



**April 17 , 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:**

On March 14, President Trump issued an [Executive Order](#) intended to dismantle the only federal agency dedicated to funding library services, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), as well as six other agencies. The executive order would apply to about 30% of the VT Dept of Libraries overall budget which helps to pay for [ABLE](#), the Interlibrary loan database(CLOVER), [Vermont Online Library](#) databases, the courier grant which helps with the cost of interlibrary loan courier delivery, Continuing Ed offerings, and general support from the Vermont Department of Libraries. Based on my understanding, Congress passed a Continuing Resolution in late March that funded the IMLS grants through September 2025. However, we don't know if the executive order or the dismissal of IMLS staff which took place will affect that at this point. While the executive order does not explicitly shut down the agency, the shortage of **funding** could have detrimental consequences for many...We also understand that the loss of federal funding would impact local libraries differently.

### ***A day in the library:***

Wednesday, 12:30pm; an 82 yr old woman comes to BPL for tech support. She was told "the BPL Librarian can help." We set up her brand new computer and coached through basic skills so that she could access and manipulate ordinary computer processing including personal microsoft account / operating system, search engines, email, and more...Immediately following, another patron needs assistance and brief education on saving important documents via free Google Drive, rather than or in addition to printing out multiple documents.Moving right along, we support a young woman in finding the necessary adapters in order to download updates to her XBOX via wifi... We've got this and success! 5:00pm comes quickly and it is time to close the library.

SO MUCH MORE THAN BOOKS ~ and more than daily tech support, it is the personal connection between library staff and our patrons. It is knowing that one staff member may be a better fit than another for communicating with someone and that all of us have a part to play, something to offer. There are a surprising number of people in the community who live alone, without family or assistance, who do not have the increasingly necessary skills for many everyday tasks that are crucial for both personal and professional success in today's digital world. Librarians not only provide access to information and resources but actively engage with the community, tailoring services to meet diverse needs often on a personal level.

### **The carpeting in the children's room needs replacing**

A portion of the \$10,000 ALA LTCAccess3 Grant award will support the installation of custom made window treatments to reduce glare which make it difficult to see the screen clearly. Six shutter blinds will fill the upper windows in the dodecagon shaped room of our historic building and create a more comfortable viewing environment.

### **Technology:**

We need to think about replacing the two IMAC 2011 computers in the Mezzanine.

A portion of the \$10,000 ALA LTCAccess3 Grant award will support the purchase of ViewSonic 86-inch 4K UHD bundle format presentation display, WIFI and wall mount, and Echenbach Vario Digital FHD desktop video magnifier that will enlarge an image of text onto a monitor screen, allowing for contrast changes to make text easier to read for those with vision impairment.

### **LUV Audio:**

We have resumed our subscription to the LUV Audio Collection Rotation. We receive approximately 30 audio books every 3 months for circulation.

### **Grants:**

- BPL has been awarded Rapid Response Grant from VT Humanities to support the purchase of multiple copies of a new release for BPL READS discussion and visit with the local author. Sasha Hom's *Sidework* is a lyric, page-turning novella about a homeless Korean adoptee and mother of four.
- \$830 from Little Rivers Health Care will cover the cost of the Teen Drama Camp Playwrights workshop coming in April. Participants will be working with Kaylie

Larkin of Plainfield, NH. Kailie holds Masters in Theater Education from City College of NY and has worked as a teaching artist, school residency coordinator, summer program director, and full time teacher in grades K-8. With student-led devising and technical ownership at the core of her work she has directed over 30 productions with students ages 12-18. Her teaching expertise includes improvisation, devising, Shakespeare, clowning, mask, shadow cinema, puppetry, playwriting, and filmmaking. This workshop will prepare us for this year's *BPL Teen Drama Camp '25* production. We will decide on a date for this production as a group. Contact the library today to register and reserve your spot in this FREE workshop.

- Vermont Humanities has approved a grant in the amount of \$3200 for the 2025 Humanities Teen Drama Camp for Bradford Public Library.

\*\*\*The Vermont Humanities Council took a significant hit losing 42% of its annual budget after the latest move by the Trump Administration to slash federal spending. We are not yet sure how this will affect our program budget for next year.

The Vt Humanities Council supports many BPL programs including: Spanish Language, MANGO, Children's literacy training and program funding through VELI, VT Reads, Discussion Series, Humanities Camp (Teen Drama) and more.

### **Professional Development:**

Gail received a scholarship to attend the Vermont Librarians Association (VLA) 2025 Conference in Killington on Monday, May 16. Valued at \$145.00.

The required webinars as a part of the ALA grant were well done, effective training for better understanding of project goals.

- March 19 – *Orientation Webinar*
- March 25 – *Understanding Disability*
- April 2 – *Improving Services, Facilities & Programs for People with Disabilities (60 minutes)* |
- April 8 – *Hosting Accessible Conversations (60 minutes)*

Gail attended the New England Rural Health Association Grant Opportunities for Libraries webinar on Weds, April 16.

### **Volunteers:**

Pam Benware, Alex Danforth, Tom Marshall, Denise Shannon, Kelli Young ~ THANK YOU!!!

**Circulation:**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
house circ '25	654	663	637									
house circ '24	631	703	732	618	528	694	805	810	585	616	624	549
ILL in '25	45	46	58									
ILL in '24	116	92	73	81	106	57	89	45	59	83	61	39
ILL out '25	43	50	36									
ILL out '24	40	31	32	28	35	23	44	21	26	38	28	26
audio/ebook '25	299	258	285									
audio/ebook '24	384	402	375	357	342	333	344	318	310	376	350	308
Little Libraries Adult	65	32	53									
Little Libraries Youth	67	59	66									

**Visitor Tracking:**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Visits 2025	686	660	769									
Visits 2024	778	868	924	877	1010	861	925	934	714	813	675	479
New Patron '25	10	11	14									
New Patron '24	5	7	6	8	3	3	14	15	12	13	19	3
Program Attendance '25	209	209	447									
Program Attendance '24	341	264	240	276	384	301	160	191	244	257	178	139

## **PROGRAMS:**

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

**Gardening Series Part II ~ PLANTING FOR POLLINATORS** with Alicia Houk, April 10, 6pm. Why are native plants important and what role can our gardens play in supporting local ecology and pollinators?

*\*The BPL Seed catalog is full of High Mowing Seeds*

**Poetry Circle** ~ The poetry group meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 3 pm and is open to the public.

**Poem Town 2025** ~ Close to one hundred original poems written by our friends and neighbors will hang in storefront windows to celebrate National Poetry Month throughout April. A live reading will take place at BPL on April 24.

**BPL Gallery** ~The Bradford Public Library presents a collection of Watercolor paintings by Danville artist Meg Clayton in April.

**Grief & Loss Support Group** ~ This group meets with VNHC 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**~ continues April 10, and April 24 at 6pm. This bi-monthly meeting is free and open to the public.

**BPL CREATES** ~ Meets on the first Thursday of each month. On April 3, we created Window Decals on the Cricut Machine with Pam Benware. These decorative window decals can deter birds from crashing into windows! On May 1 we will be CREATE-ing upcycled jewelry art with Cheryl Maynard.

**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 12:30 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.