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# RICHMOND READINGS

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The Newsletter of The Richmond Memorial Library • Marlborough, Connecticut 06447  
www.richmondlibrary.info 860/295-6210

Summer 2008

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## Library Budget Takes a Hit *Could this be our last newsletter?*

We don't have to tell you that we are in a downward economy and the Richmond Memorial Library is certainly feeling the pinch of these challenging economic times. The Richmond Memorial Library Executive Board reviewed its proposed 2008-2009 budget during its May 19 meeting. At that time we thought that a grant to the library had been approved for \$300,410. The library had requested a grant of \$303,410. The Board of Selectmen recommended the lower amount to the Board of Finance. In a shift by the BOF, the Board of Selectmen were given a budget figure during the Town annual meeting that required that the BOS decide allocations and balance the budget. Subsequently, the library grant was cut another \$3,000 to \$297,410.

The library is feeling the recession pinch and it has not met its income projections this year. The Library does not rely solely on the Town grant for its operating income, but other sources as well such as the RML Association membership annual support campaign, fines, grants and donations. "People who are strapped to make ends meet just do not have the disposable income to make donations to non profits and other organizations," said Board Chair Linda Cherry. "Our income is down this year, especially in Association membership, so this will result in us having to make adjustments to the library budget. Combine this with a less than one percent increase from the Town and it is not a rosy picture for us."

The library budget begins getting built each fall, just after the Association membership campaign starts. At that time, things looked much better economically in Connecticut and our income was coming in on track. It was not until February that it became obvious that we were not going to be able to meet our income projections this year. "We haven't been able to generate the income needed for this year. Unfortunately, the Board of Finance followed the Board of Select-

man's recommendation to reduce our request," said Library Director Nancy Wood. "It is surprising to have budget decisions made so close to the next fiscal year. Next fall, people will see what we have had to eliminate, but that is how the process is being done this year. This could jeopardize our State library grant."

Our overall operating budget for next fiscal year is decreasing over the preceding year. Obviously, this means reductions had to be made on the expenses side of the budget. Line items that have been reduced include all collection materials: books – including multiple copies of best sellers, audio books, compact discs, DVDs, recorded books, museum passes and magazines. The technology refresh line was reduced, meaning that for the second year in a row, the most likely scenario will be that no computers will be replaced. Over the past decade, library computers had been upgraded every four years on a rotating schedule with three machines being replaced each year. In years past, these expenditures were part of the Capital Improvement Program, not part of the library's operating budget. We are trying to preserve programs for children and teens but adult programs will be greatly reduced. We had hoped to put more historic material online, but that project is on hold for now. We will discontinue Info Anytime (24 hour online reference service) and the Online Book Clubs. We will evaluate our service hours and reduce them if necessary.

Last, this could be your final printed newsletter. The September issue definitely will not be published, and we will evaluate the situation in December. Our award winning newsletter was distributed townwide three times a year. "We are very sorry to have to make these cuts, but without adequate Town support we have no alternative. Sadly, you just can't run a public library on donations," said Library Board Vice-President Bob Allen.



# Catch the Reading Bug!

There's a bug going around the Library this summer, and the RML staff is hoping everyone catches it! It's the 2008 Summer Reading Program, aptly named, "Catch the Reading Bug!"

This buggy reading adventure begins on Kick-off Night, Tuesday, June 17 at 6 PM. Preschoolers, students, teens and adults are all invited to sign-up for a reading program and kids will also receive their incentive prizes. Beginning at 6:30 PM, we'll be entertained by Mike Kachuba's "Earthworms, Doodlebugs & Dirt" musical performance that will have the whole family buzzin'!

Children who participate in the summer reading program will keep track of their time spent reading and earn cootie-bug 'parts' in their reading record. When an hour is completed, they will also help to create a giant cootie-bug on the Library window. There will also be a prize drawing for those who complete the eight hours of reading this summer. Says Children's/Young Adult Librarian Eileen Washburn, of the reading bug, "If an epidemic breaks out, it will be a good thing".

The Library has lots of other fun programs planned as well. Two Connecticut authors will be visiting RML for some creepy fun this summer. Leslie Bulion, author of *Hey There, Stink Bug!* will share her bug journals and collections, and introduce us to insects as "Pure Poetry" on June 25, sponsored by the Marlborough PTO. Author and naturalist John Himmelman visits on August 5 and brings his multimedia presentation which is humorous and at times, horrifying!

