



Bellingham Public Library

Bellingham, Massachusetts

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

Annual Report 2017

Honorable Selectmen:

Our staff continued to provide excellent library services to the residents of Bellingham. We hired two new staff members this year, one to replace a resignation and a second to cover a medical leave. Diane Nelson and Heidi Santucci are wonderful additions to the library staff and we have quickly grown to see them as part of our great library customer service team.

This 29th year of the Bellingham Library offering services at the Blackstone Street location saw a long awaited renovation of our Children's Room with more organized collection space, new furnishings and an expanded play space for preschoolers. We also completed the reconstruction of the Community Room after the October 2016 auto accident.

In 2018 we look forward to completing the library's new café area and begin planning for 2019, which is not only the 30th Anniversary of the library moving to Blackstone Street, but the 125th Anniversary of the 1894 founding of the Bellingham Library and the 300th Anniversary of the Town of Bellingham!

Mr. Resnick's (a journalist who wrote an article for *The Atlantic* called, "What the Library of The Future Will Look Like") sentiment that the library is a community workshop is woven into our vision statement, "The hub of the community... where people and ideas come together."

Bernadette Rivard, Library Director

Amy Bartelloni, Trustee Chair

*"The library of
the 21st century
is a community
workshop,
a hub filled with
the tools of the
knowledge economy."*

Brian Resnick



BELLINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Amy Bartelloni
Chair

Laura Howard
Vice Chair

Rebekah Tracy
Secretary

Nicole Buckley

Lisa Cavossa

AT A GLANCE

Services

- 53% of Bellingham residents have a library card
- Over 148K visitors last year, up 31% over 2016
- Over 1700 volunteer hours worked
- Over 17K Public Internet sessions on our wired and Wi-Fi networks
- Nearly 700 times families received discounted admission to museums and attractions with our Discount Pass Program
- Each month nearly 2900 pages are printed or photocopied on our public copier

Collections

- Over 101,000 items were checked out, a nearly 5% increase from 2016
- Over 7500 eBooks were checked out, an increase of nearly 30% over 2016
- The library collection includes over 51,000 items, including more than: 45,000 books, 3900 videos, 3500 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, 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 2017 Jane Murdock resigned her library assistant position. Her position was filled by Bellingham resident **Diane Nelson**. Diane is providing after school programming for 4th through 7th graders 3 days a week.

We also hired a new temporary Library Assistant, to work the circulation desk, Bellingham resident **Heidi Santucci**.

We continue to host volunteers from the community, including 13 seniors who 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.

With the renovation of the Children's Room came a new layout for the children's collection that is easier to navigate and greatly improves sightlines in the space.

This year the library continues to expand its lending of nontraditional items. Current offerings include: Wi-Fi Hotspots, a telescope, binoculars and ukuleles....and the recent addition of board games! 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, **in the spring of 2017 we opened our newly renovated Children's Room.** The room is outfitted with an expanded preschool play space, tables for elementary and young middle schoolers as well as a more organized space for the library collection of books and media.

This project was funded by multiple sources. To fund the carpeting, over \$13,000 was paid for with funds voted at the October 2016 town meeting. The toys and furnishings for the new play space were funded by a \$10,000 Library Services & Technology Act grant, administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. Technology upgrades were funded by a donation from the Clara Macy School PTO.

In February 2017 the library Community Room and Community Room Kitchen reopened after the October 2016 auto accident that closed the room for over 4 months. The rebuilding of those rooms resulted in new windows, new lighting as well as an updated kitchen including new appliances, and a dishwasher that is used to wash toys used in library programs. In addition, the exterior of a portion of the building was vinyl sided and new curb stops and a stone barrier were added in front of the building to prevent damage to the building or injury to patrons in the event of a future accident.

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.

By maintaining certification, each year the library receives approximately \$20K in state aid funds.

