



Bellingham Public Library

Bellingham, Massachusetts

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

Annual Report 2018

Honorable Selectmen and the Bellingham Community:

This year was a year of continued great things for the Bellingham Library and its patrons.

Our facility was again visited by over 100,000 people in 2018; averaging over 400 people each day we were open!

We offer services to people of all ages! The library is a buzzing hive of activity on weekday mornings with preschool programs, and weekday afternoons with middle and high school children. Our after school programming now includes programs on four days for 4th and 5th graders and five days for those in grades 6 through 12.

In 2019, we will celebrate the 125th anniversary of library services being offered to the Bellingham community and the 30th anniversary of the current building located on Blackstone Street. We have many changes and celebrations in store for 2019!

We look forward to new carpeting and completing the library's new café area in the spring of 2019. Our well-maintained facility will get a facelift that will result in all public facing areas of the library having been renovated in the past five years.

Former First Lady Laura Bush's sentiment above is true in Bellingham and most communities, the most valuable thing in our wallets (or on our keychains) is our library cards!

We look forward to serving our community in 2019; Bellingham's 300th year!

Bernadette Rivard, Library Director

Laura Howard, Trustee Chair

I have found the most valuable thing in my wallet is my library card.

Laura Bush



BELLINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Laura Howard
Chair**

**Amy Bartelloni
Vice Chair**

**Carol Bird
Secretary**

Nicole Buckley

Rebekah Tracy

AT A GLANCE

Services

- 52% of Bellingham residents have a library card
- Over 128K visitors in 2018
- Over 1700 volunteer hours worked; 8% more hours than last year
- Over 16,000 public Internet sessions on our wired and Wi-Fi networks
- Over 600 times families received discounted admission to museums and attractions with our Discount Pass Program
- Each month nearly 3300 pages are printed or photocopied on our public copier; a 14% increase over last year

Collections

- Nearly 87,000 items (books, DVDs, audiobooks and more) were checked out of the library
- 7900 eBooks were checked out; an increase of nearly 5% more than 2017
- The library collection has over 51,000 items, including more than: 45,500 books, 4000 DVDs, 3500 audiobooks 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.

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 480 items per month to the library collection.

This year, the library continued to expand its lending of nontraditional items, our “Library of Things.” Previous offerings included: Wi-Fi hotspots, a telescope, binoculars, ukuleles and board games! We are always looking for ways to provide services and equipment that educate, entertain, inform and save our patrons’ money.

In 2018, our “Library of Things” collection was expanded to include lending or in-house use of the following items: Roku, Bluetooth speakers, virtual reality glasses, vinyl to MP3 record player, GoPro camera, bike repair kit, sewing machine and laminator. In addition, we have added many STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) kits for home use, including: a microscope, robots, Snap Circuits and more! And last but not least is some equipment to make your home party a success: a karaoke machine, a bubble machine and even a croquet set!





Vinyl Siding
on the front
of the
library
completed
by BVT
students in
the spring
of 2018.

FACILITY

As mentioned in the introduction, we are looking forward to the 2019 facelift of the main area of the library. With new carpeting, countertops, furnishings, and a café, we will meet our 2014 long-range plan goal of fully renovating public spaces by 2020.

That plan included the following goals for the facility:

Goal	Status
Expand Parking	Completed - Fall 2016
Replace Book Drop	Completed—Spring 2016
Café	Coming Spring 2019
Teen Room	Completed - Spring 2016
Children's Room Carpet	Completed - Spring 2017
Furniture	Continuing through Spring 2019
Main Area Carpet	Coming Spring 2019

In the upcoming years we will continue to address identified facility needs that are still on our to-do list, including: connecting the library to town sewer, improving storage, energy efficient lighting upgrades, and creating an outdoor patio space. Furthermore, we would like to acquire a facility generator so the library could stay open and serve as a community information center, with Internet access and a charging station, during long-lasting power outages.

PARTNERS

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 2018, the library also received the “Go Local: Building Communities and Connections” \$15,000 IMLS grant from the MBLC. With these grant funds the library will be writing a book commemorating the town’s 300th anniversary and spearheading many events to celebrate the anniversary throughout 2019.

