**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 over 70,000 visitors for FY 2019-2020.

**FY 2019-2020 Major Accomplishments for the Freeport Community Library in FY 19/20**

It has been almost six 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:

2015-16 FY = **20,178** 2016-17 FY = **22,062** 2017-18 FY = **20,427** 2018-19 = **22,378**

The Freeport Community Library is on track for another fantastic year with strong circulation statistics and a modest rise in visitors. FCL continues to be a destination for local residents and visitors alike.

The Children’s Room has been hopping this summer and not just because of all our awesome books. We’ve also had some super fun programs this year geared at different ages, interests and time constraints to meet our patrons’ needs. Some successful examples are: Mini-Golf in the Library, Henna Tattoos, Escape Room Night, Build a Gingerbread House, Rewild Maine’s make a Bow, Rope, and Pine Needle basket, Sparks’ Ark, Fairy Story Time, Cinderella Ballerina program, and Paracord bracelets. Each one of these programs – in addition to all the regular programs we offer - helped make the Children’s Room a place to share time with family and friends and try something new. The children’s summer reading program’s success is in the numbers: 752 signed up, reading 8,072 books. That’s an average of 128 books read a day! We also had 2,220 Bed Time Math problems worked on.

The adult and children’s departments together implemented our first outdoor Summer Reading Kickoff Festival in conjunction with The Marshmallow Cart and the melodious Sister Steel Pan. Mid-program, 108 adults have signed up to participate in our Adult Summer Reading program and have read 324 books to win gift cards donated by local businesses.

We had concerts featuring Sean Gaskell and his 21-stringed West African kora harp, the High Winds Flute Choir, The Cul de Sax, and Freeport resident Dr. Tim Burris on theorbo and lute. We hosted authors Bruce Coffin; Mark Griffin with his movie-optioned Mark Hudson biopic, *All That Heaven Allows*; Mary Plouffe; Deb Nelson; and Ed Robinson. We screened 22 closed-captioned movies of all genres and ratings, and had events on the college application process, growing an organic garden, recycling in Freeport as it relates to the global market, a resume and interview workshop, and organizational zen. Not to mention our ongoing coloring and rug hooking groups, monthly art shows, tech help…the list goes on!

And don’t forget we have more than one way to enjoy literature or gather information. Downloading eBooks and audiobooks from CloudLibrary is an easy way to access great stories from the convenience of your home. Every resident of Maine has access to The Digital Maine Library which offers access to online resources that include a collection of full text articles and abstracts from magazines, newspapers, journals and reference. It also provides students, business people, public library patrons, and higher education students and educators the ability to use online learning tools.

**FY 2019-2020 Goals for the Freeport Community Library**

The Freeport Community Library Board of Trustees in conjunction with FCL staff continue to work on goals from the Strategic Plan. Library staff will be requesting money from the Council to hire an architect in 2020 with a goal of having a completed design by the end of the year. FCL staff are also working on partnering more with community stakeholders including ACAF, local schools, and Community Services.