

Edwards Public Library  
Annual Report  
July 1, 2002- June 30, 2003

The Library endeavors through its collections, programs and services to help meet the informational, cultural and recreational needs of Southampton residents. A top priority of the Library is to provide popular materials to patrons. A secondary role is to provide support for the educational endeavors of children from preschool through high school by offering a carefully selected collection of books and skilled personal guidance. The Library provides service to all, within the context of the above objectives, regardless of race, creed, color, occupation or financial position.

This year the minimum municipal appropriation was met by the town so that the Library again qualified for much needed state aid funds.

Routine maintenance on the heating, ventilation and cooling system was performed in the fall and spring. The roof drains will require modification to prevent freezing dam formation and an ongoing roof leak is currently being monitored by professionals. A broken windowpane was replaced. The children's room was rewired for the Internet, two new computers, a receipt printer and public photocopier were purchased with state funds and by the Friends of the Library.

The Library Board of Trustees remains proactive on the local and state level. Library policies for Internet use, the Patriot Act and materials selection were approved this year. Member Kate Carl resigned and Patricia Mari was elected to replace her.

The Library's operating budget comes primarily from the town with state funds making up the majority of the balance. Memorial gifts, donations and interest income comprise the remainder. Due to the generosity of our many volunteers and their gifts of time and materials, we have been able to save the town thousands of dollars.

Circulation continues to increase in all areas. The number of registered borrowers from Southampton increased by 26%. Passes to the Eric Carle Museum, the Holyoke Children's Museum and Historic Deerfield were donated by the Friends of the Library and the Historical Commission.

Staff attended workshops sponsored by the Regional Library and CWMARS. The director and children's librarian continued their coursework toward the Master of Library Science and a grant from the Board of Library Commissioners was awarded for partial tuition payment for small library education.

In addition to the summer reading program and Wednesday story and craft time, school vacation week activities were offered for all ages. A third Thursday evening story time was added in the fall. Local high school students volunteered after school and during the summer hours. An adult book discussion group, knitting workshop, woodcarving class

and monthly poetry readings were held. Local artists exhibited their work in the meeting room. Town Committees and local groups used the meeting room 148 times during the year.

The Friends of the Library's annual book and bake sale was held in May. A quilt raffle was held in the fall. All proceeds from Friends activities and membership fees go toward the purchase of much needed supplies and equipment.

This year, contributions were made by the Xeric Foundation, an anonymous donor and in memory of Joan M. Phakos and Joseph E. Goepfert, Jr. A Cultural Council grant paid for a family program in the fall and the Lions Club, Womans Club and Mothers Club made donations to the summer reading program.

Despite budget constraints, the Library looks forward to another exciting year. New materials arrive nearly every week and our membership in CWMARS and the Western Massachusetts Regional Library allows us to easily share materials. Visit our website at [www.southamptonlibrary.org](http://www.southamptonlibrary.org), or come in and see what we have for you. Our evening hours on Tuesday and Thursday have been extended to 8 p.m. and Library cards are free and take only a few minutes to process.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Woodbury  
Library Director