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

C/WMARS is our library network. Our dues to the network fund the shared library patron and item database, a staff and public computer network, our Wi-Fi network and access to electronic resources, such as eBooks.

Massachusetts Library System (MLS)

The library is a member of MLS, which provides delivery of library items between Massachusetts libraries, as well as access to online magazines, newspapers and journals. They also provide continuing education for library staff.

CHILDREN & TEEN PROGRAM STATISTICS

Attendance: Over 2000 adults and children attended library programs for children ages 0-12 each month!

Number of Programs: Each month the library offered **nearly 70 programs** for children ages 0-12.

Teen Room Programs: In 2018, over 4800 teens visited the library Teen Room; averaging between **350 and 650 children** visiting after school each month!

ANNUAL SUMMARY OF CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

68 Family Programs attended by 2415 people

539 Preschool Programs attended by 17,626 people

95 Elementary School Programs attended by 921 children

115 Middle School Programs attended by 1788 children

7 Homeschool Programs attended by 63 people

7 Outreach Programs reaching 1255 people

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

In 2018, 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: Bubble Bash, STEM Storytime with the YMCA, and the Holiday Sing-a-Long with the Bellingham Community Concert Chorus.

These 539 programs were attended by 17,626 people.



Bellingham Community Concert Chorus Holiday Sing-a-Long



Giant Candyland is always a bit hit!

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Special events for families in 2018 included: Dr. Seuss's Birthday Party, Giant Candyland, Superhero Parties, Bubblemania, Star Wars Party, Stuffed Animal Vet Visit and Sleepovers, Family Feud, Egg Drop Challenge, Halloween Party, Winter Extravaganza, New Year's Eve Party, Book Dominoes, and Winter Laser Adventure.

These 68 programs were attended by 2,415 people.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Our elementary school programs in 2018 included: Snow Crafts, Magic School Bus, Solar Cars, Mother's and Father's Day Crafts, Krafty Kids, Ravenous Readers, Crazy 8s Club, and Spooky Bingo.

95 programs for elementary schoolers were attended by 921 children.



Krafty Kids with their Krafty Projects!

A.S.K. FOR 4TH - 7TH GRADERS

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. In 2019, it will be expanded to four days, Monday through Thursday, as the program has been a huge success. Led by Library Assistant Diane Nelson, the 4th - 7th graders are greeted by an enthusiastic staff member who keeps them engaged and always coming back for more!

The room is equipped with 5 Chromebooks, a WiiU Gaming Station, 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 sixteen 4th - 7th graders each day in 2018; up from the 12 per day average of last year!



**The ASK Kids show off their
Sip ‘n Paint creations!**



**Crafts, snacks and
homework in the
ASK Program**



**Figuring out the
STEM Tinker
Crates!**

TEEN ROOM PROGRAMS

Now entering its third year of operation, our Teen Room is open every day after school from 2-5 pm with activities for 6th through 12th graders. There are computers, video games, craft supplies, board games and more!

Each day Amanda Maclure, our Youth Services Librarian, and Library Assistant Heidi Santucci, provide a haven for Bellingham’s teens in our successful Teen Room.

Between **350 and 650 teens** visited the room each month during the 2018 school year!



**Friday Fun in the
Teen Room!**

SUMMER READING AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH



The Summer Reading theme in 2018 was “Libraries Rock!”

We kicked off our summer with a high-energy juggling program performed by Jason Tardy at the Bellingham High School Auditorium; over 300 people attended!

The summer also included a variety of programs for kids of all ages, such as: Play the Ukulele with Julie, Rocket Workshop with Ed the Wizard, Doc McStuffins Visit, Passion for Birds, Princess Sing-a-Long, Rainforest Reptiles and Malik the Magic Guy.

Over 300 children participated in our Summer Reading Program by checking out books, attending library programs, and keeping track of their reading progress throughout the summer.

