



A History of Neptune Public Library 1980 – 2010

by
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Director 2005-
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The new Neptune Public Library was home to 56,000 books when the doors opened at 25 Neptune Boulevard on March 22, 1971.

Forty years later there are 68,000 books, 2,000 music CDs, 1,500 books on CD, 4,000 movies and over 100 magazine titles.

Checkouts in the early 1980s included library cards with metal plates. When inserted into a Gaylord machine, the plate would stamp a patron's number on the book card, which was interfiled alphabetically each night. Overdue notices were typed by hand and consumed a large portion of the overdue clerk's time.



1978 staff, from left: Linda Brice, Muriel Sacchi, Audrey Boland, Mary Ellen Lynch, Nina Kunzle, Lucie Arcangelo, Dorothy Robinson, Alan Heinlein, Carmella Gadaleta and Mary Boyd.

When the door first opened, there were no tall bookcases, but as collections expanded, taller shelving was added.

Clerk Mary Boyd devoted all her time to typing cards to go in the three different wooden catalogs, filed

alphabetically in drawers by author, title and subject.

Back issues of magazines were stored in hanging folders on metal rods, taking up an entire room on the second floor. Copies of those articles were made on photocopiers that used rolls of paper, producing grey duplicates that smelled funny and rubbed off on your hands.

Fines, calculated manually, were only 2¢ a day.

1980

In February the library participated with the Neptune Police Department in "Operation I.D." The library bought engravers that could be checked out and brought home to engrave personal belongings for ease of recovery if stolen.

The Board hired Marian Bauman as the full-time Children's Librarian in October.



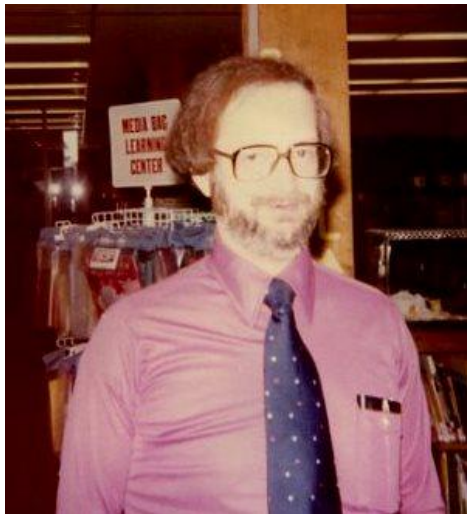
The Neptune Library Association donated \$2,000 that year to start an Exhibit collection of picture books for storytimes. These books stayed out of circulation and were only for staff to use at library programs.

The Trustees voted to purchase a security system for the library from Gaylord. Staff spent many hours putting security tags in every single book.

1981

The magician's group that met monthly in the library put on a Magic Show for Valentine's Day that morphed into an annual event anticipated by children and parents, alike.

In March a patron requested a handicapped ramp in front of the library. The ramp and corresponding handicapped parking spaces were completed in October.



Alan Heinlein, Director

Two IBM Selectric typewriters were purchased in June for use in the adult department by the public.

The cost to join the library for non-residents was raised in August from \$5 to \$10 per year for a family membership.

1982

Ordinance 1159 pertaining to Theft of Library Materials was passed by the Township Committee. This ordinance allowed recovery of library materials in municipal court. The current regulation can be found online at: [3-15 Library Regulations](#)

In September direct deposit of municipal paychecks became available for library staff.

1983

A Sinclair portable computer was purchased for checkout and home use with a \$10 deposit and a \$2 daily fee.



In March the library began lending 4 Polaroid Sun cameras for a week at a time. There was no fee to borrow them, but the Polaroid film had to be purchased by the borrower.

In November the pay phone in the Lobby was relocated outside when it became an attractive nuisance.

1984

Fines were increased from 2¢ a day to 5¢ a day for overdue books.

When Reference librarian Charles Johnson left to take a job with Ocean County Library, the Board voted to hire librarian Martha Bomgardner on a temporary basis. She eventually took a job in a law library where she met her husband Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito!

1985

In August the library joined the newly-established Region V Library Cooperative located in Freehold.

The Neptune Library Association made \$3,430 from their book fair in Ocean Grove.

1986

Current Children's Librarian Cheryl Otten was hired by the library as a teenage page to put away books.

In May the library joined the Small Library Video Circuit and began checking out VHS movies.

Smoking was outlawed this year in government buildings and the library went smoke-free.

In August Children's Librarian Patricia Strickland resigned.

The library began to circulate a small collection of books on tape. This collection proved to be wildly popular with people who commuted for work.

In December the library was closed the week between Christmas and New Years Day to carpet the Adult

Department with grey carpet tiles that could be replaced if damaged. They replaced the original gold carpeting that was installed when the library opened in 1971.

