

# Tucker Free Library

## Town Report

### 2005

As the new director of the Tucker Free Library I write this reflecting on all that has been achieved and overcome at the library this year. Our biggest accomplishment of the year was the installment of a new circulation system that allows the Henniker community to access the library catalog from their homes.

The web-based catalog provides the Henniker community with time-sensitive access to our library collection from the comfort of their homes via the Internet. In addition to searching our collection, residents may also consult their personal library records to determine how many items they currently have checked out, what items on their record may be overdue, if any fines are on their record, or if books they have placed on hold are available. By mid-summer 2006 additional upgrades in the software will enable patrons to interact with the Tucker Free Library so they can place holds, renew materials, or receive notices via the Internet.

Most markedly, building issues have consumed the time and resources of the facility staff. An ice dam in February resulted in a temporary emergency roof repair and follow-up permanent repair to eliminate the problem. In June the Tucker Free Library suffered damage as a result of a lightning bolt that struck in the proximity of our building. The resulting electrical surge damaged a smoke detector, an electronic component in our alarm box, the magnetic fire door holders, and two circulation computers. During October the main computer that runs the circulation program malfunctioned and crashed. This required the staff to complete every patron interaction manually for a period of five days while the file server was repaired and data was restored. November was a cold month at the library. It was determined that our main furnace was malfunctioning and presented a hazard to occupants. It took a week to get a new furnace delivered and installed, during which time the staff of the library endured the cold working conditions and kept the library open. It has been a year of challenges but, in the end, the staff of the Tucker Free Library has dealt with each ordeal professionally and with confidence.

Library personnel have been working to bring more people into the library. This past summer the librarian at the Henniker Community School provided Tucker Free Library with a summer reading list. With this list and funding from the Friends of the Tucker Free Library, staff was able to acquire all the materials on the list. A young adult collection was developed on the Main Floor to address the reading needs of the youth of Henniker. This collection bridges the gap that existed between juvenile books (reading level 3rd-6th grade) and the adult collection. Staff members have also been working on the organization of the library collection. The science fiction, fantasy, large print, and audio collection have all been reconfigured to enhance the usability of these areas.

This year Tucker Free Library was approached by the Project Pericles Community Service Work-Study Program at New England College to serve as a host site for their students. Many projects on the Tucker Free Library to-do-list were checked off with the assistance of two students.

The Friends of the Tucker Free Library continue to provide unflagging support of the library. The Friends group supports our annual summer reading program for the children of Henniker. This support includes not only funding the program but assisting with events held as part of the annual reading program. We are especially grateful to the officers of the organization, Mary Corsetti, Janine Bates, Marilyn Borgendale, Laurie Goldberg, and Marilyn Knapp. As a testament of the support this community has for Tucker Free Library, at their annual Friends of the Tucker Free Library October Booksale, donated baked goods poured in throughout the morning and a record amount of money was raised despite the torrential downpour that pounded New Hampshire that day.

Our Pre-School Story Time was moved from Wednesday mornings to Tuesday mornings this fall. Jennifer Astholz, the volunteer coordinator for the story time, continues to provide a warm, welcoming atmosphere for mothers and toddlers. An adult book discussion group called Talk It Up at Tucker Free was started this past fall. Three books have been discussed at monthly meetings. This program is facilitated by library personnel and multiple copies of the books for the group have been brought in through the interlibrary loan program offered by the State Library. Finally, a holiday craft program was sponsored by the library for Henniker children in December.

The Friends of the Tucker Free Library provides not only volunteer support of library programs but significant financial support of special projects. This support includes complete funding of our Summer Reading Program. The Friends of the Tucker Free Library also provide funds for other special purchases throughout the year. This year they paid for two computers that we had to replace because of the lightning strike.

The Henniker Rotary donated \$150 this year. This money was used to purchase 2005 Great Stone Face books for the juvenile collection.

Memorial donations from community members included: Nancy Hopkins, Stuart & Katherine Patenaude in memory of Betty Boucher, Alice & Dave MacLeay in honor of Martha Kjellman, Ephraim & Elizabeth Dobbins in memory of Suzanne Dobbins. Unspecified donations to the Tucker Free Library were made by Jon Clancy, Lisa Hall, and Barbara Sherman. The library also received non-monetary donations from many Henniker residents. These donations include books, videos, puzzles, CDs, DVDs, audiocassettes, and magazines.

Proceeds from long established funds continue to greatly benefit the operation of the library and also allow the purchase of equipment, books, and other media in specific categories. These funds include the Marjorie B. Bennett, Scott J. Berry, Anna L. Childs, D&W and E.L. Cogswell, L.A. Cogswell, Willis Cogswell, Alice Colby, James W. Doon, Robert N. Fitch, Francis O. Holmes, A.D. Huntoon, Mary F. Kjellman, Henry Preston,

and George W. Tucker Funds. The library not only appreciates the financial gains from these bequests, but also the honor of having the memories of past members of the Henniker community perpetuated at the Tucker Free Library.

The library gratefully acknowledges that all its plans and accomplishments are made possible because of the outstanding commitment that the Town displays toward this institution. The mission of the Tucker Free Library is to fully serve the needs of the community and we will continue to strive to achieve that goal.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn M. Piotrowicz  
Library Director

STATISTICS FOLLOW ON NEXT PAGE

**TUCKER FREE LIBRARY  
2005 INVENTORY REPORT**

**ITEMS ADDED TO THE COLLECTION**

**BOOKS PURCHASED**

Adult Fiction	500
Adult Non-Fiction	215
Junior Fiction	108
Junior Non-Fiction	19
Early Reader Fiction	119
Early Reader Non-Fiction	32
Young Adult Fiction	80
Young Adult Non-Fiction	7

**OTHER MATERIALS**

Audio Cassettes and CDs Purchased	91	
VHS and DVDs Purchased	56	1227

**GIFTS**

Books	152		
VHS and DVDs	74		
Audio Cassettes and CDs	26		
Puzzles	13	265	1492

**ITEMS WITHDRAWN FROM THE COLLECTION**

**BOOKS**

Adult Fiction	513		
Adult Non-Fiction	179		
Junior Fiction	27		
Junior Non-Fiction	1		
Early Reader Fiction	48		
Early Reader Non-Fiction	3		
Young Adult Fiction			
Young Adult Non-Fiction		771	

**OTHER MATERIALS**

Audio Cassettes and CDs Purchased	231		
VHS and DVDs Purchased	138		
Puzzles	7	376	1147

**CIRCULATION 2005****27797**Inter-Library Loan  
Transactions

## Successful

TFL as LENDER to other libraries	223
TFL as BORROWER from other libraries	465
	688

## Unsuccessful

TFL as LENDER to other libraries	125
TFL as BORROWER from other libraries	76
	201

TOTAL ILL TRANSACTIONS	889
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