
Tucker Free Library

The Henniker community should be congratulated for supporting some form of a public library in town since 1889. Once housed in a rented room, our predecessors had the foresight to realize the importance of a library for this community. In 1903 the participants of the Town Meeting voted to accept the gift of a library from George Tucker and, subsequently, the land purchased by Henry A. Emerson. Our leaders recognized that this gift was the embodiment of the principles and values that a library afforded a community. This gift was hailed as "a monument, landmark, and record of freedom of thought." (Program for the dedication ceremony of the Tucker Free Library).

The gift of George Tucker totaled \$49,000. Of that \$16,811 (34%) was used to build the library. Today, the remaining \$32,189 (1905 amount) has a value of \$253,935 and provides 32% of the trust fund revenue generated by the Town Trust Funds for the Tucker Free Library. A study of Town Reports indicates that the Tucker Free Library has received, as interest from our trust funds, a total of \$992,152.18 since 1903. That is money that the library did not have to ask the town to supply through annual appropriations.

In 2009, the trustees received notification that the Tucker Free Library was one of three beneficiaries of the estate of Ann Soderstrom. The portion of the estate that the library was to receive was \$189,114. If it was decided to use the Ann Soderstrom money in a similar fashion to the George Tucker donation; 34% on building renovations and the remainder put into a trust fund, in 100 years this fund could be worth \$6,303,825. It has been suggested that we use some of the Ann Soderstrom money to bridge the budget gap in 2010. If we did the future value of the fund would drop to \$5,677,766. If all the money were put into a trust fund then the future value could be as high as \$9,551,192. If we are forced to bridge the budget gap with this money then the value is reduced \$626,059 to \$8,925,133.

This year we must ask the Henniker community to show their support for the Tucker Free Library. We need your help. Our budget was cut by \$16,080 for this fiscal year. We anticipate that we can bridge the gap with additional revenue generated by our trust funds but we still have a deficit of \$12,396 (\$8,367 increase in operation expenses and a \$3,020 decrease in revenue).

WHAT DOES THIS BUDGET CRISIS MEAN TO THE TUCKER FREE LIBRARY AND THEREFORE THE HENNIKER COMMUNITY?

- Hours reduced.
- Book budget reduced.
- Magazine budget reduced.
- Building maintenance/repairs reduced.
- Reduced utility costs through reduction of hours.
- Programming reduced.
- No computer equipment purchased or repaired.
- Personnel expenses cut.

For 105 years the trustees of the Tucker Free Library have guided the direction of growth of the Tucker Free Library. They have been deliberate stewards of an architecturally outstanding building in this town. They have, through their collective wisdom, provided this community with a cultural and educational resource that promotes that "knowledge and learning... are essential to the preservation of a free government." (RSA 202-A:1).

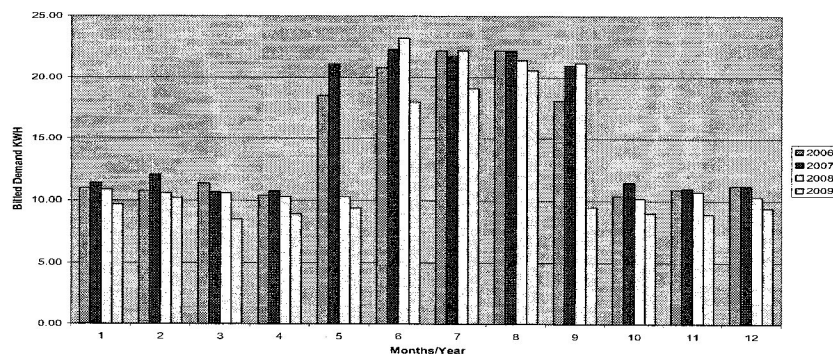
The Board of Trustees has been fiscally considerate when making appropriation requests from the Town of Henniker. Old town reports indicate that the library trustees have a long history of fiscal conservatism; making do, stretching every dollar, and trying to make the best decisions possible -- always with an eye on the taxpayers.

- The Board of Trustees has gone through the budget process with every other town department and acted responsibly when asked to make fair and proportionate cuts.
- At Town Meeting last year, the TFL Board reduced our appropriation request by \$5,454. It was also decided that we would forgo a vote on our expendable building maintenance trust fund, which saved the taxpayers an additional \$5,000. These were hard decisions, but like everyone else, the Tucker Free Library tightened its belt and made cuts.

