

Holmes Public Library

Director's Report

March 2012

The Library is very busy. Susan Scott reports that she is receiving three or four times the usual number of reference questions, I am noticing that number of requests to help patrons with the equipment and the fax keep me hopping more than usual, Miss Marie has started Legos on Saturdays, Junior Book Clubs and is seeing good response from storyhours with Infant Lapsit off the charts! February School vacation was filled with activities ranging from Legos to the Open Arts Studio. Halifax's TRIAD held a program at the library today, and twenty-two people came out to meet with Representative Coulter today. It was very helpful to have them at the Library today because Susan and I could speak with several members about support for the Disability (Vision and Hearing) grant we are writing.

Of course, our anticipation for tomorrow night's Halifax Reads program is intense. Everyone has worked hard to make this a true community event. Jean, as the grant's Project Director, is managing all the minutest details and has designed a series of programs that are community based and offer something for everyone. Miss Marie's Halifax Reads Facebook page is designed to keep a buzz going throughout the entire series. Seventy-six people have "Liked" the page with I'm sure more to come after tomorrow night. The Council on Aging's Generations (Friends) Group is providing refreshments, Poland Springs the water, Cable TV is filming, the banners, newspaper articles and printed publicity (including programs for tomorrow night) are comprehensive, both the Fire Chief and Police Chief have loaned us their projectors, and Rose is calling close to 175 people reminding them about tomorrow's program—and, we still have books left because there will be a rush for them on Thursday! And so much more...

Attached is a draft of the Privacy policy for your review as well as a written update on the carpet and ceiling from Gerry Elliott and my request for the book drop repairs. The get-together with the Friends of the Library was a lot of fun. It was great to have an opportunity to get to know more about one another, especially why libraries are important to each of us. The Finance Committee met with the Selectmen last night asking for Town Department's to review their budgets in the hopes that some savings can be identified. Our best option is to increase the amount we raise in the revolving fund which I am reluctant to do because of the difficulty we are having this year. The Letter to the Elementary School concerning the parking lot was sent last week.

I would like to show Staff Member Amy Tull and Trustee Diane Wilmarth how to use the Town-web-site software to load minutes and updates to the site. It is a very user friendly program. We have a table set up with books about economizing, a basket for coupons and a sign advertising various online coupon sites. I'd like us to consider offering a program next fall on the subject as well.

We are considering taking the public computers off-line for a day in April so that we can do a comprehensive updating program on each of them. Finally, the Library Staff and I are discussing new ways to re-build the library web-site so that more of us can directly input information and so that the computer keeps track of things instead of us having to individually update each item. That, and upgrading our telephone system are on my "wish list" for the new fiscal year.

Respectfully Submitted, Debra DeJonker-Berry, Library Director