In 2017 the library received the "Financial Literacy for All Ages" \$7,500 IMLS grant from the MBLC. This grant will encourage residents of all ages to set financial goals for 2018 and provide programs, tools and materials to help them reach those goals.

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 Wi-Fi 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. They also fund access to eBooks through the Commonwealth Collections; and continuing education for library staff.

CHILDREN & TEEN PROGRAM STATISTICS

Children's Programs

Attendance: Nearly 1500 adults and children attend library programs for children ages 0-12 each month, up 16% from 2016.

Number of Programs: Each month the library hosts more than 60 programs for children ages 0-12, also up 24% from 2016.

Teen Room Programs: Attendance at our afterschool program for 6-12th graders continues to climb. In 2017 over 4800 teens visited the library teen room, a 17% increase over 2016.

SUMMARY OF CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

26 Family Programs attended by 1884 people

306 Preschool Programs attended by 11,462 people

194 Elementary & Middle School Programs attended by 2444 children

4 Homeschool Programs attended by 70 people

5 Outreach Programs reaching 1088 people

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

We continued to offer our regular preschool programs: Ring a Ding, Alphabits, Book Babies Playgroup, Babygarten, Potpourri Stories, and Picnic Stories. In addition, we hosted the following special programs for preschoolers in 2017: A Very Bunny Story Time, Diaper Derby, Pinkalicious Party, St. Patrick's Day Story Time, and Valentine's Day Story Time.

These 306 programs were attended by 11,462 people.



Alphabits 2017 Graduation



**The Howard Family at the
Library Science Fair!**

FOR FAMILIES

Special events for families in 2017 included: Edible Haunted Houses, Polar Express Extravaganza, PAW Patrol Party, Peppa Pig Party, Pirate Party, PJ Masks Party, Backyard Star Party, Dr. Seuss's Birthday Party, Giant Candy Land, Family Feud, If You Give a Mouse a Cookie Party, and Monster Mash.

These 26 programs were attended by 1,884 people.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Our elementary school programs in 2017 included: A Pumpkin for Thanksgiving, The Cartwheel Book Awards, Magic School Bus, monthly Artrageous craft programs, Let It Fly, Slime Time, Spooky Bingo, Sticky the Elf, and #ChooseKind Party.

194 Programs for Elementary and Middle Schoolers were attended by 2,444 children.



**Tinker & Kiwi Crate
STEM Programs for Kids**

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, now called ASK (After School Kids), is offered on Mondays through Wednesdays from 2:30-4 :45 pm in the Children's Program Room.

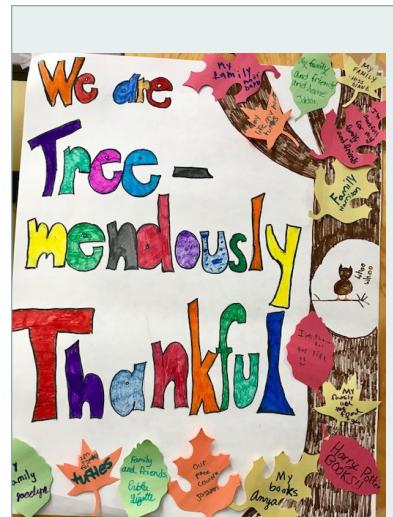
The room is equipped with 5 Chromebooks, a Wii U Gaming Station, and DVD player, as well as a wonderful supply of games and craft materials for the children's use in the afterschool hours.

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

Teen Room Programs

Our 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 approximately 30 6th to 12th graders each day.



**Toto the
Tornado Kitten,
star of her
own book,
meets the kids of
Bellingham**

PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

Adult Programs

The library hosted 120 adult programs in 2017 attended by 1,062 people. This was a 44% increase over the previous year.

Meeting Room Use

The library meeting rooms were used nearly 1000 times in 2017, very similar to the previous year's room use.

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.



Sgt. Kenneth Morrell,
LTC Frank Moore and
Sgt. Samuel Cowell at the
2017 Veterans Day
Ceremony.

