MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

In the past year over 225,000 people walked through the doors of the Farmington Libraries, surpassing the total number of visitors each year for the last five years! People came for the nearly 1,300 children and adult programs we offered, including the concerts on the lawn at the Barney and hands-on classes in the Maker Space; to apply for passports or have important documents notarized; to check out books and other media; to use our computers to apply for jobs or print out a boarding pass when their home printer died; and to gather with friends and colleagues in one of our meeting rooms to study or start businesses of their own.

While each individual’s reason for coming to the Libraries is unique, the common thread throughout is the promise of opportunity that the Libraries provide. Opportunities for people to connect with friends, family and fellow Farmington community members they may otherwise never meet. Opportunities for people to learn new skills and be exposed to new ideas. Opportunities for children to engage in activities that promote early literacy skills development, and to develop a lifelong love of reading and public libraries.

We may not know what the future holds, but as Farmington evolves the Libraries promise to evolve with you. We are dedicated to ensuring that our lines of communication with the community are open, that our spaces can flex to meet your needs, and that our team of professionals is adaptable, so that whatever the coming year or years may bring, we will be able to deftly navigate those changes and support the growth of this vibrant community. This coming year we are recommitting ourselves to our mission of partnering with the community through the expansion of current partnerships and outreach programs, and through the development of our new strategic framework.

The Farmington Libraries’ new strategic framework, a tool to guide us going forward, will be focused on community goals and values, and the importance of using human-centered design to develop programs and resources that help meet those goals. Through community conversations, individual surveys, and outreach to local organizations and businesses, we hope to learn what drives this community and use that information to better serve Farmington well into the future.

Just as we could not have had such a wonderful past year without the tremendous support of the community, and hard work of the Library staff, Board of Trustees and volunteers, we cannot succeed without you going forward. Together, we can accomplish great things for Farmington. We hope to see you at the Libraries this year!

LAURA A. HORN
Executive Director
**WELCOME!**

- **Library Visitors:** 225,467
- **Website Visits:** 103,465
- **New Cards Issued:** 1,547
- **Items Checked Out:** 306,811

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**科技**

- **Main Library Programs:** 1,109 (21,492 Attendees)
- **Barney Programs:** 190 (5,400 Attendees)
- **CONCERTS:** 14
- **MAKER:** 112
- **TEEN:** 180
- **ADULT:** 244
- **Children's Programs:** 763
- **Total Attendees:** 27,000

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**下载...**

- **E-books:** 12,166
- **Audiobooks:** 9,323

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**By the Numbers...**

- **Questions Answered:** 63,161
- **Interlibrary Loans:** 2,688

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**感谢您！**

- **Volunteer Hours:** 674

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**夏季阅读**

- **Kids:** 900
- **Teens:** 348
- **Adults:** 100

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**服务**

- **Passports Processed:** 533
- **Room Reservations:** 4,338
- **Notary Transactions:** 133
- **Farmington Room Visits:** 39

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INFORMATION & TEEN SERVICES
Sarah Mias, Director of Information & Teen Services

While it is not easy to convince people to slow down, or to step away from their busy schedules, the libraries strive to provide patrons with the tools, resources, and opportunities they need in accessible ways that work for each individual and their lifestyle. From online learning databases available from home or on the go, e-books and e-audiobooks available with just a few clicks, to beautiful evening concerts on the Barney lawn, one-on-one technology trainings, and a variety of library programs offered during various times throughout the week, there is an experience for everyone at the Farmington Libraries.

Many of our successes over the past year showcase that anyone can experience something new or something familiar with the Farmington Libraries, whether they are physically in the library, on the go using a smart device, or in the comfort of their own home.

Information Services Highlights

- Hosted our 6th annual Maker Fair with over 750 attendees, providing high-tech and low-tech hands-on activities for all ages.
- Introduced a new online resource, Creativebug, to nurture the creative side of our patrons using step-by-step video tutorials for DIY and artistic projects including knitting, painting, crafting, and more – all accessible from home or on the go.
- Spent more than 150 hours training 70 individuals on Maker Space and Studio equipment.
- Supported over 250 individual Maker Space and Studio equipment uses, during which patrons spent over 500 hours creating original content.
- Held over 100 Maker Space and Studio programs with a total of 550 participants.
- Participated in the statewide Connecticut Indie Author Contest, providing local authors an outlet to digitally submit original works.
- Introduced the “Sit-N-Knit” Maker series, providing local knitters a time and place to gather, share new ideas, and help each other with individual projects. Also participated in World Knit in Public Day.
- Obtained a total of 2,688 individual library items from nearby libraries for Farmington residents through our interlibrary loan program.
• Introduced two new library-run evening book clubs – YA (Young Adult) Lit Lovers Book Group and Farmington Reads Book Group – to provide book lovers a place to gather and discuss engaging and diverse titles.

