

Carnegie Library

Newnan, Georgia

Survey of “Public Library Roles”

*This survey
was formulated
using nationally
recognized public library
roles for the
Newnan Carnegie Library*

*compiled and distributed
by the “Friends of the Carnegie”*

survey team:

- ♦ *Lauren Jones*
- ♦ *Kim Hinely*
- ♦ *Brenda Jessel*
- ♦ *Kim Wright*
- ♦ *Carol Burke*
- ♦ *Rodney Cage*
- ♦ *Jim Burke*
- ♦ *Sam Edwards*
- ♦ *Maria Bump*
- ♦ *Jan Bowyer*
- ♦ *Carol Wilson*

*~ special thanks to Carolyn Fellows
and Genet Barron
of Wesley Woods~*

*Survey analysis
prepared by
Rodney Cage*

October 2007

Carnegie Library Newnan, Ga

A community based team, “Friends of the Carnegie” has worked the past six months with experts in the field to develop a recommendation for the future use of the Newnan Carnegie Building

This effort included

- **Understanding other successful community libraries**
- **Developing a “Needs Assessment” based on the specific wishes and priorities of the citizens of Newnan**

Needs Survey

Participants ranked potential uses of the Carnegie Library from 1 to 5. 1 being highest priority, etc.

Five potential uses (derived from the U.S. Library roles)

Community Activities Center

- Community services and meetings available for rental and free to municipal entities
- Space for book talks, community forums, speaker series, brown bag lunch series, etc

Popular Materials Center

- adult reading section with newspapers, periodicals
- have available current high demand materials for all ages

Preschool Door to Learning

- Coordinate with Hospital Road County Library program
- outreach to preschool and day-care, provide storytelling

Education and Business Support

- Glass wall study rooms for private or small groups
- Wi-fi access

Best Seller Checkout

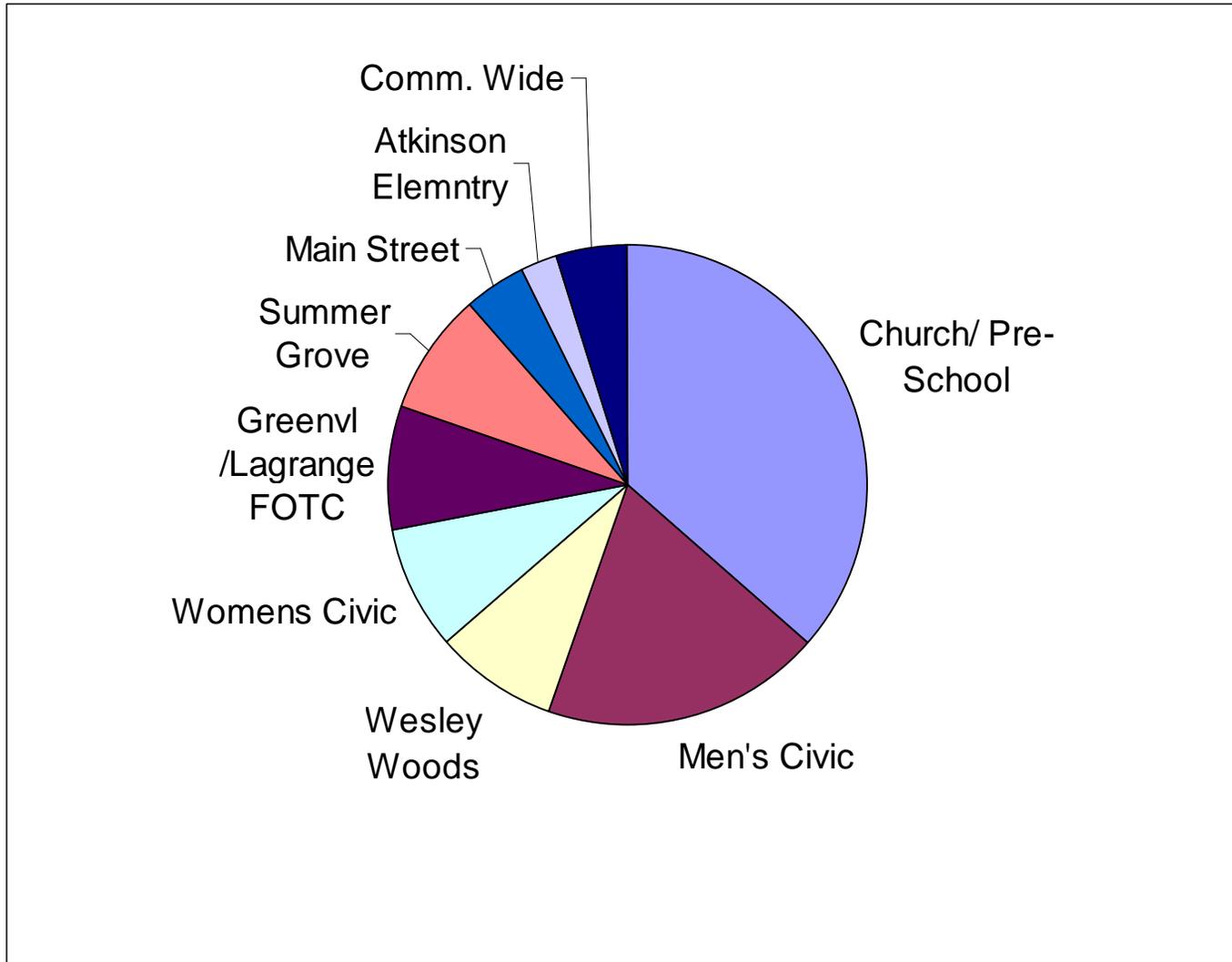
- Current adult and children's award winners (Caldecott and Newbery) available for checkout