1987

Donna Donelon was hired as Children's Librarian in January after a search of several months.



Peggy Goodrich, Curator

This same month, Museum Curator and longtime town historian Margaret "Peggy" Goodrich retired after 15 years in the Museum. The Township hired Ryta Kroeger in April to be the new curator.

Also that spring, new A/C units on the library roof were installed.

Longtime Children's department employee Rosalie Minotti retired in July.



Rosalie Minotti

The Book Fair in Ocean Grove netted enough profit after splitting the funds with the Lions Club to fund a new Microfiche reader/printer for \$3,000.



(Photo shows carpeting in 2009)

The Children's Department was closed during Christmas week so that rose-colored carpeting tiles could be installed upstairs.

1988

In April the main circulation desk downstairs was resurfaced in burgundy.

The library began hosting Region V Book Evaluation meeting in the Children's Department. Publishers

would send copies of new books and children's librarians would review them at their bimonthly meetings. Everyone got to keep the books they reviewed.

A Mac Plus computer with extra memory was purchased for \$1,557.32 with Book Evaluation funds. Another Macintosh II was purchased to replace a Macintosh, which was given to Technical Services. Their Apple was passed down to the Children's Department.

1989

A poster printer for library publicity was purchased in February.

That same month the Board hired architect John Orosz to provide blue prints of a proposed expansion to the Library.

\$20,000 was cut from the library budget which resulted in layoffs and a reduction in part-time hours.

The first staff fax machine was bought for \$1,605.83, and the library had to pay to install an extra phone line for it.

1990

The new decade saw several staffing changes. Longtime secretary to the Director, Lucie Arcangelo retired and Deborah Taylor was promoted to the position on January 1.

An Apple computer was purchased for \$4,596.95 for her to use.

The LP record collection in the Children's department was seeing a decline in use as people switched over to cassette tapes for playing music.

The bathroom in the Children's department was configured with a Toddler toilet.

In May, cataloging of books on an IBM computer running DOS began, with barcodes being placed on all new materials and Library of Congress MARC (Machine Access Readable Catalog) records being created for all new books.

Membership fees for non-residents were raised to \$20, \$5 for students and \$3 for Seniors.

1991

The \$1.00 fee to request a book through Interlibrary loan would no longer be charged.

Audrey Boland Boccabella was running a program for high school students called "Youth Pursuit."

In December the library ran its first Adopt-a-Family program. This was a carry-over from the St. Rose program and the library "adopted" the Neptune families on the St. Rose list.

1992

In February the library gained access to Info-Trac online magazines. Articles were able to be printed on a pin-fed printer from a

single computer available to the public.

The early 1990s were a time of available grant monies from the State Library for Collection Development. Neptune won \$8,333 (one third of a \$25,000 grant) to improve our technology collection.

Another \$7,000 grant allowed conversion of our shelf-list cards. The cards were sent to a monastery where monks data-processed them into MARC records.

The library also had its first independent audit, separate from the municipal audit.

1993

A handicapped restroom was configured from part of a storage room in the back of the Township meeting room. There was also new signage in the parking lot and installation of an electric door.

A \$25,000 grant with Asbury Park and Matawan/Aberdeen libraries resulted in \$8,333 to purchase books on careers and job searching.

A November fire in the municipal elevator necessitated some cleaning in the library by Crane's Fire & Smoke Cleaners due to soot traveling in ventilation ducts.

1994

Our African American collection benefited from another \$8,333 grant with Asbury Park and Red Bank libraries.

New blinds were purchased for the meeting room upstairs.

Creation of MARC records continued as vendors were evaluated for library automation. RFPs were sent out and bids accepted. General Automation Corporation was the bid winner.

1995

On Sept 21 the library opened with our new system by General Automation. Circulation, cataloging and configuration modules were part of the first installation.

The library joined the MELON project run out of Monmouth University, a consortium of 16 municipal and school libraries, which provided internet and Email access to members.

1996

In May, our first Home Page on the World Wide Web made its appearance. Our address was www.neptunetownship.org, an address that was later transferred to the municipality when they went online. Internet access was with 2 ISDN lines at this point.

A coin box for printing was purchased and attached to the public computer.

1997

The library, in conjunction with the Housing Authority, ran a Reading Program out of the Robert E. West Community Center.

The board hired DLB Associates to put together our first Technology Plan in order to be in compliance with many grant requirements.

Our 25th celebration as a Municipal library was held on October 25. The board voted to replace two sofas before the Open House.

1998

The library installed a T-1 line to speed up internet access.

The library received 4 MacIntosh computers from an Information Literacy Grant that we applied for in conjunction with the high school.

The library 286 model computers are upgraded with new hard drives.

NetNanny filters are removed from adult computers at the request of a patron.



