

## TUCKER FREE LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017

During the next year trustees hope to complete an architectural study of the Tucker Free Library. Several factors have prompted this inquiry: an aging chairlift, the need to keep our children safe while in the library, the lack of an official programming space, and a recurring demand for public meeting space.

In 1990 an addition was built to accommodate a chairlift. The chairlift has unfortunately become more of a problem than a solution. The aging components of the control panel are temperamental, leading to frequent safety shut-offs. These shut-offs render the lift inoperable. Service calls cost a minimum of \$200 per visit to reset these safety brakes or replace defective parts. Also, many of the electric wheelchairs that are now used exceed the posted weight limit of the lift (450 LBS). Turning people away because the lift is broken, not able to accommodate their equipment, or the perception that it isn't safe is a significant barrier to service for our community library.

A public accessible handicapped bathroom was built in 1995. This bathroom, located in the lower level, is in the hallway adjacent to the children's department. The location of this bathroom sets up an uncomfortable situation where unknown adults are traversing the department where our youngest patrons gather. Often these adults interrupt scheduled activities as they pass through the rooms, distracting the children from their learning activities.

Sunday programming has become an integral part of our weekend service. These programs are offered on the Main Floor. Attendance has ranged from 12 to 80, averaging 40 people. During the program, services on the Main Floor are impacted. Lights are often dimmed, staff members whisper during circulation transactions with patrons, and our new materials on display in the area become inaccessible.

We are asking for \$10,500.00 to conduct this architectural assessment. The goal of the study is to provide guidance on how we can better use our building; determining the feasibility of replacing the lift, adding handicapped bathroom facilities, creating a dedicated programming space, and making available the meeting space that has been requested by town residents. The trustees will be seeking the input of the community, working to create a building plan that will accommodate the needs of our town while honoring the aesthetic of Tucker Free Library.

## SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE TUCKER FREE LIBRARY BY...

Lynn M. Piotrowicz, M.A., M.L.S  
Director

Patti N. Osgood, Chair  
Jamie Ramsey, Vice Chair  
John Capuco, Treasurer

Deb Kreutzer, Secretary  
Angelica Ladd, 9/2017  
Emily O'Rourke 1/2017-6/2017

## A CALL TO ACTION. HELP TRUSTEES BUILD FOR THE FUTURE...

1. **Support Tucker Free Library warrant articles at Town Meeting. Vote to fund a complete architectural study of the building.**
2. **Volunteer to serve on the Library Building Committee. We are looking for individuals with knowledge of building design, architecture, project management, and general construction. This group will serve as advisors to the trustees, providing technical expertise while guiding the process of planning for the future utilization of space.**
3. **Join the Friends of the Tucker Free Library and help us build grass roots support for the project.**
4. **Consider making a financial gift in support of the project.**

At the 2016 Town Meeting the trustees sought your support for the establishment of a Capital Reserve to fund the replacement of the library roof. Voters have thus far appropriated \$40,000 to this fund. We are requesting a final \$13,000 to complete the project during the summer of 2018 at a total cost of \$53,000.

In April we were informed that our boiler needed to be replaced. Fortunately, money was available in our building maintenance trust but the boiler replacement depleted those funds. It is for that reason we are asking that you vote to appropriate \$5,000 to this fund that has been traditionally used for unexpected, emergency repairs to the library facility.

## IN MEMORIAM

The trustees and staff of the Tucker Free Library would like to honor the memory of Betty Rood who worked at the library from 1991 until her retirement in 2009.

Those who worked with Betty knew how committed she was to making a difference in each life she touched. Many of us have our favorite Betty stories. We also remember her generosity, her gigantic heart, her wit, as well as her Yankee sensibilities. As written in her obituary, "Betty was known by, and knew, virtually every child in town...Henniker, its children and the community in which they now live and prosper are richer for her efforts." REST IN PEACE, DEAR FRIEND.

