

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

### **Hunterdon County Library Headquarters (HCL)**

314 State Route 12, Bldg. #3, Flemington 08822 908-788-1444  
Monday, Friday, Saturday, 9-5; Tuesday-Thursday, 9-9 [Open Sunday 1-5 Sept-May]

### **North County Branch (NCB)**

65 Halstead St., Clinton 08809 908-730-6262  
Monday, Friday, Saturday, 9-5; Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 9-9

### **South County Branch (SCB)**

1108-A Old York Rd., Ringoes 08551 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, Friday, 9-5; Saturday, 9-2

### **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 Station 08889 908-534-4421  
Tuesday, Thursday, 12-8; Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9-5; Saturday (Closed August), 9-12

### **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; Saturday (Closed August), 9-12

### **HCL Bookmobile**

Call 908-788-1421 for schedule.

## **2012 Hunterdon County Library Commissioners**

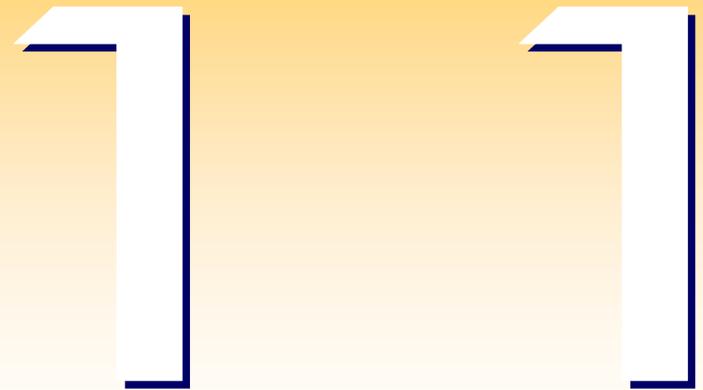
Dr. Thomas Valasek, Chairman  
Mr. J. William Newitt, Vice-Chairman  
Dr. Ken Jagel, Jr, Finance  
Ms. Nouhad Jensen  
Ms. Jean E. Allured  
Mark Titus, Library Director

## **2012 Hunterdon County Freeholders**

Robert G. Walton, Freeholder Director  
William G. Mennen, Deputy Director  
J. Matthew Holt  
George B. Melick  
Ronald M. Sworen



# ANNUAL REPORT



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



## Message from the Director

One of the services we provide is a "Visited your library lately?" note that we automatically email to anyone who has not used the library in the last six months. It's just our way of checking in with people to make sure they're ok and to let them know that we miss them.

A patron recently responded to our email with: "...had an accident and have been going to rehab most every night after work. Look forward to stopping by the library as soon as I am able." We responded: "I hope your rehab is going well! We can't wait to have you come back soon." Our patron emailed back: "Can't imagine any other library system in the world caring for their library people like Hunterdon County! Thanks!"

In 2011 our Reference staff created *Job Zone* displays at HQ and NCB with lots of helpful brochures, job hunting materials, and database information. We also began holding *Workforce Wednesdays* with a variety of outside speakers to help those of you who are unemployed or underemployed. Our partnership with the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce expanded in 2011 and now includes a weekly internet radio program that spotlights the services and programs the Hunterdon County Library provides. We even served as a refuge from a freaky October snowstorm that knocked out power for a week or longer for many of you!

I'm not telling you this just to brag (okay, maybe a little!), but because I want everyone to know how much all of us at the Hunterdon County Library care about you. We know many of you have had a difficult year. We hope you will continue to look to us as a resource to help you through these tough times, or, simply, as a source of entertainment and escape from the stress and pressure of life in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

- Mark Titus

## Year in Review 2011

The Library strives to be an integral part of the Hunterdon County community. During 2011, new service opportunities were explored as the library continued to strive to provide a sense of place for the residents of Hunterdon County. During the days that followed Hurricane Irene in August and the surprise snow storm in October, the library became a refuge during the day where patrons without electric, heat and internet service were able to come and recharge their equipment as well as their spirits. The library was even featured in a news segment on the Philadelphia news. "Job Zones" have been set up at Headquarters and North County Branch, and the staff is being trained by a program through the state library to better assist patrons. Monthly programs are also offered to assist patrons in their job searching skills. 14,553 Reference queries were answered at the Headquarters and North County Branch during 2011 and 1,790 items were borrowed through Inter-Library Loan from other libraries and the Hunterdon County Library lent out 2,506 items in return and OverDrive added the Kindle format to its platform allowing patrons with Kindle devices to take advantage of the library's eBook services.



