

Board of Library Trustees:

Kathleen Keohane, *Chair*
Elaine Alligood, *Vice Chair*
Gail Mann, *Secretary*
Mark Carthy
Corinne McCue Olmsted
Mary Stearns

Library Administration Team:

Peter Struzziero, *Library Director*
Deitra Barnes, *Administrative Coordinator*

Library Usage - Highlights

- 11th best circulating Library in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the 3rd year in a row averaging 184 circs per open hour
- Celebrated the Library's 150th anniversary with a year of celebrations including a three day Books In Bloom event, and the 150 things to do at the Library, now posted on our website
- Books In Bloom was sponsored by 5 community organizations, and included children's events for the 1st time
- Offered the 7th One Book One Belmont community read program highlighting Frankenstein, with over 600 people participating in 20 community programs
- 27% increase in downloaded materials - 42,604 ebooks, audiobooks, movies, and music selections
- Hoopla, another source of streaming and downloadable content, saw an increase of 6% from 8,603 views/downloads in 2017 to 9,114 this year
- 1,295 individuals signed up for library cards, bringing the number of cardholders to 16,049 - greater than 60% of our residents!
- 20,814 children, teens, and adults attended 811 concerts, story times, book clubs, hands-on workshops, meetings and other library programs
- Reference Librarians answered 36,914 reference questions
- Museum passes funded once again by the Friends of the Belmont Public Library provided 2,503 free or discounted visits to area museums for families and individuals
- Great support again this year from our volunteers. Over 25 individuals provided *over 3000 hours* to support library programs and services, including high school students fulfilling their community service requirement and members of the Friends of the Library

Jane Gray Dustan Children's Room

In 2018, the Jane Gray Dustan Children's Room continued its successful programs and partnerships, and expanded community relationships. 364 library programs were able to reach 13,303 children and caregivers, showing strong gains from 2017.

An Updated Look for our Children's Room

We were thrilled to be able to update our Children's Room in 2018. A beautiful new carpet and new coats of paint added some color and brightness to our space. This renovation meant that we had to close the Children's Room for a few weeks in November. Happily, we were able to move almost the entire collection to the library's Assembly Room and still provide almost all of our usual services and programming, even showing an increase in attendance at November programs from 2017. We are very grateful for the public's patience throughout this process and for their positive feedback for the changes.

New Hours

The Children's Room started its successful evening hours on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings two years ago. That first year of evening hours helped us to provide services to 5000 additional patrons, who could use the Children's room after work. In 2018, we were happy to start offering evening hours on Thursdays as well. This change helped us serve even more working families.

Serving Children from Birth-5 Years Old

The library continued its popular storytime offerings for ages zero to five and experienced strong attendance once again.

The Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) grant continues to provide weekly Literacy Playgroups at the Library, which grew in popularity throughout the year. Through the grant, an educator teaches sign language during our weekly librarian-led baby storytimes. STEM Playgroups were also offered throughout the year including a playgroup to help reach families who may not be able to attend programs during the week. CFCE/Watertown Family Network staff members also collaborated and supported the library staff in creating our first Sensory Storytime for children with autism spectrum disorders, sensory integration issues, and other developmental disabilities.

Programs also included our third annual Preschool Fair to help families explore the different local schools available in the Belmont area, pajama storytimes, demonstrations of the Music Pups program from the Powers Music School, and monthly sing-alongs from the Ukuladies, a new musical duo made up of the vocal and ukulele performing talents of children's librarians.

The Jane Gray Dustan Trust continues to fund a variety of programs for young children, including monthly infant-toddler sing-alongs with Matt Heaton, music and movement classes

with Belmont resident Rubi Lichauco, the Musical Storytime series by Powers Music School, and the return of our popular New Year's Eve concert where families got to ring in an early new year with Sulinha Boucher and her band.

