



ROCKINGHAM
FREE PUBLIC
LIBRARY

Annual Report July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

The Rockingham Free Public Library's mission is to serve as a cultural and educational center for the community, sharing diverse resources, ideas, and information.

In 2017, the Library Board of Trustees adopted a new Mission Statement and Long Range Plan. It lists three priorities – environment, technology, and collections – that we use to guide our actions to provide innovative Library services, and a vibrant place through which to explore our world.

Children and Teen Services

The Library expanded its offerings of programs and book collections for children and families, all of which supported learning and helped to create young readers.

- The *Build a Better World* Summer Reading Program offered a wide range of activities, with incentives to encourage reading through the summer. Highlights included the So. Vermont Natural History Museum's raptors program with live birds, *Dinoman* for dinosaur enthusiasts, 9th Annual Stuffed Animal Sleepover, free lunch program, playgroup, Lego Club, movie mornings, and storytimes, including stories about kid scientists, engineers, and architects followed by a STEM engineering activity. Teen programs included Friday Night Tabletop gaming, Teen Tech Club, YA book group, movie nights, Teen lock-in, and Breakout Rooms. The Summer Reading Program wrapped up on August 21 with a solar eclipse viewing party.
- Other programs offered through the year included Star Wars Reads Day, International Gaming @ Your Library Week, Annual Halloween party, Holiday Party Gingerbread Jamboree, Minecraft Club, Beginner Readers Book Club, Annual Magic: The Gathering Tournament, Take Your Child To the Library Day, DiscoveryE: Engineers Week, and a new club,



GoogleCS [kids.code] which entailed a 10-week computer science curriculum.



Offering 2,000 pairs of free viewing glasses, the Library attracted children, families & adults to watch the August 21 solar eclipse, on the Library's front lawn & inside on the video conferencing equipment.

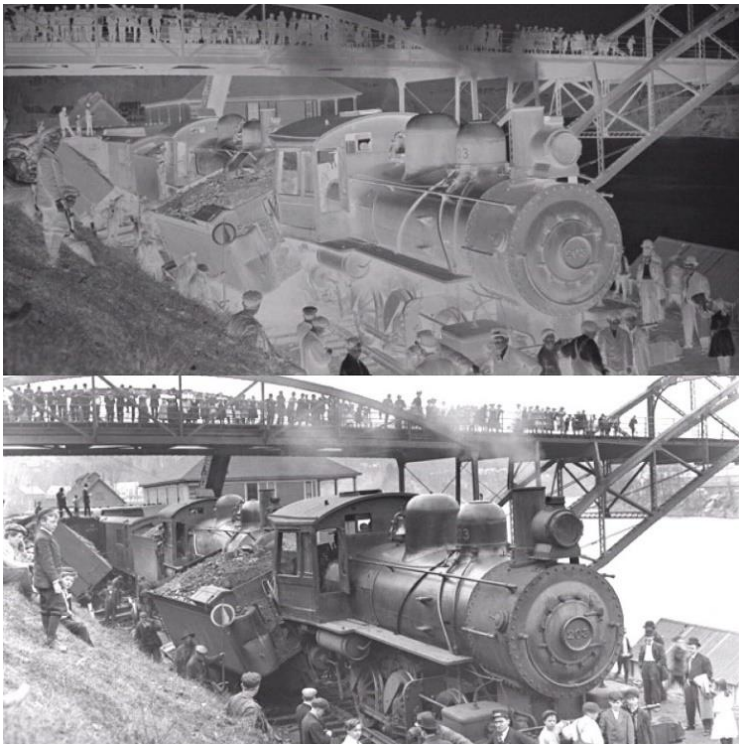
Adult Services

A wide variety of programs were offered to support life-long learning, including VT PBS's preview at the Opera House of Ken Burn's series, *The Vietnam War*, the Women's Freedom Center's films, *My Stolen Revolution* and *Invoking Justice*, the Holocaust Film *Paper Clips*, the Hospice's film *Being Mortal*, and the *Creative Spirit* Film.