Tucker Free Library (continued)

- One of the most commonly asked questions of 2009 was "Why aren't you planting shrubs and flowers in front of the library?" In light of the economic hardships that many members of our community faced, the Board of Trustees decided to address only the safety and building maintenance concerns posed by the front of our building. While all felt the cosmetic enhancement of a garden would be nice, they concurred that it was fiscally irresponsible to use tax dollars to make such cosmetic improvements. A fund was set up and so far \$500 has been donated to purchase plants for a garden area.
- The trustees also agreed that painting the exterior of the library and new carpeting should be delayed until the economy improved. They felt that since many members of our community were putting off their own home improvements, the library should do so as well.
- Fiscal responsibility also translates to the careful and deliberate utilization of heating and air conditioning equipment. The programmable thermostats at the Tucker Free Library are password protected. They are set at 67 degrees during the chilly fall and spring months while the library is open. Recognizing that some patrons may be coming to the library for warmth, the thermostats are set at 69 degrees during hours of operation in the harsh cold months of winter.
- During the summer, staff members open windows early in the morning and use box fans to draw in the cool air. Since humidity is the enemy of our library collection, it is only during the extremely humid weather that the air conditioner is actually employed.

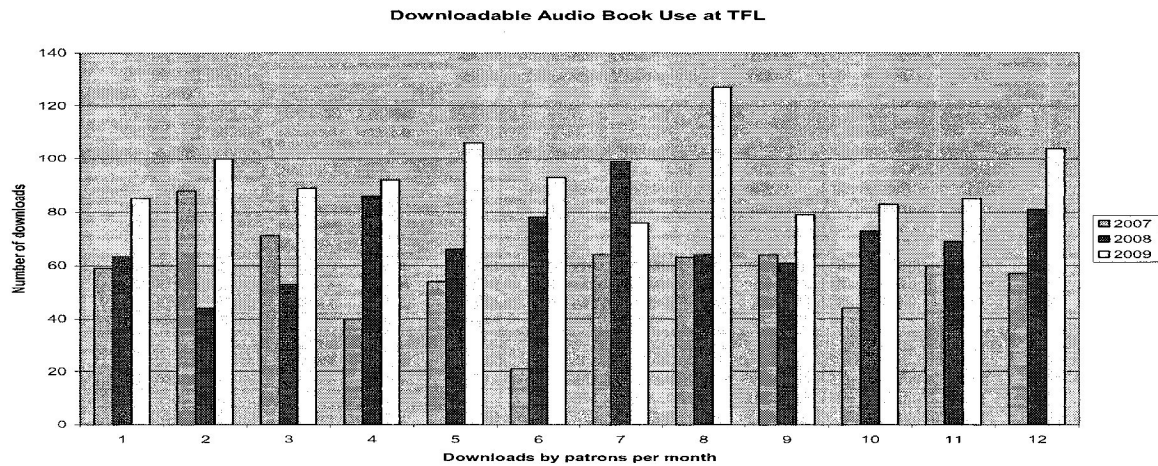
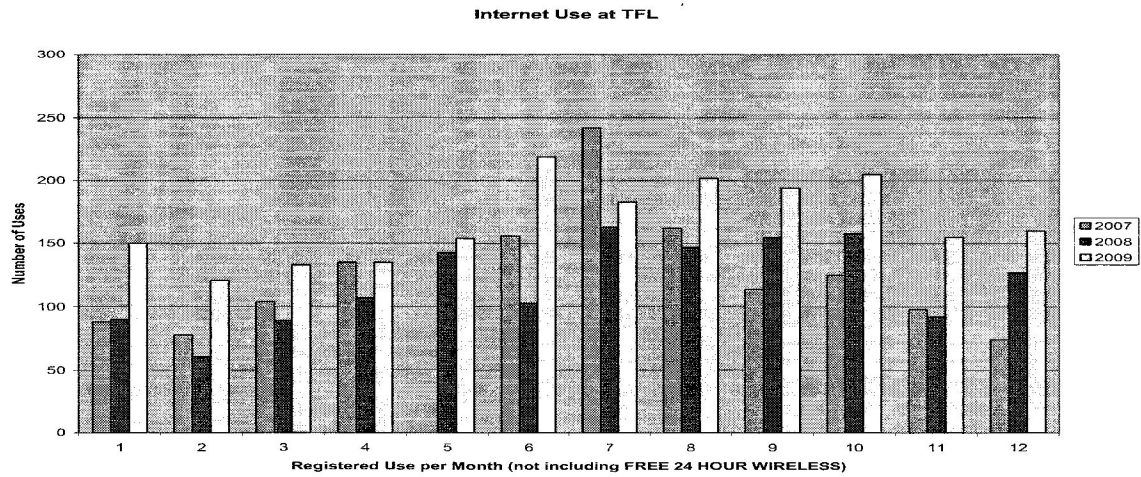
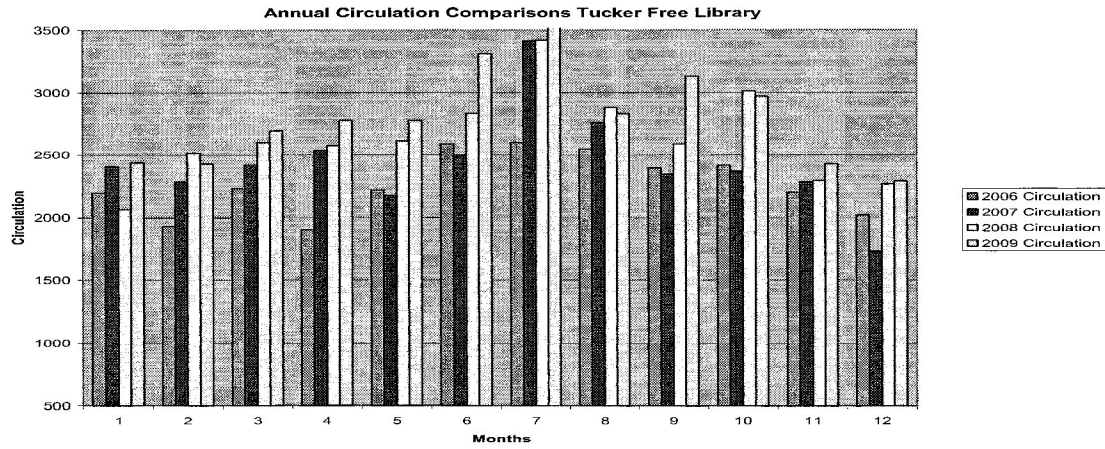
Electric Use At Tucker Free Library



