

Bellingham Public Library

Bellingham, Massachusetts

The hub of the community ... where people and ideas come together

Annual Report 2016

“In the nonstop tsunami of global information, librarians provide us with floaties and teach us to swim.” ~ Linton Weeks

Honorable Selectmen:

This year was one of highs and lows for the library facilities and staff.

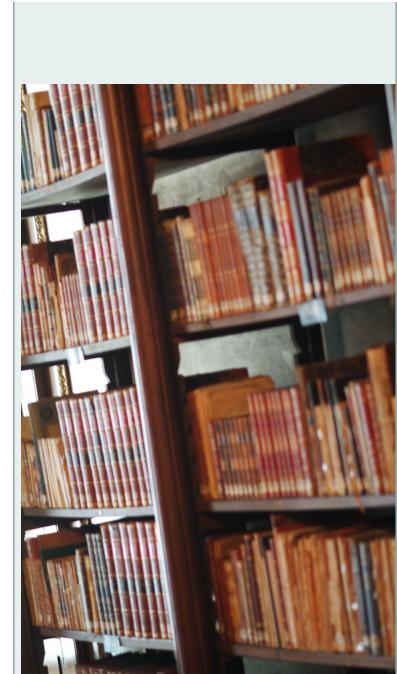
In the spring we opened our new Teen Room, that is routinely filled with 30-50 sixth through twelfth graders each day after school. In the fall, a potential catastrophe was averted when an elderly resident accidentally drove an automobile through the wall of the Community Room. Luckily no one, not even the driver and passenger were injured.

Our staff continued to provide excellent customer service to the residents of Bellingham. With one resignation, we reassigned a portion of those hours to a new person who now offers afterschool programming 3 days a week for 4th through 7th graders. On a more somber note, this year Barbara Selvitella, a former library trustee, Friends of the Library Board member, staff member and administrator who filled in prior to Bernadette's arrival in 2008, passed away somewhat unexpectedly. Barbara's dedication to the Bellingham Library was unmatched, even in retirement she could be counted on for support of library endeavors with generous donations that enabled us to complete projects. She will be missed.

In 2017 we look forward to the new carpeting, furnishings and layout of the children's room, as well as the completion of a small café area in the library.

Bernadette Rivard, Library Director

Suzanne Garten, Chair



BELLINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Suzanne Garten
Chair**

**Laura Howard
Vice Chair**

**Nicole Buckley
Secretary**

Amy Bartelloni

Alyssa Perry

AT A GLANCE

Services

- 53% of Bellingham residents have a library card
- Over 113K visitors last year, up 11.5% over 2015
- Over 1800 volunteer hours worked
- Over 20K Public Internet sessions on our wired and WiFi networks
- Nearly 700 times families received discounted admission to museums and attractions with our Discount Pass Program
- Each month over 3000 pages are printed from our public copier, up 50% from 2015.

Collections

- Over 96K items were checked out, a small decrease from 2015.
- Nearly 6000 eBooks were checked out.
- The library collection includes nearly 52K items, including more than: 45K books, 3800 videos, 3700 audio books and music CDs and 700 magazine issues.
- Free access to online language learning, self improvement courses, assistance for job seekers, newspapers, journal articles, music and art lessons, streaming and downloadable music and more, used by hundreds of patrons each month.

The Library Board of Trustees generally meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7 pm at the library. All are welcome to attend.

LIBRARY STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

In July of 2016 Nancy Ross, a five year part time employee, retired. Her position was realigned and filled by **Jane Murdock**, a Hopkinton resident who had worked in school libraries.

Jane is providing after school programming for 4th through 7th graders 3 days a week.

We continue to host volunteers from the community, including 14 seniors that work at the library through the town's **Senior Tax Work off Program**.

THE LIBRARY COLLECTION

The size of the library collection has not changed significantly. On a continual basis we are adding new materials as well as "weeding" titles that are outdated, damaged or no longer in demand. We continue to add over 450 items per month to the library collection.

We are beginning to prepare for the new carpeting in the children's room and have started weeding and evaluating the collection that will be in the updated space.

This year the library began to expand its lending of nontraditional items. Last fall we began lending Wi-Fi Hotspots. This program has been very popular. This year we added a telescope, binoculars and ukuleles! We are always looking for ways to provide services and equipment that educate, entertain, inform and save our patrons money.





FACILITY

As mentioned in the introduction, 2016 was a year of highs and lows for the library facility. **In the spring we opened our new Teen Room.** The room, outfitted with state of the art equipment and furnishings is now home to our after school program for grades 6-12. Each day after school 30-50 middle and high school students come to the library to study, play and meet up with friends. The project also includes a small study room that can accommodate up to 4 people located near the Teen Room.