B.B. Comer award winning library assisted in developing Needs Survey

Survey Groups

- **Newnan Presbyterian Church**
- **Newnan Presbyterian Preschool**
- **First United Methodist Church**
- **First United Methodist Preschool**
- **Montessori School**
- **Atkinson Elementary School and Preschool**
- **Jerusalem Christian Academy**
- **Newnan Chapel United Methodist Church**
- **Wesley Woods**
- **Rotary Club**
- **Women's Kiwanis Club**
- **Kiwanis Club**
- **Main Street Association of Merchants**
- **Newnan Chamber of Commerce**
- **Newnan Arts Council**
- **Greenville-LaGrange Neighborhood Association**
- **Summergrove Monthly Meeting**
- **Summergrove Website**
- **Friends of the Carnegie**
- **First Baptist Church of Newnan**
- **First Baptist Preschool**

Participants

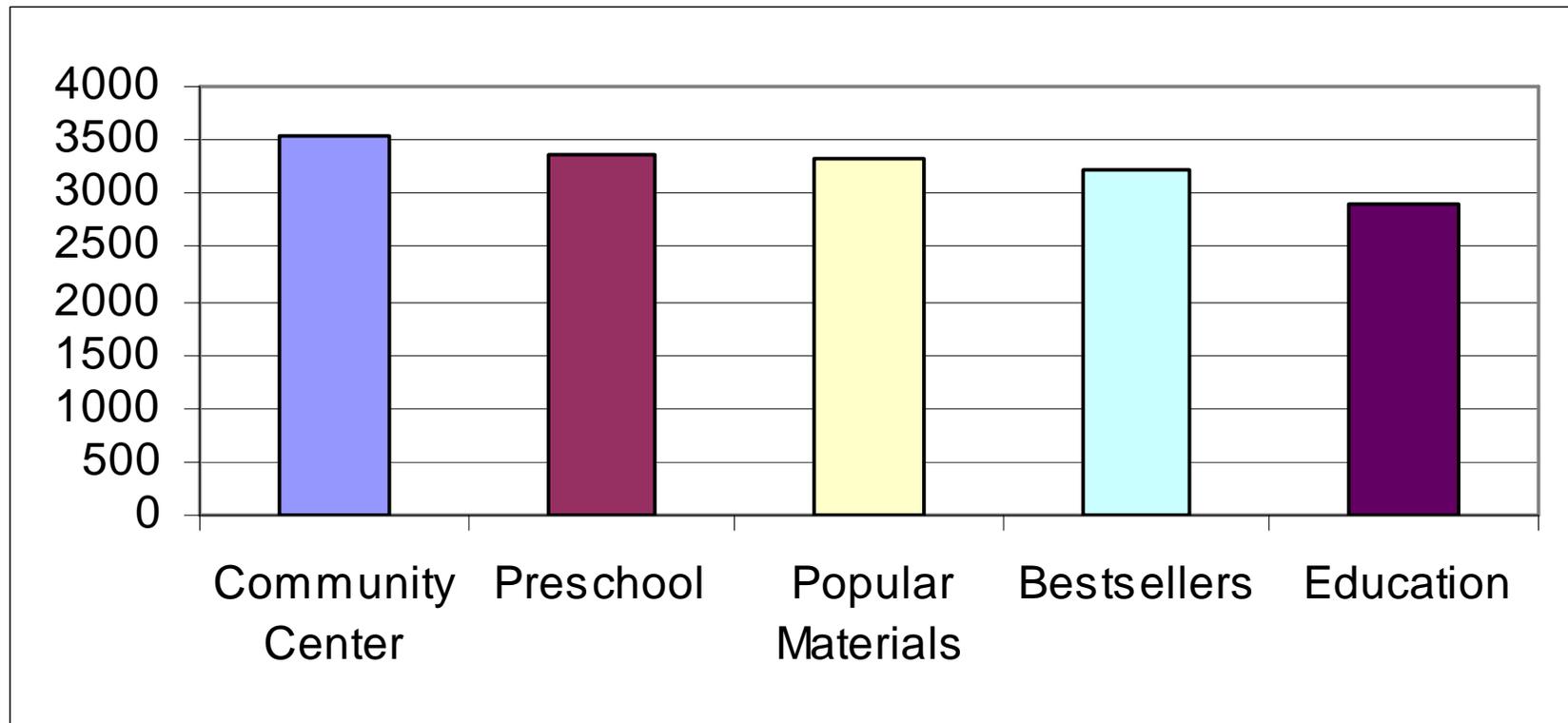


514 citizens participated, representing a cross section of Newnan

Weighted Needs: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th priority considered

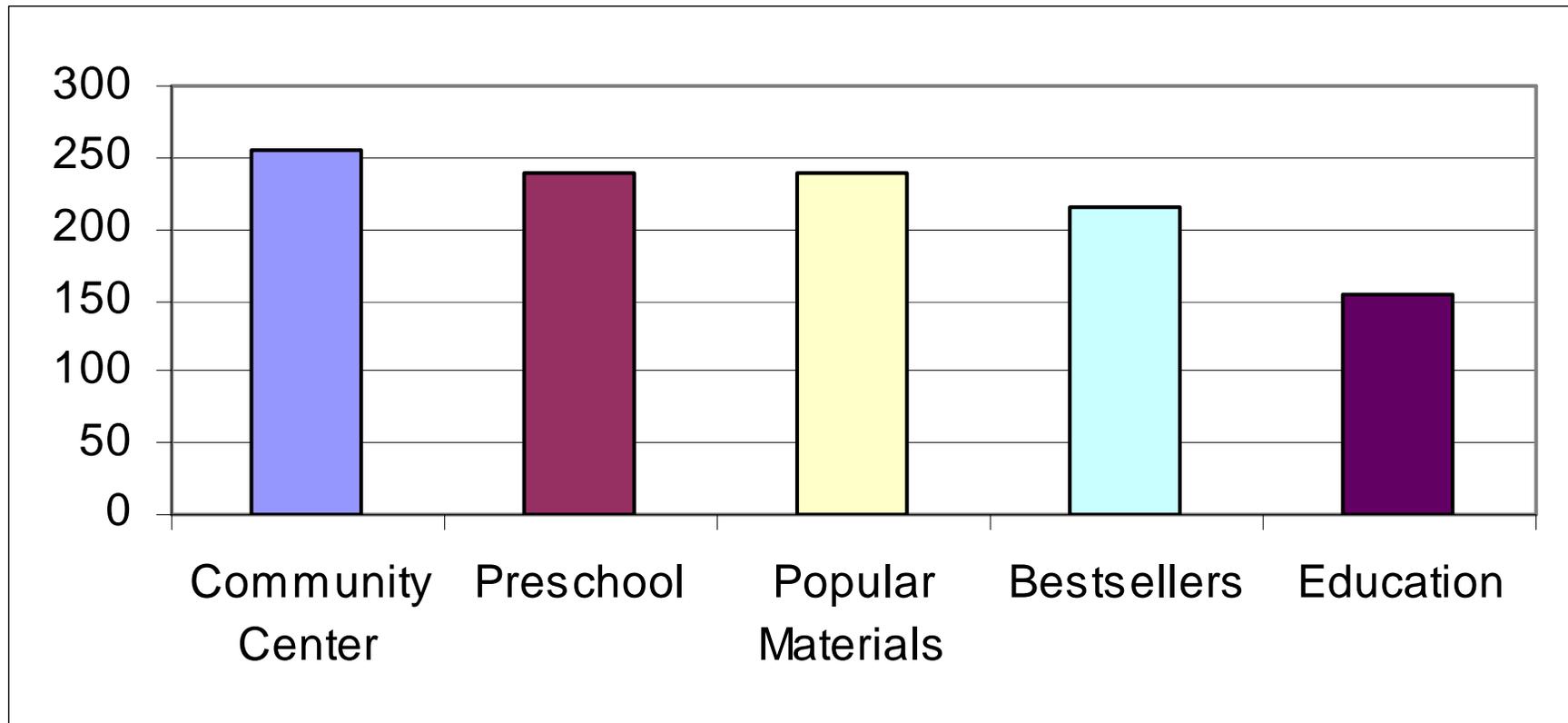
Prioritized needs are weighted:

