Q. These are tough times. Can’t the library just tighten its belt?
A. We already have. Despite decreased state funding, the library has worked to maintain a balanced operating budget and operate with anticipated revenue.

1. No pay raises
2. Hiring freeze
3. Increased fees and fines
4. Cut materials budget by $85,000
5. Closed one day a month with unpaid furlough
6. Eliminated 46 magazine and 3 newspaper subscriptions
7. Extended life cycle of PCs
8. Cut library supplies by 24%
9. Cut part time employees’ hours
10. Emergency building maintenance only

Q. What will we do if the levy fails?
A. We will be forced to make some tough decisions.
1. Reduce library operating hours by as much as 3 days a week.
2. Reduce library materials purchasing
3. Reduce staff by up to 50% and continue wage and hiring freeze
4. Reduce library programs
5. Eliminate outreach programs
6. Eliminate free computer classes
7. Reduce library services to the public such as the drive-up window.

Q. Why is this levy necessary?
A. This levy replaces our 1-mill levy that expires in 2010. It also replaces lost state Public Library Funds ($282,719 in 2009 and $452,538 in 2010) and prepares the library for future cuts. The 2010 main revenue sources are: Public Library Fund (PLF) ($949,239 or 50%) and Levy ($890,483 or 46.91%).

Q. How much will this cost?
A. The owner of a $100,000 house currently pays $30.63 in annual property tax for the library. If the 2-mill levy passes, the same homeowner would pay an additional $30.63 for a total of $61.25. This translates to a total of $5.10 per month or 17 cents/day.

Q. What are the specifics of the levy?
A. It is a 2-mill continuous levy which will generate $1,972,105 and will be used for operating expenses. It replaces the expiring 1-mill 5-year levy and attempts to replace losses of state funding. It also attempts to bring us back to 2008 revenue levels (levy plus state funding) and provide support for the future. The levy will be on the May 4 ballot for voters in the Stow-Munroe Falls School District.
“ASK A LIBRARIAN” BY BARBARA NELSON—ASSISTANT HEAD OF REFERENCE SERVICES

Last year, the Adult Information Desk answered 98,749 questions. What types of things are asked? Here is a sampling of questions from last month.

**Question:** I am auditioning for a part in the play Death of a Salesman. Do you have a copy of the script?

**Answer:** Yes. We have copies of scripts for most major award winning plays. We also have sheet music and soundtracks for most major Broadway musicals.

**Question:** Do you have any CDs that I could use for a party?

**Answer:** Yes. We have Karaoke CDs and special party music. The CDs feature songs like The Electric Slide, The Chicken Dance and Shout. We also have CDs that can be used at weddings.

**Question:** I have some old United State Saving Bonds. How can I find out how much the are worth?

**Answer:** You can visit the website http://www.treasurydirect.gov/BC/SBCPrice and use the Savings Bond Calculator to determine the value of each of your bonds.

**Question:** I am taking a long car trip and I want to listen to something funny. Can you help me?

**Answer:** We have humorous books on CD by authors like Dave Barry, Garrison Keillor and David Sedaris. We also have a collection of comedy CDs that include comedy routines and novelty songs. Stop in!

DIANA PARKER IS THE “FINE PRINT EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH”

Diana Parker is this month’s Fine Print Employee of the Month. Here’s more info on this valued employee.

**How long have you been working at the Stow Munroe-Falls Public Library?**

Since February of 1999; eleven years now. Holy moly!

**What is your current job?**

I am a reference librarian, so a big part of my job is to answer patron questions at our information desk. This is always interesting because people ask us such a wide variety of different things. I am also the Interlibrary Loan Coordinator, which means I keep track of all the various items we borrow from other libraries. This is a great resource, because we can get items for our patrons from all over the country if necessary. My third area of responsibility is to head up our computer training program. I set the schedule for all our teachers and teach many computer classes myself. I really enjoy showing people how to get the most out of Microsoft Excel, or how to edit their photographs in Adobe Photoshop Elements – it’s great fun!

**How would you describe the Stow Munroe-Falls Public Library?**

The Stow Munroe-Falls Public Library is a great library. All my colleagues and I work together to try to serve our patrons’ needs. Before I was a librarian, I never realized how much information you could find at a library, or that the librarians would help you figure out how to search out the information, refine your questions and locate your answers. We’re too small to have every book or movie in our collection (nobody but the Library of Congress has it all!), but we collaborate with other libraries, share resources and do our level best to get you what you need. I think our library does a good job of making sure we have a little bit of everything.

**What book would you recommend?**

It’s hard to limit myself to just one. My favorite nonfiction book I’ve read recently is Superfreakonomics by Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner. It’s a sequel to their bestselling book Freakonomics, and it applies the math of economics to the kinds of situations that economics is not usually associated with. It’s a very interesting read.

