



**February 13 , 2025**  
**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:**

Happy February!

The coldest month of the year is bringing folks in need of shelter and emergency housing into the library. As librarians offer assistance, we learn about the difficult situations folks are facing. One evening a gentleman was warming his feet, taking advantage of our open wifi, charging his phone, and looking for transportation to WRJ. He had walked to Bradford from "Woodsvilly". This man had no money, no place to spend the night and was "walking home to Alaska." Another elderly man spent two days/evening at the library taking advantage of the open wifi, electricity, heat, and restroom. Unable to find shelter, he was sleeping in a storage unit and hitching rides to the library during our open hours. These interactions humble librarians as we seek resources to support our patrons. Our unique view of the community brings invitations to attend meetings with local support groups almost weekly to help organizations recognize local needs and supply us with possible support systems in place. That said, with long lists of phone numbers to resources in hand, to be put on hold for thirty minutes and more, to leave message after message and wait for return calls, to be unable to help is discouraging to say the least.

### **Maintenance:**

John Hathoway was called in on Tuesday, Feb 11 and replaced a circulator on the furnace restoring heat to the children's area. We are grateful to John for making the library a priority during these emergency situations.



<b>ILL out '24</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>audio/ebook '25</b>	<b>299</b>											
<b>audio/ebook '24</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>308</b>
<b>Little Libraries Adult</b>												
<b>Little Libraries Youth</b>												

**Visitor Tracking:**

	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sept</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>
<b>Visits 2025</b>	<b>686</b>											
<b>Visits 2024</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>868</b>	<b>924</b>	<b>877</b>	<b>1010</b>	<b>861</b>	<b>925</b>	<b>934</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>675</b>	<b>479</b>
<b>New Patron '25</b>	<b>10</b>											
<b>New Patron '24</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Program Attendance '25</b>	<b>209</b>											
<b>Program Attendance '24</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>139</b>

**PROGRAMS:**

Patron interest, requests, community needs, and collaborative opportunities drive library programming. Library programs are free and open to the public.

**Public Narcan Training, February 27, at 6pm.**

An overdose education and Narcan training presented by HIV/HCV Resource Center (H2RC) will take place at the library on Feb 27, at 6pm. INcrease your understanding of opioids and drug poisoning, and learn how to administer Narcan during an overdose event. Free Narcan will be available for participants to take. FREE and open to the public.

**Poetry Circle** ~ The poetry group meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 3 pm and is open to the public. January's Poetry circle participation doubled in January. Gearing up for National Poetry month in April, we invite poets to submit original poems by March 11 for the townwide posting.

**Vermont Reads** ~ BPL received an additional shipment of 25 copies of *Gather*, by Oxbow HS co-principal Ken Cadow, after circulating 100 copies through the community in 2024. Mr Cadow will present his book at BPL on March 13 at 6:30 pm. This program is sponsored by the VT Humanities Council.

**BPL Gallery** ~The Bradford Public Library presents a collection of chap books by Bread and Puppet Theater's Peter Schumann. A chapbook is a type of small printed booklet that was a popular medium for street literature throughout early modern Europe. Chapbooks were usually produced cheaply, illustrated with crude woodcuts and printed on a single sheet folded into 8, 12, 16, or 24 pages, sometimes bound with a saddle stitch.(Wikipedia) Read about the history of [Bread & Puppet Theater here](#).

**Grief & Loss Support Group** ~ This group meets VNH Spiritual Care Counselor Jill Baron for ten weeks to share authentically and feel deeply heard in a safe space. Experiential exercises include journaling and ritual to help participants expose the layers of grief and move toward acceptance. Pre-registration is required, this second running of the program is again full.

**Tarot Club**~ The January 30, Tarot program was well attended resulting in a monthly meeting among participants.

**BPL CREATES** ~ Playing with CLAY! Was postponed to March due to the weather and closing the library on February 6. We will Create coil pots on March 6 at 6pm.

**Mahjong** ~ This group plays Mahjong each Thursday from 2 - 4 pm. Experienced players help beginners to learn the game.

**Spanish Language / Conversation group** ~ The Spanish language group meets every Tuesday at 1:30 with at least ten learners in attendance and new members each week.

**Tuesday Homeschool Meetup** ~ This group is growing and bringing folks from Groton, Corinth, Topsham, and Bradford. A few older homeschooling children from New Hampshire attend the Friday Art Club as well.

**Toddler Story Hour** ~ Children join Ms. Gail each Friday at 10 am for 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.

**Friday Afternoon Art Club** ~ Elementary school aged kids interested in drawing, paint, clay, collage and more join Ms, Gail on Fridays from 3 - 4:30 pm. Weekly projects are on display in the children's room. This program has dwindled due to local Winter Activity Programs, Skiing, and Basketball programs offered at the schools.

**Magic the Gathering** ~ ages 11+. *On hiatus until the end of ski season!*