Serving School Age Children

The Children's Room continued offering a variety of programming for school aged children including the continuation of our Parent Child Book Club, chemistry activities with Mad Science, STEAM programs with the Duct Tape Network, and robotics and coding with the library's Lego WeDo kits, where we added an evening session in order to reach families that cannot attend in the afternoon hours. For the first time we offered elements of storytime to elementary aged children through our new Stories and Snacks program, where a librarian read from chapter books such as *Mary Poppins* and *The Wizard of Oz* while children enjoyed listening while snacking.

Vacation week programs had excellent attendance and included visits from Ed the Wizard, Nappy's Puppets, and Jay Mankita's Playful Engineers program where children could build, design, and create on his amazing traveling maker space. It also included two popular Imagination Station programs where we provided craft supplies of all kinds and children had the chance to make their own artistic creations.

Summer Reading

Over 600 children signed up for the 2018 summer reading program. Children once again set their own reading goals for the summer and, when they reached their goal, chose a book as a prize. Pre-readers completed early literacy skill-building activities and also selected a book as a prize when they finished. The prizes were generously funded by the Friends of the Library.

Summer programming included programs from Mike the Bubble Man, a concert from Emily Hall, an introduction to birds of prey with Wingmasters, and a Make Your Own Musical Instrument program for preschoolers. We also continued to feature workshops for older children on topics ranging from magic tricks to creating Vincent Van Gogh inspired art work. The Children's Department also teamed up with Adult and Teen services to produce family friendly evening programs including Family Game Nights, Movie Nights, and two decades parties to encourage families to learn and engage in different activities from the 60's, 70's, 80's, and 90's.

Bringing the Community Together

We were privileged to have two invaluable programs from local residents. Ellen Leigh brought her service dog Ricky with her one afternoon to read books about service animals and answer questions. Local superstar Becca Pizzi won her second World Marathon Championship this year and was kind enough to do a program just for children where she read stories about working hard and being a gracious winner.

The Belmont Library community continued to show their generosity. The library held their first ever pajama drive to benefit Cradles to Crayons. Patrons donated new pajamas for children of all

ages, and the library was able to send sixty-one pairs of PJs to Cradles to Crayons. This event was supported by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

The Library turned 150 this year, so we celebrated with a birthday party. The party happened as part of the Books in Bloom series of events and brought nearly 200 attendees to make party hats, birthday cards, decorate cookies, and of course, eat some cake.

One Book One Belmont always means a busy time at the library, and this year was no exception. The Children's Room contributed three programs to our community read series of events: our largest ever attended Parent Child Book Club where families could read and discuss *Frankenstein*; Radical Robotics with Mad Science where attendees could see robots in action and even create their own; and our Spooktacular Halloween Concert with Emily Hall gave even preschoolers a chance to be part of the action.

Outreach

The Children's Librarians held 31 off-site programs, reaching 1,516 children and caregivers, a 48% increase from 2017. The librarians continued visiting the Wonder School and Waverly Square Day Care. They also participated in Belmont elementary school events.

Over the summer, librarians continued their successful weekly storytimes at the Belmont Farmers' Market. We were pleased to once again work in partnership with the Belmont Recreation Department to offer weekly readings and craft time at the Kids Activity Program summer camp in July and August. We also teamed up on a Pumpkin Carving program near Halloween.

Young Adult Services

Programming

Over the course of the year, the library offered 118 programs for teens, with 1,217 patrons in attendance, as well as a teen-focused Summer Reading program.

Among the most popular offerings were our multiple Escape Rooms, immersive experiences that require attendees to work together to solve a series of puzzles in an allotted time, promoting critical thinking skills and teamwork. . The year's Escape Room offerings included an ancient history themed "escape from the tomb," a smash-hit Harry Potter Escape, and a One Book One Belmont tie-in *Frankenstein* Escape Room. 116 Escapees of all ages accepted our challenges.

19 teens took part in our first ever Ramen Challenge, which gave intrepid chefs and makers of food monstrosities alike a pack of ramen noodles, a table full of potential ingredients, and a time limit to wow the judges. The program ended with many of the teens present enthusiastically asking for the program to happen again soon.

This year also saw teen video gaming programs featuring the library's Nintendo Switch and the retro Nintendo SNES Classic, which allowed teens to socialize and make friends while having fun playing hit games.