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 2017 we hosted the following special events:

- **Importance of Play to Child Learning & Development** presented by Nicole Gardner of Mind in the Making, a national program to promote childhood literacy.
- **Backyard Astronomy Party**, presented by the Aldrich Astronomical Society.
- **8th Annual Walking Tour and Concert** with song writing duo Mark Manderville and Raianne Richards.
- **All About Electric Cars**, presented by the New England Electric Auto Association. This electric car show and panel discussion was a huge hit.
- **Tiny Houses— Everything You Need to Know**, presented by Tracey Powell a tiny house enthusiast and member of the Greater Boston Tiny House enthusiasts.
- **Welcome to the Graveyard: A Virtual Tour of Cemetery Gravestone Evolution**, was presented by the Gravestone Girls.



Walking Tour Concert



Electric Car Show



Tiny Houses with Tracey Powell

SOCIAL MEDIA

1,941	Constant Contact Library News & Events Electronic Newsletter Subscribers
1,687	Facebook Followers
305	Wowbrary New Item Notification Electronic Newsletter Subscribers
632	Pinterest Followers
380	Library App Users

ELECTRONIC COLLECTION

199	Participants in online classes through Universal Class
368	Online Learning sessions through Mango Languages
447	Magazines downloaded through Zinio Magazines
20,411	Songs streamed through Freegal
1,969	Songs downloaded through Freegal
7,526	eBooks downloaded through Overdrive, Axis 360, etc.

NEW IN 2017 AND COMING IN 2018!

New in 2017

The renovated Children's Room was our major news in 2017.

Coming in 2018 and beyond

Spring of 2018 will see the completion of the library's café space. This space was the number one requested item on our patron survey that was done as part of our 2016-2020 Long Range Plan.

Spring of 2018 will also see the arrival of Indy, our library reading dog, memorialized in bronze. The statue, which was a community fundraising effort, will be ensconced in the children's room for children of all ages to continue to read to "Indy"!

In the Spring we will be wrapping up our "Enlighten Bellingham" a 3- year grant program with a final event that will highlight all of the areas of focus: energy efficiency, water resources and recycling.

Throughout the year we will be offering programming as part of our "Financial Fitness for All Ages" grant. We will be hosting workshops, seminars and meetings with local experts to assist the community in meeting their financial goals.

At the Fall 2018 Town Meeting we will be requesting the approval of funds to carpet the main area of the library. Finishing this space, which has nearly 30-year-old carpeting, will complete updating all carpeted areas of the library just before the library starts its 30th year on Blackstone Street.

We are looking forward to planning multiple anniversary events for 2019. That year is the town's 300th Anniversary, the 125th Anniversary of the establishment of the Bellingham Library and the library's 30th year on Blackstone Street.



Bellingham Public Library Staff

Bernadette Rivard
Director

Cecily Christensen
Reference Librarian

Steven Fowler
Senior Youth Services Librarian, Ages 0-12

Amanda Maclure
Youth Services Librarian, Grades 6-12

Pauline Krajcik
Anne Kuncewicz
Barbara Pacak
Library Technicians

Carol Bonnell
Library & Accounts Payable Assistant

Diane Nelson
Library & Children's Assistant, Grades 4-7

Renee Milliken
Patricia Honour
Heidi Santucci
Jane Vichi
Library Assistants
Jim Maher
Custodian

OTHER STATS	2017	2016	Difference
Library Visitors	148,790	113,051	+31.6%
Library Circulation (Items checked out)	101,167	96,593	+4.7%
Museum Passes Issued	698	670	+4.2%
Tech Help, Reference Questions and Interviews	1,409	1,070	+24.1%
Children's Program Attendance	16,954	12,991	+30.5%
Adult Program Attendance	1,062	736	+44.3%
Teen Program Attendance	4,802	4,106	+17.0%
EBook Circulation	7,526	5,812	+29.5%