Preschool Halloween Party



Harry Potter Party

## Downloadable Collection

Amazon made an announcement in September that the Kindle device would now be compatible with OverDrive's ebooks introducing many new patrons to our downloadable collection. The number of people who use the downloadable audio- and e-book service went from 219 unique patrons per month in January to 431 in December, a 97% increase in one year.

Overdrive started 2011 with 1,006 ebooks. By the end of the year, it was a struggle to keep up with demand, even though by then 4,605 ebooks were owned (multiple copies of 1,163 different titles) - a collection over four and a half times the amount with which the year started.

Downloadable audiobooks continue to be as popular as ever. Over 2011, our collection grew 19%, from 3,284 to 3,915 audiobooks (multiple copies of 2,198 different titles).

## Movies at the Library

The Friends of the Library funded a film performance rights license from Movie Licensing USA, allowing the library to show unlimited films from most of the major movie studios for one year. Movie Nights began with an Academy Award Nominated Series showing three high-interest films - *Inception*, *Toy Story 3*, and *The Social Network*, complete with pre-movie trivia. The library continued to make good use of the movie license showing movies on a regular basis throughout the year, including those shown as part of the Senior Sundays series.

## Youth Services Department and Programs

In 2011, the Youth Services Department had 717 programs, including story times and library tours, attended by 10,755 children and 5449 adults.

Summer program highlights included Rizzo's Wildlife, World Music with Daria, a play, a magician, and a traveling farm. The Summer Reading Club had 977 active participants who read 29, 075 titles!

The Teen Café at NCB was in its eighth year. In the summer, six programs had 193 participants. Programs included StarLab, Around the World Festival, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Teen Idol Talent Night. In addition to monthly Teen Café programs and the Teen Advisory Board, the Teen Café Writers Workshops continued into 2011. The Writers Workshops were held monthly and introduced enthusiastic attendees to a different genre at each meeting. The Workshops were funded through the generosity of the Friends of the Hunterdon County Library.

After an absence of several years, the Teen Café at HQ resumed in 2011. In the summer, five programs were held including tie dying, Japanamania!, and Mehndi.

In the fall of 2011, Tweenz programming resumed at both HQ and NCB. The programs are aimed at children in grades 1-6 and the participants have been very enthusiastic at such events as Let's Play Today!, and meeting Seeing Eye dogs.

The youth program highlight of 2011 was an incredibly well-attended Harry Potter Party that was held in July in celebration of the release of the final film of the series. Over one hundred children and teens came to the library to play trivia, make wands and potions, and enjoy Harry Potter-themed refreshments while watching one of the Harry Potter movies on the library's big screen.

Other highlights of the year include "Hunterdon's Got Talent," a talent show in September for children in grades 4 through 12, which drew a dozen acts; a Preschool Halloween Party that included crafts, games, snacks, a pumpkin decorating contest, and a costume parade around the library; a Twilight Prom held in November to celebrate the release of the fourth film in the series; and an Open Mic Night in December where teens were able to share their talents and enjoy coffee in a friendly, relaxed environment.



Hunterdon's Got Talent

## Year in Review 2011 Continued

The library continues to provide a variety of cultural, education and community events including:

- A live radio broadcast, Variety at the Library, a joint project between the library the community radio station WDVR
- The summer brought high temperatures but patrons enjoyed the cooler evenings on our lawn as we presented three outdoor concerts (a fourth concert scheduled was held indoors due to inclement weather). The series kicked off with the South American sounds of Eco del Sur. Over 300 people attended the SummerSwing Orchestra concert; people were dancing on the library lawn and in the streets. In August over 300 people sat (and danced) to the sounds of Robert Murdock and his band as they presented the nationally known program The British Invasion Tribute and the American Response.
- PAWS to Read, children of all ages reading to certified therapy dogs, continues to be popular at both the Headquarters and North County Branch locations.
- Tuesday evening Wii gaming and participating in National Gaming Day in November give tweens and teens a chance to show off their skills; and National Game Day was popular with patrons.
- The Hunterdon Central Regional High School Art Department presented their annual art show in the main gallery during January and the Fiddle Club performed afternoon concerts twice during the year
- Both the Headquarters and North County Branch Library welcomed student performers who presented concerts to full audiences as part of the regular concert schedule
- Fred Miller continued his ever popular series of song and lecture programs play always playing to full houses

During 2011 the library partnered with many community groups to bring information to the library and brought the library out into the community whenever possible:

- Bulk loans of books to nursing homes on a bi-monthly basis
- Bookmobile stops at a local assisted living facility every other week
- An every other week Bookmobile stop at the Franklin Township School during their construction provided library service to the students
- In March the library had a table at the NORWESCAP Child and Family Resource Fair held at the Hunterdon Medical Center highlighting resources we have available for caregivers in the county
- April is Autism Month and the library partnered with the Hunterdon Regional Autism Center to create a display in the lobby showcasing the resources the library and the center have to offer families and caregivers
- The Bookmobile participated in the Basil Bandwagon's Earth Day Celebration in April
- During May, the library partnered with the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce and was an attraction on their National Tourism Week promotion

## Year in Review 2011 Continued

- The library hosted a display of houses designed by fourth graders with the guidance of local architect Chris Pickell
- A book display was presented in May for Older American's Month
- The Hunterdon County Librarians Association held their annual Enthusiastic Reader Awards Ceremony at the Headquarters Library on May 19, recognizing enthusiastic readers from each school in the county; local illustrator Doris Ettlinger gave a presentation as part of the program
- The library brought the PAWS to read program to the Dvoor's Farmer's Market on two Sundays in the summer
- The Library had a table at the Salvation Army's Back to School Night in August, and event that provides children and their parents with resources for back to school
- A lobby display in August highlighted a consignment shop whose proceeds benefit Safe In Hunterdon
- The library had a booth in the Community Tent at the annual 4-H Fair
- "Discounts with your Library Card" through which local businesses offer discounts to Hunterdon County Library cardholders, provided a mutually beneficial marketing campaign for the second year in a row
- October found the bookmobile at the Sergeantsville Volunteer's Fire Company's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary open house
- October saw the launch of The Library Show, a weekly radio show, part of the Hunterdon Chamber Radio internet station, promoting library programs, services and all things Hunterdon
- The library also participated in the Chamber of Commerce Business & Home Expo & Restaurant Showcase in October giving members of the business community a chance to see what the library offers
- In October the library's circulation system was upgrading and the popular option of text messaging notification was added
- The Bookmobile participated in the County Parks' Touch-a-Truck in November
- HCL partnered with the Chamber of Commerce in December to host their annual Gingerbread Competition
- In December, Headquarters and the North County Branch hosted exhibits featuring a book illustrated by local author Loren Spiotta-DiMare who displayed his original artwork at the North County Branch and did a book signing benefiting Woodlands Wildlife preserve in Pittstown

## Volunteer Report

During 2011, 28 volunteers donated a total of 714 hours to the Hunterdon County Library at the Headquarters Library. The picture book relabeling project came to an end and staff and patrons at the libraries throughout the county are pleased with the results. Volunteers continue to help keep the library common areas and shelves tidy and worked on special projects such as indexing New Jersey Reference materials and local maps. Many students were able to volunteer at the library as part of community service projects; their service, even for a short time, was greatly appreciated and the students got to know their library a little bit better.

## South County Branch Library

The Friends of the Hunterdon County Library helped refresh the South County Branch Library with year by purchasing wooden shelves that go at the end of each row of shelving and a new section of shelving purchased for the Youth Services area, replacing a piece that had been repurposed from the North County Branch.

Flowers continue to bloom at the entrance to the library, the book group continues to thrive and story times and summer programs for children of all ages remain popular.

The addition of a laptop computer gives another station at which patrons can word process, search the library's databases or look for employment.

## Adult Summer Reading Club

The club continues to be a favorite with our patrons. During the summer, 119 club members read 1,424 books. As adult readers finished each book, they enjoyed submitting not only its title and a review, but, in keeping with 2011's "Novel Destinations" theme, also included the state or country in which their book took place. Through their reading, club members had been to outer space, cyberspace, imaginary and magical places, 2 planets and 62 countries, including 47 American states and 5 Canadian provinces.

Because of the generosity of the Friends of the Library, we were able to offer modest prizes to the best solver of each puzzle and scavenger hunt as well as to 17 club members chosen at random. Attendance at the End-of-Summer Party was good, as always, and a splendid time was had by all who came out to celebrate.



## Book Group Kits

Eighteen new book group kits were added to the library's collection in 2011, bringing the total to 78. Circulation of book group kits remained high with 88 checkouts for the year. Thanks are due to the Friends of the Library volunteers who, as they sorted through the Annual Book Sale's donations, looked for books we requested for making up new kits.

## 2011 Friends of the Hunterdon County Library Highlights

Installing state-of-the-art audio visual equipment in the Route 12 Library First Floor Meeting Room and Gallery gave the Hunterdon County Library the ability and quality to show first-run movies regularly. The Friends began funding the annual movie license in 2011.

