



Bradford Public Library
Librarian's Report
July, 2024

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:

The following is taken from the July 2023 report;

July 2023~ Warning; this content may be unsuitable for some....

The summer season and, perhaps coincidentally, the ending of the ARPA housing relief program has brought new challenges to BPL. Librarians are seeing more folks dependent on resources including wifi, the restroom, a cool or dry place to rest, and/or to recharge physically and electronically. Unfortunately library staff have come to work finding books from the free shelf torn apart and discarded under the book drop smeared with blood, and in two cases used as TP alongside a pile of human feces. After the long weekend, well over a dozen cigarette butts and other trash needed to be cleared from the front steps. Other days were met with the need to douse the steps with boiling water to clear vomit and phlegm.

What difference a year can make;

July 2024 ~ The library is busy as ever and without incident regarding unhoused or otherwise marginalized members of the community. A call from the Valley News looking for an update is a reminder of all we faced last year, and questions about what may have changed.

As librarians settle into the comfort and security of having two staff on duty during open hours, general resources and programs thrive and function effectively. Staff are better able to serve folks, troubleshoot technology and *extinguish little fires* on any given day. Being available to attend and be fully present at programs and throughout the day helps to support library goals and objectives.

Staffing

Anna Peart is available and working with us as a substitute staff member this summer! It is a relief to have a veteran and experienced BPL librarian at the desk at a moment's notice. Librarians and patrons are thrilled to see Anna again!

Grants:

Once again BPL has been awarded the CLiF Summer Readers grant offering a book giveaway and children's author presentation. Storyteller Simon Brooks will be in Bradford with a few cases of quality children's books for every child present to pick out two titles to keep. This event will take place on July 19, 10am, in Elizabeth's Park.

Donations:

A \$50 donation was made by the RONDO group as thanks for a talk given by Larry Coffin. Thank you Larry for continuing to support the library behind the scenes!

h2rc.org ~ HIV/HCV Resource Center continues to supply us with Narcan and Fentanyl test strips FREE to the community. We have a supply box situated on the shelf above the Little Library on our front porch which we refill weekly and more.

Technology:

GMLC~ Listen Up Vermont is in the process of adding a movie streaming service for our patrons as soon as September 1. BPL has registered with a commitment of \$0.30 per patron. The cost to our collection will be approximately \$400

Volunteers:

BPL is fortunate to have many community members step up and support programming and other needs at the library!

Thank you to Linda Vitale for supporting Friday Morning Story Hour when needed!

Shout out to Will Giblin and his partner Paula for their willingness to jump in and help with the Teen Drama camp backdrop project!

Recent High School graduate Zac Smith has begun a six week program with Hireability Vermont for Vermonters with disabilities. Zac will be doing some light housekeeping, shelving books and other tasks with a support person and being paid by Hireability Vermont.

Circulation

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
house circ '24	631	703	732	618	528	694						
house circ '23	711	624	780	599	691	817	798	785	556	733	556	638
ILL in '24	116	92	73	81	106	57						
ILL in '23	68	39	64	64	61	42	49	69	53	50	70	59
ILL out '24	40	31	32	28	35	23						
ILL out '23	46	28	53	37	43	42	30	33	27	43	31	32

audio/ebook '24	384	402	375	357	342	333						
audio/ebook '23	331	388	382	367	381	329	359	400	396	375	412	356
Little Libraries Adult	50	37	40	95	53	61						
Little Libraries Youth	57	61	76	101	103	77						

Visitor Tracking

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Visits 2024	778	868	924	877	1010	861						
Visits 2023	691	605	821	697	748	927	918	1151	773	882	556	707
New Patron '24	5	7	6	8	3	3						
New Patron '23	14	11	13	8	13	15	12	10	7	10	9	8
Program Attendance '24	341	264	240	276	384	301						
Program Attendance '23	96	139	158	174	176	227	251	307	159	76	157	220

