

LIBRARY DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL BUDGET

1991-1992 has seen many changes at the M.G. Parker Memorial Library. The leaky roof has been replaced along with the damaged ceiling tiles. New lighting in the main rooms and the back area has lowered the problem of eye strain and a change in the location of the children's room has increased the level of service and reduced the vandalism in the upstairs room.

We discovered very quickly what cooperation means in Dracut when the lower level filled with water during Hurricane Bob. Fortunately, our part-time caretaker Rene Fitzgerald was on top of the situation and immediately requested help from the Fire Department. Over a period of time, all water was removed and clean up began. With the assistance of the Highway Department and other willing hands, the materials were moved to the large meeting room, the destroyed rugs removed and evaluation begun. This part of the older library had flooded before. The drainage system could not be relied upon therefor the room was no longer usable as a pre-school area. Rather than have parents forced to choose between helping the little ones select a book or working with the older child on research, the Board of Trustees decided to create a unified children's room. Additional shelving was needed and a community fund drive has almost paid the total bill. Parents and children are enjoying the unified room, not only because of the easy access to all materials but because Maureen Riordan, our Children's Librarian is constantly available for help everyone. Less time is spent running between floors and more on creative children's programing and services.

Re-establishing the Adult Friends of the M.G.Parker Library took place in 1991. The combined Jr. and Sr. Friends, now known collectively as "The Friends" when a project or party takes place, held the first, annual book and yard sale, a complete and exhausting success. They hosted the annual Christmas party which found over 200 children braving the only snow storm of the year to make an ornament and, of course, meet Santa. Both groups need more members and a Friends Drive will be held each spring. As these groups grow their assistance in planning and sponsoring special events, projects and donations for the community through the M.G. Parker Library will increase.

There is a down side to the year. Budget problems cost the community the familiar faces of Mali and Maria Stuart and Christine Livingston at the circulation desk and the books began to collect without Donna Shurtleff to put them away.

Without their help, the library hours were cut almost in half. In October, after 24+ years of serving library patrons, Helen Niemaszyk retired leaving a space that will be hard to fill. "Bumping" within the union brought us one bright spot when Mary Hamilton become a part of the Libray Staff. Originally assigned to circulation, Mary is temporarily acting as Office Manager, working in circulation and in any other area when needed.

Though the hours have been drastically cut the circulation has not dropped proportionally. Our staff of 5 is working very hard to keep up. Doris Talty finds herself knee deep in books as she works both circulation and inter-library loan, often with patron lines stretching to the door. Student research began a little earlier this year and Jeanne Roy is working double time to help with the different projects. It takes hours of searching through reviews to select materials that will solve all the needs but if we still don't have the material at this library she will help students obtain the materials from other libraries. We still add new materials but donations play a large roll in keeping our shelves well filled. Dot Isherwood moves between the computer and the typewriter as she readies the books for circulation. This is one of the very few libraries that keeps an up-to-date card catalog for the patrons and Dot depends on volunteers to help with all the filing.

In short, patron numbers, circulation and reference questions are increasing while our ability to help is being stretched very thin. Until the financial situation improves, I see no changes in the hours or staff. However, we are open, we can help and we do!

The Hours at the Library
Monday and Tuesday 1-8
Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 10-5

Phone Numbers are
454-5474 or 454-5475 our fax number is 454 9120

For the Board of Trustees

John Katin
Mary Lee Matthews
William Sullivan

Respectfully Submitted
Susan A. Schwarz, Director