



Windham Public Library Report August 2018



For the last year a group of 5 libraries has been piloting a new service in their communities. The service is called Shared Borrowing. Patrons from the group of member libraries can visit any of the libraries that are part of the arrangement, browse their collection of items, and check out with their library card from their own community. The member libraries are all part of the Minerva Consortium so patron accounts and circulation information is already accessible through the current software. The pilot of the service has ended and our library will be invited to join the Shared Borrowing arrangement. We will begin partnering with two local libraries first, Gray Public Library and Walker Memorial Library, in Westbrook. We'll be announcing a start date soon. This will be a great benefit to our patrons who may find an item from these neighbor libraries and would like to visit the library rather than wait for the item to be sent. It will also make access for people commuting through various communities much easier. Items requested from libraries outside of the Shared Borrowing arrangement will still be picked up at a patron's home library and fines or bills for lost or damaged items will be paid at a patron's home library. However, no new library cards will need to be issued. Once the program begins patrons can simply visit any library that is part of the arrangement, pick an item from their shelves and use their Windham Public Library card to check out the item. We look forward to providing increased access to materials through this new service soon!

Library staff members are encouraged to expand their work knowledge through a variety of resources, one of which is through webinars promoted through the Maine State Library website. All courses are free and generally can be watched in hour segments as time allows. Courses which have been recently viewed by staff in the Technical Services area are *Ethics and public service*, *Introduction to intellectual freedom in libraries*, *Protecting your online privacy*, *Identifying and confronting micro-aggressions in our libraries*, and *Twenty-seven ways to improve your website immediately*.

During August the Summer Reading Program "Libraries Rock" was in full swing in the Children's Room. Weekly events included Lab Coat Adventures (science) on Tuesday afternoons, Calm as a Critter (yoga) on Thursday mornings, and Chapter Book Discussion Group on Thursday afternoons. Our science and yoga programs were planned, shopped for, and led by Diana Currier, who did a great job. We found that a consistent program in a late afternoon time slot was appreciated and well attended. The open discussion about books was led by Laurel Parker and enjoyed by young people and adults. Unique events were held on Mondays including a scavenger hunt, games day, craft day, bubble gum blowing contest, and Bedtime Math End of Summer Star Party. A letter-boxing trail highlighting special places in Windham was established

and maintained by Diana Currier for a fourth year. Folks could ask for a kit in the Children's Room and follow the trail at their own pace. Story times for preschoolers happened each Monday followed by a craft which tied into the summer theme. Books and Babies also was a weekly offering on Tuesday mornings. This summer a conscious effort was made to hold programming when there were two folks in the Children's Room which worked out well. The crowning event of the summer was the final Lab Coat Adventure on August 21 when a watermelon was exploded with elastic bands. If you haven't seen it, check out the library's Facebook page. Slow motion video was captured of the explosion by Library Director, Jen Alvino.

Thanks are extended to our business sponsors who offered recognitions to those readers who finished requirements for either our K-3 reading program or our Junior Bingo for grades 4-8. Steve Napolitano at Dairy Queen provided coupons for a free mini Blizzard, Stephanie Roy from the Ice Cream Dugout offered a free Bunt ice cream cone, and Smitty's Cinema gave each of the readers completing all 9 squares on Junior Bingo free entry to a movie. Jennie Clark provided many Beanie Babies and small bears as prizes. John McInnis' support help behind the scenes was greatly appreciated.

On Monday, August 27, an open house retirement party was held for Laurel Parker. Several staff and community members created wonderful food and lovely decorations to fill the community meeting room. Decorations included pennants with Laurel's favorite children's books and a banner that stretched the length of the meeting room saying "HAPPY RETIREMENT LAUREL." Each food item was tied in with a children's book, including beverages. Catalog cards were used to leave memories of good times and there was a guest book for all to sign (thank you John McInnis!). One table featured Mrs. Parker's favorite chapter books and another held a photo board with many library photos of the past. There were three posters listing Laurel's accomplishments, her professional connections, and her community group ties. Visitors included town employees, professional colleagues, past and current patrons, and Laurel's family. After more than three hours, a grateful Mrs. Parker was overwhelmed by all of the good wishes and wonderful effort put into a great send off.

From Mrs. Parker: As I leave Windham Public Library after 26 years, it has been a career of growth, learning, and appreciation for the library field and a town which values its Community Anchor Institution. I hope I've left a mark on the history of the library with monthly reports, Summer Reading Programs, and special projects like Family Literacy Days, Bedtime Math, Tea For You @ the Library, and raising butterflies. Forty years ago I put down roots in Windham and I plan on staying local. See you at the library!

<p><u>Monthly Usage Statistics</u> Attendance: 5,228 Windham items circulated: 9,273 Items received from Minerva libraries: 970 Windham items sent to other libraries: 792 New library patrons: 28 New items added to collection: 181 Special Requests: 7 Reference questions answered: 138 Computer sign-ins: 510 Meeting room usage: 45 Study Rooms: 44 Download Library: 1,005 RB Digital Magazines: 24 ComicsPlus: N/A Universal Class Lessons Viewed: 0 Universal Class Videos Watched: 3 Items repaired: 53 Volunteer hours logged: 63</p>	<p><u>August 2017</u> Attendance: 6,253 Items circulated: 8,955 Items received from Minerva libraries: 808 Windham items sent to other libraries: 823 New patrons: 55 Items added: 122 Special requests: 9 Reference ?'s: 205 Computer sign-ins: 626 Meeting room usage: 63 Download Library: 817 RB Digital Magazines: 37 Comics Plus: 40 Repaired items: 77 Volunteer hours: 42</p>	<p><u>Other August 2018 Stats</u> Book Group: 11 Tuesday Afternoon Knitting: 54 Author Talk: N/A Genealogy: 7 Library Tea: N/A Movie program, adults: 44 Teen Scavenger Hunt participants: 10 Teen Event participation: 6 Tech Help: 9 Chapter Book Discussion Group: 13 Lab Coat Adventures: 88 Calm as a Critter: 32</p> <p><u>Story Time</u> Preschool Story Time— 4 sessions, 33 Adults, 50 Children Books and Babies— 4 sessions, 32 Adults, 33 Children</p> <p><u>Pass usage</u> Children's Museum – 4 uses Dundee Park – 3 uses Maine State Park Pass – 12 uses Maine Wildlife Park – 13 uses Planetarium – 1 use PASSES SAVED PATRONS \$516</p>
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