

Director's Report for May 2007

May circulation (6745) increased by 15% (893) from April (5852). It increased by 58% (2586) from this time last year (2486). Comparing the totals from January through May during the past 2 years, cumulative circulation during this timeframe is 72% (12099) more than the previous year. The average monthly difference is also 72%.

114 new cardholders added in May bringing the total number of patrons to 5157. 14 year-round residents became patrons while 70 non-resident homeowners received cards. There were 24 new patrons from Cape May County. The last bill received from the Cape May County Library indicated 9 new cards for in May.

Increase in Computer use. There were 1891 computer sessions in May, a 23% increase from the previous month (1540).

58 items weeded from collection.

919 new items added to the collection.

Summer staff hired. Carolyn Taylor and Maureen Buchann were hired as seasonal part time clerks. Sue Ellenberg was hired to assist with the children's summer programming. Chris Pidgeon replaces Jennifer Chesse as a permanent part time library assistant. 2 high school students will be reporting onboard at the end of June / beginning of July as pages.

Bay-Atlantic Brass Quintet performed in the gym on May 26. Out of the 400 tickets distributed, approximately 300 attended. The concert was well received.

New library website launched in May. Key features include both a library and community schedule of events, a slide show, and a kids option to submit book reviews online. To eliminate spam, there is a form email template for patrons to use in contacting the library. Staff controls 2 text boxes on the home page, community / library calendar entries, and class/programs sections. We are currently busy populating all accessible areas of the website.

Library is recipient of the Evans Grant for 2007. Pending board approval I would like to invest this money in the website by adding at least 3 secure modules which would allow the Chamber of Commerce, the Rec Department, and the Mayor's Office to update the Community Calendar that the library hosts on its website. The grant is worth \$1000.

Director attends New Jersey follow up meeting to the Mid Atlantic Futures Conference. New Jersey participants meet at the Princeton Public Library on June 4 to discuss trends and to establish a working group to consider how to help NJ libraries response to a rapidly changing world.

Two network printers were replaced to insure compatibility with SAM computer printer vending machine. We are keeping the old black and white printer as a back up. I would like to give the school district the color printer on permanent loan.

The Veterans History Project ended in May. 4th graders from Avalon Elementary School interview 7 veterans. The director is currently editing the video and will send completed copies to the Library of Congress, The Avalon Museum, and The Avalon Elementary School. The library will catalogue the DVD's and place them in the collection.