- Book discussions included RFPL Reads monthly gatherings, and Pushing the Limits series, facilitated by Peter Bergstrom. Writing workshops were given by authors Megan Applegate, Elayne Clift, and Crescent Dragonwagon. Nature and science programs included VT Dept. of Forests's Emerald Ash Borer, Sojourn's Lyme & Tick-Borne Diseases, VT Fish & Wildlife's Sea Lampreys, and Acting on Climate Change in Vermont. History programs included VT Humanities Council's *Old Country Fiddler*, and *A Watershed Year in Vermont's Political and Cultural History*, Richard Ewald's History of the Vilas Bridge, Cultural History of Bridges with Gail Golec & Annette Spaulding, and Wayne Blanchard's genealogy workshops.
- Other programs included Peter Gould's author reading, Poetry Open Mic, Cross Class Dialogue Circles, Slideshow of Mexico, Weatherizing Your Homes, Women Healers, Wellness in 2018, Senior Solutions, Pop-Up Playground, and the December Holiday party, where *Friends of the Library* donated Jerry Pfohl's iconic painting of the Vilas Bridge.

Historical Services

The Library welcomed many visitors and research requests. People asked about photos, genealogy, and local topics, such as the reason for Will Allen Dromgoole's poem, *The Bridge Builder*, ending up on a plaque on the Vilas Bridge. Projects were varied:



- Digitized 1,459 glass plate negatives which was funded by a Windham Foundation Grant. These historic images have been added to the Cataloged Photograph Collection and will be made available in our Reference Room and on the Library's website for remote online access.
- Uploaded the Cataloged Photograph Collection so it can be searched through the website.
- Inventoried and labeled art pieces in the Historical Collection, and consulted with a conservator to review actions needed to preserve the items.
- Rehoused the Historic Collection postcards in acid free storage boxes, and began cataloging and digitizing the postcards for online access.

Before & After Digitization of wreck at South Switch between B&M 203 & Green mountain flyer, August 19, 1910.
Original Photograph

Technology Services



The Library provided access to, and assistance on, tech equipment, including computers for internet usage and word processing, printer, copier, fax machine, and video-conferencing equipment. We also provided one-on-one tech appointments for hands-on learning, added *DuckDuckGo* internet search engine on pcs that doesn't collect personal information, and added NoveList, a database of reading recommendations, to the Library's online catalog.

Public Computers in the Reference Room

Community Engagement

Along with the programs, the Library provided many other activities in conjunction with area organizations, individuals, and schools.

- Exhibited Middle School students' artwork, VT Department for Children & Families foster care display, the Community Asylum Seekers Project display, and installed a mural in the Youth Dept., created by children and David Stern from Main Street Arts.
- Worked with other Bellows Falls Promise Community members, Parks Place and Greater Falls Connections, to engage the community in the Central Elementary School playground renovation.
- Interviewed with Robert McBride for FACT TV program, Everyday People, to talk about offerings at the Library.
- Attended a Woman's Club meeting to present a list of recommended movie and book titles.
- Hosted Summer Reading workshop for the VT Dept. of Libraries.
- Hosted various meetings, and exhibits including voting registration and the Town's planning survey.



Veli-Stem Program



- Provided library tours for school classes, participated in the schools' summer reading kick-off, and coordinated with the schools to administer grant funds and related activities.

Break-Out Room Program

Grants

The Dept. of Libraries provided grants for Inter-Library Loan courier service, e-rate fiber connectivity, NELA conference and summer reading program. Other grants supported projects and increased our book collections, including Windham Foundation, VT Center for the Book VELI-STEM & Mother Goose trainings, Rural Gateways Conference, Pushing the Limits, CLif Literacy, & STAR Net/NASA/Google grant which provided glasses for viewing the eclipse.

FISCAL YEAR 2018 - BY THE NUMBERS

Hours Open | 2,392
Library Visits | 39,468
Library Card Holders | 5,924
Info Transactions | 33,800

COLLECTIONS/CIRCULATION

Books | 36,934
Magazines & Newspapers | 70
Audio & Visual Items | 4,199
Online Audiobooks, e-books | 23,842
Online Databases, Ancestry | 54
Print/Media *Checked Out* | 36,699

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Number of Child/Teen Activities | 176
Total Attendance | 6,273
Number of Adult Activities | 90
Total Attendance | 1,423

TECHNOLOGY

Public Computers | 12
Computers Sessions | 8,445
WiFi Sessions | 14,392
Website Visits | 39,741
Electronic Content Use | 25,941

In conclusion, we greatly appreciate all the ways that the Town of Rockingham, the Friends of the Library, businesses, organizations, and individuals, have generously donated to help us strengthen the Library, and to help make it a welcoming and inspiring center for our community.

Céline Houlné, Director



Southern Vermont Natural History Museum's Raptors Program



Friends of the Library's May Plant Sale