PROGRAMS ~ *Patron interest, requests, community needs, and collaborative opportunities drive library programming.*

The 2024 Teen Drama Camp and June 29 performance was another success! Teens wrote scripts, learned lines, created masks and costumes, helped with backdrops, and had an overall positive experience and good time. The week-long camp was run by Gail and Melissa Mann of the Old Church Theater. Other support came from local muralist Mathew Denton, and community volunteers. Special thanks to the Town of Bradford for allowing the use of the stage and auditorium. An audience of sixtyfive enjoyed the performance. Financial sponsors from the Vermont Humanities Council including a professional photographer attended the show.

Summer Food Program

The library will be providing free lunches and snacks on Wednesday - Friday. Working with a company called Genuine Foods through the Barre Unified school district, scratch meals will be available each week for kids under 18 yrs at 12:00pm.

Bag's Bag's Bag's ~ sewing on machines with Christine Pratt

Kids ages 8+ will learn to sew zippered and tote style bags on Tuesdays at 10am through July. Space is limited so call or email the library to be sure there is room.

Summer Readers CLIF Book Giveaway and guest storytelling event with Simon Brooks will take place on Friday, July 19, 10 am at Elizabeth's Park! Each child will choose two free quality books to keep in their home library! Sponsored by our friends at the Children's Literacy Foundation.

Summer reading logs are available at the desk. Complete the reading challenge for a certificate and FREE Ice Cream cone from the Little Grill at the Mill! While you are at the library, guess how many Skittles are in the jar!

Kids & Adults, don't forget to enter the summer drawing each time you enter the library for a chance to win a LEGO building block kit.

Golden Dome Book Club for kids ages 9+

Staff member Patsy Belknap is leading a new middle readers book club every other Saturday beginning July 6. The group will share reading experiences, and explore themes through activities, games, food and media. First up, *Mexikid*, by Pedro Martín. "A poignant, hilarious, and unforgettable graphic memoir about a Mexican-American boy's family and their adventure-filled road trip to bring their Abuelito back from Mexico to live with them." (goodreads)

Teen Book Club

This month the group will meet at 2:30 on July 11, reading *Five Survive*, by Holly Jackson. A Nominee for Best Young Adult Fiction (2023) "Red Kenny is on a road trip for spring break with five friends: Her best friend - the older brother - his perfect girlfriend - a secret crush - a classmate - and a killer." (goodreads)

BPL READS! Adult Book Club Will discuss *The Secret Book of Flora Lea*, by Patti Callahan Henry in August. This author tells a story of "When a woman discovers a rare book that has connections to her past, long-held secrets about her missing sister and their childhood spent in the English countryside during World War II are revealed."(goodreads)

Hooks & Needles meet the third Thursday of each month from 6-7pm. Bring your knitting, sewing, crochet, sewing, quilting or any fiber arts projects to the group!

Poetry Circle

The group meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 3pm and is open to the public.

BPL Gallery

Presents the work of local artist Steven Chase and his larger than life oil pastels. Steven has exhibited extensively in the Upper Valley, and has won Best of Show in exhibits at the AVA Gallery in Lebanon, NH.

Seed Catalog

The seed catalog is full and ready to share. High Mowing seed packets are cataloged and folks may take what they need and swap what they don't!

The Growing Peace Project has made seed packets of *Sunflowers for Ukraine* available for BPL patrons at the front desk.

Mahjong

Mahjong emerged in China in the 1800s and became popular in the Jewish American community by the mid-20th century. Like many programs we offer at BPL, the game's history offers an interesting lens through which to see the intersection of people from different backgrounds and create a sense of belonging and community. 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. Latino inspired foods are served each week!

Toddler Story Hour ~ Join Ms. Gail (and sometimes Waldei) each Friday at 10am, with stories, songs and crafts. Parents and caregivers appreciate Story Time as an [affordable] opportunity for children and their adults to make new friends, share with others, and practice fine motor skills.