

**Clifton Park - Halfmoon
Public Library**

475 Moe Road
Clifton Park, NY 12065

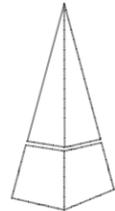
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Mission Statement

The Clifton Park - Halfmoon Public Library provides informational, educational, cultural, and recreational reading resources, services, and programs for the people of the area the Library is chartered to serve. It strives to provide the most wanted resources, services, and programs on-site as well as offer access to additional resources and services.



Visit us on the Web!
www.cphlibrary.org

2009 Library Highlights

A successful library starts with financial accountability, It's also about building a foundation for the future where managing taxpayer revenues in the most efficient way that results in providing the very best of library services to the community. It's about **creating value** by never settling for the status quo, instilling a passion that looks for best practices and better ways of doing everything and, as a result, creating more value that delivers a measurable return on the taxpayer's investment.

It's also about building a foundation for the future where population growth, innovations in information technology and conservative budgets will present new challenges in the years ahead.

Our pledge is to continue our efforts to improve; making your library the best it can be so that the needs of your family and the community-at-large are met in an innovative and affordable way.

Financial Accountability		Operation Highlights	
<i>2009 Revenues</i>		<i>2009 Expenses</i>	
Clifton Park	2,412,293	Salaries	1,541,858
Halfmoon	1,021,560	Benefits	301,164
Div. for Youth	6,670	Collection	298,079
Grants	8,117	Equipment	25,439
Library Inc. Aid	12,605	Bldg. Operations	461,217
Donations	7,408	Supplies/Services	151,970
Interest	18,895	Professional Fees	7,710
Library Fees	88,249	Bond Payments	953,033
Appropriated Funds	164,673		
Total	\$ 3,740,470	Total	\$ 3,740,470



2009 Annual Report



Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library



April 2010

Your Community Center for Lifelong Learning

2009: A Year of Progress and Celebration

2009 was another milestone year for your library. We celebrated four decades of service to the community, grew circulation, patronage and utilization to record levels, drove improvements resulting in greater access and convenience for patrons and made inroads with fresh initiatives in community outreach.

2009 marked 40 years of library service to the community, celebrated with events and programs throughout the year, conducted in full partnership with the Friends of the Library.

A highlight was an **Anniversary Day** celebration on April 19 featuring recognitions by local and state officials and a 40 year community retrospective by historian, John Scherer.



Dynamic Deweys Drill Team-4th of July Parade



40th Anniversary Creative Writing Contest Winners

Every month had at least one event tied to the anniversary including a **Family Festival** attracting 400 children and their families, a *creative writing contest* and *author visits* to mention just a few.

In 2009 changes were made to policies and practices in response to patrons needs. One example is the modification of our program room use policy, now enabling organizations access to program rooms up to 12 times a year.

Other 2009 improvements include a revised borrowing policy removing previous restrictions on certain items and the introduction of several new convenience features on our website. For example, patrons now can sign up for all programs online, apply for use of program rooms and gain access to more information and downloads.

Service hours were also expanded, by opening one hour earlier on Friday mornings and adding Sundays to our summer schedule of public hours.

Another library goal in 2009 was to increase community outreach. As a result we took an active role in many community events such as *Winterfest*, *Farm Fest*, *the 4th of July Celebration*, *our own Family Festival*, *Halfmoon's Harvest Festival* and *Earth Day*, in addition to conducting briefings at both Shenendehowa and Halfmoon senior centers.

Technology advances continued in 2009 with computer software upgrades for both staff and public terminals. New pay-for-print software on our public computers now gives users a convenient method for printing black and white or color documents and reduces waste.

Additionally, we added new computer classes such as *Microsoft Office® 2007*.

We believe all our 2009 efforts helped enhance the library experience for so many of our resident families, bringing meaningful informational and recreational services and programs to our growing patron base.



*Alex Gutelius,
Director*

How does a library stay relevant?

What makes libraries relevant in today's world? It starts with having a facility that provides a refuge from the chaos that all too often occupies our daily lives; a serene, comfortable place to visit and look forward to staying awhile.