We strive to provide safe spaces for all patrons, and especially teens who may feel marginalized. One such program introduced this year was the LGBTQIAP+ drop-in program for teens. This offering provides a safe space with activities, books, and snacks to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, asexual, and pansexual teenagers and their allies.

Academic Support, STEM, and Leadership

The ever-popular Homework and Hot Chocolate program continued this school year. Middle school students enjoyed a dedicated homework space, snacks, games, and crafts, including button making, metal stamping, and vinyl sticker making. For high school students, the library put into place Exams Study Room times, with the Assembly Room reserved to offer students extra space for studying for the upcoming tests, as well as to provide snacks, drinks, and reference support. This year, a therapy dog was on hand for stressed teens to take a break and visit during one of the sessions. This program served 100 teens in support of their test taking. Support for college searches also took place at the library, notably Collegewise returning to the library to put on their informative college essay workshop for students.

Teen leadership took center stage at the library this year. The Roborama Robotics Fair lead 120 young adults and families through several stations of robotics activities, including the chance to drive their competition robot. This effort was put on in partnership with the high school robotics team, Record Robotics, as well as two local Lego League robotics teams. The entire endeavor was teen conceived and teen run. Other projects which showcased teen leadership included a performance of Love's Labor's Lost by the Boston Teen Troupe, and a robust Teen Advisory Board. The Board worked to create displays in the teen room, provide support for summer reading by preparing materials, and planned and ran a game night program at the library.

The creative writing program made its return, and the interests of writerly teens were also supported by the addition of a "National Novel Writer's Month" drop in, featuring group writing exercises, access to a vintage 1940s typewriter, and timed writing challenges.

The library's computer programming classes for middle and high school students, using the language Python, made a return, providing an outlet for teens interested in coding and problem solving. The library also provided Hackathon Python workshops. Girls Who Code, the national computer programming organization dedicated to getting young women interested in coding and STEM fields, continued to be a strong presence at the library.

The Young Adult Librarian also made a point this year to increase presence at Chenery, attending the Chenery book fair, attending a meeting the Chenery Gay-Straight Alliance for Social Justice to promote programs, and doing books talks on teen books about World War II in support of an 8th grade English unit on the subject.

Summer Reading 2018

Summer reading featured joint programs with the children's and adult departments, including the aforementioned Harry Potter Escape Room, movie nights, crafts, and the incredibly popular

Harry Potter wand making, with 60 attendees of all ages. The kick-off and close out to these years program showcased “Decades” parties drawing from the “Libraries Rock” theme.

Scratch off tickets, with prizes like giant gummy worms, signed copies of popular books, and candy, were given out to teens whenever they checked out books, one per day; a total of 697 tickets were used. We replaced reviews and trivia this year with teen bingo cards, creating greater continuity between the children, teen, and adult programs. Teens could earn an additional raffle ticket per every row they filled out on the sheet and were then entered into weekly drawings for gift cards, and a grand prize drawing for an Instax Mini camera at the end of summer. 220 Belmont teens participated via bingo cards.

To close off our summer reading program, the library invited librarians from the unique Papercut Zine Library in Boston to put on a Zine Workshop just for our teen patrons. This Do-It-Yourself, indie art form provided teens with a low-cost, satisfying way to express their creativity and thoughts, and did so for 12 teens.

Adult Services

Digital Services

With demand for digital resources continuing to rise, the library added three new offerings this year.

- *Kanopy*, a film streaming service that emphasizes independent and foreign films, documentaries, and film festival favorites, for all ages, was introduced in September. Usage has grown steadily over its first four months, and patron feedback has been very positive.
- *Legal Forms*, from database vendor Gale-Cengage, was also introduced this fall. This resource offers patrons downloadable and editable Massachusetts legal forms, such as tenant-landlord documents, incorporation documents, living wills, and many more. Also included are a directory of attorney’s by practice area (for all states), and a dictionary of legal definitions explained in layman’s language.
- *NYTimes.com* is now being offered for free to our patrons with access through our membership in MLN. Belmont patrons have viewed 2,628 pages over approximately 6 months –an average of more than 400 pages per month.

