

Department Overview

The Freeport Community Library is a department of the Town and serves all residents and non-residents who wish to use its services. The library houses over 55,000 items and throughout the course of the year lends over 100,000 physical and electronic items. The library is expected to receive close to 70,000 visitors for FY 2018-2019.

FY 2018-2019 Major Accomplishments for the Freeport Community Library in FY 18/19

It has been four years since we joined Minerva and interlibrary loan maintains a very strong presence in our day to day operations. These are the combined totals of outgoing, incoming, and out-of-state-interlibrary loans we have processed:

2014-15 FY = **9,818** 2015-16 FY = **20,178** 2016-17 FY = **22,062** 2017-18 = **20,427**

The library hosted many programs and events that continue to bring the community to the library thanks in no small part to our wonderfully creative and dedicated staff. The Friends of the Freeport Community Library had their most successful book sale to date with sales totaling \$6,000! A portion of the proceeds went to a subscription to the Boston Globe (much to the delight of several patrons) as well as a couple laptops for staff use. The Friends continue to support our popular museum and park pass program.

Throughout the year we host a variety of adult programs designed to appeal to a wide range of interests. We've hosted several authors including Amy Bass, Bruce Robert Coffin, and Deb Gould. We once again partnered with the Camden Conference to bring a series of unique and different programs to Freeport, all focused on China and its impact on the world. From monthly movies to tech help to specialized programming like Organization Zen, we try to offer something for everyone.

The Freeport Community Library is always looking for ways to reach out to our community members. We partnered with the Southern Maine Agency on Aging to offer a multipart fall prevention workshop, *A Matter of Balance*. This is a nationally recognized program designed to "reduce the fear of falling and encourage physical activity" for older people. It was tremendously successful and something we hope to offer again in the future.

Every month we host local artists and treat our patrons to free art exhibits. We have many patrons who anticipate the enjoyment of returning artists as well as the opportunity to discover someone new. Highlights are the Art Guild of Freeport, which often displays gorgeous artwork by former director Beth Edmonds, as well as the mixed media show from RSU5 high school students sponsored by the Freeport Woman's Club.

Our Youth Services staff continue to provide wonderful and innovative programming. Highlights include Graphic Artist Melanie Kim from Casablanca Comics who showed children how she creates her graphic novels; we introduced a Marker Cart where children can work on self-guided crafts; Rewild Maine helped teens learn how to make bows and arrows, rope, and bracelets; and the amazingly popular Escape Room, which was held over two weekends - each session was packed full! Our ongoing programming including our very well attended weekly storytimes, continues to bring both old and new faces into the library. Our successful summer reading program sponsored by L.L. Bean is as popular as ever with over 650 children participating in reading and accompanying events. Last year's reading tally was over 7,000 books!

FY 2018-2019 Goals for the Freeport Community Library

The Freeport Community Library Board of Trustees successfully completed and submitted the 2019-2021 Strategic Plan to the Town Council, which was unanimously approved in March. Primary goal for 2019 is to get funding approval to hire a designer in FY2021. Library staff will otherwise work on the goals and objectives of the strategic plan throughout the coming years.