

LANE LIBRARY LINES

Volume 7

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NEWS FROM TECH SERVICES

By Bill Teschek

For years the library has offered computers that can be used by the public for Internet, e-mail, word processing, research, and even games. At present there are 15 of these computers, but there are still times when they are all in use and it can be quite chaotic. We average over 2,300 sign-ups per month, and it usually gets busier and busier every month. Over the past few months we have been changing the policies by which you can sign up to use our public computers. There have been a few bumps in the road, but we are now finally getting a solid grip on the new procedures.

In an effort to implement a more efficient way of managing sign-ups for computer usage, we purchased and installed some time-control software. Now when you sign up for any of our public computers, you'll need to obtain a numbered pass code from the library staff. We have codes that will allow 20 minutes or 60 minutes of computer time, before automatically logging off and freeing the computer up for someone else. If no one else is waiting you may usually sign up for an additional period of time. However, we do restrict the 60-minute computers to one use per day during the busy after-school hours of 2:00 to 6:00 PM.

To use the 60-minute computers, you need to have a valid Hampton library card and be in good standing (no items overdue, no fines, etc.). You must present your library card (or other suitable ID) at the circulation desk in order to obtain a 60-minute pass code.

The 20-minute computers, on the other hand,

may be used by anyone, whether one has a library card or not. This is in part to accommodate the large influx of tourists that come to our shores, as well as many of the young foreign workers that come here in the summer. But many library cardholders choose to use the 20-minute computers as well when they only want to check their e-mail quickly.

If you are in sixth grade or younger, you may use the computers in the children's room, following the same sign-up procedures.

When you enter your six-digit pass code into the computer, a timer box will pop up telling you how much time you have (either 20 or 60 minutes). The timer will remain on the screen unless you click the little dash button to minimize it and move it out of sight. When there are only a few minutes left, the timer will pop back up onto the screen to alert you that you'd better finish writing that e-mail or save your work before your time runs out and the timer locks you out. If you finish before your time is up, be sure to click the logout button on the timer, so that the computer will be ready for the next person.

The library also offers wired and wireless, although no dial-up, access to people who bring in their own laptops. There are no time restrictions on using your own computer, aside from the hours that the library is open. Even then, with wireless, if you choose, you could work from the front seat of your car in the library parking lot in the middle of the night!

Editor's Note

By Cheryl French

The next several issues of Lane Library Lines will include a new column called "A Day in the Life" to give our readers a glimpse of who we are and what we do all day. It would, of course, be nearly impossible (and extremely

time-consuming) to describe every detail of every job within the library, but we hope you'll enjoy the brief introduction to all of the departments and people who make up Lane Memorial Library.

Special points of interest:

- (More) New Computer Policies
- Lecture: Understanding Movies: the Art of Film, November 2nd
- Museum Passes
- New Home for the CDs
- A Day in the Life
- Upcoming Books for the Library Book Group

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Look for us online at <http://www.hampton.lib.nh.us/>

A DAY IN THE LIFE: Reference

By Marija Sanderling

There is no typical day at on the reference desk in the library. Every day is different, which is why I love the job.

Here is a taste of one Tuesday last spring:

Our New Nonfiction shelves were very full, so during the morning, a co-worker and I weeded down what we could to make them more manageable. We took out anything that had either been there too long or that could safely be transferred to the regular shelves, such as travel books. I then authorized the payments of invoices for reference and adult nonfiction books I had bought. I also reviewed the applications we'd received for the adult services supervisor position (back before we hired Darrell!). The town sponsored a "get fit" event where, if we wanted, we could get our blood pressure and blood sugar checked, so I went over to Town Hall to have that done.

In between all this, of course, I answered reference questions.