Magician Debbie O'Carroll shows us a day in the life of a honey bee in her performance of "Bee Magic" on July 9. And our youngest patrons can join Ms. Eileen for Bee Bop Pooh Storytime on July 15. Our story time room will be transformed into the Hundred Acre Wood as we hear stories and make a craft all about our friend Pooh, and his favorite thing – HONEY! Ms. Patty will also present Stories in the Shade on Wednesdays at 10:30 AM this summer, in our own Hundred Acre

Wood outside.

School aged kids will want to be around on July 24 as we welcome Improv-4-Kids, a professional theatre program that is the official outreach program for kids of NYC's Laugh Factory. The audience will get to run the show! The Museum of CT History will be visiting on July 31 with their popular "CT Invents" program designed especially for students entering grades 4 & 5.

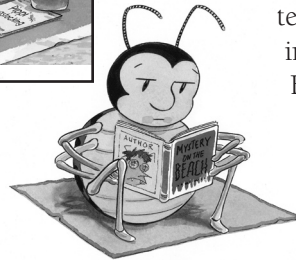
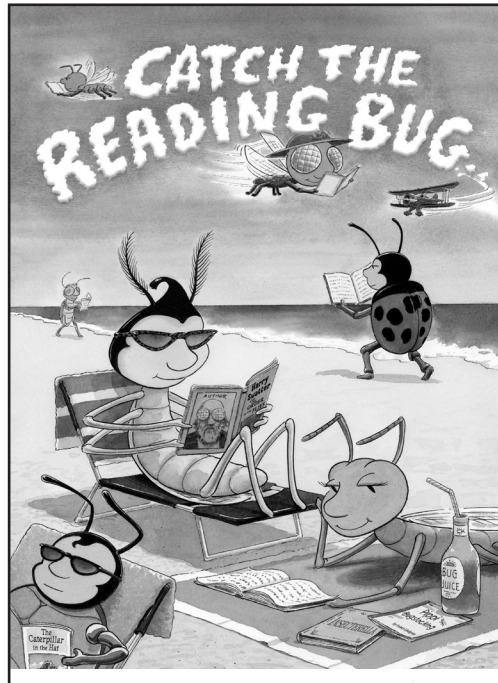
And to top it all off, we're making it a family affair with Marlborough's first-ever (that we know of!) FAMILY CREATE-A-BUG CONTEST! Starting on kick-off night, families can pick up a brown bag full of goodies to make their own one-of-a-kind bug to be displayed at the Library. The bugs will be voted on and prizes awarded at BEE Movie Night – (when we watch the movie on our totally buggin' plasma television, and eat snacks) on Wednesday, August 13.

Area teens will want to watch RML's teen blog for upcoming information on their summer reading program – Don't Bug Me @ the Library. Stay tuned for updates at [marlteens.wordpress.com](http://marlteens.wordpress.com). Teens will have an opportunity to earn 'MarlBucks' again this year to be used at a Silent Auction in August. But first they will have to participate in games such as 'I Spy' and 'RML Survivor'. The Library will also have some teen programs this summer including Soda-Can Tab Bracelets, the Buzz on Flip-Flops, and a parent/teen cooking class that will leave you happy as a roly-poly bug in dirt.

Teens and adults can start signing-up for their respective reading programs at kick-off night as well. As in past years, there will be a weekly prize drawing for adults who read and fill out a weekly entry form.

Area businesses are supporting our efforts to promote literacy and donations have been received from the following: Liberty Bank, Marlborough Family Dental, P.C., Marlborough Tavern, Marlborough Health Care Center and Lily's Frame & Art.

Information on these programs can be found on the Library website at [www.richmondlibrary.info](http://www.richmondlibrary.info) or call 295-6210 for more information. Better yet, stop in and help us "Catch the Reading Bug"!



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## Nine Towns Reading Together!

The nine East of the River Reads libraries have made their book selection for this year. It's the World War II mystery, *Billy Boyle* by James R. Benn. "It's the first time we have chosen a mystery and we hope the topic, WWII will interest lots of readers. We realize our previous titles had female authors and may have had more appeal to women so we are hoping for a large group of readers with this winning combination of mystery and World War II. Multiple titles of the book will be available at Richmond Memorial Library. We hope that author will make a local presentation this fall."

