

2022 Annual Town Report of the Blackstone Public Library

Honorable Selectmen:

The Blackstone Public Library had a busy 2022. Over 40,000 people visited the Library to borrow materials, attend programs, use a study room, research, attend meetings, visit the adult, teen and children's spaces, use a computer, print, scan, fax, copy, and to socialize. The Library is an accessible hub for community members.

The Library of Things collection was expanded to include more HotSpots, laptops, yard games, a ping pong table, laminators, Cricut machines, button makers, as well as other items, for patron borrowing.

The Home Delivery Program remains active for those patrons who cannot physically get to the library. Deliveries are once a week by appointment. The Library's collection of online tools offers classes, movies, concerts, eBooks, eAudio books, tutoring, and more all accessible from the comfort of home.

The Library received a grant from UniBank for its *What's For Dinner Series*, which addressed food insecurity in the community. This included teaching the basics of health, nutrition, cooking, growing vegetables, and preserving food. The Library received a donation from Dean Bank for the Murder a la Carte show which was thoroughly enjoyed by attendees.

The Library is fully compliant in the requirements for State Aid, and is certified by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC). Certified libraries are eligible to receive State Aid grant funds from the MBLC, and are eligible to apply for other state grants.

Donna Ansell, Head of Circulation & Technical Services retired on December 31st after 21 years of service. We thank her for her commitment to our patrons and wish her the very best in the future.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Cheever, Library Director



Photo by Dianne Buehler

Blackstone Public Library Board of Trustees

Jean Alexandrowicz
Mary Lou Branchaud
Maryann Dobeck
Kelly Gillis
Patricia Guzinski
Kate Renaud

Hours

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.

Saturday
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Staff Members

Director: Lisa Cheever

**Assistant Director
& Children's Librarian:**
Tressy Collier

**Head of Circulation &
Technical Services:**
Ellen Goudreau

Young Adult Librarian:
Mandi Whipple

**Repair Lead & Shift
Supervisor:** Donna Foster

Tech Room Assistant:
Renee Milliken

Shift Supervisors:
Bethany Rowanheart
Cheryl Marino-Page

Display Coordinator:
Courtney Pavlis

Library Aide Outreach
Jean Piechocki

Library Aides:
Katarina Guzinski
Lisa Lastoria
Elizabeth McGeough
Denise Tibbets

Custodians:
Russell Marvelle
Roger Marvelle (substitute)

The Blackstone Public Library has a collection of 71,948 items. As a member of the Massachusetts Library System (MLS), the Library benefits from sharing among member libraries. The Blackstone Public 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 materials from libraries throughout Massachusetts.

CIRCULATION

General 2022 Statistics

There are 5,254 registered borrowers.

Interlibrary loans (ILLs) in the 2022 calendar year

ILLs received = 3,255

ILLs sent = 11,103

Circulation in the 2022 calendar year
40,838

Overdrive Statistics 2022

Total number of items in the shared collection:
187,660

eBooks borrowed 3,143

eAudio borrowed 4,317

Hoopla
1,687 circulations

Brainfuse Tutoring
Total usage 131

Public Computer Use
1,976 sessions

Online Tools
1,821 uses

**Wireless Hotspots
Connections (Building
& Grounds)**
1,761



Grant and donation funds are used to provide programming, materials, and staffing not covered by the operating budget.

Grants/Gifts 2022	
District Attorney Joseph D. Early - Young Adult Program	\$ 1,000.00
Local Cultural Council Grants - Blackstone	\$ 3,450.00
Small Libraries in Network Grant	\$ 2,500.00
State Aid to Public Libraries	\$ 18,141.92
Cookie Walk Fundraiser	\$ 2,993.30
Friends of the Blackstone Public Library	\$ 1,500.00
Law Office of Daniel T. Doyle	\$ 250.00
Memorial Funds	\$ 125.00
Patron Donations	\$ 423.00
Unibank	\$ 2,500.00
Dean Bank	\$ 1,000.00
Community Foundation of North Central MA	\$ 500.00
Other Donations	
Bears Tree Farm	Greens
BZ Leaf Lifters LLC	Landscaping
Dionne Electric	Supplies
Dunkin Donuts—Blackstone	Coffee
Great Scapes LLC	Landscaping
Patron Donations	Craft supplies
Peter Ryan	Delivery
YMCA Family & Community Partnership	STEM Program



ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Access the resources below, 24 hours a day, without ever leaving home by visiting the

Library's web page:

<https://www.blackstonepubliclibrary.org>

- ◆ A to Z World Culture, World Travel, Maps
- ◆ A to Z the USA - State information
- ◆ A to Z Food - recipes
- ◆ ArtistWorks - learn to play an instrument
- ◆ Brainfuse Homework help
- ◆ Chilton Library - automobile repair
- ◆ Craftsy
- ◆ Cypress Resume
- ◆ Digital Newspapers
- ◆ eBooks, eAudio, & eVideo
- ◆ Great Courses
- ◆ Hoopla
- ◆ Infobase Learning Cloud
- ◆ Just for Kids Access Video
- ◆ Kanopy
- ◆ Learn It Live
- ◆ Legal Forms Library
- ◆ Mango Languages
- ◆ MA Statewide databases
- ◆ Price It! - Antiques
- ◆ Qello Concerts
- ◆ Testing & Education Reference Center
- ◆ Udemy
- ◆ Universal Class - free online classes
- ◆ Valueline
- ◆ World Almanac & World Religions
- ◆ Writer's Reference Center



OUTREACH

The Library continues to offer Outreach Services in several forms:

- Homebound Delivery
- Story-times on location
- Mobile Book Clubs
- Application to the Talking Books Library in Worcester
- School visits
- Library tours for schools and community groups
- Monthly craft class at the Senior Center
- Monthly book group at the Senior Center



Thank you to the Friends of the Blackstone Public Library for their ongoing support and fundraising efforts. We love our volunteers!



*There's a **LOT** to l♥ve!*

<https://www.blackstonepubliclibrary.org>

PROGRAMMING

In 2022, Library programming consisted of a combination of in-person and virtual events. Library staff conducted & organized book groups, lectures, classes, and entertainers.

Book Groups:

Evening Book Group, Horror Book Club, Afternoon Book Club, Banned Book Club for Adults, Banned Book Club for Teens

Programs	2022					
Age Group	In-Person Programs	Total Attendance	Live Virtual	Total Attendance	Hybrid (In-person & Zoom)	Total Attendance
Children	144	868	1	20	0	0
Young Adults	36	193	0	0	0	0
Adults	68	771	4	57	4	7



2022 Summer Reading Program for Children, Young Adults and Adults



Thank you to the town departments, businesses, non-profit groups, and individuals that participated in the Library's *Touch the Trucks* and the *Connect with Your Community* events!



Summer Reading Statistics

Children	92 children registered	40 children completed the program
Young Adults	15 young adults registered	11 young adults completed the program
Adults	44 adults registered	35 adults completed the program

