

LANE LIBRARY LINES

Volume 9 Issue 1

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Special points of interest:

- December Flood
- ReferenceUSA
- Winter Story Times
- Sweetheart Tea
- RSS Feeds
- Downloadable Digital Audiobooks
- Winter Lecture Series

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

By Catherine Redden

Closing Out 2006, with Excitement

Thursday, December 28, started out a pretty typical library day—until about 2:30 p.m. At that point a staff member came flying upstairs with news of an alarm sounding in the janitor's closet. That could mean only one thing: at least one sewer ejector pump had failed.

A quick trip to the janitor's room to shut off the alarm was followed by a phone call to Public Works to ask for help with the pumps. Almost immediately the cry came: "The basement is flooding!" Another quick trip downstairs for verification and another quick phone call to both Public Works and the Fire Department followed. Then we needed all hands on deck as we quickly escorted the seniors out of the Dorothy Little Room via a side exit, ushered the family readers out of the Lane Room by the other side exit, and started moving furniture to higher ground in the Children's Room. The Public Works guys and the Firemen were great, finding the source of

the running water and shutting it off (a tankless toilet continually flushing—we all know how to stop the running with a tank, and we now all know how to stop a toilet running when there's just a pipe into the wall!!). The guys were also a great help with moving furniture and scraping the water back to a drain. Thankfully, we were immediately able to hire a company to bring extractors and fans and set them up to start the drying process. The next day brought the elevator repairman and Public Works to pump out a foot of water in the elevator pit. The following Tuesday brought a plumber to fix the guilty toilet, and a company to fix the sewer ejector pumps. And the holiday weekend helped us give the basement time to dry out.

Thanks to everyone for their help on Thursday, and thanks to the public for putting up with the inconvenience of using the town hall bathrooms until ours were up and working again. At least no books were involved in this flood. We're all looking forward to a more peaceful and dry 2007!

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

REFERENCE DESK UPDATE

By Marija Sanderling

Premier Business Research Tool Is Now Available Through the Lane Memorial Library 24/7!

The Lane Memorial Library is extremely pleased to announce that it is now offering *ReferenceUSA*[®], a powerful online research tool from the library division of *infoUSA*. *ReferenceUSA* provides library cardholders instant, real-time access to accurate, in-depth information on 14 million businesses and 210 million consumers. It is very user friendly, so even computer novices will feel at ease searching *ReferenceUSA*.

This is a great research tool for anyone

wanting to make lists of companies for any reason. If you're putting together a mailing list, this is the place to start. Companies range from huge, multi-million dollar organizations to one-person businesses. Over a thousand businesses in Hampton alone are listed.

The consumer information in *ReferenceUSA* is gathered primarily from telephone white pages. Patrons will find this resource essential for planning family reunions and weddings, organizing class reunions, finding neighbors or long-lost friends, and locating relatives, just to name a few possible uses.

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MORE FROM THE REFERENCE DESK

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The business information is gathered from a variety of reliable sources, such as yellow and white pages, annual reports, 10-Ks, government data, business magazines, top newspapers, the U.S. Postal Service, Internet research, and the U.S. Census Bureau. In fact, 22 million phone calls are placed annually to businesses to verify the accuracy of data. The quality of the information is validated by the fact that *infoUSA* databases power the directory services of many of the top-traffic Internet sites. And the *Wall Street Journal* even proclaimed *ReferenceUSA* a “powerful market-research tool” crucial to small businesses (August 29, 2006). *ReferenceUSA*’s business module is perfect for people conducting job searches, locating out-of-town companies, tracking down addresses and phone numbers, conducting patent and market research, and much more!

ReferenceUSA is accessible to registered cardholders at the Lane Memorial Library or via <http://www.hampton.lib.nh.us> (click on “more” under Research Databases). All you need to put this powerful, comprehensive and accurate information to use at your fingertips is your library card!

For more information please contact the Reference Department of the library at 926-3368.



The Friends of the Lane Memorial Library are now seeking *gently* used books for upcoming sales to help raise funds for the library. Gently used children’s books and paperbacks are especially needed. Thank you for your support!



NEWS FROM THE CHILDREN’S ROOM

By Paulina Shadowens

Winter this year may be as unpredictable as ever, but you and your youngster can count on the Children’s Room to provide lots of fun activities in the upcoming weeks.

Winter Story Times

- **Toddlers:** Tuesday or Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m.
- **Three Year Olds:** Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m.
- **Four Year Olds and up:** Thursday mornings at 10:15 a.m.

Sign-ups for story times begin on January 8. Space is limited, so please register in advance, either in person in the Children’s Room or by telephone: 926-4729.

Story times begin January 23 and run for five weeks, through February 22.