The realization of this project was the culmination of nearly 10 years of planning. The town voted at the October 2015 town meeting to fund \$122,000 for the construction. The library trustees spent an additional nearly \$50,000 from state aid, gifts and the Friends of the Library donations on furnishings and equipment.

On October 7th the library averted a true catastrophe when no one was injured when an elderly resident accidentally drove a vehicle through the exterior Community Room wall, through to the kitchen wall of the library. **The accident resulted in the room being closed for four months to replace the carpeting, kitchen, interior and exterior walls.** In the renovation process, windows, new lighting, new curb stops and a stone barrier to prevent a future accident are being added to the facility.

AFFILIATIONS

Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC)

The state agency that certifies libraries and ensures state standards for library services are met.

Public libraries are required to meet certain spending levels each year in order to receive state aid and maintain certification.

In 2016 the library received the “Mind in the Making” \$10,000 grant from the MBLC. This grant will enable the library, as part of the renovation of the children’s room, to update the preschool area with state of the art educational toys and offer other services for preschoolers.

Central/Western Massachusetts Automated Resource Sharing (C/WMARS)

C/WMARS is our library network. Our dues to the network funds the shared library patron and item database, a staff and public computer network, our WiFi network and access to electronic resources including eBooks.

Massachusetts Library System (MLS)

The library is a member of MLS, which provides the following services: delivery of library items between Massachusetts libraries, access to online magazines, newspapers and journals; access to eBooks through the Commonwealth Collections; and continuing education for library staff.

CHILDREN & TEEN PROGRAM STATISTICS

Children's Programs

Attendance: Over 1700 adults and children attend library programs for children ages 0-12 each month, up 17% from 2015.

Number of Programs: Each month the library hosts more than 50 programs for children ages 0-12, also up 17% from 2015.

Teen Room Programs: Attendance at our afterschool program for 6-12th graders has increased 80% since the opening of the teen room from 2,276 teens in 2015 to 4,106 teens in 2016.

SUMMARY OF CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

57 Family Programs attended by 3548 people

432 Preschool Programs attended by 16,754 people

89 Elementary Programs attended by 624 children

63 Middle School Programs attended by 716 children

3 Homeschool programs attended by 36 people

9 Outreach programs reaching 1416 people

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

We continued to offer our regular preschool programs: Ring-A-Ding, Alphabits, Book Babies, BabyGarten, Tail Waggin' Tutors and Picnic Stories. In addition, we hosted the following special programs for preschoolers in 2016: Halloween Costume Parade, Preschool Activity Centers, Inspire Dance Move & Groove, Crazy Hair Day, and Dental Health Story time with Chestnut Dental.

These 432 programs were attended by 16,754 people.



A toothbrushing lesson at Dental Health Story Time



Leah Caracino & Indy our Tail Waggin' Tutors Reading Dog at the Polar Express Program!

FOR FAMILIES

Special events for families in 2016 included: Haunted Houses, Polar Express, Doc McStuffins, Digital Scavenger Hunt and a Luau. We had parties celebrating the following: Angry Birds, Dr. Seuss, St. Patrick's Day and Star Wars.

These 57 programs were attended by 3,458 people.



Ninja Practice at the Ninja Party!

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Our elementary school programs in 2016 included: A Pumpkin for Thanksgiving Story Time, The Cartwheel Book Awards, Mr. Lemoncello's Library Olympics and parties celebrating the following: The Super Bowl, Harry Potter and a Ninja Party hosted by Zanshin Bellingham.

These 89 programs were attended by 624 people.

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Middle School Programs

When school started in the fall of 2016, the library started a new program aimed at 4th –7th graders who come to the library after school. This program is offered on Mondays through Wednesdays from 2:30-4 pm.

- Mondays is Mondays in the Middle - video games, board games, and laptop computer time.
- Tuesdays is Crafternoons - a different craft every Tuesday.
- Wednesdays is Wicked Awesome Wednesdays - video games, board games, laptop computer time.

This program was attended by an average of eleven 4th to 7th graders each day.

Teen Room Programs

Our newly renovated Teen Room is open each day after school, Monday through Friday, from 2-5 pm with activities for 6th through 12th graders. There are computers, video games, craft supplies, board games and more.

This program is attended by thirty to fifty 6th to 12th graders each day.



SUMMER READING, COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND OTHER SERVICES

The Summer Reading theme in 2016 was “On Your Mark, Get Set, Read!” We kicked off the Summer Reading Program with a performance at the Bellingham High School Auditorium of “Circus Minimus.” This program was attended by over 300 people.

In addition, during the summer we hosted a variety of programs for children and families of all ages, including: A Fancy Nancy Party, an Elephant & Piggie Party, Touch a Truck, Giant Candyland, A Stuffed Animal Vet Checkup, Spoon Man, and a Battle of the Books completion.