Less visible, but equally important was a change the library made from use of the Clean Slate to Deep Freeze software on all public computers. This type of software is used to wipe information and searches from computers after patrons are finished with sessions thus insuring maximum privacy for all our patrons, particularly Belmont High School who need to use their personal accounts for homework. Upon logging out, the computer is rebooted to the original or frozen state, removing any unwanted changes, including any person information patrons may have unintentionally left behind

It was another very strong year for *Overdrive*, a catalog of ebooks, eaudiobooks and other digital content shared by all the MLN libraries. In 2018, Belmont patrons downloaded 42,604 digital materials--an increase of 27% over last year's 33,579 downloads. Hoopla, another source of streaming and downloadable content, saw an increase of 6% from 8,603 views/downloads in 2017, to 9,114 this year.

Some resources that remain popular with Belmont patrons include: *Lynda.com* a library of video tutorials on a wide array of business and technology subjects; *Ancestry.com library edition*, a source of genealogical data; *Consumer Reports*, a source of independent product ratings and other consumer information; and *RBDigital magazines*, a collection of digital magazines covering business, world news and events, and entertainment.

LexisNexis a legal and business news resource was discontinued due to low usage and rising costs.

New Technologies

One of the visible changes in the library can be seen in the front lobby with the new digital display system. Replacing a traditional bulletin board, the display utilizes a 60" smart tv, with streaming slides of library events. The slides can be updated remotely from any computer, and are easily revised to reflect current programs, databases and areas of the collection. Not only does this display present information in an engaging and contemporary manner, but it is easily duplicated and can be used for additional digital displays within the library and community.

The Library hired an Intern from the Simmons University Library Science program at the end of 2017. The initial plan was for six months but was extended to 12 as Intern Alexandra Bush proved to be a strong asset. The Technology Librarian worked with Alex to regularly implement a variety of updates to our networked computers. In addition to these duties, Alex was able to function as a backup technology troubleshooter for both patron and staff and also lead programming such as Lego WeDo for the Children's Room and workshops on using the library's digital slide scanners. At the end of her 12 month internship Alex applied for an open part-time position and was hired in that new capacity. The Library will look to bringing a new intern on board in mid-2019.

The library added Digital Slide Scanners to the circulating collection in the summer. Introduced to patrons with a presentation at the Beech Street Center, these units have become increasingly popular. Patrons have the option of either checking out a scanner for home use, or scheduling appointments with library staff to scan up to 50 slides. This dual approach reflects the library's commitment to serving a range of technological skills, and meeting patron needs with this exciting new offering. Since their introduction, the scanners have circulated well, and staff have helped patrons with their personal slides.

The Library has multiple forms of technology available for patrons to check out, some to take home, some for use in the library. The Library circulated laptops, Rokus, phone chargers, and Kindles over 2100 times to patrons. We are proud of these numbers and will work to increase usage next year by adding more devices.

In April and May, the library hosted Windows 7 training classes for seniors using laptops from the mobile classroom. This was a supplement to the Absolute Computer Beginners Workshop taught by town IT Director Dave Petto. Senior volunteers followed up this initial six week course with an additional six weeks of training and support on Windows 7 for recent graduates.

The Library makes great use of self check out machines available in the main library lobby as well as the Children's Room. The machines allow patrons an opportunity to check out their own materials which acts as a great accent for busy times of the day when all staff might be engaged with other patrons.

Programs and Community Partnerships

The Library offered 278 programs specifically for adults and teens in 2018, largely funded by the *Friends of the Belmont Public Library* and Community Grants.

A highlight of the year was the Library's seventh town-wide read, One Book One Belmont (OBOB), celebrating the 200th anniversary of the publishing of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. This classic with themes of compassion and forgiveness, appearances and acceptance, isolation, and secrecy, and often considered the first work of science fiction, found "new life" as one of Belmont's top-circulating books of 2018.

