

**Annual Report from the Director of The Buckland Public Library
For Fiscal Year 2013: July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013**

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

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute refers to The Buckland Public Library as a "Community Anchor Institution" within its fiber optic network. The term conjures a wonderful metaphor which, more broadly applied, suggests the role the library plays in our town. Many of us include the library on our weekly itinerary, often combining it with a trip to the Transfer Station, the Post Office, the high school, or a nearby farm stand. We come to the library socialize, to read, to study, and to find information and entertainment. Whether we visit occasionally, monthly, or multiple times a week, we know that it's a comfortable place to "drop anchor" for a while.

Members of the Board of Trustees, meeting monthly throughout the fiscal year, have our little ship on the right tack. George Dole (chair), Amy Love (secretary), Susan Atherton (treasurer), Ann Bodkhe, Cynthia Fisher, Catherine Russillo, Dale Ward, and Richard Warner have formalized subcommittees (for facilities, personnel, finances, and long range planning,) revised policies, and re-invigorated fundraising for operating expenses.

A handful of loyal volunteers, through their weekly efforts, have kept the library on an even keel. Lois Holm, Dianna Young and Ron Reniewicki routed books and movies to patrons throughout central and western Massachusetts, and maintained the shelving system here in Buckland; they began re-barcoding materials purchased prior to 2008 for faster sorting at CWMARS' newly automated facility. Ann Marie Gardner has continued to coordinate use of the community room, which is available whenever the library is closed, by book groups, town committees and other organizations.

The Landscape Committee has the place looking ship shape. Members have completed the first phase of their vision for a sustainable property by planting native shrubbery beside the entrance and evergreens alongside the parking lot. Sandra Jaquay-Wilson led plant lovers Polly Anderson, Kate Davenport, Randy Gobeil, Mike McCusker, and several trustees in the planning, purchasing, digging, planting and watering, watering, watering.

Trustee Ann Bodkhe navigated us through several fundraising initiatives this year, including an annual appeal, participation in the ShoeBox Recycling program, and a "progressive dinner" tour of historic homes in Buckland center. The latter, thanks to the generosity of neighbors Anderson & McCusker, Martha Thurber & Dena Wilmore, and Sue & Hank Samoriski (who each opened their homes and hosted 27 diners from Buckland and neighboring hilltowns) was successful by all measures. A wonderful crew of energetic volunteers (from three generations) who are too numerous to mention put our well-known Maple Breakfast fundraiser back on the calendar in late March.

Other programming included once or twice weekly story time at Buckland Recreation Department's summer camp and, with funding from the Cultural Council, a story hour complete with hand bells led by music educator Steve Damon here at the library. Of course we sent a crew to the Mary Lyon Foundation Spelling Bee in November. New and long-time patrons continue to access their CWMARS accounts on-line to download e-books and movies, and to request that bound books and DVDs be delivered to Buckland for their convenience. Our comfortable seating, wi-fi, public computers, coffee nook, and ongoing book sale also help to fill the parking lot.

In addition to acquiring new books, audio books, movies, and magazines through our own purchasing, we gratefully received materials from a couple of patrons who quickly read then donated the latest best-sellers. Another handful of friends facilitated the efficient circulation of all these new items by contributing to our technology budget, thus enabling us to replace the turn-of-the-century administrative computer with a speedy new machine.

Board members and I are thankful to the Town for its generous contribution to our operating expenses, and to the many individuals who donate time, money, energy and expertise to keep this whole endeavor afloat.