Carmella Gadaleta

1999

Longtime employee Carmella Gadaleta died. The display window in the Lobby is dedicated to her memory, as she was responsible for displays while she worked here.

Unhappy with our current vendor, the library made plans to switch to a new automation system. The previous vendor was located in Australia and providing technical support was too difficult with the time difference. We also wanted a Microsoft-based system for ease of troubleshooting, rather than the Sco-Unix system we had.

2000

The new automation system by SIRSI, located in Huntsville, Alabama, is installed and working.

2001

The board approves architect mark Pavliv to assist with applying for a grant to expand the library. The grant application is due July 31.

Funds from the Mayor's Ball on Sept. 28th will be set aside to benefit the Library's expansion.

Marian Bauman is promoted to Assistant Director.

On Dec 14, Children's Librarian Donna Donelon retires after 14 years at Neptune Public Library.

2002

Cheryl Otten is promoted to Children's Librarian and Sandra Ostroski resigns to take a position in Florida. The Board hires Krista Wittenberg on February 1 as the new reference librarian.



New Children's Librarian Cheryl Otten

Internet sessions with new PC Reservation software allow an hour of computer use for patrons with minimal staff involvement.

In August Neptune begins to lend as well as borrow books with the debut of the Statewide JerseyCat inter-library loan system.

A \$15,695 grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation funded purchase of 4 additional public computers, a new server, and an allowance for building wiring at the end of the summer.

2003

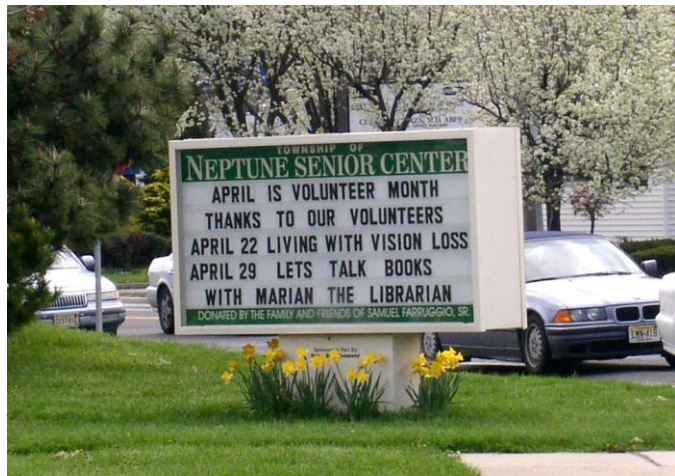
All of the 30-year old lighting ballasts, many of which were burned out, were replaced with new reflectors, ballasts and brighter fluorescent bulbs by taking advantage of utility company rebates that covered half of the cost of the entire project.

On August 1, Marian Bauman becomes Acting Director when Alan Heinlein retires.

Museum curator Evelyn Lewis is laid off and the Museum is closed. Volunteers work on organizing displays to be moved to the Rotunda of the municipal building.

In the Fall, the defunct Neptune Library Association is resurrected as the Friends of Neptune Library and starts having regular meetings and programs.

In November a new handicapped drinking fountain was installed in the Lobby to replace the original unit that no longer cooled water. The dual-level fountain meant that children could now get a drink without assistance.



2004

In April "Let's Talk Books with Marian the Librarian," a monthly visit with books, and author information for the members debuts at the Neptune Senior Center.

At their December meeting, after a national search, the Board of Trustees votes to hire Marian Bauman as the new Director, effective January 1, 2005.

2005



Trustees at party for new director: Joe Krimko, Jill Osis, Kathy Golub, Luke Tirrell, Teretha Jones, Director Marian Bauman and Angela Ricciutti

Trustees throw a party for the public to welcome new Director Marian Bauman.

In April the Friends of Neptune Library hold a huge 3-day book fair in the Township Meeting Room, selling over 23,000 books. With the proceeds, the Friends buy a light box sign in front of the Library to publicize programs and events.

Also in the Spring, a new roof was installed on the library, ending water leaks and mold growth.

The library purchases the very popular mini-keychain library cards. Existing patrons can update to the new cards for a nominal fee.

In May, after the roof replacement, renovations began on the facilities.

Students from the Gifted and Talented Art Class at the Middle School painted a “Neptune”-themed mural on the back staircase of the library in October.



Mural painted by Gifted & Talented Art Students from Middle School.

In late spring, wireless internet connectivity became a reality when we became a “Hot Spot,” even in our parking lot! Separate routers assure a good connection, no matter which floor a user is on.

A second meeting room was made available in August and community groups began booking it.

In September, longtime employee Leeann Spadafora lost her seven year battle with cancer.



Leeann Spadafora



Library Director Marian Bauman with art teacher Amanda Burr FitzPatrick and the art students who painted the library mural.

2006

Ceiling tiles were replaced and mold remediated in the Children’s Department in the winter.

