

Goffstown Public Library 2008 highlights

Year-to-Date: Cardholder numbers have been steadily increasing since the beginning of the year when expired cards were purged from the system in preparation for the Findlay Challenge (which will award \$25k to the library with the greatest % increase in cardholders); circulation has increased 8% ; Common Borrower Card usage (which allows cardholders at the Goffstown Public Library to utilize other network libraries and vice versa) has increased with Goffstown users borrowing materials from other network libraries up 4% and other library patrons borrowing from Goffstown down 0.6%

Our database usage has increased almost 7%, while our web page count has increased almost 62%. The Dear Reader Book Club has increased almost 12% and the Downloadable Audio has increased almost 117%

In terms of our programming, the total programs offered has increased 17% and in breaking that down the number of children's programs has increased 25%, the young adult programs have increased 250% and attendance at those programs has increased 83%. While the number of adult programs have decreased 14%, adult program attendance has increased 108% . The summer reading program had a total of 877 sign ups, which is an increase of 28% over 2007 numbers, and overall attendance has increased over 6%. And for the first time since 2005 the Library offered teen programs with 46 sign ups.

The Trustees would also like to have noted the increased usage the library sees in tougher economic times in terms of family recreation, children's programs, and providing a place for job search/research/application. This can be noted by the increase in network usage, which is up over 29% from 2007. Coupled with its acting as a resource to the schools in town, and being a vital part of home school programs, its importance to those hardest hit grows in tough economic times. During these times we look upon the Library not as just another town department but as a core resource to the taxpayers hit hardest by the economic downturn and the community as a whole.

While the library is asking for an 8.60% increase overall, after offsets by revenue and trustee money, the impact to the town drops to 7.77%. The trustees have committed to contributing \$4100 to the overall budget.

At the request of the CIP Committee, the Trustees submitted a CIP request for 2009 in the amount of \$600,000 for the purchase of land with the intention of expanding the library. We worked with Steve Griffin to come up with a "best guess" as to what it might cost to potentially acquire land and are prepared to contribute \$200k to the cost.

Lisa Iodice, Chair

Board of Library Trustees

September 29, 2008