

Holmes Public Library
Director's Report May 2011

The Wage & Personnel Board has an article requesting a town-wide study for reclassifications. This will be an opportunity to review all the Library job descriptions and a process for establishing the reclassification of the Adult Services Librarian position as an Assistant Director. Two candidates, Stacy Rancourt and Richard Conley, will be on the ballot for two open positions. I would like to thank retiring Trustees Kathleen Carbonara and Lisa Gilbert for their services to the Library.

The roof did not leak at all during the previous storm. Everyone has their fingers crossed! We have the fiction/non-fiction move almost fully planned. We will use two large book trucks and teams of two or four people. The move should take a couple of weeks to complete and will be done one segment of the collection at a time, for example, mysteries will be swapped with the beginning of the non-fiction; then large print will be swapped with the next segment (in Dewey Decimal order.) We will keep a progress tracking sheet on an easel by the Circulation Desk so that everyone can follow the progress of the collection and find things!

Thanks to Gerry Elliott and Tom Schlinder from Buildings and Grounds, the Reading area reconfiguration is now complete. Tom and Gerry met me at Borders Books (in Hyannis) one Saturday and disassembled our new three-section new book browsing rack. The staff at Borders were so happy that some of the shelving was going to a library (the Centerville Public Library had also purchased a large amount of shelving) that they drastically reduced the price (\$132 for everything) and also encouraged us to purchase small browsing shelves for our countertops. Once the adult collection move is complete, we will move over to the young adult area (probably in the fall).

As promised, I spoke with Peg Fitzgerald from the Finance Committee letting her know that we anticipate turning back to the town \$3,000 from the FY2011 operating budget (primarily a reduction in our electrical usage). She also said that the Finance Committee has recommended the 1.5% increase in wages across the board. She and I agreed to reduce the Library's expense budget by the corresponding amount (\$2,946). This is important to do because the Finance Committee recommended our budget at \$290,312 in order for the Library to meet the State's Municipal Appropriations requirement. The across the board personnel increase will bring us above this figure which we do not want to do because the Municipal Appropriations requirement is cumulative meaning that we will be required by the State to increase our budget even more next year.

Last Thursday, Miss Marie had an excellent turnout for a lively book discussion about The War With Grandpa. She has scheduled the next performance of the LaCivita Art Fund's Company H Puppet Show for Saturday, May 28th at 11 AM. The program will be "Jack & the Beanstalk," "Little Miss Muffet" and the "Three Little Pigs." It should be another packed house. Jean's April book club discussed The Girl Who Chased the Moon by Sarah Addison Allen. She had a full house and everyone really enjoyed reading the book. We are all holding our breath to see whether we are awarded the Community Read grant. The Blacksmith demonstration given by Conrad "Slim" Bernier was recorded by Comcast and so a slice of history will be preserved and our soon to be "Golden Opportunity" bloggers will have some wonderful material to work with. Jack Mather will lead scout members on a tour of the Town's Civil War monument followed by a historical talk (and pizza, through the generosity of the Friends) on Saturday, May 14. This program is held in conjunction with the display of the NEH "We the People Bookshelf" and a wonderful exhibit of Civil War artifacts from the Halifax Museum. Part of the exhibit is the cover from the coffin of Charles Soule, a soldier who died during the war, and whose mother worked to erect the Town's monument.

We have a request from a local high school student, Brett Roche, who would like permission to sell his book in the community room. The Library has received three awards for Public Relations in the categories: bookmark (1st prize), summer reading (2nd) and social networking project (Golden Opportunities, 2nd). Jean and I have begun to update the Staff manual and will be asking the Trustees to review and approve sections over the next year. I have been asked to serve on the SAILS board of directors representing libraries from a population of less than 10,000.

Respectfully Submitted, Debra DeJonker-Berry, Library Director

