

Holmes Public Library

Director's Report

January 14, 2014

The FY15 budget request has been submitted, along with an article requesting funding for a technology upgrade, as suggested by the Finance Committee. The budget was reviewed by the Board of Trustees at a special meeting on January 9. The library's annual report will be emailed to trustees upon completion.

January is E-Technology Month is focused around the theme "Get Smart" and helping patrons with their new electronic gadgets. We are promoting one-on-one training sessions all month and are offering two additional group programs later this month: Identity Theft & Scams at 2:00 in the afternoon on Monday, Jan. 27, presented by the Plymouth County Sheriff's Department, and Best Free Apps for Readers on Wednesday, Jan. 29, at 6:30 p.m., presented by staff. Best Bookish Apps for Your Kids was offered on Wednesday, January 8, 6:30-8 p.m., in conjunction with the South Shore Community Action Council, but was only attended by five people. As those who attended said they found it helpful, Marie Coady, Amy Tull, and I plan to offer the program again in early spring.

The library was closed due to snow on Thursday, Jan. 2, and Friday, Jan. 3. We experienced an Internet outage on January 6, due to a car hitting a pole on Route 106 outside the library. No one was hurt. Library phone problems continue into this month. The dead line was repaired, but then the fax line went dead. The problem is being addressed by the town departments responsible for the phone system.

The library celebrated Holidays in Halifax on Dec. 14th. A large crowd came on a cold, snowy night for a reading of *The Night Before Christmas* by Dick Steele and the annual visit from Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus, before fireworks outside. The children's craft and best photo opportunity of the evening was the gingerbread house with windows that opened, made by Miss Marie. Cookies and cider were provided and set up by the Friends of the Holmes Public Library.

Children's Librarian Marie Coady has experienced another professional success by having an article she wrote about her popular teen puppet troupe, Company H, accepted for publication in the June 2014 issue of *VOYA* (Voices of Youth Advocates), a prestigious library publication geared towards teen services.

The Friends' Annual Silent Auction was successful, bringing in just under \$500. Thank you to all who donated items and/or bid! A February membership drive for Love Your Library Month is being planned.

Jean Gallant and I attended a mandatory workshop on applying for LSTA grants at the Somerset Public Library today, January 14. A fact sheet on the Customer Experience in a Digital Age grant is available. Attending the workshop does not commit us to applying.

Upcoming dates to remember include:

- Book Club Potluck, *The Age of Miracles* by Karen Thompson Walker, Tues., Jan. 21, 6:00 p.m.
- Friends of the Holmes Public Library meeting, Wed., Jan. 22, 6:30 p.m.
- Avoiding Identity Theft & Scams, Plymouth County Sheriff's Dept., Mon., Jan. 27, 2:00 p.m.
- Best Free Apps for Readers Workshop, Wed., Jan. 29, 6:30 p.m.
- Take Your Child to the Library Day, Lego Party, Sat., Feb. 1, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Southeastern Mass. Library Legislative Breakfast, February 7, 2014, 8-10 a.m.