Our program involved collaboration with thirteen co-sponsoring community organizations who worked together on programs that explored the themes of the OBOB title. Some of the OBOB programs, held during the month of October, included a well-received exhibit by local artists called "Monster Misunderstood" on display at the library; "Masquerade Music for Food," a Belmont High School Orchestra concert, with Frankenstein-themed musical pieces; a viewing of the classic Mel Brooks' comedy "Young Frankenstein" at Belmont Cinema; a Frankenstein-themed workshop in 3D printing; and several Frankenstein book discussions groups. The Library also hosted a program on Chinese fiction, spoken entirely in Chinese. This year's culminating event was a talk by Charlotte Gordon, author of the dual biography, *Romantic Outlaws: the Extraordinary Life of Mary Wollstonecraft, and her daughter Mary Shelley*. Participation in all OBOB events drew more than 650 people.

Another programming highlight of 2018 were events celebrating the 150th anniversary of the opening of the first Belmont Public Library.

In collaboration with the Belmont Garden Club, the library hosted its first *Books in Bloom*, since 2013. This event featured an exhibit with 24 creative floral interpretations of popular books, and drew an enthusiastic crowd of approximately 200 people. Other sesquicentennial events included an open house held by the Belmont Historical Society, that allowed visitors to learn about the history of Belmont and its library through media displays, and the stories of Historical Society members. We also had a 150th Library birthday party hosted by the Friends, that offered crafts, activities and of course, birthday cake which I as Chair of the Trustees got to cut for the children myself.

More Programs for Education and Entertainment

As part of the Friends' Author Series, Gish Gen's spoke about her book "*Girl at the Baggage Claim*," a nonfiction work that explores how differently Easterners and Westerners regard the concepts of self and society, and what that means for education, politics, business, and art in an ever closer world. This was one of the year's most popular events, drawing a crowd of more than 150 people.

Highlights of the Friends' *Music on Saturday* series were "Beijing Opera," a collaboration with the Belmont Chinese American Association (BCAA), and "Fiddlin Quinn and his Big Folk's Band," a fiddle, banjo, and guitar trio, that inspired some foot-stompin', all-ages fun.

Tai Chi at the Library continues as a "health and wellness" offering, and a Tuesday evening class has been added, due to strong attendance at the Saturday morning class.

Book Discussions

Library staff members continue to offer two different book discussion groups, the classics-focused Senior Book discussion led by Reference Librarian Miriam MacNair at the Beech Street Center, and the monthly Belmont book discussion group led by Reference Librarian Nancy McColm, that reads current literary fiction.

Books and Bites, the monthly book review program coordinated by Reference Librarian Miriam MacNair coordinated Books and Bites featured the following author programs, along with a space for community members to enjoy snacks and discussing literary topics, in 2018:

In January, Belmont author Susan Rubin Suleiman spoke on her book *Budapest Diary: In Search of the Motherbook*. In February, author Melanie Brooks spoke on her book *Writing Hard Stories: Celebrated Memoirists Who Shaped Art from Trauma*. The Books and Bites program in March featured a talk by Miriam MacNair on the novel *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott. In April, Nina Sankovitch spoke on her book *The Lowells of Massachusetts: An American Family*. In May, author Eric Hurwitz spoke on his book *Massachusetts Town Greens: A History of the State's Common Centers*. In November, author George Howe Colt spoke on his book *The Game: Harvard, Yale, and America in 1968*. In December, author Robert B. Charles spoke on his book *Eagles and Evergreens: A Rural Maine Childhood*.

Outreach

With an eye on helping patrons stay informed about today's key issues, the library began collaborating with two local groups, the *Information Technology and Advisory Committee* (ITAC) and *Science for the Public* (SftP). With ITAC, The library was pleased to co-sponsor two programs. "Fake News and Artificial Intelligence," brought in Harvard professor Gu-Yeon Wei to present his latest research on Artificial Intelligence. AI researcher and entrepreneur Dr. Bryan Loyall came to discuss "fake" news and the growing problem of misinformation. "Internet of Things: Cybersecurity Fireside Chat," spoke to cyber security as it pertains to, increasingly ubiquitous, voice activated home assistants (Alexa), remote cameras, and smart technology like Wi-Fi enabled thermostats.

