

Hopkinton Town Library
REPORT FROM LIBRARY DIRECTOR

November 21, 2016

Staff: Karen, Leigh and I have been attending professional development sessions, covering issues ranging from: collection development and programming for young people (we will be moving into the realm of “Makerspace” programming in 2017 as a result); improving technology reference and website design (resulting in some tweaking of the HTL website and plans for some technology “how to” sessions for the staff and public in the new year); and services for older adults resulting in new ideas on programming and outreach. We will be having AED, CPR and fire safety training for staff as well as “active shooter” training with the police department.

I am in the process of reviewing our Personnel Policy in the context of the town policy. One point of possible disconnect is around holiday time, which will be discussed at the meeting. Staff reviews will start soon.

Programs: Hopkinton READS! Ta-Nehisi Coates’ “Between the World and Me” has been the major focus of the month of November. This book has really captured the attention of a portion of our community who have been active participants in the programs in and out of the library. A particular success is the fact that some students from the high school read the book and have attended programs, as have some faculty.

- African American Art Talk (November 3rd 7pm) 23 participants
- Film Showing “Freedom Writers” (November 10th 6pm) 21 participants
- Panel on Contemporary African American Issues (November 17th 7pm) 40 participants

We did manage to sneak in a couple of other programs:

- Local Author Jane Fairchild (November 13th 3pm) 15 participants
- Braille Storytime and Blindfolded Coloring (November 16th 3:30pm) 12 participants. This is part of a collaborative program between the NH Association for the Blind and the League of NH Craftsmen, through which a collection of “high tactile” crafts that are meant to be touched are on display. The Hopkinton Library is the last stop for this exhibition.

Upcoming Programs:

- Hopkinton READS book discussion (November 30th at 1pm and 7pm) Sessions will be led by Liz Gilmore and UNH Professor David Watters respectively.
- Family Concert with Mr. Aaron (December 2nd 6pm) Part of the Friends of HTL Winter Family Series and Starry Starry Weekend.
- Hawaiian Culture and Music Program (Thursday January 5th 7pm)

Budget: With 17% of the year remaining at the end of October, we have used almost 79% of our budget. The 2017 budget was presented to the Select Board in November and we are looking at a 1.9% increase over last year. This is down from the 2.5% increase I had originally proposed, with a refiguring of part time staff costs.

Building: The following is a general update on some building issues:

- Building Alarm System: I've met with Steve Pecora about building safety and he strongly encourages us to get a "panic button" installed at the library. He has recommended someone who has consulted with some of the other town departments for me to call.
- The community room floors will be installed the first week in December, which causes some disruption of work and programming especially storytime.
- New Air Temperature Controls system. ENE staff are working on the graphics for the new computer system and it should be installed by the end of the month.
- Generator: In order for us to install a new generator, we will need to have a new propane line placed. Our dealer, Eastern Propane, will be coming out to fix our fireplace, which is no longer lighting and will also review what it will take to lay a line for a new generator.
- Front Steps. The town's Joint Loss Committee reviewed all buildings for safety issues. The one area on which we were cited was our front steps. They understand that we are in the process of addressing this situation. They strongly encourage us to block the steps in the winter as we have in the past.

Strategic Plan: I am now working on revising the plan. A draft will be presented to the trustees in December.

Community Relations: A student from Hopkinton High School came in to do a job shadow at the library. This is the third one I have done. It is a good way to bring teens back into the library. We will be meeting with school librarians early in the year. In particular we hope to partner with them around developing a "makerspace" program; the schools are far ahead of us in this kind of programming.