



Windham Public Library Report
September 2014



Mission, Success, Measurement

One way that the library defines success at our mission is by providing a robust collection of materials that provides accurate and up-to-date information in a variety of formats. We measure that success by purchasing new materials and weeding out old materials on an ongoing basis.

In my proposed budget for 2014-2015, I stated that we could improve in this area by increasing access to materials utilizing the statewide consortium Minerva. By doing so, we will be able to provide our cardholders access to millions of library materials from libraries across the state. I am pleased to say that we have officially been accepted into the consortium during this fall's round of applications. This is a goal that the library staff members began talking about and working toward as far back as 2004 when the consortium was just getting off the ground. It is exciting that this has finally come to fruition and we have begun to make the final transition. Library staff members will soon be completing the huge undertaking of re-barcoding the entire collection. This project entails replacing a four or five digit barcode in each of our ~40,000 item collection, with a new 14-digit barcode. Some of our items had the 14-digit barcode but the vast majority did not. Staff members began this project in January and worked very hard in order to complete it in time to join the consortium by December. In the upcoming weeks and months we will be working with consortium staff members to convert all our records into the new system and train staff on the new software and delivery system. Exciting changes to come!

What's going on?

Two new staff members began at Windham Public Library at the end of the month. Please welcome Lisa Schadler and Jennifer Dupree to Windham.

At our September Book Club meeting, author John Searles (and his dog Ruby) joined the group via Skype. The Book Group read John's latest book *Help For the Haunted* for their August meeting. The author is visiting one book club in each of the states on his 50 States Book Club tour. The Windham Public Library was the first library in Maine to request that John join our group and was chosen to host him at our September meeting. John chatted with the group and answered their questions. It was an enjoyable visit and he was a great guest! The group hopes to host more authors via Skype in the future.

24 healthy beautiful monarch butterflies were tagged and released this year at the library. We had 6 releases between September 3rd and the 8th. The folks who were raising them at home had mixed results with most of them releasing at least one butterfly. Interest in the project was constant and we have a list of 12 families who would like to raise them off site next year. Reports will be prepared and submitted to Monarch Watch who tracks the tagged butterflies.

We had more than 25 folks stop by for a bit of good food and great conversation at tea on September 2. A veggie platter was prepared by our director, Jen Alvino, who co-hosted and Parker hermits, cheese and gluten-free crackers rounded out the menu.

Bug Safari, a story Walk at Lippman Park, supported by the Windham Public Library, opened in mid-September. The book is available in the Children's Room for families to borrow.

Upcoming events:

Halloween Adventure, Manchester School, Friday, October 24, 892-1905 to register

Family Literacy Fun Day, Windham Primary School, Saturday, November 1, 10am-1pm, Anne Sibley O'Brien, featured author/illustrator

Friday, October 17th from 1-3PM in the Meeting Room Part 1 of "Genealogy: How to get started researching your family history"

Friday, October 24th from 1-3PM in the Meeting Room Part 2 of "Genealogy: Hands-on Researching (bring your own laptop) Presented by Nancy Miliken Mason, a local Genetic Genealogist. Please call Barbara @ the Library – 892-1908 - for more info

<p><u>Monthly Statistics</u> Attendance: 7,023 Items circulated: 8,109 New library patrons: 56 New items added to collection: 335 Special Requests: 92 Reference questions answered: 111 Computer sign-ins: 688 Meeting room usage: 37 Downloads used: 420 checkouts, 13 new user registrations Items repaired: 37 Bills for un-returned materials: 15 (6 adult; 9 children) Volunteer hours logged: 114.5</p>	<p><u>Book Group: 12</u> <u>Knitting Group: 4</u> <u>Story Time</u> Preschool Story Time— 7 sessions, 20 Adults, 30 Children Books and Babies— 5 sessions, 53 Adults, 62 Children Children's Museum – 4 uses Dundee Park – closed for the season Maine State Park Pass – 2 uses (3 days each) Maine Wildlife Park – 10 uses Planetarium – 1 use Willowbrook – no uses PASS USAGE SAVED PATRONS \$340</p>
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Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer A. Alvino
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Library Director
Windham Public Library