In collaboration with SftP and the Belmont Media Center, the library sponsored a series of “Citizen Literacy” events that spoke to what individual citizens can do to help protect the environment, address climate change, and promote a health democracy.

With the Belmont and Watertown Councils on aging, the library co-sponsored the “Community Health Planning Fair” where people could learn about regional agencies that provide financial and caregiver resources and find a certified healthcare proxy.

Library staff members continued to participate in a variety of Town events, such as Meet Belmont, Town Day and the Belmont Chinese American Association’s (BCAA) celebration of Chinese New Year. Throughout the summer, library personnel staffed a table at the Belmont Farmers Market, where the community could learn about our upcoming programs, check out a bestseller, and chat with a librarian, in addition to attending the Children’s Departments Farmers’ Market Storytime sessions.

Friends of the Belmont Public Library

The Friends of the Belmont Public Library continued to provide strong support for the library in 2018, funding a wide range of programs reaching all ages and interests.

The friends program highlights included author talks, music on Saturday programming, and many other previously mentioned programs.

One major focus each year for the Friends is the summer reading program including funding the book prizes for the Children’s Summer Reading program. In 2018, the Friends also funded Summer Thursdays with movies, crafts, and games for families. The Friends also continued to fund the library’s popular museum pass program. The museum pass program offers free and discount passes to 20 museums and parks. The Library circulated nearly 2500 museum passes this year.

The Friends continued their focus on the exterior of the Library, planting new shrubs and trees and tending to seasonal planters. We are very thankful to Belmont Garden Club volunteers who also pitched in on the Friends’ beautification efforts. Two new rocking chairs proved a popular summer addition to “Belmont’s front porch.”

Funding for the Friends comes from member donations and used book sale operations. Over 300 members and donors made generous contributions in support of the Belmont Public Library. The community also supports the Friends through thousands of donated books. The Library Friends Annual Book Sale in October was a huge success in 2018, with record revenues. The Friends’ Everyday Book Shop, located in the library near the circulation desk, continues to provide a great value for book shoppers as well as a growing pot of funds for library programs. In addition, the Friends were able to provide used books for a variety of other worth causes including materials for teacher libraries in Belmont schools and free books for patrons of the Belmont Food Pantry.

Belmont Public Library Foundation

The Belmont Library Foundation, a Massachusetts 501(c)(3) corporation, undertakes promotional and fundraising activities for the Belmont Public Library, including construction of a new library building. Now that Belmont's Library Building Committee is developing a schematic design for a new building, the Foundation is preparing a major capital campaign to support fundraising efforts. In collaboration with the Library, the Library Trustees, the Building Committee, the Friends of the Belmont Public Library and other community organizations, the Library Foundation will be leading the effort to raise private donations for this important project. Please visit www.belmontlibraryfoundation.org to learn more.

Staffing

Our longtime Coordinator of Public Services Emily Reardon retired at the end of October. Emily worked for the Library in a variety of roles, for 22 years and brought an outstanding level of customer service. Emily was the first Young Adult Librarian, then called "Teen Librarian" and was responsible for showing our community the importance of teen services at the Library. Emily also created the first Library website, and became the Coordinator of Public Services, the affective second in command at the Library.

Through the years Emily guided the library staff to build a successful adult reference department, materials collection, and strong community programming. Most notably Emily was the creator of "One Book One Belmont" the library's most successful recurring event, and one that has inspired many other towns across the state. Since 2008 we have had seven offerings of the program. Emily guided us through one final One Book One Belmont, and retired the day that the month long event concluded. We wish Emily the best of luck in retirement.

Mary Carter who was serving as the Community Services Librarian, was promoted to the role of Coordinator of Public Services, upon Emily's retirement. .

