

REPORT OF THE SUTTON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

To the Honorable Town Administrator, Board of Selectmen and citizens of Sutton, the Board of Library Trustees and the Director of the Sutton Public Library respectively submit a report for July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007.

The Board of Library Trustees consists of three elected members: Carl Hutchinson, Chair; Jane Anderson, Vice-chair and Susan Robsky, Secretary. The Board and the Library Director meet regularly throughout the year to ensure that library operations run efficiently.

This year there was a change in the library administration when Cheryl Hansen resigned to take the position of Library Director of the Charlton Public Library. The Library Trustees selected Roberta Rothwell as the new Library Director and Mrs. Rothwell commenced her employment in April 2007.

Library Statistics increased since FY06 illustrating that the library continues to be a vital part of the community:

	FY06	FY07
Library Materials Owned	25,287	26,590
Total Circulation Transactions*	87,423	91,023
Interlibrary Loans	7,759	8,930
Registered Borrowers	2,313	2,661
Number of Programs	163	184
Program Attendance	3,711	4,945
Number of library visits	21,008	22,507
Number of hits on library website	3,657	8,165

*Circulation Transactions include checkouts, checkins, renewals and patron registrations.

Although the library facility may be small, the staff has responded to patron requests for various titles by utilizing Virtual Catalog, which searches for materials throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and WorldCat, which allows us to obtain materials outside the state. We have received materials from Wyoming, Illinois, Indiana and Virginia to fill patron requests.

The library became a wireless internet site in April, 2007. The Reference/Local History Room now includes four computer workstations, two printers and access on the network to a Laserjet printer at the Circulation Desk.

The Circle of Friends Community Partnership Council for Children provided monies again this year to fund several children's programs including Apple Tree Arts. Unibank generously donated \$1,750. Molly Johnson, Youth Services Librarian, continued offering a wide range of programs: the Summer Reading Program, Good Beginnings Story Time for ages 0-24 months, Toddler Story Times for ages 2 and 3, Pre-school Story times for ages 4 and 5 as well as special holiday programs such as Giggles and Goblins for Halloween.

The library website continues to be a source of timely information for Sutton residents. The website includes notice of upcoming programs, suggested readings, lists of all new acquisitions, pictures of recent events, a submission form for library patrons to suggest new purchases and a weekly trivia quiz. As noted above the website had 8,165 visits in FY2007.

The library continued its collaboration with the Sutton Senior Center and the Senior Tax Abatement Program. Ms. Jean Sullivan acts as a facilitator of a weekly knitting group which meets in the library Reference/Local History Room. Mr. Joseph Ballard does weekly cleaning, routine maintenance, gardening and other projects for the library. Both continue to volunteer their time and are valuable library resources.

The Friends of the Sutton Public Library is a non-profit group consisting of individuals, families and organizations committed to supporting the Sutton Public Library through an annual membership drive and several fundraising events. Ongoing sales items include the book sale in the library foyer, canvas tote bags and greeting cards. The Friends utilized these monies to support children's programs, a reception for the new director, and to purchase discounted museum passes which are available to all Sutton residents. The facilities covered by these passes are Higgins Armory Museum, the Ecotarium, Roger Williams Park Zoo, Wheelock Family Theater and the Massachusetts State Parks. The Sutton Garden Club donates the pass to the Tower Hill Botanic Gardens.

We want to thank our excellent staff: Carole Anderson, Andrea Baker, Erik Johnson, Molly Johnson, Pamela Johnson and Anna Madziar. Their friendly and helpful demeanor ensures that the library is a place where all feel welcome. In May the Trustees hosted the annual Employee Appreciation Luncheon at the National Grille where they presented library staff members with gifts in recognition of their dedication and hard work.

The Board of Library Trustees, the Director and staff thank everyone who has given us their support and interest during the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Roberta B. Rothwell, Library Director

Board of Library Trustees:

Carl Hutchinson, Chair

Jane Anderson, Vice-Chair

Susan Robsky, Secretary