

Librarian's Report
Freedom Public Library
October 29, 2019

We are now without an Assistant Librarian. We are lucky that Amanda has flexibility in her schedule and has been able to work most of the library's open hours. She has really risen to the occasion and has been doing excellent work.

The new statewide Interlibrary Loan system has been launched and we have had to get used to a new way of doing things. It's fairly straightforward and has not caused us to have to drastically change our record-keeping. I think that materials may not get here as quickly because I can't pick and choose which libraries to request items from, but being able to request online certainly saves time. Also, we now have the ability to order multiple copies of the same book, so this will make it so much easier servicing the book clubs.

Speaking of book clubs, John Shipman tells me that the One Book One Valley selection "Becoming Nicole," a nonfiction book about a transgender woman, was a very well-received choice with 18 people attending the discussion (the most in recent memory) and a large contingent from Freedom, representing two different book clubs, attending the Valley-wide author talk at Kennett last week. The Fire Unicorns Book Club for grades 3-5 will be having their first meeting on November 7. Twelve students took copies of the book.

Storytime continues to be very well attended, attracting families from neighboring towns as well as Freedom residents. We also had a large turnout for the last Afterschool Program and Pizza & Movie. Luane Genest led the craft, with several kids and parents making Halloween lanterns that we will use to illuminate the walk on Halloween night although it looks like it's going to be a really rainy night. Rick Davidson has agreed to take the Halloween portraits this year, allowing Joel to be home to dole out candy. There will be some pretty soggy and bedraggled trick-or-treaters that night, I imagine! Judy Johnson and a friend, Irene Hopper, and Karen Collier have all agreed to help at the library on Thursday. The Halloween candy donation and distribution program has been very active this year – lots of donors, lots of takers.

I attended the Children's Librarians of New Hampshire Fall Conference in Plymouth last Thursday. It wasn't one of their better conferences, but I did get to see performers I had never seen before and may choose to book for summer.

I would like to get new computers for the library. Mine is running very slowly and it's time to upgrade the public computers as well. Looks like I can get good solid refurbished business computers from Dell for \$379 each. I would like to buy five of them for a total of \$1895. I would then hire Freedom Computers to help with the install. I will upgrade the other three computers in 2020. I am still quite

interested in updating the library's website but do not have figures for this for the 2020 budget. This would be a very good project for any unexpected funding. Speaking of funding, we just received \$2900 from the Margaret S. Morrow bequest, to be used to promote literacy and the love of reading in Freedom's children. This is exciting news and I look forward to planning interesting ways to use this money for greatest effect.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Rhymer
Library Director