457
Books on Tape	21,666	19,841
Books on CD	35,334	40,108
Videotapes	102,096	98,258
DVDs	222,089	283,002
CD-ROMs	4,123	3,215
Realia (puzzles, kits)	NA	58

## Items Borrowed Per Library Location

	2006	2007
Headquarters	408,111	492,088
North County	443,196	477,864
South County	90,060	100,297
Readington	72,305	74,621
Holland Alexandria	39,946	42,481
Tewksbury	33,811	44,731
Three Bridges	29,087	32,030
Bunnvale	29,689	37,999
Bookmobile	11,652	12,256
High Bridge	11,665	12,201
Frenchtown	6,481	6,339
Total	1,176,003	1,332,907