**What are your hobbies?**

I am a huge knitter. Of course, I read a great deal. Also, my Dad and I travel once a year. We have gone to Egypt, China and South America, so far. These trips give us a chance to spend time together as well as see new places—a double pleasure. And I write about my travels, hobbies and anything else that occurs to me on my blog at sockknittinglibrarian.blogspot.com. It’s quite a hodgepodge of things!
Did you know that Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library has a Local History Collection? Located in the area behind the Information Desk, the Local History Center contains books on Stow and Munroe Falls as well as cabinets of Stow Sentry news clippings. Framed historic photographs hang above the Local history counter. Display cases contain rotating exhibits relating to Stow and Munroe Falls history. Past displays have included the histories of Stow Schools, early Stow Township, Stow July 4th Parade, and a Christmas display of early 20th century toys. Featured during March was a framed needlework sampler stitched by ten year old Mary Jane Woods, along with photo albums of the annual Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library Needlework Show. Brochures on the Stow Historical Society and the Munroe Falls Historical Society are available on the counter.

The Local History Librarian receives inquiries from local as well as out-of-state researchers. Do you think your home may be of historic interest? Look in the Historic Properties Survey Report, a survey commissioned by the City of Stow in the 1980s. Are you looking for past information on a business, community event, or organization? The Local History Center contains news clippings from the Stow Sentry, and microfilm of all issues. Are you working on the reunion committee of your high school graduating class? Look in the Stoannos (Stow High School yearbooks) for photos of your classmates and teachers. Looking for information on family who lived in the area during the 1930s, ’40s, and ’50s? Search in the old city directories and the Community Church News. If you need an obituary for your family history research we have obituaries from the Stow Sentry and the Akron Beacon Journal. Because of their fragile or unique nature, items such as old city directories, Stow Sentry microfilm, biography/obituary binders, and Stoannos require that an ID be held. Ask at the Information Desk for assistance.

Local History holdings also include Special Collections donated by individuals or organizations, and oral histories of local citizens. The Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library welcomes donations that meet the Local History Collection Development Policy, a copy of which can be found on the Local History webpage at http://www.smfpl.org/reference/lh/local_history. Also on the webpage are facts about area history and pioneers, and links to Local History online photo collections. If you have questions about the Local History Collection, or to make an appointment, contact Local History Librarian Beth Daugherty at 330-688-3295.

Items in this display belong to the Hibbard-Amlung, Robert D. Huber, and Velma Workman Special Collections.

Lotto was a popular children’s game during the early part of the twentieth century. This game was donated by Elizabeth Cowels, direct descendent of pioneer William Stow.
BOOK DONATION DAY

Book Donation Day is on Saturday, April 10 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bring used books, DVDs, CDs, puzzles and more to the back door of the library. Curb service will be provided. Donated items are offered to the library or will be sold at the April Book Sale. Proceeds of the sale benefit the library. Donations are tax deductible and receipts are available upon request. Donate 10 items on this day and receive a pass to the Friends Presale Day on April 21 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY SPRING BOOK SALE

The Friends of Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library’s April Book Sale will take place in the Stow-Munroe Falls meeting room from April 20 to April 24. April 20 is Patron’s Night from 5 to 8 p.m. Donation is $10 per person or $5 per person for members of the Friends. Memberships may be purchased at the door for $5.

Presale for members of the Friends only will be on April 21 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Memberships will be available at the door.

The general sale is free to the public on April 21 from 1 to 8 p.m.; April 22 from 10 to 8 p.m.; April 23 from 10 to 5 p.m. On Saturday, April 24 from 10 to 2 p.m., fill a grocery bag for only $3. At 2 p.m., unsold materials are free to teachers or non-profit organizations.

LIBRARY CLOSINGS

Due to budget cutbacks, the library will be closed for an unpaid staff day on Friday, April 30. We look forward to serving you on the days we are open.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The Friends of the Library is a citizen support group for Library services and activities. They sponsor book sales as well as the annual Needlework Show and other programming. Friends meet the third Tuesday of every month (except December and July) at 2:00 p.m. in the Stow Room.

Friends officers for 2009 are (left to right): Peg Niemeyer, Vice President; Hermine Meyer, Treasurer; Diane Brown, Corresponding Secretary; Nicole Welsh, President; Peggy Shaffer, Secretary.

FOUNDATION

The Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library Foundation was incorporated in 1994 as a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. The Foundation is dedicated to ensuring a great library system by raising, managing and allocating funds to expand and improve the library. Interested in giving to the Foundation? Go to www.smfpl.org

Front Row: Linda Trevorrow, Treasurer; Kelley Cerroni, Vice President; Julie Gedeon, President; Ann Lucco, Secretary. Back Row: Jane Mead, David Renninger, Ruth Reedy, Cindy Pribonic, Thomas Houlihan, Ann Malthaner, Doug Dotterer. Not pictured: Lindsay Busch, Pamela Anderson, Nadine Chapman and Carolyn Radcliff