**Farmington Room Highlights**

• Continued the very popular Community Scanning Days Series to promote the digital preservation of family memories and histories.

• Inventoried all historical maps and created both a digital and print guide for Farmington Room visitors to easily locate content.

• Organized archival materials to ensure that all related items are housed together, enabling researchers to more efficiently locate materials.

• Began the process of adding all items in the archive to the Libraries’ digital catalog, allowing patrons to easily and independently search for items of interest.

**TEEN SERVICES**

Life can be demanding as a teen - balancing the day with sports, school, volunteering, after school clubs, and home life. Throughout the year, it is our mission to provide these teens with a space where they can unwind and decompress, yet also expand their curiosity and encourage a sense of play within their busy lives. Our diverse and creative teen programming combined with entertaining and educational resources and materials help to provide Farmington teens with their own sense of community, while also giving them a safe space to take a step back from their busy schedules, and to take time to try something new and to re-connect with others.

**Teen Services Highlights**

• Teen summer reading participation continued to increase with 348 individual participants. This summer 2,455 books were read, and 5,626 prizes were awarded!

• Offered 180 teen programs this year with over 1,440 teens attending. Of these programs, 42 were offered during the summer, with a total of 358 teen attendees!

• Partnered with the Avon Free Public Library, the Simsbury Public Library, and the West Hartford Public Library in hosting an inter-town Rick Riordan Trivia Tournament for teens. A total of 80 teens participated in the all-day tournament, with over 300 spectators joining in on the fun!

• Introduced the Teen Tech Mentors program, where a dedicated group of teen volunteers meets monthly with seniors seeking help with their phones, computers, and more. Teen Tech Mentors continues to see a number of returning patrons, and has noticed tremendous improvement in patrons’ confidence with using new technology.
CHILDREN’S SERVICES
Ericka Bajrami, Director of Children’s Services

The Farmington Libraries Kids’ Place is a vibrant hub of family activity, a place where lifelong library users are born. Through an outstanding collection of both print and non-print materials; a space that invites exploration and discovery; programming aimed at every stage of a child’s development; and friendly, knowledgeable staff, the children’s department is truly a center of learning and community life, supporting not just its young patrons but parents, caregivers, and educators as well. In order to meet the ever-changing needs of our patrons, we are continually growing our programs and services. On April 1, I joined the children’s department as the new Director of Children’s Services. I am very excited to develop relationships with our patrons and continue to grow our programs, services, and partnerships to best serve the wants and needs of our community.

Children’s Services Highlights

- The well-used children’s collection continues to grow; in addition to the new print and electronic titles ordered throughout the year, the department has also expanded the circulating toy collection to feature educational toys and games that allow children to learn through play, a fundamental practice of developing early literacy skills. The kits can be checked out for three-week loans, giving families opportunities to vary their children’s toys to keep up with their ever-changing interests and abilities. Plans are underway to soon launch a new series of early learning story kits to expand this popular collection.

- Two new AWE AfterschoolEdge™ educational computer stations were added to the department. These computers are designed for elementary students ages 6-12 and include over 70 built-in educational multi-curricular titles, ideal for enrichment, intervention, homework help, and skill reinforcement. Other additions to our space included new chairs, tables, carpeting, and even new fish in our fish tank!

- Over 600 programs were offered to children this past year, with over 16,000 in attendance. While favorites such as Pint-Sized Picassos, Read to a Dog, Chess, Tots & Tunes (with an annual attendance of 5766!), and the full schedule of early literacy storytimes continued to be in high demand, patrons were also drawn to the unique programs our library offers, such as our Polish storytime, annual Maypole Dance, Chinese New Year celebration, and the library-wide Maker Fair, which saw record attendance this year. The library also offered programs in collaboration with community partners, such as the New Britain Museum of American Art, Winding Trails, Circle of Security, and Bristol Hospital, connecting participants to the greater community.
• Children’s programming reaches its zenith during the summer months with the annual Summer Reading Program. Performers who came to entertain families included KC Sisters, Animal Embassy, Bari Koral, World Class Frisbee Show, Farmer Minor & Daisy, Valentine the Clown, ChildLight Yoga, Mike Markowitz and his Family Sing-Along Picnic, and Marisa Murray’s Zumba. Over 900 children participated in the Summer Reading Program by logging in over 1 million minutes of reading.

• Unveiled a new Winter Reading program, a complement to our successful summer reading program. This BINGO-style log encouraged children to read a wide variety of materials and learn about the areas of our collection that they might not have been familiar with.
LENDING SERVICES & COLLECTION MANAGEMENT
Karen Cerasoli, Manager of Lending Services

Our Lending Services staff are the first to offer you a friendly greeting when you enter the Library and we are the last to wish you a “Good Day” as you leave. We accept returned items, answer questions and direct you to where you need to go. It is our primary goal to make you feel welcomed and listened to as you come and go from the Farmington Libraries.

