

**Annual Report from the Director of The Buckland Public Library
For Fiscal Year 2012: July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2012**

Library hours: Tuesdays 2 - 8pm, Fridays 1 - 6pm, and Saturdays 9am - 1pm
Liz Jacobson-Carroll, Library Director, 413-625-9412

With the first full-year in the expanded and renovated library behind us, I am happy to report that the building is well-loved and well-used. Patrons came in increasing numbers and checked-out more materials than ever. Their cars frequently filled our new parking lot, and they continued to remark on how much they enjoy their library. The saying "If you build it, they will come" has proven to be true here on Upper Street.

We bid farewell to many members of the Board of Trustees this year, including Mary Ellen Jepsen, Edith Gerry, Mark Pichette, Lois Holm and Susan Garfield-Wright. Each of them devoted years of service to our community, and has our heartfelt thanks. We welcomed new members Susan Atherton (treasurer), Dale Ward, Cynthia Fisher, Catherine Russillo and Ann Bodkhe. Amy Love and George L. Dole remained, with the former serving as interim chair. While the board was in transition, we limited programming to story hours at the Mohawk Summer Camp/Buckland Recreation Area in July and August, and participating in the Mary Lyon Spelling Bee in the fall.

A variety of groups and individuals utilized the community room (while the library was closed) for meetings, book club gatherings, art and building design classes, writing workshops and private parties. While the library was open, patrons with laptops enjoyed the room's ample workspace and speedy wi-fi access; collectors searched the on-going book sale located at one end the room; a violinist rehearsed; and friends met for coffee. [The community room is available for public use, by prior arrangement, when the library is closed. It comfortably accommodates a dozen people at one large table, an instructor with a dozen students sharing smaller tables, or twice that number of guests seated in rows. The space includes a kitchenette with a sink, a small refrigerator, a microwave and a coffeepot. There is an accessible bathroom off the entryway. Anmarie Gardner, who has volunteered to coordinate reservations, may be reached by telephone at 625-6214.]

Patrons were busy computing on and off the premises. Our three public computer workstations, equipped with 21"-screen iMacs, were in use almost continuously. A stand-up station, with a fourth iMac, was reserved for patrons wanting to search the library catalog. As mentioned earlier, many patrons rely on the library's wi-fi access while they are inside and, when the library is closed, from their cars in the parking lot. Also this year, more patrons tried downloading audio-books, e-books and movies from the CWMARS catalog from the comfort of their homes.

Behind the circulation desk, we gained direct access to the collections of more libraries through the new (and still to be improved) circulation software implemented throughout the Central and Western Massachusetts Regional System (CWMARS). We exchanged 4-5 bins of materials through CWMARS each week, and we and relied on volunteers to re-shelve and pull dozens of titles every Tuesday and Friday. We struggled to purchase ample new books, audio books, magazines and movies to meet the demand created by more visitors, but generous patrons helped us to do so by donating recently published items to our collections.

Members of the Board of Trustees and I remain grateful to the Town for its contribution to the library's operating budget. We heartily encourage all residents who have not yet visited the renovated facility to do so soon. (New patrons can receive a library card in just a few minutes.) You will find an inviting atmosphere, comfortable seating, interesting and entertaining materials, and friendly neighbors.