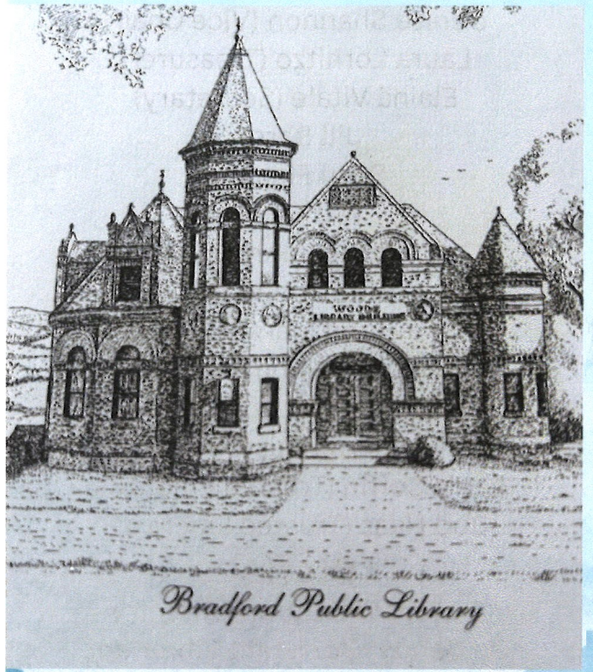
Bradford Public Library



2026 Annual Appeal "A Heritage of Reading Since 1796"

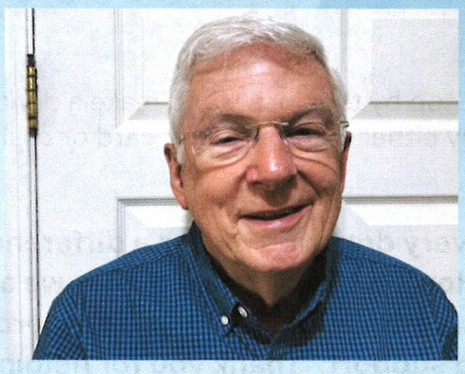
October 1 - December 31

Welcome to the 2026 Bradford Public Library Annual Appeal

When asked to serve as this year's Annual Appeal Chair, it was an easy decision for me to accept due in great measure to my life long association with the library. It has always been my desire to see it continue as a vibrant asset to the community.

As you will see reading through this brochure, the library offers an outstanding variety of programs and services, geared to the interests and needs of people of all ages. Its appeal is far reaching as it attracts visitors from not just Bradford, but throughout the region.

I can't encourage you enough to support this annual effort. Please make as generous a contribution as possible. I am certain your support will make a difference.



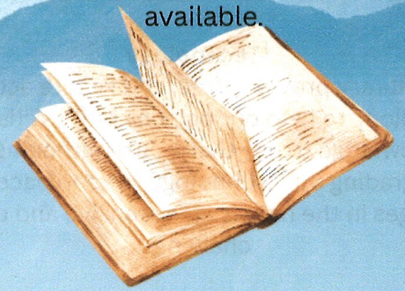
Troy Brainerd

Serving the Community

In 1796, Bradford gained the honor and distinction of being the first town in Vermont in which a library was chartered.

In 1895, John L. Woods willed the sum of $15,000 to the Bradford Public Library. After purchasing the land for $500, the present day library building was constructed from a design by Lambert Packard. On July 4, 1895, the Woods Library Building was dedicated with proper fanfare.

In the 1980's a children's room was created in the basement and a library office was established in the old children's room. In 2002, the 12 sided reading room was beautifully restored. In 2005, the library windows were completely renovated. Money for these improvements came from grants, donations and fund raising. Future renovations and improvements are planned as funds become available.