In 1905 Henniker residents came to the Tucker Free Library to read periodicals, share knowledge, and borrow books. The Tucker Free Library of 2010 looks the same, but the service expectations of our community are so much greater and vastly more expensive. Computers, audio books, magazines, Kill-a-Watt meters and thermal heat loss detectors are just a few things that are now provided by the library. Books, DVD's, puzzles, and programs are things that people expect to find at their library. Even though the services are different, the building and what it means to this community remain the same. Not only is it a place that people come for educational purposes, it is a place that people turn to for essential services that they can no longer afford. Many days find people waiting to use the Internet computers at the library to look for jobs or file unemployment claims. It is a place where they seek entertainment. It is a place where they come to be warmed or cooled. It is a place where they come to feel that they are a part of this community.

In 2008 taxpayers realized a \$5.01 service value for every dollar appropriated to the library. In 2009, with increases in use in all categories of service at the Tucker Free Library, **that value has increased to \$7.06**. What does this number mean? It means that if everyone in Henniker had to go out and buy their reading materials, movies, magazines, audio books, and pay for the Internet service (including 24 hour wireless) that we provide **FOR FREE to ALL** members of the community, it would cost taxpayers **\$1,206,386.00!** (See Value Added Calculator)

Tucker Free Library (continued)



Tucker Free Library (continued)