Downstairs in Children's, part-time Children's Librarian Adrienne Ross also retired in the fall. She will still work an occasional shift with the Children's Room, and continue to play and perform as part of the Ukuladies musical duo. While Adrienne is an irreplaceable member of the staff, we were very happy to welcome our new part-time Children's Librarian Kathy Caple. Kathy had already been on the Belmont Library staff as a part-time Reference Librarian. She is an accomplished author and illustrator of picture books and beginning readers.

The Children's Staff also added Siosai Cheang to the staff as a part-time Library Assistant. The Circulation Staff welcomed Radhika Tavshikar to its ranks, while part time assistant Smitha Prasad assumed a full-time role after another position was made vacant.

Professional Development

Reference Staff attended training sessions to update skills and learn about new developments in their fields. These included webinars and in-person training. A focus this year was financial literacy resources.

Librarians also attended the Public Library Association annual meeting and, monthly network meetings to stay up-to-date on network-wide developments in software, policy, Library safety and other topics.

The Young Adult librarian took part in various professional development opportunities over the course of the year to improve her ability to serve our patrons. She began the year with an in-depth, daylong course on Mental Health First Aid Training for teenagers. This class taught strategies for recognizing the symptoms of a teen in a mental health crisis, as well as how to assess whether if symptoms are a cause for immediate worry, and how to intervene if the patron has indicated that they have thought about suicide. She also attended Massachusetts Library Systems' annual Teen Summit, which provided networking opportunities with other teen service providers in the state, and informative sessions on programming.

As part of his goals set by the Board of Library Trustees, Library Director Peter Struzziero completed a Supervisory Leadership Development program offered by the Collins Center for Public Management and University of Massachusetts Amherst Workplace for Learning and Development. Peter also spoke at the New England Library Association annual conference with a presentation focused on special collections and community sponsorship.

The Police Department came and ran two sessions focused on dealing with difficult patrons, and how to respond to an emergency in the Library. The partnership with the Police is the strongest that it's been in many years. We were grateful for the attention and care they took in meeting with our staff, and the creativity that went into role playing to practice responses to Behavior Policy violations, and health care emergencies. We will continue this work in the future. Over the last few years we have installed security cameras, security alarms on different sections of the Library, and panic buttons, all through their guidance.

Administration

Notable Building Updates and partnerships

In addition to the programming and staffing highlights shared above, it is important to note the targeted improvements made to the library facilities.

As part of a Town Wide Green Communities Grant the library envelope was re insulated to help save on energy costs. The project involved the installation of new insulation. Phase one was the West Wing which took place between November of 2017 and February of 2018. Phase 2 was the East Wing and took place between March and May.

Town Tree Warden Tom Walsh recommended the removal of three large trees on the ground, thanks to the Department of Public Works for its assistance with the removal.

A new gutter was installed on the front of the building, and approximately 75 slate tiles were replaced on the original roof.

These repairs and other required work at the Library including the instillation of updated lighting and the encapsulation of asbestos tile, did impact services and circulation, but the Library staff made as much accommodation as possible to ensure program delivery.

Library Director Peter Struzziero continues to guide the Library staff forward providing the best programming and services possible to the community. Peter was elected to the Executive Board of the Minuteman Library Network this year and will work with Board Members to guide the network forward with strategic planning and fiscal management. In 2019 they will also manage the task of a national search to hire a new Executive Director.

Director Struzziero and Chenery Principal Mike McAllister began a new annual partnership to give all 5th graders a new library card. This project was a pilot, but has proven successful and will continue in the future.

In January, the Building Committee was appointed and began the work to develop schematic designs for a new library building on the current site. This work is being funded jointly by the town and the Library. The schematic designs are a key tool for the fundraising that is needed to contribute towards the cost of the new building.

In summary, this has been another tremendous year for the library services and staff. We continue to see strong growth in use of library resources and programs. Daily visits continue to average nearly 1000 per day.

We have made prudent and measured repairs and updates to building facilities acknowledging that a new building is needed and in the early planning stages. If you haven't been to the Library lately, come and see what we have to offer. You can also visit us on online on our website and through our Facebook page. Looking forward to continuing to serve the needs of our community.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Keohane, Chair
Board of Library Trustees