"The library continues to have an enriching influence on our students, especially in supporting their literacy and social development. I am very grateful for our partnership with the library"
Edith Fogarty, M.ED. Principal,
Bradford Elementary School

"Regularly volunteering with BPL's programs has helped me gain confidence in connecting with people of all ages in the community"
Alex Danforth, Volunteer

Our Programs

All library programs are free and open to the public. Below is a sample of what we offer greater Bradford:

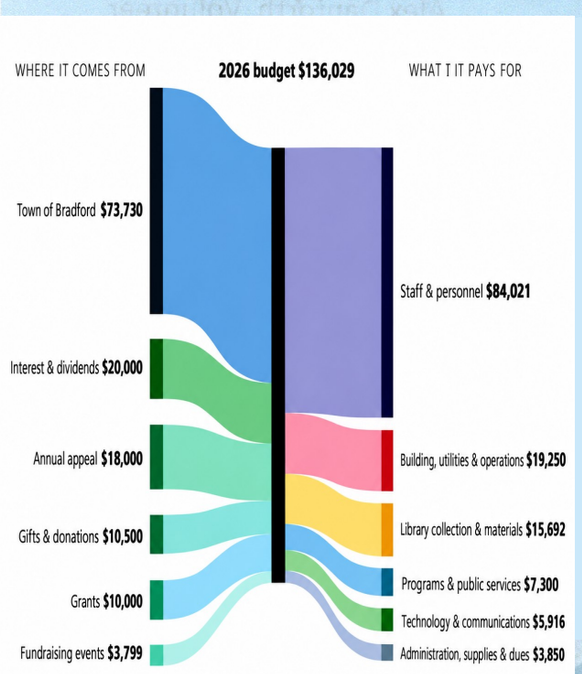
Poetry Circle
Annual Poem Town
BPL Reads - discussion group
BPL Creates - discussion group
Spanish Language Group
Mahjong Group
Children's Story Hour - every Friday
Summer Teen Theater Program
BPL Gallery featuring local artists
Book talks
Summer meals and snacks for children

Our Services

Fiction and non-fiction books
Access to online catalogue
Interlibrary loan service
Free access to eBooks and audio books at GMLC
Access to VOL research catalogue
Public computers, printers, wifi and scanning
Promotion of local artists in our reading room



Bradford Public Library Income and Expenses



BPL Gallery



"Clivia", watercolor by Annie Billings, library exhibitor

Our Goal for the 2026 Annual Appeal: $30,000

Raising funds for the library enables our patrons to continue to receive the very best programs and services. There are three key areas that need your support: Facilities, Programs and Services, and Technology.

Facilities

As one might imagine, maintaining a 130-year-old historic building requires regular and expensive maintenance. Currently the carpet in our Children's Room is in need of replacement, new sensors need to be installed on our handicapped accessible door, and much of our brickwork needs to be repointed.

Programs and Services

As our children's programs grow, so do the costs of offering them. Programs such as After School Arts, Summer Reading, and Teen Drama Camp are but a few. Many of our adult programs, the Adult Arts and the Poetry Program, seek to hire artists to further enhance these popular programs.

Technology

The library provides free, and secure access to technology to help our patrons build skills and the knowledge to use them. Strengthening and upgrading our technology to keep pace with changes in the field is an expensive and ongoing challenge.

"Our community is very fortunate to have the BPL, which offers programs and services to people of all ages. Strengthening this historic library is something we should all support".
Josh Allen, Vice Chair, Bradford Selectboard

Contributing to the Bradford Public Library 2026 Appeal

There are a number of ways you can contribute to this year's Appeal:

1. Return the enclosed gift form in the envelope provided with a check;
2. Give online. Scan the QR code below which will take you to our website and a donation form;

3. Stop by the library and make a donation by either credit or debit card or cash.

Every donation makes a difference! However you chose to give, we are incredibly grateful for your generosity and support. Thank you for helping us make a difference!

Our Leadership

BPL Board of Trustees

Angela Conrad-Schlager (Chair)
Denise Shannon (Vice Chair)
Laura Lornitzo (Treasurer)
Elaina Vitale (Secretary)
Jill Baron
Sean Fleming
Will Giblin
Arvid Johnson
Brad Johnston
John Marshall
David Sammataro
Dorothy Unkles
Tony Brainerd (Trustee Emeritus)
Larry Coffin (Trustee Emeritus)
Bud Haas (Trustee Emeritus)

Staff

Gail Trede - Library Director
Bri Bandy - Assistant Librarian/ Interlibrary Loan
Kathy Davidow - Circulation Assistant
Nancy Kane - Circulation Assistant
Patsy Belknap - Circulation Assistant
Joy Ellsworth - Circulation Assistant

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 support necessary to navigate those resources in a safe and welcoming environment.