The second phase of the Friendship Gardens at North County Branch Library was completed in the spring of 2011 making the front porch visible and adding color and textures to an already lovely entrance.

The silver lining to Borders Book Store going out of business: The Friends purchased CD shelves for a very reasonable price replacing the existing old, creaky inconvenient shelves at HQ.

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Book Sale, run entirely by over 250 Friends member volunteers, was held April 9-10. Being this early in the year meant that they experienced both a snowy day and a summery day within a couple weeks – sounds like spring in New Jersey! Proceeds benefited the Hunterdon County Library system including funding the hydroponic plants at both HQ and NCB, maintaining the aquarium in the Youth Department at HQ and sponsorship of multiple programs throughout the year. As in previous years, the Friends allocated funds to each of the seven affiliated community libraries.

Five \$600 “Books for the College Bound” Scholarships were awarded to graduating seniors from Hunterdon County at the HCL Annual Book Sale Volunteer Appreciation Party on June 2.

Amy Hollander of the Red Mill Museum Village spoke on “Elizabeth Grandin: Artist and Advocate” at the Friends’ Annual Dinner on September 30 and the Traveling Literary Theater presented “World War II Words & Music” at their December 7 program.

Ongoing projects include the book discussion club whose meetings alternate between NCB and HQ. The Outreach Committee also continued its services.



*New CD Shelves purchased from Borders by the Friends of HCL*

## Items Borrowed By Library Location 2011

Headquarters	593,445
North County	571,480
South County	106,731
Bookmobile	23,270
Bunnvale	39,868
Frenchtown	77,418
High Bridge	49,434
Holland	9,346
Readington	13,231
Tewksbury	50,783
Three Bridges	53,954
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,588,960</b>

## Circulation Statistics for the Year 2011

Books	879,431
Magazines	30,650
Music (CDs, cassettes)	81,550
Audio Books	79,744
Videotapes	5,188
DVDs	510,306
CD-Roms	795
Miscellaneous	1,239
Book Group Kits	116
eBooks*	4,246
Audio Books*	5,791
*These figures are not included in the Circulation Total	

## Adult Programming/Public Relations

### Programs at HCL Headquarters

The Hunterdon County Library Headquarters again presented an impressive schedule of adult programming, both in quantity and quality. 106 programs were held with 5,510 people in attendance. The variety offered was equally impressive, ranging from local authors to our large outdoor concerts.

The most popular shows for 2011 included performances by The Manhattan Dolls, Bluegrass Fiddler Travis Wetzel, the Outdoor Concert Series with new act The British Invasion Tribute, Eric Mintel's *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, and the Hunterdon Harmonizers.

Fred Miller again entertained full audiences with spring and fall series, A workshop for adult writers presented by Mia Siegert was popular as well. The library made good use of their movie license, showing a variety of themed series. This was especially welcomed by our patrons since the last movie theatre in Hunterdon County closed in 2011. The first Senior Summer Saturdays series offered the elderly a place to go each weekend in the summer for movies, yoga, and more. Be sure to read the 2011 Year in review for all the Public Relations Committee endeavors from last year.

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, Ms. Therese Summerill, as well as The Friends of the Hunterdon County Library.

### North County Branch Adult Programming

Adult programming at the North County Branch saw an increase during 2011: 93 programs were held, 32 more than during 2010; a total of 3,541 patrons attended these programs, almost 25% more than during 2010. Not included in these attendance figures are bi-monthly meetings of the Scrabble Club and the Fiber Artists, Wired4Hire, which meets once a month, or the Paws to Read programs during which children read to therapy dog. The therapy dogs also visited the Hunterdon Land Trust's farmer's market at Dvoor's Farm on the two Sundays the library was there.

Programs were offered in a variety of subject areas, though the two most popular program subjects this year were health and employment. In Programs on weight loss hypnosis, exercising with aging, yoga, singing bowls, and allergies were offered; to help those unemployed the Library worked in conjunction with the Greater Raritan Workforce Investment Board to present Workforce Wednesdays during which a guest speaker covering a different topic gave a presentation each month. Topics covered included interviewing skills, self-marketing, and utilizing social media. Seven of the musical groups hosted at the North County Branch Library had never played at the library before, introducing bands to library patrons while continuing to bring back perennial favorites. Patrons continue to offer feedback, and suggestions for programming ideas as the library continues to be proactive as it tries to reach the varying interests and needs of its community.



Paws to Read at Dvoor Farmers Market



The Summerswing Orchestra



New Bookmark Gallery on lower level



The British Invasion Tribute performs at the Outdoor Summer Concert Series