Library policies went online in May.

2007

In March, the library debuted a new World Collection with books in Spanish, and information about learning English and becoming a citizen.

The library began to offer guest cards to visitors who just wanted to use a computer for an hour.

The Friends hosted Asbury Park Press investigative reporter Paul D’Ambrosio who talked about his new fiction novel “Cold Rolled Dead.”



Friends of Neptune Library with author Paul D'Ambrosio

2008

This was a busy year, with over 395 programs held in the library and attendance of 5,677 at those programs.

In February, the lobby restrooms were renovated with new toilets, sinks and partitions. The walls and floors were pressure-washed.

The board voted to conduct background checks on all current and new employees.

Jumping Brook Villas Garden Club helped with our Curb Appeal Project which recommended changes to the barren landscape in front of the Library. Plants were purchased by the Friends of Neptune Library.

Renovations in the staff kitchen and break room included new cabinets, sink, and backsplash to replace the 40 year-old unit that was not working.



Curb Appeal Project

Free computer classes began to be offered. In all, 28 different classes were offered.



Instructor John Bonney with some of his first students.

In August the Best-Sellers Club was introduced. This allowed patrons to always be put on the reserve list for new books by their favorite authors, and it was immediately popular!

September saw an increase of our hours from 55 to 60 per week, when we started opening at 9 am. Since folks were in the lobby at that hour, this was a needed extension of library services.

The new “Book Club in a Bag” program began to provide books for three book clubs. Each bag contained 8 copies of the book, author biographical information, reviews of the book, and discussion questions. By 2010 thirteen clubs would be using this service each month.

2009

On February 12, the library participated in the first ever “Snapshot Day – One Day in the Life of New Jersey Libraries.” The goal was to tally everything that went on “In One Day” in libraries across the state.



Dad and son do homework every afternoon

New HVAC units were installed on the roof in late spring.

The library participated in the township Black History celebration at the Neptune high school.



Mayor Dr. Michael Brantley, Reference librarian John Bonney and Library assistant Yolanda Taylor

The Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dogs started their monthly visits to the library for the “Read To A Dog” program to encourage reluctant beginning readers.



A student reads to a Therapy dog

Storytimes for 6-24 month olds began in July with “Mother Goose Time” storytimes. This lap-sit program is popular with young mothers.

In August the graduates from the Tween book club decided that they wanted their own book club, so a new Teen club was started by the students themselves. The library continues to purchase their books each month.

In September, the library won a Mayor's Book Club grant to encourage early literacy. Mayor Dr. Michael Brantley was instrumental in getting this club off the ground.



Prizes for Mayor's Book Club

The library participated in its first National Night Out at the Neptune Mid-Town Community School, handing out flyers and talking to the local residents about library programs for their families.

The board voted to purchase and start circulating video games. Games for PlayStation, Wii, and Xbox 360 were purchased for the initial collection. Rentals proved slow and

the decision to not continue purchasing new games was made by the board.

Testing and training space in our two meeting rooms was made available to the U.S. Census Bureau as they prepared for the 2010 Census.

In December, the main circulation desk was renovated. Part of the project involved a cut-down for wheelchair access. The top was re-surfaced and the front was repaired.



Four new ottomans and three small tables were purchased for the new Quiet Study area downstairs. Several tables that were in storage were also moved into that new area. The Friends are displaying books for sale on the shelves on the wall.

2010

In January the library received a donation of 275 new books from Reach Out and Read and the New Jersey Health Initiative. The books are free to children in the Mayor's Book Club.

After training and testing in 2009, the Census Department offered census jobs to residents, and the library served as a Questionnaire Assistance Center for a month in the spring.

The TD Foundation made a \$4,000 donation to the library during National Library Week that will be used to purchase books and run programs for the Mayor's Book Club.

Due to terrible statewide and municipal budgets, the library laid off 5 part-time and 2 full-time staff on May 1. This resulted in a reduction of hours open to the public, from 60 down to 44 hours, with the library closed two mornings a week. Open hours on two nights and Saturday mornings were able to still be staffed.

The library additions were finished in late spring. The Children's department gained some space that used to be part of the Museum. Downstairs, space was gained from the old township meeting room, which enabled the debut of a new Quiet Study area, filled with tables and chairs and comfortable seating.

The Central Jersey Regional Library Cooperative closed its doors in July. All of the cooperatives were consolidated into one with the new name of LibraryLinkNJ – the Library Cooperative of New Jersey.



Children's department after renovation

The Neptune Day book sale was held for the first time indoors in the Quiet Study area while the library was closed. Having it indoors was a lot easier for the Friends who worked the sale.

At National Night Out in September, children whose parents signed them up for the Mayor's Book Club got a cute animal hat to wear.



New members of the Mayor's Book Club who signed up at National Night Out