After lunch, I helped four people on the public Internet computers who either couldn't get their stuff printed properly or had never used a computer before and needed lessons on the mouse. I received in the mail two packages containing books that I had requested on the interlibrary loan program. One came from Pennsylvania and the other from Bates

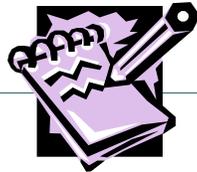


College in Maine. The one from Bates was a gorgeous coffee table type book with beautiful art deco jewelry in it. It was for a guy who designs jewelry and regularly requests books like this. I love when they come in because they're so artistically beautiful—I always spend a few minutes poring through them. The UPS delivery person came, and I had to sign in a box of books I had ordered. I then had to check whether any of the titles had been requested by patrons, and, if so, make sure the patron's request card was put with the book, so that as soon as it was catalogued they'd get a phone call. I ordered seven books through interlibrary loan, most from in state (on a state-wide database), but one from Florida (which requires a whole heck of a lot more work).

I answered more questions.

It was tax crunch time, so I had to help people with tax forms, and I had to keep our bins fully stocked of forms. One of our servers had a glitch and needed to be rebooted because we couldn't get to our catalog. The techie showed me which one to reboot, since this problem had cropped up twice in the previous two days and he'd be out of the library for at least a week.

And I answered more questions.



TEEN TIME

By Cheryl French

Here's what is new for teens in the library:

Teen Advisory Board: Lane Memorial Library now has an official teen advisory board. The group will meet once a month to discuss (and implement) ways to improve our Young Adult services. Our first meeting will be held on Monday, October 17—the start of Teen Read Week 2005. New members are welcome. Talk to Cheryl if interested.

Homework Help: Two high school sophomores are now lending their time and expertise to our homework help desk in the Lane Room on Monday and Wednesday afternoons.

Teen Time: On Thursday afternoons we transform the Lane Room into a (supervised) teen space. Teens in 6th grade and up are invited to come to the library to read, play board games, do homework, visit with friends, or just lounge around in a safe, friendly environment. They are even welcome to bring food into the library, as long as it stays in the Lane Room. Once a month we plan to show a movie during Teen Time, as a special treat. Because the line-up may include PG or PG-13 films, everyone who participates should have a permission slip signed

Zoom into Chompas

by a parent or legal guardian. See Cheryl to pick up a form.

Zoom into Chompas: We have a title for our new teen literary magazine! Don't ask me what it means, but the title won the majority vote from the teen advisory board and the writing group. Huge thanks to all who offered title suggestions. Look for our first issue later in October.

Writing Group: Although the writing group proper has disbanded with the start of school, the group still exists in Cyberspace, and some are already hard at work on their contributions for our second issue of *Zoom*. You do not have to be a member of the group to contribute, so if you like to write—poetry, stories, nonfiction, whatever—send your efforts to Cheryl for consideration.

Book Groups: The 5th and 6th grade group meets every other Monday at 3:00 PM. Books for the October 3rd meeting are *Flipped* by Wendelin Van Draanen and *The Book of the Lion* by Michael Cadnum. The 7th grade group also meets every other Monday (alternating with the 5/6 grade group) at 2:30 PM.

ADULT SERVICES UPDATE

By Darrell Eifert

Understanding Movies: the Art of Film

On **Wednesday, November 2nd at 7:00 PM**, the Lane Memorial Library will host Dr. Patrick Anderson, a lecturer at Colby-Sawyer College, for an informative look at the art and craft of film making. This program aims to show how film shapes and reflects popular attitudes and to give audiences a more sophisticated vocabulary with which to describe and discuss their film-viewing experiences. The lecture uses clips from a variety of motion pictures from the silent era to the present. Admission is free of charge, and we would like to thank the Friends of the Lane Memorial Library for funding this illuminating and valuable discussion.

New Museum Passes

Due to the generosity of our Friends of the Lane Memorial Library group, we can now offer reduced-admission passes to some great museums and local learning centers. In Massachusetts you and your family can visit the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, the New England Aquarium in Boston, the Museum of Science in Boston, and the Museum of Fine Arts,

also in Boston. Closer to home in New Hampshire, we offer an inexpensive visit to the Children's Museum and Strawberry Banke in Portsmouth, the Currier Gallery of Art in Manchester, the Museum of New Hampshire History in Concord, and the Seacoast Science Center in Rye. Make your family education dollar stretch further with a fun day out courtesy of the Lane Memorial Library!

See 'dees CDs?

