

Hopkinton Town Library
REPORT FROM LIBRARY DIRECTOR
September 20, 2016

Staff: Karen, Leigh and I will all be attending conferences this Fall, including a session this Friday on “Reference and Relevance in the 21st century.” On Monday, we are going for a site visit to the Tucker Free Library in Henniker to look at the way they have rearranged their collection, doing away to a large extent with their use of “Dewey” classification. We’ll see. Karen and I are reviewing the library’s Emergency Plan, which I will share with you next month.

Programs: We hosted another ARC Blood Drive on Monday September 19th. Nineteen people donated a total of twenty-one units of blood were collected, a NEW record for our site. Four of our volunteers managed the sign in desk. We started September with a bang and have a great roster of programs coming up. Approximately 200 people were at Friday night’s Touch a Truck Event, once again a wonderful way to recognize services in town, with the fire, police and road departments there. On Sunday, we had fifty people listening to Irish music. Upcoming programs include:

- Campaign Finance Reform 101 (Wednesday September 21st 7pm) with League of Women Voters.
- US Supreme Court 2015-16 Year in Review with Professor John Greabe (Wednesday September 28th 7pm)

Our Hopkinton READS committee has also been working diligently on planning this Fall’s set of events focusing on the title voted on by the community: Ta-Nehisi Coates’ “Between the World and Me.” The programs include:

- Movie Showing “Freedom Writers” (with pizza) Friday October 28th 6pm
- Talk on contemporary African American art by Professor Inez McDermott --. “Bowling to the Monsters of the Imagination: Black Artists Confronting the Past”. Thursday November 3rd 7pm
- Panel discussing “Between the World and Me” with Cliff Brown and Michael New (others TBD and facilitated by Laura Knoy (tent) Thursday November 17th 7pm
- Community Book Discussion of Coates’ book with Prof David Watters, UNH. Wednesday November 30th 7pm

Budget: With 33% of the year remaining, we have used 64% of our budget. I am working on our projected 2017 budget, which is due to Neal on 10/6. I met with him today about our Capital Improvement Budget. I continue to work on the technology report.

Building: There are no pressing building issues at the moment, but several major pending projects:

- Carpeting for the community room has been order and will be installed this Fall, as well as new tiling in the hall and kitchen. I have decided to hold off on the base board heating for the moment.

- The new Automatic Temperature Control system will be installed this Fall. I'd like to see how the CR "responds" to the new ATC as well as the "warming" produced by the carpet before we go further.
- Plans for redesigning the front of the library need to be made. I have asked Winnepocket for an estimate on what it would take to stabilize the walls near the front steps as a minimal step. A meeting with members of the Town Road Department, and Neal is being scheduled. A larger meeting including community members should be planned before the end of the year.
- Chris Boudette and Stu Nelson will be working on the water heater that is in the attic near the community room, which has frozen several times recently. Piping will be redirected and more insulation will be installed. They promise this before winter!

Strategic Plan: We had a successful focus group on August 18th from 6 to 7:30). Nancy Skarmeeas prepared a summary of the meeting. Another session is scheduled for this Thursday September 22nd. Please consider the below description, which attempts to summarize what the Hopkinton Town Library is—does this seem accurate to you?

Goals and Objectives

The Hopkinton Town Library is a:

- ❖ Lifelong Learning Center that provides access to:
 - Current and Reliable Information
 - Reading Materials in Multiple Formats
 - Current Technologies
 - Varied Public Programs
- ❖ Community Gathering Space that is
 - Well managed, efficient and accessible
 - A place for community meetings and informal interactions

Community Relations: On Thursday September 15th, the library was host to "Kearsarge Chronicle"—Leigh and I spoke about library services and , Emilie spoke about her role as a trustee and her work as an author. We have yet to see the result, but it will be aired in the next week or so on public access TV. I continue to be involved in the planning of a series of programs focusing on World War I to take place in 2017/18 with local historical societies. We will plan to host some programs and perhaps use it as the focus of a Hopkinton READS series. The school district's Family Support Team continues to meet at the library and we are planning for some joint programming for later in the year.

Respectfully Submitted, Donna V. Dunlop