

Librarian's Report
Freedom Public Library
July 14, 2010

To describe the library as “busy” would be an understatement. I have not compiled circulation and patron statistics but glancing at the patron-counter numbers and experiencing the hub-bub on a daily basis, I’m quite sure we are breaking records this summer.

The kickoff at the school with John Porcino was well-received and obviously successful in promoting the Summer Reading Program as we had 35 students come the next day for the School’s Out party. This is nearly half the school and more than I expected! Thank goodness for parents who pitched in to help that day. Summer reading program signups are very strong for all age groups and we have had at least 150 book reviews submitted on the website.

The attendance at all programs has been very good. For instance, last week there were 17 preschoolers at storytime (last year I was lucky to have two or three) 5 for the first Writing Workshop, 13 for Teen Night, 18 for Fun Friday, and 32 adults and children for Pizza & Movie.

Judy is working very, very hard at the front desk, trying to keep up with the day-to-day duties like interlibrary loan and processing new books, while also managing the extra work of the summer reading program and increased circulation. Having July 3rd off to rest was important to our well-being.

Volunteers have been crucial to the successful functioning of the library. This is always the case, but especially true this summer. Unfortunately Maggie Buzzell is having to take a leave of absence from her role as substitute but I’m happy to say that Laura Robinson has agreed to help out when needed – and she’s definitely needed! I appreciate the flexibility of our volunteers, adding or swapping shifts and helping out where needed.

Betty Godfrey asked to help with the children’s program so she is assisting with Fun Friday and also helped out during storytime today. Sarah Groleau, Pet Plunges, Elizabeth Marx and Sylvie Essex are other volunteers helping with the children’s programs. Mary Ellen Holmes (first grade teacher at Freedom Elementary) and Raetha Stoddard will also be helping later on with the writing workshop.

The Mountain Garden Club has been busy beautifying our grounds. They have come several different times, planting flowers in our planters, weeding, pruning and transplanting. They also removed a diseased viburnum tree. The back yard looks especially lovely.

Next Friday, Saturday and Sunday I will be at the Ossipee Valley Music Festival. Organizers have again agreed to let us have a space for the Freedom Public Library tent at no charge where I will sell popcorn, candy and books and offer craft activities for the children.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Rhymer
Library Director