Lending & Collection Management Highlights

- Welcomed 225,467 visitors (including 1 llama), checked out 306,811 items, and issued 1,450 new library cards.
- Enthusiastically collaborated with other departments on programs and services such as passports, assisting with Children’s and Adult reference questions, and even hosting a Knitting program.
- Assisted with this year’s Maker Fair by greeting attendees, escorting families to different areas of the event, and helping at activity stations. Lending played an integral part in keeping things running smoothly for the 750+ attendees that day!
- Streamlined the cataloging process for new and incoming materials in order to get them on the shelves and into customer’s hands faster, and to free up staff to spend more time helping the public.
- Partnered with West Woods School’s Summer Learning Academy to bring in students on a field trip to the Main Library, where they signed up for library cards and checked out three books of their choosing.
BARNEY LIBRARY
Caroline Ford, Assistant Director

The small but mighty Barney Library continues to be an important part of the Farmington community, providing programs and collections tailored to the needs and interests of the surrounding community, while complementing the offerings of the Main Library. A gathering place for children and adults, the Barney Library has a professional and friendly staff that is always available to help with computers, give book recommendations, and make meaningful connections with all who visit.

Adult Services

• Reorganized the lobby to display an easy-to-browse collection of new and popular items.
• Continued the tradition of Outreach Service for our homebound and nursing home patrons, with a staff member delivering items monthly.
• Offered a diverse slate of adult programs, including lectures, book groups, and hands-on craft programs.
• Served as a popular summer destination for our evening concerts on the lawn. Held our largest concert ever in August with over 200 attendees to see The Kerry Boys perform on the Barney Library lawn.

Children’s Services

• Offering developmentally appropriate opportunities for children to learn through play and technology is central to developing early literacy skills and preparing children to be successful when they enter school. To that end, we added a light table with magnetic geometric tiles to introduce children to basic geometric concepts and allow them the opportunity to get hands-on and build their own creations.
• Added two new AWE Early Literacy Stations to the children’s room at the Barney Library. The Early Literacy Station™ (ELS) is designed specifically for our youngest patrons, ages 2-8, and features over 4,000 localized learning activities. The fun, interactive and engaging content spans all seven curricular areas: math, science & nature, social studies & geography, reading, art & music, writing & computer skills, and reference.
• Continued to offer an array of children’s programs that encourage and support a love of reading, moving, music, and creativity. Special programs included our yearly Cupcake Wars, Summer Bubble Day and the Connecticut Story Telling Tellebration event.
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Leah Farrell, Manager of Marketing & Community Engagement

The Farmington Libraries strive to provide the best selection of informative, engaging, and entertaining programs for adults in Farmington and surrounding communities. The newly-formed Adult Programming Team meets quarterly to brainstorm, plan, and coordinate a diverse slate of programs to appeal to a wide audience of lifelong learners. We have also begun taking full advantage of the beautiful and historic Barney Library by holding more lectures and concerts there throughout the year.

Adult Programming Highlights

- Held 244 Adult Programs with 3,797 attendees.
- Held 14 Garmany Concerts with 1,023 attendees.
- Successfully implemented and publicized new Event Calendar, which in addition to providing a more appealing, user-friendly events calendar, also streamlined the room booking process and made it possible to reserve Maker Space equipment online.
- Partnered with Anthology of Farmington to host an information session on Alzheimer's and dementia that brought in 50 attendees and led to the creation of a monthly support group that meets at the Main Library.
- Partnered with local artists, crafters, and artisans to create the Artisans Corner at the Maker Fair.

Publicity Highlights

- Created a schedule for publicizing initiatives, events, and services. This enables us to plan ahead and limit oversaturation, which in turn allows the information we share to have a greater and more memorable impact.
- Worked with the Executive Director to create a “Farmington Libraries at a Glance” fact sheet to give potential partners a general overview of the organization and what we do.
THANK YOU

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
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Jorie Andrews, Vice Chair
Jadwiga Gocłowski, Secretary
Andy Baron
Kelly Cruess
Allison DeVaux
Ida Franklin
Brenda Gurski
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Gary Palumbo
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FARMINGTON VILLAGE GREEN AND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
THE FRIENDS OF THE FARMINGTON LIBRARIES
FARMINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

A library in the middle of a community is a cross between an emergency exit, a life-raft and a festival. They are cathedrals of the mind; hospitals of the soul; theme parks of the imagination. On a cold rainy island, they are the only sheltered public spaces where you are not a consumer, but a citizen instead”
– Caitlin Moran