Summary of 2009

- **Staff** The Tucker Free Library advertised for and hired our first children/youth services librarian in 2009. Since starting in October, circulation in the children/youth department has increased over 15%! This has been accomplished by reaching out to various organizations in the community to increase awareness of the library and the importance of reading for the children of Henniker. A strong programming base has been designed to bring in more kids and their families. These programs include:
 - Creation of a teen blog (<http://tfliteenreaders.wordpress.com/>).
 - Collaboration with the Henniker Teen Center.
 - Collaboration with White Birch, offering story times for preschool children.
 - New after school program targeting k-3rd graders.
 - Visits from Carrie, the Tail Waggin' Tutor, our resident reading therapy dog.
 - Involvement in various professional committees to learn how to better promote materials to children.
 - Collaboration with local athletic teams to promote reading. This includes our first ever incentive with the Manchester Monarchs as well as continuing to offer kids of Henniker tickets to the NH Fishercats and the Portland Seadogs.
 - Development of additional programs including our traditional summer program.
- **Board of Trustees** Jamie Ramsey was elected in 2009. Terry Simkin resigned in November 2009. Wayne Colby was appointed to replace him as vice chair. Patti Osgood, was named chair, while Jean Colby was asked to continue her duties as treasurer. Christine Putnam-Anderson and Jamie Ramsey share the duty of recording secretary.
- **Friends** The Friends of the Tucker Free Library assisted in funding several programs during the summer. They also continue to support the preschool story time.
- **Special Projects**
 - Received 4 Kill-a-Watt meters through a grant from PSNH.
 - Added two Thermal Heat Loss Detectors through a community service gift from Ayer & Goss.
 - Received a grant through the Kids, Art, and Books program to supplement our summer reading entertainment budget.
- **Computers/Internet**
 - Installed a second Internet line for added system security.
 - Installed a second file server. This enables us to segregate our public access computers from our administrative computers to build our infrastructure beyond current capacity.
 - Installed nComputers and added additional public access Internet computers.
 - Utilized a special nonprofit organization to purchase software at a greatly reduced cost. Through this organization we were able to purchase \$4,319 worth of software necessary to run our entire computer system for \$180.
- **Building Improvements -- Completed**
 - Outlets added along south windows of Main Floor to allow for fans to be used in windows. Cost: \$855.67.
 - Outlets added on the Main Floor to accommodate additional Internet computers. Cost: \$433.10.
 - Fourteen discolored light covers on the Main Floor were replaced to realize the maximum benefit of the 2008 lighting retrofit. Cost: \$639.50.
 - Deteriorated planters on front landing removed. Overgrown shrubs removed. New drip line installed. Mulch islands installed. Cost: \$890.
- **Building Improvements -- Outstanding**
 - Exterior trim and windows need to be painted. 2008 Quote 1: \$7,500; Quote 2: \$11,487. This improvement will become more expensive in April 2010 if lead paint is found on the exterior. New federal regulations will add significantly to the labor and associated costs of this project.
 - South windows on Main Floor need to be refurbished. These windows have become a safety hazard as the ropes disintegrate. 2009 Quote: \$2,980.
 - Carpeting on Main Floor and lower level needs to be replaced.
 - Locks installed in areas not easily monitored by library personnel. Quote: \$4,790.
 - Panic strobe and audible signal installed between floors. Quote: \$1,475.
 - Enhanced video surveillance in the building to cover understaffed/secluded areas. Quote: \$11,468

Tucker Free Library (continued)

- **Donations & Trust Funds**

- On October 6, 2009 the Board of Trustees held a Public Hearing to accept a \$5000 donation from the estate of Helen Cammett. The Tucker Free Library was named beneficiary of her life insurance policy. Helen was a children's librarian working for the city of Lynn, MA. She died February 18, 2009.
- On October 6, 2009 the Board of Trustees held a Public Hearing to accept a donation from the estate of Ann S. Soderstrom in the amount of \$189,114.81. The Tucker Free Library was named as a beneficiary in her last will and testament. Ann was a long time patron of TFL; most recently she was a home delivery client. She died August 11, 2008.
- Additional donations were also received from:

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| • Mary Jo Faulkner for Hazel Gilbert |
| • Arthur & Sally Kendrick for Hazel Gilbert |
| • Fred & Carol Brunnhoelzl for Hazel Gilbert |
| • Rodney & Carolyn Patenaude for Hazel Gilbert |
| • Karla Meyette for Hazel Gilbert |
| • Steve & Linda Connor for Hazel Gilbert |
| • David & Kathy Dunlap for Hazel Gilbert |
| • Davis & Towle for Hazel Gilbert |
| • Katherine & Stuart Patenaude for Hazel Gilbert |
| • Helen Connor for Hazel Gilbert |
| • Jennifer Connor for Hazel Gilbert |
| • Pat St. Laurence for Hazel Gilbert |
| • Pat St. Laurence for Charlotte Brunnhoelzl |
| • Katherine & Stuart Patenaude for Charlotte Brunnhoelzl |
| • White Mt Capital Matching for Hazel Gilbert |
| • Henniker Rotary for Walter K. Robinson Fund |
| • Clarence & Lois Fitch for Robert Fitch Fund |
| • Alicia MacLeay for Mary F. Kjellman Fund |
| • Patte Silva Bowser In honor of Isabel Bowser |
| • Amy Patenaude |
| • Scott & Carolyn Turner for General Fund |
| • B.J. Entwisle for Vivian Allen |
| • William & Myra Hood for Vivian Allen |
| • Eva Holbritter for Vivian Allen |
| • Bonnie's Book Group for Vivian Allen |
| • Mark & Lynnea Koester for General Fund |
| • Dr. & Mrs. David Coletti for Vivian Allen |
| • Rebecca Weber for Vivian Allen |
| • Bonita & David Conway for Vivian Allen |
| • Linda C. Correll for Vivian Allen |
| • Anne Sayce for General Fund |
| • Jan Warburton for Vivian Allen |
| • Henniker Rotary for Team "O" Chili Win |
| • Ayer & Goss for Thermal Heat Loss Detectors |
| • Rebecca & Peter Josephson for General Fund |
| • Martha Nemiccolo for Mary F. Kjellman |
| • Becky Holmes for Francis O. Holmes |
| • Carolyn & Rodney Patenaude for Robert Fitch |
| • Judith Englander for General Fund |