

Mattapoisett Free Public Library

Annual Report

2014

Library Services and Staff

The Mattapoisett Free Public Library continues to provide a full range of services and programs to area residents and visitors of all ages. The staff consists of three full-time librarians, including the children's librarian, adult services/reference librarian and the library director., The library also employs 7 part-time library technicians, one page who works ten hours a week, and a part-time custodian. During the past year, two library technicians retired, Mary Ann Amoruso and Jeanette Webb. Mrs. Amoruso continues on as a substitute. An elected Board of Trustees, currently chaired by Mary Magee. oversees the management of the library. The Mattapoisett Library Trust, Inc. and the Friends of the Mattapoisett 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 the accompanying state aid, which was \$6,539 for Fiscal year 2014.

As part of a five-year Strategic Plan filed with the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC), a yearly Action Plan helps to direct library activities and resources. This dynamic plan responds to the information, reading and technology needs of the community. The Strategic Plan is now being updated with the assistance of patrons, volunteers, and library staff. This new plan will direct the activities of the library and will respond to the priorities and twenty-first century information and technology needs of residents. Reading and free access to information and technology in a safe and comfortable setting will, most likely, continue to be the overarching mission of the library. 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 Mattapoisett Library, including funds for construction and renovation of the facility as well as the project to provide enhanced services to 'tweens and teens. Most recently, the Library has collaborated with the other tri-town libraries and received a grant titled My Own BackYard (MOBY) to promote the natural sciences in our local areas for students in grades three through eight.

Staff hours have been relatively stable, while at the same time patron activity at the library has increased in many ways. The number of library card holders in Mattapoisett has grown from 4,759 in 2011 to 5,084 by the end of 2014. The Library began to offer Sunday hours in March, from 1 to 4 pm. This experiment was very much appreciated by patrons, and the schedule will now include Sundays between Labor Day and Memorial Day. The library is regularly open Tuesday through Saturday, including two evenings.

For the calendar year ending in December 2014, a total of 75,024 items circulated, which is slightly more than for the same period in the prior year.

The adult circulation staff included librarian Elizabeth Sherry, and library technicians Katherine Daener, Anne Bernard and Jeanette Webb. Nancy Lopes, as library page, ensured that all library materials are returned to the shelves in good order, with the help of a crew of able volunteers. Rebecca Duncan, with the assistance of Christine Hoffman, processed all items added to the collection, whether purchases or donations. The library facility continues to be maintained by our very capable part-time custodian Raymond Rose.

Continuing this year, most patrons remain committed to print rather than ebooks, but use of downloaded materials did increase. Workshops continue to be held on an ongoing basis to facilitate learning new technologies for patrons with new ereaders and tablets. The library owns several devices, which enabled patrons to try them out before deciding whether or not to purchase one.

The busy children's department was staffed by Children's Librarian Linda Burke, and library technicians Lynn Haugen, Mary Ann Amoruso, and Jeanne McCullough, who 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. Story times 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 "Fizz, Boom, 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.

Adult and young adult programs were held in response to the interests of the community. Authors, artists, scientists and educators all provided their expertise to varied audiences. The community enjoys the many opportunities for culture, education and recreation offered at the library.

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. Most library programs take place here, especially for adults. The room is in great demand, especially during the two evenings the library is open after 5 pm. Civic discussions held at the library bring in citizens from town and the region to engage in conversation ranging from foreign affairs to environmental preservation. 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 public schools collaborated with the library in many ways, including the sharing of reading lists and assignments. The library staff does its best to make the summer reading list books of area schools available in a variety of formats. Staff members hosted kindergarten classes as well as several child care groups to introduce them to the library and promote the importance (and fun!) of having a library card.

Local information is available year round to Mattapoisett residents. Town postings, town meeting warrants, voter registration forms, notices from the Board of Health and many other departments are available at the library. Public health notices are prominently displayed, and support information is gathered for the benefit of the public.

The library offers Internet access on six workstations and also wireless access throughout the building. 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. A valid library card and PIN are needed to log on. Patrons are able to check their accounts, renew materials, and update their contact information remotely. They can reserve materials and be called or contacted by email when the titles arrive for pick up. A regularly updated facebook page further enables the library to inform the public on daily programs and new services.

Additional support was received from The Phyllis McGillicuddy Charitable Trust to support enhanced services for families whose children have special needs. Much needed new materials and programs were offered, thanks to this support.

Friends of the Mattapoisett Library, Mattapoisett Library Trust, Library Board of Trustees and Volunteers

Again this year the library has benefitted greatly from the effort of the Friends and volunteers. Generous funding and hundreds of hours contribute to the busy level of programming and materials maintenance provided by the staff. The Friends provide for the many museum passes enjoyed by the public, and this generous group supports both children's and adult programs and events.

The support of the Library Trust also supplements the town appropriation in significant ways, making possible additional materials purchases and also repairs and improvements to the facility. The community's generous response to the Annual Appeal funds these important needs.

Volunteers are the mainstay of keeping up with the flow of library work. Regular trainings are held for adults and students who wish to assist the library staff in any of a number of ways. Once a year, volunteers are recognized at a reception hosted by the staff and trustees. The enthusiasm and talent of library volunteers enhances the collection, the facility and library programs.

The six-member library Board of Trustees devotes many hours to working with the library director to make best use of the town's resources. The trustees set policy and ensure that the library maintains state standards for excellence so that all Mattapoisett citizens, residents of the Commonwealth, and town visitors have the best possible library experience. Board members are Mary Magee, Ruth Jolliffe, James Dildine, William Asci, Virginia Beams and Rachel Deery.

Once again, the entire library staff has enjoyed providing services to all the citizens and guests of the Mattapoisett 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