

2014 Annual Report of the Blackstone Public Library

On June 11, 2014, the Blackstone Library celebrated its tenth year in its present location at 86 Main Street. A reception was held to commemorate this event. The library ended 2014 with the continued dedication to be an integral part of the community where people of all ages can meet in a friendly, accessible, and comfortable environment.

Besides an extensive collection of popular books, movies, and CDs, the library offers a variety of services to its patrons. Families can attend story-time programs, participate in a varied array of children's programming, attend book group meetings, join the knitting club, attend a variety of young adult and adult programs, and meet visiting authors. The library also offers computers with Internet and printing access, a public photo copier, and fax machine. Patrons can sit quietly and research Blackstone history in the Historical Room, or book the two quiet study rooms, or reserve the large comfortable meeting room.

The library is a member of The Massachusetts Library System (MLS). "The Massachusetts Library System, a state-supported collaborative, fosters cooperation, communication, innovation, and sharing among member libraries of all types. Library patrons receive delivery services for interlibrary loan through the MLS. The Blackstone Library supports an annual membership to Central/Western Massachusetts Automated Resource Sharing, Inc. (CW MARS). This online library consortium allows patrons access to thousands of material from libraries in Massachusetts.

The library's collection is currently 61,523 items. This count includes print materials, magazines, audio books, music CDs, DVD and videos. The Blackstone Public Library continues to move forward to adapt to the ever increasing demand for technology. The library participates in the purchase of e-Books and audio books through its CWMARS membership. This allows patrons access to Overdrive so they can borrow e-Books, plus downloadable audio and video at their convenience. These items can be downloaded directly to patrons' eReaders, tablets, cell phones or computers. Through Overdrive, library cardholders borrowed 2,467 downloadable items.

The library's museum passes can be reserved through Tix Keeper, an online reservation system. This enables patrons to reserve passes from home which is convenient and more accessible. In keeping with the demands of technology, use of the library's 19 public access computers continues to be popular. A donation of four reconditioned computers from Blackstone Valley Technical Regional High School allowed patrons more access to electronic media. During 2014, 5,865 patrons used these computers. Patrons can also access free Wi-Fi for their laptops and handheld devices through the library. Library staff offered individualized computer training by appointment. The library also offers online software and computer training through Atomic Training, and movie streaming through Indie Flix.

During 2014 the library circulated 74,027 items. This includes Blackstone's items plus items received from other libraries for our patrons. Circulation of Blackstone items at other libraries for Inter-library loan was 13,845 items. The library has a total of 7,206 patrons registered.

The library continues to offer quality programming for children, teens, and adults. The children's librarian held 180 children's programs with 2,818 in attendance. A successful summer reading program was held with several performers and activities. Seventy-six children completed the 2014 summer reading program. Several popular children's programs were *The Awesome Robb Show*, *Creepy Crawly Creatures*, *Toe Jam Puppet Band*, *Halloween Safety Magic Show*, and *Nightmares in the Library Halloween Party*. The library offered 40 programs for adults and teens with 710 in attendance. Some popular programs were *Sublime Sun Flowers*, *Downton Abby Tea*, *Poetry Contest and Reception*, *Calligraphy Classes*, *Music of New England*, *Wreath Workshop*, *Zumba*, *Self-Guided Meditation*, *Self Defense for Women*, and several author visits. These programs were possible due to grants/donations from UniBank, Dean Bank, The Friends of the Blackstone Public Library, and the library's gift/grant account, and other sources.

The library is open 35 hours per week: Monday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Tuesday 12 p.m. to 8 p.m., Thursday 12 p.m. to 8 p.m., Friday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The library is closed on Sunday and Wednesday. More information can be found at the library's web page, www.blackstonepubliclibrary.org, and the library's Facebook Page, www.facebook.com/blackstone-public-library. Updates can also be received via twitter at www.twitter.com/blackstonelibr1.

For the first time in five years, the Blackstone Public Library was fully compliant in the requirements for State Aid, and did not need to apply for a waiver in order to remain certified by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC). Certified libraries are eligible to receive State Aid grant funds from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, and are also eligible to apply for other state grants, such as the LSTA grant.

The Friends of the Blackstone Public Library meet regularly at the library and provide invaluable support for the library and its programs. These services include performers, museum passes, craft supplies and materials for the Summer Reading Program. The Board of Directors includes Dianne Buehler, President; Paula Sullivan, Secretary; and Ann Borges, Treasurer. Thank you to Kristen Marino, who resigned as President after many years of volunteering.

The library's staff includes Lisa Cheever, Director; Tressy Collier, Assistant Director & Children's Librarian; Donna Ansell, Head of Circulation & Technical Services; and the following library aides: Denise Binette, Dianne Buehler, Donna Foster, Ellen Goudreau, Olivia Herbert, Cheryl Marino-Page, Amy Mezzadri, Sheila Robeau, and Karen Miller. The library's dedicated custodian is Roger Marvelle.

The Blackstone Public Library Board of Trustees members include Mary Lou Branchaud, Chair; Linda Hemphill, Vice-Chair; Patricia Guzinski, Secretary; Jean Alexandrowicz, Debra Ristaino and Kathryn Tata. Thank you to former member Lisa Sparks for her service.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Cheever
Library Director