Our fine collection of music on compact discs is moving out of the back room and into public browsing bins. Popular, rock, jazz, classical, country, and yes, even opera will soon be available for direct checkout in the specially built racks just outside the Dearborn and New Hampshire rooms. As we work on the conversion, you will still be able to request CDs from the trays set up on the Circulation Desk near the copy machine, but look for the bulk of our music collection to be out in the bins early this month. We hope you will like this new and convenient way of finding and taking home some great music.

*Teens: Tell the Lane Memorial Library Book Group what you thought of Mark Haddon's book, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*. Come to the discussion on October 22nd.*

LANE MEMORIAL LIBRARY BOOK GROUP

Upcoming books for the book group are as follows:

- October 20, 2005—*The Mermaid's Chair* by Sue Monk Kidd
- November 17, 2005—*Birth of Venus* by Sarah Durant
- December 15, 2005—*Friendship Cake* by Lynne Hilton
- January 19, 2006—*Before You Know Kindness* by Chris Bohjalian
- February 16, 2006—*My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult
- March 16, 2006—*Brick Lane* by Monica Ali

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time

A special intergenerational book discussion event is scheduled for **Saturday, October 22, 2005 at 10:00 AM**. Join us in the Lane Room of the library to discuss *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* by Mark Haddon. Teens and adults who have read the book are welcome to attend and share their opinions and insights. If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact either Cheryl French or Catherine Redden.

A DAY IN THE LIFE: Library Director

By Catherine Redden

A typical Tuesday starts about 7:00 AM at the Hampton Rotary Club meeting at Hampton Beach where I meet fellow Rotarians, chat about the happenings in town, and always get inspired to fulfill the Rotary motto—Service above Self. From there I go to the library at 8:30. In the time before the public comes through the doors at 9:00, I typically set up the circulation desks with their money, record and file receipts from the previous day, read and answer e-mail, and check in with other staff as to what happened, is happening or will happen. I finalize time sheets for each of the 14 full and part-time staff members, entering their time for the previous week on an internal spreadsheet and summarizing it for the town's timesheet. That often involves tracking down any employees whose time sheets were not submitted. At 9:30 I attend the weekly Town Department Head meetings at the Town Hall. If I get sidetracked on the way out of the library, which makes me late next door, I have to pay a \$1 fine (which goes into the coffee/snack fund). I've learned to leave early! At the meeting, the department heads learn what happened at the previous evening's selectmen's meeting and raise any issues in our own areas. Following that, I return to the library.

During the remainder of the day, I open and sort bills and distribute them to the proper department, initial and authorize any bills pertaining to the running of the library, answer phone calls, reserve the meeting room, tend the desk while staff go on break, restock the staff picks book display by wandering the aisles and picking out some of my favorites, and respond to questions about policy.

When school is in session, I may spend part of the afternoon assisting at the desk. At any time, I may be asked to answer a question, fix a computer (minor stuff only!), call a repairman for a leaky valve, or service the copier (no-one else claims to know how to add toner!). In between interruptions, depending on the week or the month, I may be involved in preparing a budget for the following year, preparing a monthly budget report for the Board of Trustees or preparing documents for policy updates. Sometimes the tasks are as mundane as ordering paper for the computers, checking the best price on supplies, finding a binder to hold a set of policies, putting a roll of paper towels in the holder or washing dishes that someone has dirtied and left in the sink.

One Tuesday a month I go to Concord in the afternoon for a meeting of the New Hampshire Library Association Executive Board of which I am President this year. We review issues concerning libraries around the state and the nation. At our September meeting, we brought forward concerns about our sister libraries in the Gulf region and what we might be able to do.

The best parts of library service are the interactions with the public—calling someone to say we found the book they wanted, giving someone a new author to read and finding out how much they like him or her, being persistent in checking the shelves to find a particular book that may have been a little out of place. Making someone's day is a highlight; putting the right book in the right hand is the reason for being a librarian.

Lane Library Lines

Editor

Cheryl French

Contributing Writers

Darrell Eifert, Head of Adult Services

Catherine Redden, Library Director

Marija Sanderling, Head of Reference

Cynthia Stosse, Head of Children's Services

Bill Teschek, Head of Technical Services

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