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Top priority | 10 points |
| Second priority | 8 points |
| Third priority | 6 points |
| Fourth priority | 4 points |
| Fifth priority | 2 points |



Priorities unconstrained. Multiple # 1's, 2's, etc permitted

Greatest Need – Number of Top Priority Votes



Considering only “Top Priority”, a wider gap develops for Community Center and low support for Education

Individual community priorities

- **Community Center** was the highest priority for the community groups of:
 - Atkinson Elementary
 - Main Street
 - Men's civic organizations
 - Wesley Woods
 - Greenville/Lagrange Neighborhood Association
 - Community Wide participants
- **Preschool** programs were highest priority for the groups of:
 - Summer Grove
 - Churches / Preschool
- Reading Materials second top priority for almost all groups

Revitalizing the Carnegie Library to serve as a Communities Activities Center received strong support from individual groups as well as the most overall support

Survey Write-in Comments

- **We need an intown library facility**
- ***The Carnegie has special significance for those of us who grew up reading there***
- **Thanks for taking the lead in this effort**
- ***I met most of my Newnan friends at the original Carnegie library***
- **It will be great to have a downtown storytime**
- ***Wonderful service for those who can not drive***
- **We need a library centrally located**
- ***Don't duplicate the regular library***
- **Make a meeting room for civic and other organizations**
- ***Offer library hours on Sunday afternoons***
- **More adult-oriented**
- ***Selection of Library Director key to success***
- **I'm excited about this**

Survey Write-in Comments (continued)

- **Special attention to hiring to insure placement of patron-oriented staff members/employees.**
- ***Community leaders should brainstorm to make this location unique and cutting edge***
- **This beautiful building is at the center of life in this community**
- ***Real strength to the business community for the next generation!***
- **To have more of a college type resource center would be wonderful.**
- ***The Newbery Awards (books) definitely help me as a mother feel like I am making a good choice.***
- **Library staff geared toward serving the public and making the library more accessible and inviting.**
- ***A reading room available while waiting to pick up my child would be wonderful!***
- **Anytime something like this can be done it benefits everyone. Yes, go ahead – open it. Wonderful.**

Survey Write-in Comments (continued)

- **Loved the survey, best I've ever seen. I'm sure the council is so very grateful!**
- ***We need programs for age 3. There aren't many programs for this age group.***
- **The Carnegie building should have never been turned into a courtroom.**
- ***The Carnegie Library has a special significance to Newnan and those of us who grew up reading books from the old Carnegie.***
- **We need a library here in town so people wouldn't have to drive so far.**
- ***The history of Newnan should be included prominently.***
- **The study rooms will work great for me!**
- ***The Carnegie Library building is a flagship. Its importance has been underestimated.***
- **I know a child who could have walked to this library, it might have made a difference in her life**
- ***The return of this historic library should be asset to downtown Newnan.***

Summary

- ✓ Enthusiasm and wide support was expressed for revitalizing the Carnegie
- ✓ A representative cross section of the city was included in the survey
- ✓ The top priority programs are consistent across the survey
- ✓ We hope these results can help expedite the revitalization activities
- ✓ We welcome the opportunity to participate in and support the city's Carnegie efforts.

Guiding Principles for going forward:

“Citizen and civic involvement; good city support; good boards given autonomy; mentors from business and industry; generous service to less fortunate; the library as part of the total community; high quality employees with vision; planning for the future and being ready for growth and change”

--“**B.B. Comer Memorial Library**” *first recipient* **National Library Service Award**