February brings not only Valentine’s Day, but the Friends of the Lane Memorial Library’s **Sweetheart Tea** on February 10th. This has become an annual tradition, designed specifically for children ages 3-8 who are accompanied by at least one adult. It includes a story time, a craft, tasty treats, and, of course, tea. The Friends offer two sessions of the Tea: 10:30-12:00 and 1:30-3:00. This is exclusively for Hampton residents. There is no cost, but sign-up is mandatory, as space is limited. Visit the Children’s Room to learn more. Participants are encouraged to get a little “gussied up” for the occasion to help make this tea extra special.



NEW FROM TECH SERVICES

By Bill Teschek

RSS Feeds from the Library

What's an RSS Feed?

Would you like to be able to be notified every time the library receives new books by your favorite authors? Or every time we buy a new item in your favorite subject area? Well now you can. RSS Feeds allow you to automatically receive updates to the library's blog, as well as new additions to our collection, as a sort of online subscription. These "feeds" can be easily browsed by visiting a single Web page, called a "news reader." The news reader automatically checks for updates and displays them for you. This way you don't have to remember to keep checking our Web site yourself. You just have to check your news reader.

How do I get RSS to work?

If you use version 7 of Internet Explorer or version 2 of Mozilla Firefox for your Web browser, all you have to do is click on the orange RSS link in your browser and you will be prompted to create a feed. It is very simple to use. If you don't use Firefox or are using an earlier version of Internet Explorer, you can get RSS feeds with the help of several different free Web sites, including the following:

- Pageflakes
- Bloglines
- Newsgator

If you have a Google or Yahoo account, you can use their RSS readers as well.

RSS by e-mail

If you don't want to be bothered with having to check a separate RSS feeder or Web page for your feed, there are also services that will send notices by e-mail whenever a new feed is available. The only one we know of that will work at this time with our new book alerts is Feedblitz, which is free.

How do I subscribe to new book alerts?

Simply do a "Basic" search of the library's catalog and click on the orange RSS feed button at the bottom of the list of results that comes up. For example, if you want to know when the library receives a new title by John Grisham, go to the "Basic search" page of our catalog and perform a search for Author - Begins With - Grisham, John. A page of results will appear listing all of our titles by Grisham. Scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on the orange RSS link. If your browser's software knows what to do with it you will be prompted to add a new feed. If this brings up a page of complex code you should copy the Web page address (URL) and paste it into the appropriate form on your RSS feeder's Web page.

For subject searches, you should first make sure that you are doing the exact search you need to give you the items you want. Try a few different searches to make sure you are getting what you need. As an example, if you want to receive notice of all new titles having to do with the Iraq War, search for Subject - Begins With - Iraq War. The same orange RSS link will appear at the bottom of the screen.

HELP!

If all of this sounds quite complicated, well, it is. Feel free to ask us for help getting this started. But once you master the details we expect you'll be very pleased to be able to get notifications when new books of interest to you are received by the library. And when those books arrive, you can easily place a hold on them through our catalog as well. If you don't know how to do that either, please ask us the next time you are in.



***Have you set up a library PIN
yet? Stop by the Circulation
Desk to learn more about
accessing your account online.***

ADULT SERVICES UPDATE

By Darrell Eifert

Over the past year, we at the Lane Library have been evaluating several ways of bringing downloadable digital audiobooks to Hampton residents. For those not familiar with this technology, "downloadable audio" means audio books that patrons may obtain online and listen to either on a computer (Windows PC) or on any portable MP3 audio player (excluding Apple iPods). This year we have signed on with OverDrive Audio Books, sponsored in part by the New Hampshire State Library. Currently featuring over 1,200 professionally recorded titles, this service will be activated some time in February 2007. Those who would like an advanced look at what's coming are welcome to take a look online at <http://nh.lib.overdrive.com>. The site also features a list of MP3 players compatible with OverDrive.

For those who have MP3 players now and want access to books in the public domain, take a look online at the Gutenberg Audio Books Project, http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Gutenberg:The_Audio_Books_Project or www.audiobooksforfree.com, as well as www.archive.org/details/audio. These sites offer hundreds of free classic and hard-to-find titles read by volunteers and professionals. Since many of these files can also be "burned" to CD, they're just the thing for those long drives and tedious jobs around the house. And don't forget that most of those tiny MP3 players can play through car radio speakers by using a small FM transmitter. Patrons who want to try this can check out a transmitter from the main Circulation Desk. Don't own an MP3 player yet? Try one of our Playaway titles to get a feel for what digital audio has to offer.

Words & Wisdom A Winter Lecture Series Hosted by the Lane Memorial Library

- Thursday, February 1, 6:30 p.m.: Poetry vs. Philosophy
- Saturday, March 17, 3:00 p.m.: In Celebration of the Short Story

All presentations are free and open to the public. Lectures will be held in the Lane Room, downstairs. For more information, please call: 926-3368.

These lectures are made possible by grants from The New Hampshire Humanities Council.

Lane Library Lines

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