

A Letter from the Director

Dear Patrons,

With a wealth of resources that includes extensive collections of books, magazines, newspapers, DVD feature films ... services such as high speed Internet Access, family programs, educational lectures, story times ... Senior citizen programs such as books to the homebound, AARP tax assistance ... Children's programs that enhance children's literacy skills ... Young Adult programs that promote community service ... your Library is a vital part of your local community. 7314 residents have Port Jefferson Free Library cards and use them – that's 93% of the local population!

The 2007-2008 budget was prepared with an eye to economy and accountability. This proposed budget reflects an estimated tax increase of only 4.4% over last year, for a tax rate of \$10.02 per \$100 of assessed valuation. For the average home assessed at \$4,000, the estimated total library tax would be approximately \$400 annually. That's less than the cost of a year of cable Internet access. On a weekly basis, it's less than the cost of a movie ticket. That's a small investment to make in a service that does so much for so many local residents.

Please support the ongoing public mission of your library, and vote on Wednesday, April 18, 2007.

Sincerely,

Tara D'Amato

Tara D'Amato



Children participate in our Summer Reading Program grand finale celebration.



Budget Proposal Highlights

To better serve our school age children, this proposal includes staying open on Sundays through June. It includes additional expenditures for computer equipment and services, which are now the foundation of our reference service. Along with every other public entity in the state, we face mandated increases in contributions to retirement premiums, which we are phasing in to lessen the overall impact on the budget. The rising price of fuel, which has increased more than 25% over the past year, has affected all of our suppliers and has been factored into this budget. Two additional part-time clerical positions, which are needed to keep up with the increasing volume of library transactions and programming, are included in this proposal. Finally, the entire expense of the Book Store project is being covered through a transfer from designated funds. 🏠

Improved Services, Better Programs

This past year, we have improved and expanded services. Our public computers were upgraded to provide faster Internet access and the latest software. We have expanded our computer classes to include more courses for beginners, as well as classes on how to use new services like downloadable audio books. We have started a monthly Foreign Film festival to showcase our extensive collection. An online reading group was also organized, and already has over 75 members. The Library has also expanded services by installing and maintaining high speed wireless Internet access at the Port Jefferson Village Center. You can now access all of our research databases for free at this location. We have made improvements to our business operations, which included changing our bank accounts to ones which earn a higher rate of interest. Both our custodial services and security services are now managed by the Library instead of an outside vendor, resulting in a significant savings, as well as providing improved reliability and service. 🏠



Port Jefferson Free Library

100 Thompson Street • Port Jefferson, NY 11777

A Very Busy Year

- You laughed, cried or were captivated by **109,320** videos and DVD movies.
- You met new characters and journeyed to different times and places in the **36,926** novels checked out.
- You learned at least **28,752** new topics through non-fiction books.
- Children read **57,692** stories and used **15,807** nonfiction books.
- You asked **45,270** questions, which were expertly answered by our Adult and Children's Reference librarians.
- Our computers with high speed Internet access were used **10,215** times.
- **2,439** adults discovered something new by attending one of our **182** programs, films, workshops, lectures or book discussions.
- **13,393** children were delighted by **714** storytimes, crafts, sing-alongs and other learning experiences.
- **536** people connected to the world by using the Library's free Internet service to visit web pages from home.
- **568** adventurous people learned how to use their computer, surf the Internet or use a digital camera through our free computer classes.
- Bridge players, Mother's Clubs, civic organizations, Girl Scouts and other community groups booked our meeting rooms **178** times.
- **32** local artists displayed their creativity in the Library's gallery spaces. 🏠



L to R: Children attend an educational performance. Staff members ship-out a donation to our troops, collected and prepared by the Young Adult Advisory Board. Parents and children enjoy a storytime and craft.

More Than Just Books!

As you can see by the numbers, our library is an exciting place! More than 1000 people a day walk through our doors. Overall, circulation of Children's and Adult book titles remains at the same rate as the previous year while media circulation has decreased by a slight 1%, likely due to the availability of DVD by-mail service and on-demand TV. Also, periodicals circulation has decreased by 1% overall, following a trend of more people using the Internet as their primary means of accessing news and current information.

Library computer services transactions have increased by 12% over last year's levels – a significant jump. More library computer classes, the availability of wireless Internet service in the Library and upgraded computer equipment would account for some of the increase in computer use. Nationwide, adoption of Internet access at home grew at an astounding rate this year, with 73% of Americans having home access and 42% having high speed (broadband) access. Overall, more people are on the Internet and are finding it easier to shop and pursue hobbies, interests and research online – and this trend is reflected in your Library use.

Finally, we are pleased to note a 17% increase in program attendance as well as a 6% increase in Reference transactions over last year. Your library continues to be a valuable source of cultural and educational activities to enhance the lifelong learning needs of everyone from preschoolers to retirees, and the numbers prove it.



A patron gets help from one of our librarians.

