

Librarian's Report
Freedom Public Library
October 6, 2009

We are happy that the furnace and oil tank are installed and the library is warm. Programmable thermostats will save us a lot of money and keep our comfort level steady. Thanks again to Peg, Anne and Bill for all the hassles they had to endure to see this project through.

Dick Many has taken the lead in following through on circulation desk remodeling planning. Dick, Peg and Judy recently visited the Effingham Public Library to see their new circulation desk. Also, Dick asked one of the people who is working on the Freedom Historical Society's barn restoration to have a look at our current circulation desk, to take pictures to put up on CAD, and to make suggestions of what could be improved. One of the main ideas he had was to replace the open storage area under the back counter with drawers, including a file drawer to replace the file cabinet. It is exciting to begin getting some concrete ideas for a project that the Friends can support that will improve the appearance of the library and functionality of staff workspace.

There was a lot of support for the Friends' "Penny Power" fundraiser. I am excited to learn how much the donated change was worth. Thanks to Ellen and Anne for schlepping all that heavy money to the bank! I know that was quite a job.

The Friends of the Library are planning an open house for current and potential Friends volunteers on Wednesday, October 21st (during National Friends of Libraries Week). Formal invitations have been sent to people who have expressed an interest in becoming more involved with the Friends. They will learn more about what the Friends have done in the past and what volunteer opportunities exist now. The Executive Board of the Friends of the Library have been extremely active and I am in awe of their industry and commitment.

The Netflix account has been popular. The waitlist was long enough that I thought it prudent to upgrade our subscription to 3 DVD's out at a time (from 2 out at a time). We pay an additional \$3.00/month for this. The last half of June we circulated 5 DVD's. We received 8 DVD's in July and August and 7 in September. How many we circulate depends on how quickly patrons return the movies. They get 1 week from the time the movie arrives in the library. I will advertise this service again in an upcoming e-news.

I checked on activity with the downloadable audiobook program. 33 patrons have downloaded 325 audiobooks since the beginning of the year. Patrons with iPods® are now able to download audiobooks through this service. I will be promoting this addition and the service in general in an upcoming e-news.

At the annual meeting of the Carroll County Library Cooperative, I was elected as Program Planner. We usually have a guest speaker, a roundtable discussion, or some sort of training at each of our meetings, and I will now be responsible for organizing that. On October 15th I will be traveling to Lebanon, NH for the Fall Children's Librarians of NH conference. I have agreed to be on a panel at an April 16th NHLA conference for small libraries in Concord. The panel topic will be "Creating a Welcoming Library" and I will be speaking specifically about marketing the library to the community.

As I did last year, I will be offering monthly Pizza & Movie nights through the school year. This month's movie is "The Wizard of Oz" which is celebrating its 70th anniversary. I have decided to offer periodic Sunday afternoon movies as well and not just show them during the winter film series. 19 people came to last month's movie "God Grew Tired of Us" which I showed in conjunction with the Book Club's reading of "They Poured Fire On Us From the Sky" and the lecture by the authors at Fryeburg Academy. 17 people attended the lecture at a group rate of \$10 each. We will be asking the Friends for reimbursement of this fee. 2 additional people attended, but paid for their own tickets.

We will be collaborating with the Freedom Village Store to have a pumpkin painting contest here at the library on Friday, October 16th. 10 children will have an opportunity to decorate small pumpkins donated by the Freedom Farm Stand. The pumpkins will then be on display in the window at the store. I think people will be voting on their favorite and the winner will receive a prize.

Gail Bizer will be offering a knitting workshop at the library to children in grades 4-6 on Thursdays after school beginning in November (after fall sports). She took home all of our yarn – we have a lot of it! – and organized it in two nice bins and is deciding what project to start them on first. I think there would probably be interest in an adult knitting group as well and I am on the lookout for someone to lead this.

The 2nd graders are coming next week for the first time this school year. The 5th and 6th grade teacher, Mrs. Briggs, has had all of her students apply for library cards (most had them already) and hopes to bring a group of them in early November.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Rhymer
Library Director