

Thrall Library Times

Information and Events at Middletown Thrall Library

~ P U B L I S H E D J U L Y 2 , 2 0 0 8 ~

“The man who is swimming against the stream knows the strength of it.” Woodrow Wilson

FROM KEVIN J. GALLAGHER
MIDDLETOWN THRALL LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Senator John J. Bonacic Secures Grant for Library District

Senator Bonacic has notified the library district that he was able to secure a 2008 NYS Bullet Aid grant during the recently concluded legislative session. These funds can only be used for capital expenses.

The receipt of this grant is particularly timely, as the library district is in the midst of a number of repair projects and interior space review work. It will help to stretch the regular 2008 budget for repairs, enabling us to complete more work than anticipated.

Volunteers Needed for Home Deliveries

The library is seeking volunteers to assist with our home delivery program. We deliver a full range of library materials to individuals who live within our chartered service area and have no way of getting to the library, nor have anyone who can pick up items for them. Deliveries are made once every four weeks. All materials are selected by library staff. While the loads are not heavy, prospective volunteers should be able to lift a bag with five or six books in it. At the present time, there is one delivery made to a location that requires climbing one flight of stairs.

Volunteers need to have their own vehicle and must be reliable, as this is a year-round service. To volunteer or to learn more details, please call Kevin Gallagher, Director, at 341-5485.

MIDDLETOWN THRALL LIBRARY

11 - 19 Depot Street, Middletown, NY 10940

KEVIN J. GALLAGHER, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Telephone: (845) 341-5485 E-mail: thrall7@warwick.net

SUMMER HOURS: Monday – Thursday: 9 AM – 8 PM
Fri: 9 AM - 6 PM Sat: 10 AM – 2 PM Sun : CLOSED

Main Desk: (845) 341-5454 Reference Librarians: 341-5461

Youth Services: 341-5470 Local History: 341-5483

For more news and free services please go to www.Thrall.org

FROM THE HEAD OF REFERENCE
MARY SUSAN FLANNERY CLIMES

LIBRARY CATALOG UPDATE

As some of you might have noticed by now, the library catalog has been updated. This update, performed by the Ramapo Catskill Library System (RCLS), was pursued in hopes of bringing greater stability to the online library catalog (“HIP”). So far, the upgrade appears to be a success! As a result of the upgrade, all library catalogs, including Thrall’s, changed slightly in appearance. Two new tabs at the top of the catalog give you easy access to our popular RAVES! and Booklover’s Blog services.

To access your account in this version of the catalog, you must use your library card’s barcode number as your user name. Your password (PIN) will be the last four digits of your telephone number, unless you changed it.

If you have any questions about the catalog, please contact Reference at 341-5461 or online at www.thrall.org/ask

SPECIAL COVERAGE CENTER EXPANSION

Thrall’s online Special Coverage Center has expanded once again, incorporating headlines from our blogs as well as offering direct links to topics in our Current Interests guide.

If you’re new to it, our Special Coverage Center is where we feature current topics of local and global interest, providing you key categorized web links while highlighting relevant information available to you in our library system.

You can reach the new Center at www.thrall.org/special or reach it from our home page.

Since our last newsletter we added four major topics:

Food Prices / Global Food Crisis
Bees & Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD)
Myanmar / Burma Cyclone of 2008
Oil / Peak Oil

Our blogs continue to thrive with new and interesting information, including reader’s advisories, health and nutrition articles, space exploration updates, environmental reports, consumer advisories, and much more.

For more on this, please go to www.thrall.org/blogs or follow the “blogs” link on our home page.

(FROM THE HEAD OF REFERENCE – CONTINUED)

This summer, take a vacation...

Beyond the Bestsellers!

Our latest quarterly issue of *Beyond the Bestsellers* has just been published! Discover books and authors not always found on “bestseller” lists. You can find printed copies of it at Reference or by our New Books section. We also have an online edition you can check out at www.thrall.org/btb

The online edition features links you can follow into the catalog, where you can often find reviews, chapter excerpts, or book summaries.

If you like an item, you can request it and have it set aside for you when it becomes available. If you’ve never done this before, just come to Reference, and we’ll be happy to assist you!

FROM GOVERNMENT INFORMATION LIBRARIAN, KAREN A. HEIL

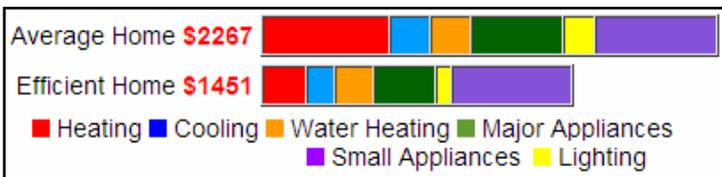
“Energy Costs and... Savings?!”

It is very hard not to hyperventilate over the fuel situation we are facing today and in the future! It becomes more important to make informed decisions about how we use energy. Two government websites may be able to help.

Home Energy Saver (at hes.lbl.gov) is “the first web-based do-it-yourself energy audit tool.” Just enter your zip code and see an energy cost comparison between an average house and an energy efficient house in your area. Complete a form and you may be able to see your home in a carbon footprint map. Here is an example right from their site:

“Energy Bill for Homes in Middletown, New York”

“Based on the zip code you entered, here is a comparison of the energy costs (in \$/year) of an average home and an energy-efficient home in your area”:



LBL.gov specified a “potential savings” of \$816!

Check out the latest Fuel Economy Guide at www.fueleconomy.gov - here you can find out your car’s “energy score,” compare your car to the latest hybrid, find out how fuel cells work, and learn about the new, more accurate fuel economy ratings. Information will help you prepare for the tough times ahead.

For even more on fuel economy, alternate fuels, hybrids, and related topics, check out the “Transportation” section of our **Going Green Guide** on the web: www.thrall.org/gg

Summer Fun @ Thrall!

In support of the New York State summer reading program (“Bug Out”), the Children’s Department has many fun programs planned. Please see which ones interest you and try to attend!

Friday, July 11, 2008: "The Butterfly Lady"
4:30 pm -5:30 pm. Ages 5 and up.

Monday, July 14, 2008: "Bugs N Things that Go Bump in the Night" 4:30 pm - 5:00 pm. All Ages.

Friday, July 18, 2008: "Stretch the Silly Man"
4:30 pm - 5:30 pm. All ages.

Tuesday, July 22, 2008: "Ben Franklin" – A Play
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm. All ages.

Thursday, July 24, 2008: "The Caterpillar Hunter"
4:30 pm - 5:00 pm. All ages.

Wednesday, July 30, 2008: "Build your Own Blue Bird Nest" 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm. Ages: 6 and up

Friday, August 1, 2008: "Bug out with Outdoor Activities" 10:00 am - 11:30 pm. All ages.

For more information please call 341-5470.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN EXHIBIT “IN SEARCH OF A BETTER WORLD”

The national traveling exhibit *Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World* is currently on display at the Middletown Thrall Library until July 25, 2008. This exhibit examines the remarkable life and achievements of one of America's most beloved personalities.

At the library, we have a printed brochure of current and upcoming programs and events for the public. You can also check out our programs online at www.thrall.org/franklin

For more information, please call 341-5479.

FALL BOOK DISCUSSION PREVIEW...

THE EMPIRE STATE

In the near future we will mail and publish information about our upcoming fall book discussion series, which will feature authors and stories with ties to New York State. It promises to be a most engaging series, and we hope you can attend. Please call us at 341-5479 to place yourself on our print or electronic mailing lists so you can be among the first to learn of all the details. Have a great summer!