Elephant
&
Piggie
Party!

PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

Adult Programs

The library hosted 111 adult programs in 2016 attended by 736 people. This was a small decrease from the previous year. From October to December, we suspended adult programming due to the Community Room being unavailable. We maintained children's programming as best we could using other spaces in the library and the Senior Center.

Meeting Room Use

The library meeting rooms were used nearly 1000 times in 2016, down 25% from the previous year. This is due to the Community Room being unavailable from October through December.

Each year the library hosts the town's **Annual Veterans Day Ceremony**. Coordinated by Jim Hastings of the Bellingham Memorial and Veterans Day Committee, this program is well attended by town and other elected officials as well as the general public and we look forward to hosting it each year.

ADULT PROGRAMS

The library hosts a variety of recurring programs for adults, including a monthly book club, a monthly adult coloring group, and a weekly knitting/crocheting group called the Bellingham Skein Artists.

In addition, in 2016 we hosted the following special events:

- *Secrets to Reversing Diabetes and Prediabetes*, presented by Dr. Geoff DePaula.
- *Supernatural Lecture* by local author of the paranormal Jeff Belanger. This multimedia presentation was funded by the Friends of the Library.
- *Grow Your Own Herb Garden*, by Eric Bromberg, a certified Master Gardener.
- *Digital Photography with your Smart Device*, by Robert Michelson of Photography by Michelson. Due to the popularity of that workshop we had him return a few months later to teach *Take Better Pictures with your DSLR Camera*. The Friends of the Library funded both programs.
- *Images of America: Abandoned Asylums of Massachusetts*, a presentation and book signing by the authors L.F. Blanchard and Tammy Rebello.
- *Learn Ukulele with Julie*, taught by Julie Calamine. This was a family program for ages 8 through adult, and was so popular that the library purchased 3 ukuleles to lend to the public!



Learn Ukulele with Julie



Supernatural Evening with Jeff Belanger



Veterans Honored at the Town's Annual Veterans Day Ceremony | hosted at the library each year

SOCIAL MEDIA

1757	Constant Contact Electronic Newsletter Subscribers
1421	Facebook Followers
299	Wowbrary Electronic Newsletter Subscribers
617	Pinterest Followers
227	Library App Users

ELECTRONIC COLLECTION

40	Online classes enrolled through Universal Class
180	Online Learning sessions through Mango Languages
334	Magazines downloaded through Zinio Magazines
20,364	Songs streamed through Freegal
1946	Songs downloaded through Freegal
5812	eBooks downloaded through Overdrive, Axis 360, etc.

NEW IN 2016 AND COMING IN 2017!

New in 2016

In 2016 the library acquired a telescope and binoculars from the Aldrich Astronomical Society. Both of these items can be checked out by patrons for home use.

As mentioned in adult programs, we also acquired 3 ukuleles that patrons can check out to use at home.

Coming in 2017

Spring of 2017 will see the completion of a long awaited facelift of the Children's Room. New carpet, a new shelving layout and an expanded and newly outfitted preschool play area will be joined by an iPad Kiosk, with 4 iPads loaded with educational and entertaining programs for elementary and preschool children. The carpeting for this project is funded by a town meeting vote from October 2016. The furnishings and equipment are funded by an LSTA grant called "Mind in the Making," donations from community members and fundraising from the Friends of the Library.

In addition, funds at fall town meeting were also allocated to transform a section of the adult area of the library into a café where patrons will be able to enjoy beverages and light snacks.

From March through September the library will be running programs funded by an Institute of Museum and Library Services Grant, in partnership with Cornerstones of Science, called "Empowering Public Libraries to Become Science Resource Centers for Their Communities." Under this grant, we have selected the topic of Environmental Literacy and will be offering programming on the following topics: Alternative Energy, Recycling and Water Resources, under the title "Enlighten Bellingham."

OTHER STATISTICS

	2015	2016	Difference
Library Visitors	101,432	113,051	+11.5%
Library Collection	50,195	51,895	+2.5%
Volunteer Hours Per Month	274	311	+13.3%
WiFi Users	7340	9218	+25.6%
Children's Programs	548	643	+17.3%
Teen Programs	137	189	+38%
Teen Program Attendance	2276	4106	+80.4%



Bellingham Public Library Staff

Bernadette Rivard
Director

Cecily Christensen
Reference Librarian

Steven Fowler
Senior Youth Services Librarian, Ages 0-12

Amanda Machure
Youth Services Librarian, Grades 6-12

Pauline Krajcik
Anne Kuncewicz
Barbara Pacak
Library Technicians

Carol Bonnell
Library & Accounts Payable Assistant

Jane Murdock
Library & Children's Assistant, Grades 4-7

Renee Milliken
Jane Vichi
Patricia Honour
Library Assistants

Jim Maher
Custodian