



Rockingham Free Public Library

Annual Report

July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

Rockingham Free Public Library
 65 Westminster Street
 Bellows Falls, VT
 (802) 463-4270
<http://rockinghamlibrary.org>

Hours	
Mon, Tues, Wed	10 - 7
Thur & Fri	10 - 5:30
Sat	10 - 2

Children and Teen Services

Babies, children, teens and their families enjoyed the Youth Department’s varied collections of books and media, and participated in many educational programs throughout the year.

- The *Libraries Rock* Summer Reading Program kicked off with the Modern Times Theater music & puppet show, and the 10th Annual Stuffed Animal Sleepover. Other programs included storytimes, 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten, Lego Club, [kids-code] on Mondays, Friday Night Games, Teen Movie Night, Teen Lock-In, Break-out Rooms, and STEAM Saturdays. Special events included a CLiF Storyteller, So. Vermont Natural History Museum Wildlife Presentation, Storytime for Social Justice, Family Sing-a-Long with Margaret Mitchell, Tie-Dye & Ice Cream Social, and *Hamiltunes*, a public singalong of *Hamilton: the Musical*, which was presented in conjunction with Main Street Arts.

- The Fall Series of Programs included Musical Baby & Infant Storytimes, Teen Writers Workshop with Megan Applegate, KPop Club, Minecraft Club, Family Fun Nights, Fiesta de Halloween Espetacular Party, Friday Night Teen Tabletop, International Games Week, Magic Tournament, Computer Science Education Week, Engineering Week, Gingerbread Jamboree, and a Polar Express party and movie presentation.



Storytime Activities in the Youth Program Room

- New programs included ESL (English as second language) Book Group, attended by children speaking Mandarin, Gujarati, and Spanish, and Brown Bag STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) Lunch Series, geared towards homeschooling families who learned about force and motion, sewing circuits and electricity, geology, and geography.

- The Winter-Spring series of Programs included our ongoing programs, along with Reading Bingo Blackout, for PreSchool through Fourth Grade, made possible by a grant from CLiF (*Children's Literacy Foundation*) Rural Libraries. Children recorded reading over 3,223 books, and the program wrapped up with the Purple People Pizza Party. The CLiF grant also paid for author events at Saxtons River and Central Elementary schools, and the VINS Raptor Library program was held at Central Elementary after the author presentation so that the preschool and homeschool library families could also attend. The CLiF grant came to an end with a book giveaway for each participating child.

Adult Services

Many educational programs were offered to encourage learning and discovery.



Residents Share Stories of Their Heritage

- Local History programs included two presentations by Professor David Deacon, *The Decline of the Bellows Falls Paper Mills*, and *Vermont Folk Music*.
- The Rockingham Historic Preservation Commission co-sponsored programs, *Where We Come From - The Lisais of Russia* with Ellen Howard, *Where We Come From - England & Italy* with Doreen Eno, Ray Massucco, and Aurelius DiBernardo, and *Where We Come From - Greece and Poland* with Cathy Bergman and Mary Narckiewicz.
- RAMP co-sponsored the Andrews Inn Oral History Project's Community Discussion & Potluck.

- Author readings included Andrew Forsthoefel's *Walking to Listen*, Bernie Lambek's *Uncivil Liberties*, Michael Palma's Poetry Reading, and Elayne Clift's *From Bataan to Benghazi: Women in War, Honoring Women Who Have Served*, in recognition of Women's History Month.
- Ongoing programs included weekly genealogy research sessions led by Wayne Blanchard, Tai-Chi classes led by John Bohannon and Leslie Lassetter, monthly book discussions, and Poetry Open Mics.
- Vermont Humanities Council programs included a discussion of John Lewis' graphic memoir, *March*, a discussion on *Hospice*, a media program *Sorting the News from the Chaff*, and a garden program *Wolf Peaches, Poisoned Peas, and Madame Pompadour's Underwear: The Surprising History of Common Garden Vegetables*, co-sponsored by The Rockingham Historic Preservation Commission.
- Films included a documentary about Jonathan Daniels, a slain civil rights worker from Keene, with discussion led by Professor & film producer Larry Benaquis, *Pride* for LGBT month, the musical film *1776*, and four Women's Freedom Center films, *The Judge*, *The Founders*, *Lane 1974*, and *Suitable Girl*.
- Other programs included *An Introduction to Cartooning for the Non-Cartoonist* with Kurt Schaffert from the Center for Cartoon Studies, a Community Reading of Frederick Douglass's Famous Speech, a program on Meditation and Breathing, Backyard Composting, Reversing Global Warming, Seniors Solution HomeMeds program, and Community of Vermont Elders [COVE] Medicare.

