

MASTER PLAN 2010

Pound Ridge Library District

Established in 1952, the Pound Ridge Library is open to the general public and is the cultural hub of the community, providing informational, educational, and recreational exposure to all. The Library's basic operations became tax-supported through a public referendum in the fall of 2003. As a Special District Library, it receives funding through property taxes in order to provide the Library with a constant funding source to supplement its private fund-raising initiatives.

The Library has two boards that do not receive compensation: District Board of Trustees and Foundation Board. The District Board of Trustees, consisting of nine (9) Trustees, manages the affairs of the Library and is elected by registered voters of the Town of Pound Ridge. Trustees serve a term of three years and cannot serve more than two consecutive three-year terms. The Foundation Board serves voluntarily with the sole purpose of raising money for the Capital Campaign dedicated to repairing and expanding the Library's aging building and to underwrite needs not covered in the regular budget. Foundation Board Directors serve three-year terms and cannot serve more than three consecutive three-year terms. There are no limitations on the number of Directors who may serve on the Board.

The Library's collection consists of over 61,000 items, including books, magazines, music CDs, talking-book cassettes and CDs, and VCR and DVD videos. The Library also offers Internet access and electronic database-searching for reference and research. As a member of the Westchester Library System, patrons can also use the computerized inter-library loan system to borrow items from the 37 other Westchester County libraries. The Library also provides wireless access and downloadable audiobooks and ebooks.

As the cultural center of Town, the Library offers activities such as The Adult Learning Center (TALC), art and craft exhibits, "55 Alive" driving courses, films, concerts, senior programs, lectures and book-discussion programs on a consistent basis. The Library also sponsors many children's activities, including winter and spring vacation programs, story hours, holiday events, arts and crafts workshops for all ages, musical performances and the annual Summer Reading Program with a full array of special events. The Library presently offers a variety of teen programs such as teen nights, gaming tournaments, films, book groups, interactive computer networking, student concerts, and a literary magazine.

The Library is engaged with the Town of Pound Ridge, building mutually beneficial relationships. (see The Engaged Library chart)

Even with the advent of electronic media (and in some cases because of it),

Library physical space is limited, as the demand for books and other services continues to increase. Additional area is needed in order for the Library to adequately serve the growing needs of the community. More space is needed for children and teen programs, books, Internet/research areas, and administration space.

Currently, there is a Capital Improvement Campaign in progress with the goal of raising \$2.9 million to meet these needs. The five-year campaign, which is seeking tax-deductible contributions from individuals, foundations, and area businesses, is being conducted by the Pound Ridge Library Foundation. In response to the economic conditions which began at the end of 2008, the capital campaign has been extended. The core of the campaign will be voluntary contributions which donors can make in a single installment or with formal three or five year pledges. \$750,000 has been raised so far.

Goal for expansion:

The goal is to construct an additional 4,000 square feet of space as well as to renovate the existing spaces. Revision of the layout and design of the spaces to include:

Children's Area

- **More defined area for story hour/other programs**
- **More space for collections/technology**
- **New furnishings, storage, display**

Teen Area

- **Tutoring space**
- **Study area**
- **Collections (especially periodicals and graphic novels)**
- **Communications area/gaming area**

Books/Other Media

- **Area for expanded non-book collection (CDs, DVDs, audio books, etc) - goal completed**
- **Create quiet reading area for adults**
- **Establish a defined reference/information area**
- **Adult computer center**
- **Return mystery section to upstairs main area**

Other

- **Administration space/efficiencies including Director's office and staff work room**
- **Upgrade lighting, carpeting, furnishings where needed**
- **Improved or new kitchen for public programs and community activities**

- **Efficient storage area for cleaning supplies, etc**
- **More parking**

The Library is a much-loved, heavily-used facility. Year after year it ranks in the top 10 in per capita circ among the 38 Westchester libraries, attesting to its vital role in the community. (In 2009, the Library ranked 5th per capita.) The Library has come a long way since its founding in 1952 with a collection of 3,000 books - to the cultural center of activities that it is today. To meet the changing needs of the 21st century, however, more space is essential. The Library's goal remains the same – to provide high quality service to the Pound Ridge community.