



March 20 , 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:

Library programs are in full swing in our quest to meet patron interests, and in offering enrichment activities for people of all ages. Our library has become more of a community center, where a greater variety of learning experiences, cultural resources, creative making, and community interaction are taking place. Reference questions for librarians run the gamut from housing, legal aid, and where to order a custom birthday cake!

**Librarians believe a decline in visits and program attendance may be a reflection of school closures, and program cancellations due to weather during these winter months.*

Community Connections:

A group of friends from Averte will visit on March 21 for a tour of the library building and library resources.

Bradford Parks & Recreation Afterschool program will visit for a K-2 Story & Craft program on March 20 at 3:30.

Maintenance:

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.
- Received notice from the ALA of BPL being awarded the *Libraries Transforming Communities (LTC): Accessible Small and Rural Communities* grant in the amount of \$10,000.00. We have been asked not to share news about your grant until you receive notification of ALA's official announcement.
- \$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. Kaylie 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.

Professional Development:

VT Humanities Camp Directors meeting in Montpelier, March 13, 10am.

Library and school camps will discuss themes and book ideas and share success stories.

Project director is required and registered to attend the following webinars as a part of the ALA grant.;

- March 19 at 1:00 pm CST – *Orientation Webinar (60 minutes)*
- March 25 at 1:00 pm CST – *Understanding Disability Webinar (90 minutes)*
- April 2 at 12:00 pm CST – *Improving Services, Facilities & Programs for People with Disabilities (60 minutes)* |
- April 8 at 1:00 pm CST – *Hosting Accessible Conversations (60 minutes)*

InterLibrary Loan (ILL) Roundtable virtual meeting ~ March 11, 1pm

Libraries of the Upper Valley(LUV) ~ Monday, March 17, Virtual 10am

Orange County Directors mtg ~ Monday, March 17, Virtual 11am

VOKAL biannual membership meeting on Friday, March 21 at 10am at Carpenter Carse in Hinesburg, and online. These meetings are required attendance for VOKAL member libraries to ensure we are all on the same page with sharing the system and addressing issues and connecting with members about training needs. Attending membership meetings is part of the contract all VOKAL libraries sign annually.

Vermont Early Literacy Initiative (VELI) Training at Lake Morey ~ March 25

Volunteers:

Thank You Tom Marshall for filling in at the circulation desk. Tom recently received his VT Librarian certification.

Thank You to Kelli Young for running the Crazy 8's Cool Math program on Tuesday mornings.

Continued appreciation to Larry Coffin for maintaining the popular Little Libraries throughout town.

Circulation:

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

Visitor Tracking:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Visits 2025	686	660										
Visits 2024	778	868	924	877	1010	861	925	934	714	813	675	479
New Patron '25	10	11										
New Patron '24	5	7	6	8	3	3	14	15	12	13	19	3
Program Attendance '25	209	209										
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.

Vermont Reads ~ Ken Cadow presented his book '*Gather*' on March 13 at 6:30 pm. This program is sponsored by the VT Humanities Council. A grant allowed BPL to distribute 165 copies of *Gather* to the community. Copies are available at the circulation desk.

Gardening Series Part I ~ COMPOSTING FOR SOIL HEALTH with Cat Buxton, March 27, 6pm. Learn simple techniques for building soil, capturing water, and utilizing other systems to enable the soil microbiome to flourish.

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*

DINOMAN! Free Family Event ~ Saturday, March 15, 10-11am in the BA Gymnasium. Take a trip throughout the Mesozoic Era with life sized dinosaurs! How do we know dinosaurs were here? What is a fossil? How are they made? Join us for this fun and informative program for all ages! Co sponsored with Bradford Parks & Rec.

Spring Puzzle Challenge! ~ Saturday, March 29, 9am.

Teams compete to complete a 500 piece jigsaw puzzle. Each team will be given an identical puzzle to assemble. The first team to complete the puzzle is the winner! Call and register your team today!

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.

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 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 bi-monthly meeting among participants.

BPL CREATES ~ Meets on the first Thursday of each month. On April 3, we will create Window Decals on the Cricut Machine with Pam Benware. These decorative window decals can deter birds from crashing into windows!

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.

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