

The Goffstown Public Library NOW

September 12, 2008

The Goffstown Public Library is an innovative public library serving a population of 17,696 in southern New Hampshire. We are a growing community and it is anticipated our community will continue the growth into the future. Our library has a good reputation throughout the region as being too big for our britches and by the fact we'll try practically anything! (The Vietnam Moving Wall, Eyes Wide Open Exhibit, the September Project)

Mission: Our mission is to offer access to quality educational, literary, technological and professional materials and programs to assist community residents of all ages in meeting their personal, educational and professional information needs

Goals of the Board of Library Trustees:

1. Continue to develop the organizational capacity to support the mission of the Goffstown Public Library.
2. Develop a 5-year strategic plan to further the needs of the community.
3. Continue to pursue opportunities for partnerships/ collaborative efforts to further the mission of the Goffstown Public Library.

Services: We are not your typical library and provide services usually found in larger communities.

For instance, we visit and deliver library materials to the homebound; the elderly, disabled, or those recovering from injury.

School-aged children can Read with Becke the Therapy Dog, a golden retriever who LOVES to cuddle and read with kids.

Use your library card to check out more than books! We provide books in many formats other than the traditional: books in large print, on cassette,

on CD, in an MP3 format, music, DVD's and videos, museum passes paid for by the Friends of the Library

We provide internet access on PC's on all three floors of our building in addition to a wireless network for those who bring in their own laptops. The wireless network can even be accessed from the parking lot when we're closed!

We offer occasional art exhibits on the 2nd floor and we make our own GTV & YouTube commercials! You can check them out from the link on our web site.

We are totally automated and part of the only multi-type library consortium in NH, GMILCS, Inc. Because of our membership we can provide our community with a far better library system than we could ever afford on our own. Through our consortium our cardholders have the ability to visit and borrow materials from other member libraries as well as to request materials that will be delivered to us for their use.

We provide access from your home to your library account and to research databases. Renew your own books or request items from any of the GMILCS libraries.

Programming: As of 2008 we are providing programming to the community for all ages, 18 months old through the elderly. Our youngest visitors engage in Mother Goose lap sit story times, preschool story time and craft programming, special family events and programming for teens, book discussion groups for teens and adult (2 per month), knitting and crochet club, The Blank Page Writer's group, and more. Our goal is to have special programming and events in addition to our monthly, regular programming.

In the last few years we have been programming more and more outside the library building. We do that because we don't have the capacity here for some of the large programs and family events we schedule.

Facility: Yes, our library building will be 100 years old in October, 2009! It is on the National Register of Historic Buildings and is truly a special place in our community.

Currently, on three floors, we are about 5,100 square feet and we are using every inch of this building. The lower, main level (formerly the basement) houses the children's room, small staff room and circulation desk, mechanical room, bathroom. The second floor displays our teen and adult collections, public PC's, limited work spaces. The third floor (formerly the attic) contains magazines, newspapers, a small reference area, local history collection, more PC's, a meeting room/ staff room. There are no offices in the building so all of us work in public spaces.

Outside we have a small parking lot with 8 spaces; in the rain that is reduced to 6 or 7. The most cars we've seen in our lot is 11 with the 12th blocking the entrance. There is no room for more parking; we're using all except the front lawn and we use that in the summer for outdoor programs.

Packets: Your packets contain a lot of detail, statistics, charts highlighting our growth and service. We do anticipate stagnation in the future as we max out with our space, parking and other resources.

QUESTIONS??