

## **Report to the Community for the Hamburg Public Libraries, 2012**

2012 was as exciting year for the Hamburg Public Library as we gathered excitement and support for our dream of building a large addition onto the library in 2013-14.

We participated in meetings with the community, with officials of the Town of Hamburg and explained how this addition would benefit library users and community members and how it would push forward the goals of today's public library service.

2012 itself was a busy year for both the Hamburg and the Lake Shore Public Libraries.

Circulation was brisk; 232,845 at Hamburg and 103,765 at Lake Shore, total of 336,610 items were borrowed during the year.

Patrons used our computers 26,490 times during the year; 21,048 sessions at Hamburg and 5,442 sessions at Lake Shore.

Many people attended our diverse programs at the library; story hours for children, book discussions for adults, special holiday programs for the entire community. Staff from both libraries conducted 220 children's programs which were attended by 4,713 boys and girls. There were 71 programs for adults, attended by 966 people. We offered 14 programs for people of all ages and 871 people came to these events. Both libraries conducted 31 computer training sessions and 260 people participated in these programs.

Both library buildings were visited frequently by a large number of members of our communities, with a total of 224,092 visits to our libraries; 162,069 at Hamburg and 62,023 at Lake Shore.

The Hamburg library was open 60 hours per week, including 5 hours on Sundays during much of the school year. On Sundays, the library circulated 9,561 items and we provided computers for the use of students and other patrons. Lake Shore was open five days per week for a total of 32 hours per week.

We continued to build our library collections, expanding our holdings of books, graphic novels, music CDs and films. The Buffalo and Erie County Public Library has greatly expanded the catalog of eBooks, so that library patrons throughout the county can download these electronic materials onto their personal devices. We offered several programs to our patrons, showing them how to download eBooks onto their devices.

Throughout the year, we worked to share information with our community to gain support to plan to construct a large addition for the Hamburg Public Library. The director and the library board of trustees met with the Town of Hamburg board and discussed the need for an expansion and we described how it would enable the library to reach its goals. At the end of last summer, with the support of the Town of Hamburg, we applied for a New York State Library Construction Grant. Our project was given a name and a tag line: "Thinking Big; Building our Next Chapter." We began a partnership with the Hamburg Development Corporation for fundraising and have begun to receive donations to support this project. The firm, Zaxis Architectural, was hired and architectural plans are being finalized. We expect

groundbreaking for this project to take place June, 2013 and we believe this project will be a wonderful addition to our Hamburg community. This community is going to love it!

Our Hamburg Public Libraries could not have provided such service without the loyal help of many people and we have many people to thank for the successes of 2012.

The staffs at both libraries work tirelessly to keep the libraries open a total of 92 hours per week and to make the library a great destination. Our Board of Trustees consists of five volunteer members who are appointed by the Hamburg Town Board and met ten times during the past year.

We thank our Hamburg Town Board for their support during the past year. Steven J. Walters, Supervisor of the Town of Hamburg and the Town Council members, Amy Ziegler and Joseph Collins have been most supportive of our building project.

Our library buildings and grounds are property of the Town of Hamburg. The Town keeps our buildings in excellent condition, our parking lots plowed and our lawns mowed.

Beside all these people, we wish to thank the most important people of all who have made Hamburg Public Libraries lively and successful through 2012, and that is our thousands of patrons, the people who use our materials, attend our programs and let the library be such a key component of the culture of our community.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Edson,

Director