



Year in Review

The Rockingham Free Public Library had another busy year in Fiscal Year 2017, inspiring and serving the community.

We:

- Continued to play an important role in early childhood learning and family engagement, offering programs that ranged from baby and toddler story times, to a challenge to read 1,000 books before Kindergarten, a Nurturing Parent series of workshops, and the Summer Reading Program, “On Your Mark, Get Set... Read”. *1,000 Books Before Kindergarten*



- Received a CLiF Summer Readers grant for a storyteller program and free books, became a Maker Camp Affiliate and received training and tech when the Library’s STEAM program was accepted by Google, and completed a second year of the VELI-STEM program, funded by a Vermont Early Literacy Initiative IMLS grant.

- Continued our strong partnerships with local and state organizations, participating in the Bellows Falls Promise Community playground project, setting up a library table at the Farmers Market, and collecting diaper donations for Parks Place, who was the first organization in Vermont to establish a Diaper Bank for babies.

- Continued our strong partnerships with area public & private schools, pre-schools and daycares, providing elementary school class tours, and attending the WNESU Early Ed Services Summer Playgroup Kick-Off Party.



- Provided a variety of other Youth programs including Storytime for Social Justice, a Harry Potter fan party, Starnet, Breakout Rooms, gaming programs, and science/technology/engineering/math (STEM). *Choosing Books at the CLiF Storyteller Program*

- Provided a wide variety of adult programs: the Humanities Council’s 2017 Vermont Reads series Brown Girl Dreaming, the Opiate Effect organized by Greater Falls Connection, Elayne Clift’s memoir writing workshop, Cuba Past and Present, Intro to Wellness, Preparing Your Estate Plan, Ghost Hunters, Endangered Alphabets, research sessions with genealogist Wayne Blanchard, Discovering Your Family History, and monthly RFPL Reads book discussions.

- Provided outdoor and nature programs including the Cheshire Railroad, the Power of Water, the Saxtons River Trail Initiative, Rockingham Meeting House Tour, Vermont Timber Rattlesnakes, identification of Hemlock scale, and invasive plants and insects presented by the Southeastern Vermont's Watershed Coordinator for the VT Department of Natural Resources.
- Received a Pushing the Limits Califa Library Group grant for a series of programs, led by Peter Bergstrom, on the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) of everyday life.
- Hosted the Friends of the Library-sponsored programs and fundraisers such as the annual May plant sale, December's holiday party, Pub Trivia Night, Crescent Dragonwagon's writing workshop, a book signing of *Intimate Grandeur* on the State House's history, and Gardening with Pollinators presented by Henry Homeyer.
- Assisted Charlie Hunter and the Friends with their special project to raise funds to purchase the Vilas Bridge painting by artist Jerry Pfohl, with the goal to donate it to the Library's Historical Collection. The Friends planned a series of programs focused around the 6-foot painting, which was installed in the Library's Biography Room.
- Hosted exhibits including Jerry Pfohl's Vilas Bridge Painting, Middle School students' art display, Kim Grall's Enchanted Gourds, and a National Archives Bill of Rights display sponsored by the VT Humanities Council, which complemented the Community Read of Frederick Douglass's Fourth of July Speech. Historical Collection items were also on display including Hetty Green's writing lap desk, a tree trunk with two embedded cannonballs, a butter churn & washing machine manufactured in Bellows Falls, and the Tucker Toll Bridge sign.
- Received e-rate Fiber Grant, and Videoconferencing equipment, through the Vermont Department of Libraries, which allows two or more locations to communicate through audio and video transmissions over the Internet, to use for online trainings, meetings, and programs.
- Continued to focus on reader's advisory and educational handouts, including the annual gift guide of recommended books, audio books and movies, and a history of town bridges.
- Increased our technology focused educational activities, including tech help classes and one-on-one tech tutoring assistance with online services and personal electronic devices, and continued to provide access to online resources, public computers, copier, printer, scanner and fax machines.



Exhibit Opening for Jerry Pfohl's Vilas Bridge Painting

We are proud to serve a community that is so interested in reading and education, and are thankful for the funding we received from the Town of Rockingham to support library service. We are also thankful to the many individuals, businesses, organizations and volunteers who

donated to the Library and the Annual Appeal, and especially the Friends of the Library, and all those who supported their fundraising efforts.

The Library Board and staff understand the transformative nature of today’s libraries, and the critical role libraries play in the digital age. We will continue to explore ways of providing services that support access to learning and technology, for everyone in our community.

Céline Houlné, Director



Hoopoe, the Mime at the Summer Reading Program



Success in the Break Out Room!



FISCAL YEAR 2017

BY THE NUMBERS

Hours Open | 2,392

Library Visits | 35,412

Library Card Holders | 5,758

Info Transactions | 19,448

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Number of Child/Teen Activities | 198

Total Attendance | 5,293

Number of Adult Activities | 103

Total Attendance | 1,168

TECHNOLOGY

Public Computers | 12

Computers Sessions | 7,384

WiFi Sessions | 16,172

Website Visits | 62,317

Library Databases Use | 50,004

COLLECTIONS/CIRCULATION

Books | 36,826

Magazines & Newspapers | 61

Audio & Visual Items | 4,034

Online Audiobooks, e-books | 13,319

Online Databases, Ancestry | 60

Print/Media Checked Out | 61,459