

Holmes Public Library

Director's Report

September 8, 2015

The Every Hero Has a Story summer reading program planned and run by Marie Coady with help from Jean Gallant was a big success. As the culmination of all the lively weekly group activities and Monday Night Madness events, the Company H teen puppet troupe put on a fantastic show at the Great Hall on Thursday, August 6, at 11 a.m. which was attended by over 100 people. Transportation Night was also a success with over 60 people attending. In addition to photos taken by the newspaper photographer who came to the Pet Show and the Puppet Show, we sent many summer photos to the Plympton-Halifax Express, which they were great about printing. Many more were posted on Facebook and on Flickr (click on "Our Photos" on the library Web site to see them on Flickr.)

The library and staff received numerous compliments on the summer reading program activities in person and on Facebook. Marie Coady did a huge amount of planning and preparation in advance of every program, as well as stretching herself to the limit daily during the six weeks of summer reading. Parents were extremely impressed by her creativity and dedication, which was above and beyond what is expected, even knowing how fantastic the summer reading program is every year. Here are a few of the comments from Facebook:

"Thank you Chief Coady and Ms. Marie!" (USCG Chief Mark Coady talked to the fifth & sixth graders during Water Week)

"Another fantastic day!" (Water Week activities for Grades 1 & 2)

"Another great program! Thank you!" (Animal Invaders, Museum of Science)

"Wow! What a great example of creativity!" (CompanyH Puppet Show)

"Thank you for a wonderful event. The kids had a blast!" (Transportation Night)

We received a thank you note from a family about the New England Aquarium pass that they used in the spring and a patron wrote to thank Susan Scott for tracking down a short story that was published in an old anthology.

We interviewed one person for the Technology Coordinator position but then decided to reopen the search, which we did as of Sept. 3. The reposting has closing date of Sept. 18, but we now have a strong internal candidate, so the process should move along quickly.

The reinstatement of library overdue fines as of July 1st seems to be working to get items renewed or returned in a more timely fashion. We have tried to be generous about forgiving fines the first time to give patrons a chance to get used to it. There is a two-day grace period built in, and we are considering extending check-out times on DVDs to two weeks, especially since we ask patrons not to return DVDs in the outside book drop. Ironically, at the same time as we decided we would no longer be the only library in the SAILS Network not to have overdue fines, Plympton Public Library eliminated their fines!

As of Sept. 1, we have raised the price of faxing to \$1.00 a page. This brings us more in line with what other libraries in the area charge. Offering faxing at 50 cents a page was bringing in more and more people from surrounding towns and it takes a lot of staff time to fax multiple-page documents.

Halifax Reads is being planned for Oct. 3 through Nov. 17 and is coming together with the help of the Friends.

