



November 9, 2023
Librarian's Report
Bradford Public Library

Mission Statement

The Bradford Public Library is committed to supporting and enhancing learning, creativity, and opportunities for personal growth and community connections with reliable information and resources, and the support necessary to navigate those resources in a safe and welcoming environment.

Administrative:

There has been a positive response from attention drawn to the library over disadvantaged and unhoused folks in the community. Articles in the Journal Opinion, Vermont Digger, Valley News, WCAX, Daybreak and most recently [Vermont Public](#) aired the situation which we, and many other libraries and towns have been faced with these past few months. Many folks have reached out via email, text, by phone or stopping by the library to express gratitude for librarians and services we offer.

I am working with the Access and Acute Care Director at Clara Martin for *Mental Health First Aid training* to take place by the new year. This is a full day training with a required online 'precourse' for participants. I hope to set it up for a Monday when the library is closed or perhaps a Tuesday with the Board's permission to close the library for one day. I plan to invite area librarians and other town workers depending on space. The Fairlee Town Clerk wishes to attend.

The Annual Appeal has been posted on the website, Facebook, and listservs. Checks are beginning to come in through the mail or at the circulation desk. We will continue to post through the holidays.

The Vermont State Annual Report is live, in process and due December 31st. Grant reporting is on track in keeping with requirements and BPL in good standing for future opportunities.

Our One Card agreement has been submitted allowing BPL patrons access to borrowing privileges from participating libraries in the Upper Valley. Library materials must be returned to the library you borrowed them from. Each library has its own borrowing policies, and participants will be responsible for following the policies at each library.

Seven Austin Air purifiers and seven extra filters arrived and have been set up in each room of the library. Volunteer David Holmes hauled the *very heavy* extra filters up to third floor storage.

Librarians at the circulation desk have been feeling the change in weather these past few weeks! John Hathoway has been in to address the fuses that continue to blow causing an outage in the staff bathroom, Vermont room, and circ area. The Reading Room, downstairs children's area and public bathroom, are not affected. The mezzanine is also comfortable.

The library will be closed Thursday - November 23, and Friday - November 24 for the Thanksgiving Holiday. We will be open on Saturday - November 25 with extended hours to host Joe Citro for stories of All Things Strange, Joe's life in Vermont, and a signing of his latest books, including books such as the more recent Lake Monsters, Vermont's Creepiest Classics, Vermont's Curious Encounters, and Loose Ends. This program is co-sponsored with Star Cat Books. Board members are encouraged to attend and promote the annual appeal!

Professional Development:

ILL Quarterly Roundtable, 1:00-3:00, Thursday, November 9th.
Betsy will attend.

Annual LUV Meeting, 12:00-2:00, Monday, November 20th. Norwich, VT.
Betsy will attend.

In the works:

Mental Health First Aid training through Access and Acute Care Director at Clara Martin. I am checking to see if this is the same training offered to Librarians through the Department of Libraries which I am registered for. I would still like to offer this (FREE) to BPL staff, area librarians, and local business owners at the library.

Adult Mental Health First Aid Part 1 of 2 - 9:00am - 12:30pm, Thursday, January 25, 2024

9:00am - 12:30pm, Thursday, February 1, 2024

Washington County Mental Health will present this online 2-part training on Adult Mental Health First Aid (MHFA), a skills-based training course that teaches participants about mental health and substance-use issues. Participants will be introduced to the [ALGEE](#) plan which will provide tools to support adults who are struggling until professional help arrives. MHFA also strives to reduce stigma around mental health challenges and focuses on the importance of early intervention to support better outcomes. *The class*

includes 2 hours of independent pre-work online in addition to the synchronous sessions.

Technology:

Scott Welch of Great Planning Tech has been in to update PC's and recover one that had crashed. Other than equipment, Scott does not charge BPL for service.

Community Outreach:

BPL Gallery featuring local artisans has been very well received by many folks and family members new to BPL. Two recently featured artists have volunteered their time and skills for the BPL CREATES adult crafting programs!

Visits to local area preschools have proven success in welcoming families to the library. Many of our young friends 'insist' they be brought to the library after reading with Ms Gail. Elaina may give testimony!!

Circulation:

October '23 Reports

In house 733 items borrowed from BPL (*up from 556 in Sept*)

ILL - 50 borrowed, 43 lending (*up from 27*)

GMLC audio/ebook 375 checkouts

Visitor Tracking / New Patrons

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Visits	691	605	821	697	748	927	918	1151	773	882		
New patron	14	11	13	8	13	15	12	10	7	10		
Program Attendance	96	139	158	174	176	227	251	307	159	176		

Programs:

Poetry Circle

Meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 3pm. Special thanks to Sydney Lea for his reading on September 28.

BPL READS! Will choose a title for a February discussion.

CREATE! ~ Adult Crafting

This group meets on the first Thursday of each month at 6:00pm. This month we met with BPL's featured artist David Holmer for an introduction to carving with soap. For

December's program we will Cross Stitch a holiday ornament with BPL Board member Denise Shannon. Join us on December 7th!

Curiosity Cabinet ~

Betsy has created a wonderful display featuring a 17th century Wonder Cabinet in the tradition of natural scientists of days gone by. Check out the new lighting for this and the glass cabinet displays.

Dungeons & Dragons (D&D)

Adult campaign runs bi-weekly from 5-8pm in the YA Room.

Mahjong ~

Learn to play Mahjong each Thursday from 2 - 4pm. Experienced players help us learn. No experience necessary, experienced players welcome! 8-12 committed mahjong players participate each week.

Spanish Language / Conversation group

The group meets every Tuesday at 1:30 with at least ten learners in attendance and new members each week.

The Friday After School Program for elementary school aged children will not meet until December 8.

Toddler Story Hour ~ Join Ms. Gail and sometimes Waldei each Friday, with stories, songs and crafts at 1.