

## NORTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

**The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners has voted to deny a waiver of certification to the Norton Public Library. The library's status is now "DECERTIFIED."**

### **Why were we denied a waiver?**

The Norton Public Library's budget was cut disproportionately to other departments in the town of Norton. The Board of Library Commissioners stated: "It must be recognized that the public library deserves proportionate funding and should be valued with other town services." This lack of support made us ineligible for a waiver of certification.

### **What does this mean for Norton residents?**

The Trustees of most libraries voted to suspend reciprocal borrowing privileges to decertified libraries which means they will no longer lend their materials to Norton residents through delivery or in person. At this time, the following public libraries in the SAILS network have voted to allow Norton residents to their collections and will allow holds: Assonet, Bridgewater, East Freetown, Wareham (all decertified), Swansea, as well as Bristol Community College, Massachusetts Maritime Academy and all K-12 schools in the SAILS network. Patrons must pick up their holds at the Norton Library only. Obviously, this could change.

The Norton Public Library did not receive \$28,000 in state aid this year. This loss will continue until we are certified. We are no longer able to apply for state library grants.

### **Can I go to another library and apply for a card there?**

No. You may only have one library card in the SAILS network and no matter where you get your card, reciprocal borrowing privileges are determined by your primary residence zip code. Therefore, if you live in Norton, which did not adequately fund its library, you cannot borrow materials from any other public library except those listed above.

### **What does this mean for our patrons who are not residents of Norton?**

Museum passes and video games are limited to Norton residents only. You may not place holds on Norton materials, but you may come into the library and check out items.

### **How can we get our certification back?**

If we are funded adequately in FY'2010 and we are open a bare minimum of 40 hours per week from Labor Day 2009 to Memorial Day 2010, then we will be eligible to apply for certification in October 2010 and be certified in FY2011.

### **What services can I still access?**

Please be assured that the staff of the Norton Library will continue to give you the best possible service regardless of the circumstances. We will still provide readers' advisory, children's and adult reference, programs for all ages, and all the resources contained within the library walls.

Since the beginning of this fiscal year when we were dealt our 35% cut, we have been taking steps to make this library as useful to our patrons as possible. Even with our limited means, we have been preparing for this unfortunate possibility. Thanks to the support of the Friends of the Library Stimulus Fund, we have been able to purchase new materials such as movies, music, and video games which our current budget would not cover. The Friends will still support the Museum Pass program.

Thanks to the Friends and the Jeff Jackson Technology Fund, we have completely redesigned our website. This virtual branch is available to you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and gives you access to our catalog, your account, our calendar of events, downloadable titles through Overdrive and access to millions of full-text articles from magazines, journals, newspapers and reference books.

More specific information on our services and resources is available at [www.nortonlibrary.org](http://www.nortonlibrary.org) or you can email our Head Librarian, Elaine Jackson, with any questions: [ejackson@sailsinc.org](mailto:ejackson@sailsinc.org).

#### **UPDATE FROM JUNE 8, 2009 TOWN MEETING**

The Norton Public Library needed an FY10 budget of \$404,890. to put us on the road to re-certification. The budget voted at Town Meeting was \$307,245, not enough for us to be certified. We are hoping that this figure will be increased at the Fall Town Meeting and eventually we will regain our certification.