



BROOKS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: JERRY CARBONE
802-254-5290 ext 101

BROOKS LIBRARY REVISES FIVE YEAR PLAN

The Library has revised its five year plan, *Brooks Memorial Library 2007-2011: Continuing the Collections, Connections, and Collaborations*, and it was recently approved by the Library trustees. The Plan, which has been in development for the past 18 months, identifies six service priorities adapted from seventeen Public Library Association's planning tools. The service priorities were further refined by input derived from the following: staff and trustees; a community forum of Brattleboro residents and library users ; and a community survey completed by over 450 area residents and library users.

The service priorities for the next five years are:

- Provide access to materials to read, view, and to listen for pleasure;
- Answer questions, and help patrons find, evaluate, and use information;
- Create young readers and help support students;
- Inform citizens for lifelong learning;
- Connect to the online world; Inform citizens for lifelong learning;
- Provide access to welcoming physical and virtual spaces.

Along with the six service priorities, the Plan holds 36 actions to implement these priorities over the next two years. The actions continue most of the current services and several actions suggest new or enhanced ways of delivering library service such as, using Internet and web based tools to create conversations and community among readers and library users.

The actions also promote programs and community collaborations which have been extremely successful in attracting adult and children to the library over the past two years. Examples of these successes are the Vermont Humanities Council's First Wednesdays lecture series; programs on critical local, national, and global issues such as those cosponsored with Cities for Climate Protection, and children's programs such as,

Rhyme Time and craft tables. Other actions to be implemented in the coming months are various library resource-based ones that insure acquisitions funds to support sufficient online and print resources, and that keep juvenile nonfiction collection responsive and vital to users. New formats will also be incorporated where feasible, like digital “playaways” (mp3 audiobook players) and downloadable audiobooks.

This is the Library’s fourth revised plan. The first plan was prepared in 1990 and has been revised every five years. The complete plan is available on the Library's web site and a copy is available in the public documents shelf in the Reference Section. A printed one page summary of the mission statement and library service priorities will be available at the Library.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Information contact: Jerry Carbone, 802-254-5290 ext 101,
jerry@brooks.lib.vt.us