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### Credit Where Credit is Due

David Anderson – Donation of DVDs  
Grace, Ron, Jen and Robert Carlson – Donation in memory of Dillon Wilson  
David Porteous – Donation of Individual Investors Guide to Top Mutual Funds  
Sendlein Family – Donation of the Dresden Series  
Patty Kulju – Donation of DVDs  
Nancy Wood – Donation of DVD  
The Hart Family – Donation of DVD  
Pat Cosgrove – Pfizer Foundation volunteer grant  
Nancy Considine – Donation for local history project  
Marlborough Post Office employees – Donation in memory of Peter Abel  
Judy Friday – Donation for adult books  
Marlborough PTO – Donation for museum passes: Children's Museum of Connecticut, Mystic Seaport and Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame  
Marlborough Junior Women's Club – Donation for Book-a-Baby, Book-a-Grad books  
Liberty Bank – Summer Reading Sponsor  
Marlborough Family Dental – Summer Reading Sponsor  
Marlborough Health Care Center – Summer Reading Sponsor  
Marlborough PTO – Summer Reading Sponsor  
Marlborough Tavern – Summer Reading Sponsor  
Lily's Frame & Art – Summer Reading Sponsor

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### Momentous Staff Anniversaries

Lots of milestones lately with staff continuous years of service:

|                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Carol Bartok – 20 yrs   | Lee Phillips – 24 yrs   |
| Carol Beyerly – 20 yrs  | Daphne Vail – 23 yrs    |
| Ann Grybko – 31 yrs     | Eileen Washburn – 6 yrs |
| Linda Herrmann – 30 yrs | Nancy Wood – 15 yrs     |

## We're on the Move

This spring the Richmond Memorial Library Executive Board hired consultant Cheryl Bryan to look at the library with a fresh eye and make recommendations as to how we could reconfigure the library to improve service. Ms. Bryan is a nationally known library space expert and author of *Managing Facilities for Results: Optimizing Space for Services*. She spent a day here in April observing library usage patterns, evaluating our space and interviewed staff and Board members. Her key comment was, "You need more space!" Her time here was followed with a written report which the Board and Staff have reviewed. Discussion ensued and some of her recommendations regarding the collection and building are being pursued.

"Cheryl's visit really was self-validating for us, as many things we had already considered, but just needed a little push of encouragement," said Library Director Nancy Wood. "We know we are out of space, so now we are just looking at optimizing what we have. Look for changes in the near future."

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## Calendar

June 17 – Summer Reading Kick-Off Night, sponsored by Liberty Bank, Marlborough Office, 6 PM  
June 25 – Stories in the Shade, 10:30 AM  
June 25 – **Insects are Pure Poetry** with author Leslie Bulion, 1 PM (ages 4 & up), sponsored by the Marlborough PTO  
July 2 – Stories in the Shade, 10:30 AM  
July 4 & 5 – *Library closed, Independence Day weekend*  
July 9 – **Bee Magic** with Magician Debbie O'Carroll, 10 AM (ages 3-12) – no Stories in the Shade today  
July 15 – **Bee Bop Pooh** Story Time, 10:30 AM, (ages 3-6), registration required  
July 16 - Stories in the Shade, 10:30 AM  
July 23 – Stories in the Shade, 10:30 AM  
July 24 – **Improv for Kids**, 4 PM, (ages 5 & up), place to be announced  
July 30 – Stories in the Shade, 10:30 AM  
July 31 – **Connecticut Invents** with the Museum of CT History, 10:30 AM (must be entering grades 4 & 5)  
August 5 – **Insects and Their Amazing Stories** with author John Himmelman, 3 pm, ages 4 & up, sponsored by Marlborough Health Care Center  
August 13 – **Bee Movie** Night, 6 PM  
August 20 – RML Friends Ice Cream Social, 6 PM



# Richmond Memorial Library Association — 2008

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- Rose Marie & Gar Fellman
- Debbie & David Bourbeau  
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Michael Nastri  
The Bergman Family
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Judy Farrell  
Donald & Lindalee Favry  
Jack & Lin Gotta  
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Inc.  
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Judith LaCava  
LaPoint Family  
Rick McMahon  
Jim & Barbara Montstream  
Betty & George O'Brien  
John & Wendy Paggioli  
Don & Jann Parker  
Eileen & Wally Pearson  
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George & Elinor Ribnick  
Camille & Greg Servodidio  
George & Madeline Sevich  
Denis & Sandra Soucy  
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Stratton  
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Weselyj Family  
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Zammitti
- Robert D. Allen  
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Richard & Paula Lemieux  
John & Carol Orzech &  
Family  
Peter & Anne Wursthorn
- Tom & Wanda Reiser
- Richard & Nicolette  
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- The O'Neil Family
- The Adamsons  
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Ed & Nancy Bader  
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*We apologize for any errors or omissions. Thank you for your interest and support.*

