

## **Mattapoissett Free Public Library**

### **Annual Report for 2016**

#### Library Services and Staff

The Mattapoissett Free Public Library continues to serve many citizens, evidenced by robust numbers in patron visits, program attendance, and in the circulation of materials. The dedicated staff and the training they continue to undertake has provided for enhanced services to citizens of all ages. The public survey done in 2015 demonstrates that citizens continue to be appreciative and consider the library to be an important community asset. The staff continues to look for new ways to support the community's informational, technology, and recreation needs while enhancing the services and activities that have proven to be important and efficient. Suggestions from the public are always welcome.

This year the staff consists of three full-time librarians, including the children's librarian, adult services/reference librarian and the library director. The library is also staffed by 6 part-time library technicians, one page who works ten hours a week, and a part-time custodian. In addition to these weekly staff members, one library technician retired, and now serves as a substitute. Another library technician left her regular position and now works every other Saturday to help with cataloging tasks until the end of March.

A six-member elected Board of Trustees, currently chaired by Mary Magee, oversees the management of the library. The Mattapoissett Library Trust, Inc. and the Friends of the Mattapoissett Library, Inc. are two charitable organizations that support and sustain the library by way of fundraising and program support. This assistance makes possible a range of programming as well as the necessary funds to purchase materials that make the town eligible for library certification and state aid, which was \$7,537.41 for fiscal year 2015. The second installment of the library's state aid award for FY 2016, \$4064.33, arrived in March of this year.

The strategic planning process has continued with the assistance of patrons, volunteers, and library staff. Staff attended planning workshops offered by the Massachusetts Library Systems consultant. Complying by submitting the strategic plan enables the town to apply for federal funding that is administered by the MBLC. This LSTA funding has been the source of multiple grants for the Mattapoissett Library, including construction funds. Most recently, the library received an LSTA grant in the amount of \$7,500 for Reader's Advisory training, a staff development project that ended in September.

Patron use of the library continues to increase. The number of library card holders in Mattapoissett has grown from 4,759 in 2011 to 5,245 by the end of 2016. 271 new library cards were issued in 2016. A total of 69,231 items circulated. The five most popular items were adult fiction, children's novels, children's picture books, adult non-fiction, and DVDs. 5,413 new items were added to the collection. This includes nontraditional

materials such as a sewing machine, a podcast kit, a bookbinding machine, and a guitar. Thanks to the generosity of a library patron, a bicycle was purchased and can be checked out.

Most patrons remain committed to print rather than ebooks, but the use of downloaded materials did increase. Over 26,800 downloaded ebooks, audiobooks, and videos were available. Workshops continue to be held on an ongoing basis to facilitate learning new technologies for patrons with new ereaders, tablets, and smartphones. The resource sharing of materials by way of the SAILS Library Network and the interlibrary loan state network remains very important to our patrons.

The adult circulation staff includes librarian Elizabeth Sherry, part-time General Services Librarian Robbin Smith, and library technicians Katherine Daener, Patricia Cole, and Anne Bernard.. Nancy Lopes, as library page, ensures that all library materials are returned to the shelves in good order, with the help of a crew of able volunteers. Rebecca Duncan, also a part-time library technician, serves as cataloger with the assistance of library technician Christine Hoffman two Saturdays a month. The library facility continues to be maintained by our very capable part-time custodian Raymond Rose.

The busy children's department was staffed by Children's Librarian Linda Burke, and part-time library technicians Lynn Haugen and Miyuki Dawson. Jeanne McCullough was promoted from library assistant to part-time Children's Librarian in November. Dozens of talented and dedicated volunteers provide assistance in a variety of ways during the year and for the summer reading program. Storytimes are held throughout the year for toddlers and preschoolers, and special events and programs add to the fun for children of all ages and their families. The summer reading program "On Your Mark, Get Set, READ!" offered many and varied events for children and youth from toddlers to high school students. The support of the Friends, volunteers, and gifts from local businesses enhanced all our programs. Approximately 220 children 11 years old and younger participated in the summer reading program, with many additional children and families dropping in for programs and activities through the season. Adults also participated this year with the wellness theme of "Exercise Your Mind, READ."

Adult and young adult programs were offered in response to the interests of the community. Authors, such as Hank Phillippi Ryan, and scientists, such as Dr. Jennifer Francis, and educators all provided their expertise to varied audiences. The Mattapoissett Library Trust sponsored The Purrington Lecture Series, which included a presentation by Barnaby Evans, the artistic director of WaterFire and a concert presented by The New England Harp Orchestra. Seth Mendell returned to offer his popular summer lecture series, this year focusing on World War I. The series was co-sponsored with the Mattapoissett Historical Society. The community enjoys many opportunities for culture, education and recreation offered at the library.

The Library continues to offer Sunday hours from 1 to 4 pm this year between Labor Day and Memorial Day. The library is regularly open Tuesday through Saturday, including two evenings.

### **Community Center**

Many local and regional organizations and town boards used the library's meeting room. The facility is comfortable and convenient for meetings, and features an easy-to-use audiovisual set-up. The room is in great demand, especially during the two evenings the library is open after 5 pm. Civic discussions held at the library attract citizens from town and the region to engage in conversation ranging from foreign affairs to environmental conservation. The library is pleased to provide meeting space to the Mattapoissett Land Trust, the Mattapoissett Women's Club and its Great Decisions Discussion Group, both the Democratic and Republic Town Committees, and The Nasketucket Bird Club, among many others. State and regional governmental agencies also make use of the space.

The library offers Internet access on six workstations and also wireless access and wireless printing. This year two wifi mobile hotspots were made available for check-out, and these are very popular with patrons who do not have Internet access at home or while they are here on vacation. Printing, photocopying and fax service is available for a nominal charge. The library's website allows remote access twenty-four hours a day to newspapers, databases, and the online SAILS catalog.

Once again, the entire library staff has enjoyed providing services to all the citizens and guests of the Mattapoissett community, in cooperation with town staff and the Board of Selectmen. Any and all suggestions for additional programs and services are welcomed.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Pizzolato  
Library Director