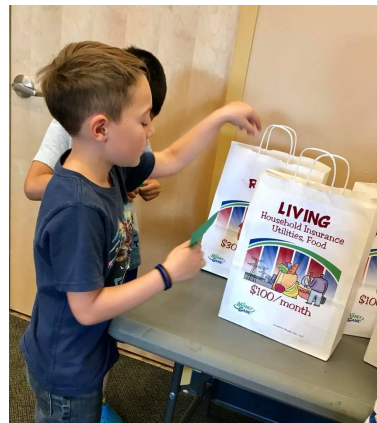
The library continues to purchase and provide copies of school summer reading books to assist students in their school assignments.

In conjunction with the library’s Financial Fitness for Everyone Grant, we were able to bring “Camp Millionaire” to Bellingham. Camp Millionaire is a unique, highly effective, interactive financial literacy education curriculum for ages 10 and up. The program, called “The Money Game,” teaches children (and adults) how to make, manage, multiply and donate their money wisely. Topics include: saving, sharing, and investing.

We ran two very successful camps in the summer of 2018 and the grant enabled us to purchase the program so we can continue to offer it in the future.



One of our two Camp Millionaire classes showing off their hard-earned money!



Paying the bills at Camp Millionaire!

Our Youth Services Department continues to reach children not only at the library, but throughout the community as well. In 2018, we participated in the following outreach events: Secret Reader at both Stall Brook and South Schools, kicked off the Read-a-thon at Stall Brook, promoted the library’s Cartwheel Book Awards at BMS, visited both Stall Brook and South to promote the Summer Reading Program, and hosted a field trip for the Stall Brook Kindergarten classes.

ADULT PROGRAMS

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

In addition, we also hosted the following special events in 2018:

Financial Fitness for Everyone

From January to September, the library offered numerous programs to help community members better manage their personal finances. Workshops were offered on the following topics: Extreme Couponing, Making a Budget, Selecting Your Financial Products and Team, Saving Money Tips, Managing Overspending, What to Keep and What to Shred, Everything You Need to Know About Credit, and Buying a Home.



With funding assistance from the **Bellingham Cultural Council**, we were able to bring two Community Concerts to Bellingham in 2018. The April performance was by **Too Human**, a Western Massachusetts Jazz Trio, and the September performance was by **Mark Mandeville and Raianne Richards**, a Central Massachusetts folk music duo.

In May of 2018, we dedicated our bronze Indy statue to honor Leah Caracino and her amazing sheltie, Indy, who for over 5 years came to the library on Mondays as part of our **Therapy Reading Dog Program**. This statue was funded by donations from supporters of the library from all across the country as Indy was well loved by many. In September, Bellingham resident Amy Sue Hasslebaum, inspired by her experience with Indy, resumed our reading dog program with her golden retriever, Daisy. Daisy is a certified therapy dog that volunteers with Tufts Paws for People and Pet Partners.



For the 6th consecutive year, the library hosted the town's Veterans Day Ceremony. In the photo, **Jim Hastings**, Chair of the Veterans & Memorial Day Committee, **Col. James Donnellan**, USMC Retired, and **Kevin Heenan**, Army Veteran and Bellingham Police Officer, place a wreath at the library's flagpole.

SOCIAL MEDIA

2036	Facebook Followers
2031	Constant Contact Library News & Events (Electronic Newsletter Subscribers)
1048	Library App Users
670	Pinterest Followers
316	Wowbrary New Item Notification (Electronic Newsletter Subscribers)

ELECTRONIC COLLECTIONS

7910	Songs streamed through Freegal
7900	eBooks downloaded through Overdrive, Axis 360, etc.
1487	Songs downloaded through Freegal
503	Magazines downloaded through RB Digital Magazines
354	Online language learning lessons through Mango Languages
223	Participants in online classes through Universal Class



OTHER STATISTICS

	2018	2017	2016
Library Visitors	128,168	148,790	113,051
Library Circulation (items checked out)	86,777	101,157	95,593
Museum Passes Issued	640	698	670
Tech Help, Reference Questions and Interviews	1398	1409	1070
Children's Program Attendance	15,225	15,085	12,991
Teen Program Attendance	4845	4802	4106
Adult Program Attendance	981	1062	736
eBook Circulation	7900	7526	5812

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**

Heidi Santucci
**Library & Children's
Assistant Grades 6-12**

Renee Milliken
Patricia Honour
Jane Vichi
Library Assistants

Jim Maher
Custodian