Then add in a first-class collection: reference materials, the classics, old favorites, best sellers, magazines and local history records. How about audio visual material- audio books, CDs, and DVDs? Let's not forget computer and wireless access; everything that contemporary patrons might expect from a modern center of lifelong learning.

Then there are special programs such as computer classes, English as a Second Language sessions, children's events that inspire and motivate and adult programs that inform and entertain. Book Clubs, author visits and art exhibits add more opportunities to broaden knowledge and share interests.

The most important ingredient? A professional staff of librarians, circulation staff, and volunteers whose sole purpose is to help patrons get the most from their library visit.

We have all those ingredients and more at the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library; from a spectacular state-of-the-art facility, to a diverse collection, a full menu of programs and services and a staff second to none.

Our collection now numbers 185,000 items including 18,000 audio visual titles.

We set a record in 2009 for circulation with 744,285 items borrowed; a 10% increase over 2008 and a 57% increase over year-end 2006.

We introduced a new library card in 2009 featuring a picture of the Library and a convenient key tag.



Our librarians answered close to 54,000 reference questions in-person, by phone and via email.

The 33 public use computers were used over 100,000 times in 2009; a 17% increase over 2008.

Programs continue to grow, attracting nearly 20,000 attendees of all ages in 2009.

By the end of 2009 some 42,000 patrons held library cards. In fact we are issuing an average of 300 new cards a month. We also retire cards that have not been used in the last 36 months. So our current cards-issued number fairly reflects *active* patrons.

In these difficult economic times, libraries are even more relevant as they offer affordable options to families for entertainment, access to best-selling books, DVDs, CDs and Internet access.

When you compare our annual library budget to the cost of widely-accepted alternatives *the library delivers \$10+ million dollars of value annually* to the community; close to a 300% return on investment when compared to our annual budget.

Something to think about in this era of shrinking values and returns.

Innovation and Old-fashioned values.

Running a modern library doesn't mean losing sight of old-fashioned values: personalized service helped the library thrive and grow for 40 years. At the same time we don't believe a library should remain static either in purpose or operation.

That's why ongoing *innovation* is critical; finding ways to provide more access, faster and more convenient services, staying in synch with newly-emerging information technologies and addressing the changing needs of our society. It also means finding more ways to say "yes" to your requests.

So while we continue to look for and apply modern methods and tools to enhance your library experience, we also strive to add the personal touch and to shape our services to meet your changing needs. **We want you to think of the Library as a preferred destination; not just one more stop in a busy day.**

Friends Bring Added Value

An active and robust Friends organization is essential to the success of any community library and we have a wonderful example at the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library.

Our *Friends of the Library* organization is perhaps most visible during their *Used Book Sales* which provide funds for their programs and initiatives. But their contribution is so much more.



Popular used book sales, run by the Friends, help fund Library initiatives.



Diane Payette works her magic with youngsters at our Farm Fest Celebration

The Friends add significant value to our Library. Here are just a few of their 2009 initiatives.

The Friends financed the **Museum Pass Program** where district residents borrow passes at no cost. We now have passes for 7 area museums available for loan up to 3 days at a time.

2009 also marked the second year the Friends offered **two scholarships of \$1,000 each to local high school students.**

One of their more meaningful efforts in the community is an **Outreach Program** that delivers books to shut-ins, provides school supplies to children, sends used books to the military and to homes for the aged. In fact the Friends have donated over 12,000 books since their Outreach Program began some twelve years ago.

The Friends celebrated *National Children's Book Week, May 11-May 17* with a **"Books for Babies"** program; providing a special gift packet to parents including a children's board book, library card application, nutritional information and tips on reading!

Friends initiatives include sponsoring **author visits.** In 2009, noted children authors Gordon Korman and Michael Sullivan along with crime novelist Laura Lippman all visited the Library thanks to the Friends.



Children's author Gordon Korman appeared in April of 2009 sponsored by the Friends

The Friends are a vital part of what makes our Library relevant in our community.

To become a FOL member, visit our website at www.cphlibrary.org or come to the Library for an application.



The Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library Staff