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## Heat too much for building

By **Melissa Russell** / Correspondent

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**L**ooking for somewhere to cool off?

Don't even try going to the library.

Extreme heat and a faulty air conditioner forced the library to close its doors Tuesday and Wednesday, Town Manager Peter Hechenbleikner told the Board of Selectmen Tuesday night.

According to Hechenbleikner, the chillers on the six-year-old unit malfunctioned, raising indoor temperatures past 80 degrees. The building's portable units were unable to combat this week's heat and humidity, he said, which necessitated the closing of the building.

"While it would not be too uncomfortable for residents who are in and out of the building quickly, it is not doable for the staff who would be in there all day," Hechenbleikner said.

Parts have been ordered, and it is hoped that the building will be open today.

"We know the community loves the library, they even approved extra money to keep it open on Saturdays," Hechenbleikner said. "We are doing our very best to get it up and running."

In other news, Reading residents will soon be able to see which of their neighbors are wanted on outstanding police warrants by checking the police department Web site.

Chief James Cormier and Sergeant David Stamatis explained their plan to post mug shots and descriptions of past and present Reading residents who have committed felonies in town and who have outstanding warrants for their arrest.

A judge issues a warrant after a person fails to appear in court for a specific hearing date. The individuals have not yet been convicted of the crime they are accused of, Cormier said.

Cormier told the board that there are currently between 70 to 100 outstanding warrants for Reading residents, some dating back 20 years. The Web site would only list six or so recent warrants for felonies such as bank robberies, armed assault, or controlled substance violations, Cormier explained.

The listing would be removed after the individual is apprehended or the warrant is cleared, Cormier said.

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Stamatis said, "We believe that the residents of Reading would benefit greatly by the Web site. It offers us an opportunity to use the public as our eyes and ears, and gives residents a great sense of participation with us."

Selectman Richard Schubert said, "I see this as a tool to help you guys do your job. It can only help residents, and also break down barriers."

In other business, after a public hearing Selectmen approved a heavy vehicle exclusion for Linden Street, and a nighttime heavy vehicle exclusion on Bancroft Avenue from Woburn Street to Lowell Street between 9 p.m. and 7 a.m.






An application for a complete ban on truck traffic on Bancroft Avenue was denied by the state Highway Department, but may be resubmitted after construction work on the downtown area is completed, Hechenbleikner said.

Additionally, the board awarded certificates of appreciation to resident Ben Nichols for 39 years of service on the Land Bank Committee and to Robert Cummings for 27 years as Commissioner of Trust Funds.

Nichols, who moved to Reading in 1911 at age three, reminisced with the board, and gave some words of advice to the most recently elected members, Ben Tafoya and James Bonazoli.

"You guys are new here, just stick around 50 years," he said.

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