

Renovations underway at West Woodstock Library

BY BRAD TILLES
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WOODSTOCK — The West Woodstock Library of 5 Bungay Hill Connector behind the Church of the Good Shepherd has been a mainstay in town for more than 200 years, and it is still expanding.

Librarian Pat Pelloth has been running the library for the past four years and previously spent five years volunteering beside librarian Lorraine Waido.

When Waido passed away from cancer several years ago, Pelloth took over after the brief occupation of Waido's immediate replacement.

"I knew the library system and I just fell into it," Pelloth said. "I just fell in love with this library."

The library was originally founded in 1806, and the West Woodstock Library Association was

founded in December of 1930. The association is a nonprofit organization that operates under the terms of its constitution and bylaws to oversee the operation of the library.

The library is currently undergoing renovations, as a larger room will soon open up to house the children's section. This will allow for 2,000 additional children's books to be stored alongside the library's already extensive collection. In 2004, the library added on the previously dismantled historic John F. Williams Law Office, which housed the library's collection for a number of years back in the 1800s. Pelloth has no idea when the renovation will be completed and is awaiting the building contractor to knock down the wall. For the most part, it is a matter of coordinating peoples' schedules.

As autumn has dawned in New England, the temporary children's section features a fall harvest of classic children stories. Pelloth, who works as a tutor at the Pomfret Rectory School and earned a college degree in horticulture at the University of Connecticut, also features science books on the environment for the library's young readers. Since the summer, parents volunteer every Wednesday at 10 a.m. for the

Children's Reading Hour. Once the new children's room is finished, Pelloth hopes to have an additional Reading Hour for children in seventh and eighth grades, as well as to invite guest authors to speak at the library.

Since January 2006, the library has participated in Operation Paperback, an

organization that collects donated paperback books and sends them to U.S. troops deployed overseas. Since then, the library has already shipped close to 500 books.

As the library is taking shape, every book is being bar-coded and entered into an online database. New books are always coming in, whether by patrons' requests or any anticipated new releases. In addition, several videos and audio books available to be checked out.

Anyone who wishes to donate books to Operation Paperback or any money toward the renovation may visit the library during open hours or call at 974-0376.

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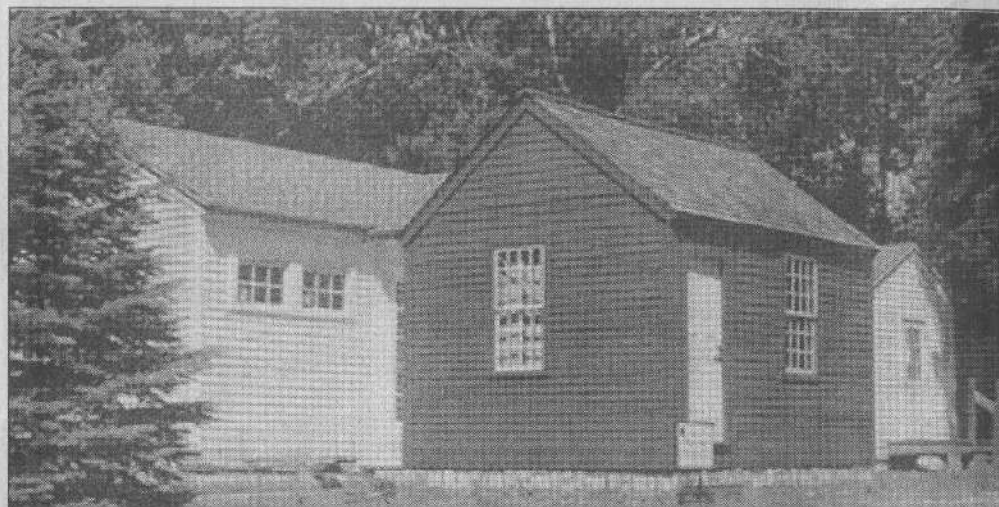
THE LIBRARY IS OPEN

Tuesdays from 3 to 6 p.m.

Wednesdays from 4 to 7 p.m.
with Children's Story Hour
from 10 to 11 a.m.

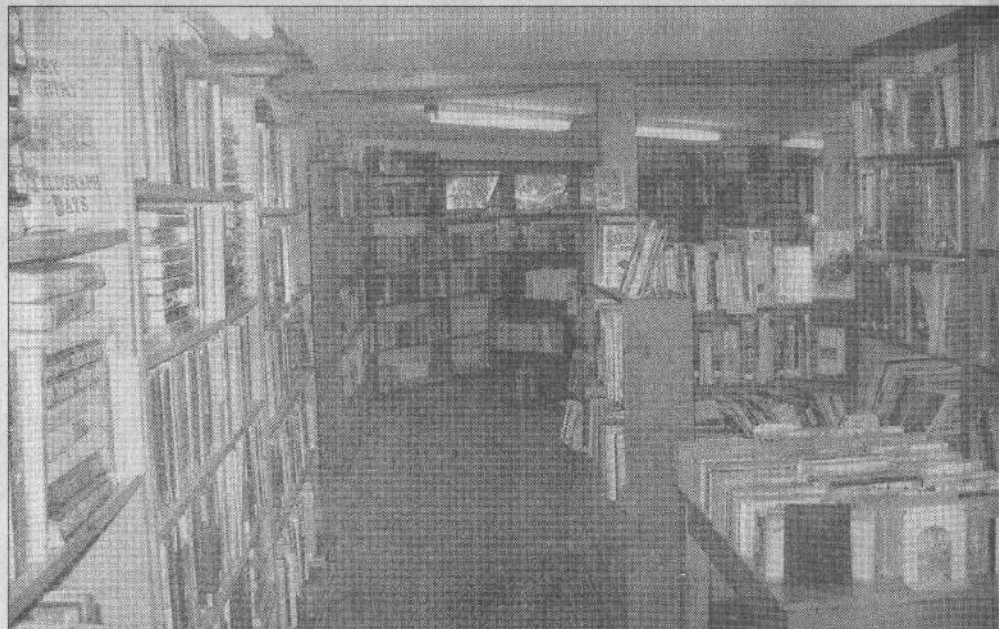
Thursdays from 4 to 6 p.m.

Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Courtesy photo

The exterior of the West Woodstock Library shows the newly added section that will soon house a larger children's section.



Brad Tilles photo

The interior of the West Woodstock Library showcases an extensive, yet cramped collection of books. The impending renovation will allow an expansion of books.