Technology Services

The Library's website was visited 51,367 times to find out about services and programs, access the databases, view the online catalog, place holds, and renew materials.

- Patrons visited the library to use the computers 8,329 times for email, internet research, employment applications, and word processing. Staff provided daily assistance with computers, printers, copier, fax machine and video-conferencing equipment, and provided online research and one-on-one tech assistance.

Reference & Historical Services

The Library assisted many people, in person and online, in researching a wide variety of topics, such as book titles, homework topics, governmental resources, social issues, genealogy and local history.

- Examples include locating photos of the Robertson Paper Mill in the Cataloged Photograph Collection to use in the Town Report, and a photograph for use in a National Model Railroad Association newsletter.
- Instructed a high school class and many other patrons on what resources are available in our Historical Collection, and on how to use the microfilm machine to research historic newspapers.
- Catalogued binders which hold the prints of 1,454 Historic Glass Plate Negatives so visitors can easily view them in the Library.

Community Engagement

The Library coordinated with many individuals, organizations and schools, to create programs of interest, and for many other purposes.

- The Youth Department participated in WNESU's Annual Summer Playgroup Kick-Off Party, daily lunch was provided through a partnership with WNESU, and collaborated with WNESU Early Education Center, Building Bright Futures, and Help Me Grow for the Saturday Family Film Series, provided library tours for school classes, and coordinated with the schools to administer grant funds and related activities.
- Co-sponsored the Abenaki History Humanities Council Program with the Rockingham Historic Preservation Commission.
- Hosted a program addressing local Seniors transportation concerns.
- Hosted the Summer Reading workshop for the Vermont Department of Libraries.
- Hosted the Friends of the Library Holiday party.
- Hosted a Library table at Herrick's Cove Wildlife Festival, providing face-painting.
- Provided rooms for organizations to meet including the Town's Tree Committee, the Woman's Club, Greater Falls Connections, Vermont Healthy Soil Coalition, Springfield Medical Center, and Greater Falls Justice who presented the documentary film *Homecoming* by Kingdom County Productions.
- Engaged Greater Falls Connections to provide staff training about Developmental Assets, to help us understand how we can support the development of children in our community.
- Signed up with the Novus Rockingham Solar System which began generating power in December 2018 for which we received credits on the Green Mountain Power (GMP) bill for the solar energy generated.



Stringfield Springers at Holiday Party

Grants & Donations

The Library was the recipient of many grants and donations which strengthened the collections and provided staff training opportunities and a wide variety of programs.

- The Dept. of Libraries awarded grants for the Summer Reading Program, Inter-Library Loan courier service, e-rate fiber connectivity, and attendance at the Association of Rural and Small Libraries Conference for Samantha Maskell, the Youth Services Librarian. Sam and two other Vermont Librarians made presentations on creating programming based on VELI-STEM: Vermont Early Literacy Initiative – Science Technology Engineering and Math.

- Other grants included VT Center for the Book, Mother Goose trainings, Children’s Literacy Foundation (CLiF) which paid for books and programs which were shared with the schools, Vermont Associates, and the Dept. of Labor Summer Economic Opportunity grant which provided a summer intern in the Youth Dept.

- Many donors gave in response to the Annual Appeal and Postcard Appeal. *Friends of the Library* coordinated many fundraising activities such as the plant sale, Guilford Welcome Center table, pub trivia event, raffle, silent auction, and supported the Library’s Annual Book Sale. The *Friends* used funds to pay for equipment, programs, and museum passes.

As always, we are very grateful for the support we received from Town residents, and all the individuals, businesses and organizations who donated so generously throughout the year. All contributions from volunteers and donors have helped us to meet the needs of our residents, and to make the Library a vibrant center for everyone in the community.

Céline Houlné, Director



Friends of the Library Raffle

FISCAL YEAR 2019 – BY THE NUMBERS

Hours Open | 2,392
 Library Visits | 45,500
 Library Card Holders | 6,046
 Info Transactions | 33,384

COLLECTION NUMBERS

35,705 Books
 3,174 Videos
 1,395 Audiobooks
 63 Magazine & Newspapers Subscriptions

TOTAL Print/Media Checked Out | 34,438

E-Books & Audios Checked Out | 4,128
 Items Borrowed from Libraries | 1,302

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Number of Child & Teen Activities | 171
 Attendance at Youth Activities | 6,425
 Number of Adult Activities | 94
 Attendance at Adult Programs | 831

Total Number of Programs | 265
 Total Attendance | 7,256

TECHNOLOGY

Public Computers | 12
 Computer Sessions | 8,329
 WiFi Sessions | 10,803
 Website Visits | 51,367
 Database & Ancestry Searches | 15,038