

# Report of the Goffstown Public Library

**100 Years:** In 2009 we celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our historic library building! Today, the Goffstown Public Library is one of the most innovative libraries in the state of New Hampshire despite our small size. We should all be proud! As a library staff, we have proven our dedication and commitment to our library and community by bringing home a coveted \$25,000 grant in competition with other public libraries in the state. We provide traditional library services like books for all ages, newspapers and magazines, but we've moved ahead with a state-of-the-art library system, public computers for the use of all who need them, books in a variety of formats, programs for the education, enlightenment, and entertainment of all and much more. We are bigger than the four walls that encompass the physical library as demonstrated by our commitment to the delivery of home services and other outreach efforts.

**Land Acquisition:** The Board of Library Trustees and the Board of Selectmen were successful in working with the Ray D. Donner Revocable Trust to purchase property next to the library building on High Street, adding about .7 acres. The Trustees spent \$260,000 from private donations to purchase the land and additional money to cover all costs associated with the purchase. There was no tax impact for the community by using this private money. Currently we are using the space for outdoor programming until money is available for a parking lot expansion and then in future years an addition to the library building. A picnic table has been placed on the grass for the community to enjoy and celebrate this green space in the middle of the Village.

**Building Program:** The Board of Library Trustees, library staff and consultant Cheryl Bryan completed the awaited building program and the Board accepted it at their March, 2009 public meeting. It details the condition of the current library building and collections as well as the needs for a future library in our community. Please take a look at the completed building program that can be found on our web site at [www.goffstown.lib.nh.us](http://www.goffstown.lib.nh.us).

**Finlay Challenge Purchases:** The library staff spent all year carefully spending the \$25,000 grant we received from the Karin and Robert Finlay Foundation last December. I believe we have done a good job spreading the purchases over all age groups and throughout the building. The items purchased include desks for staff members; better, more efficient shelving for DVD's, music and magazines; a picnic table for our new green space; a Wii system with LOTS of add-ons; three new PC's including two additional public computers; a Bose Wave Music System for the children's room; more Legos

(yay!!); a new LCD projector and projection screen; the Mango Language database subscription for two years; “Meet me at the Popcorn Stand” theatre project not covered by other grants; one Kindle DX e-reader and content; one Sony Touch e-reader and content; a plasma TV next to the circulation desk to advertise upcoming events; floor lamps for the third floor; two rocking chairs for the second floor; a long-desired button maker and a variety of small items for book displays. We are grateful for the support we received from the Goffstown community to win the year-long competition and to the Finlay Foundation for their very generous grant to benefit the entire community.

**Weekly Commercials:** Sandy Whipple and Jessica Stevens rose to the marketing challenge made by our friends at GTV by taping and editing an original commercial every week. They have had fun taping spots about our special programs and events (including our centennial celebration), our September Project, even one of our weekly van deliveries. Our most recent commercial can be seen on GTV and our body of work can be found on YouTube just by searching our name. Enjoy!

**Value of Library Services:** The NH Library Association has provided every library with a value calculator so that community members can tabulate the value of the services they use at their public library. We make the calculator available on our web site at [www.goffstown.lib.nh.us](http://www.goffstown.lib.nh.us). For instance every book, magazine, audiobook, music CD, reference question, program attended, etc. is given a dollar value. One just needs to input what is used to get the total value of services for the year. I took it a step further and tabulated our annual numbers for the entire community based on the statistics gathered in 2009. The result: the budget for the Goffstown Public Library was **\$653,952** in 2009. The value of our services to the community through the calculator was **\$1,517,757**, more than double what the library budget was.

The Goffstown Public Library has a conscientious staff dedicated to serving the community. Please thank them when you visit next! Also, I hope you will support the Friends of the Library when they fundraise to support our Museum Pass Program and advocate for the library. Your Board of Library Trustees has worked hard all year to plan for the future and purchased much-needed land for the growth of the library to better serve our community. All meetings of the Board are held on the third Wednesday of each month and are open to the public.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dianne G. Hathaway, Library Director