

# 2021 Annual Town Report of the Blackstone Public Library

Honorable Selectmen:

The Blackstone Public Library was closed to visitors due to COVID restrictions at the start of 2021. The staff continued to offer circulation through curbside delivery, home delivery, virtual programming, as well as service by phone, email, and chat. On March 15, the Library welcomed patrons back into the building via appointment-only visits with 532 patrons coming back in person from March to May. On May 24, 2021 appointments were no longer required and the Library was open to visitors with a mask mandate and social distancing in place. Through all of these changes, the director, staff, and Trustees' main focus was to provide thoughtful and accessible resources to patrons, while simultaneously maintaining the safety of employees and patrons.

The Library remains 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.

The Library was a recipient of the MBLC Hotspot Lending Program. This program has made 10 new hotspots available for patron use and allows us to reach the underserved in our community and those affected by the digital equity gap. Paired with the Library's laptop lending program, this Internet access allow patrons to access much needed data and information for school and work, and also alleviates the isolation individuals are still experiencing during the pandemic.

Denise Binette retired as a library aide after many 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:

Donna Ansell

### Young Adult Librarian:

Mandi Whipple

### Repair Lead & Shift

#### Supervisor:

Donna Foster

### Tech Room Assistant & Shift Supervisor:

Ellen Goudreau

### Shift Supervisors:

Renee Milliken

Bethany Rowanheart

Cheryl Marino-Page

### Display Coordinator:

Courtney Pavlis

### Library Aides:

Katarina Guzinski

Samantha Marvelle

Jean Piechocki

Denise Tibbets

### Custodians:

Russell Marvelle

Roger Marvelle (substitute)

The Blackstone Public Library has a collection of 70,410 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 2021 Statistics

There are 6,024 registered borrowers.

### Interlibrary loan in the 2021 calendar year

ILLs received = 4,047

ILLs sent = 11,107

### Circulation in the 2021 calendar year

26,058

### Overdrive Statistics 2021

Total number of items in the shared collection:

171,635

eBooks borrowed 3,347

eAudio borrowed 3,485

### Curbside Delivery 2021

January 308

February 269

March 238

April 138

May 124

June 14

Total 1,091



### Hoopla

1,097 circulations

### Brainfuse Tutoring

Total usage 273

**Wireless Hotspots Connections** 1,274

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

<b>Grants/Gifts</b>	
District Attorney Joseph D. Early - Young Adult Program	\$ 350.00
Local Cultural Council Grants - Blackstone	\$ 4,725.00
Small Libraries in Network Grant	\$ 2,500.00
State Aid to Public Libraries	\$ 16,736.85
Cookie Walk Fundraiser	\$ 2,125.00
Friends of the Blackstone Public Library	\$ 1,500.00
Law Office of Daniel T. Doyle	\$ 450.00
Memorial Funds	\$ 25.00
Patron Donations	\$ 2,430.00
<b>Other Donations</b>	
Bears Tree Farm	Greens
BZ Leaf Lifters LLC	Landscaping
Dionne Electric	Supplies
Dunkin Donuts—Blackstone	Coffee
Great Scapes LLC	Landscaping
Patron Donations	Craft supplies
Wright’s Dairy Farm	Refreshments
YMCA Family & Community Partnership	STEM Program
MBLC Hotspot Lending Program	10 Hotspots fully funded for 12 months





## ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Access the fantastic resources below, 24 hours a day, without ever leaving home by visiting the Library's web page.

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



*There's a **LOT** to l♥ve!*

## OUTREACH

The Library continues to offer outreach 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
- Pop Up Library Device
- Monthly craft class at the Senior Center

## PROGRAMMING

In 2021, Library programming consisted of a combination of virtual and in person events. Library staff conducted & organized book groups, lectures, classes, and entertainers through Zoom and Facebook live platforms from January until June, when in person programming kicked off again. The 2021 Summer Reading Program was in person with the option to participate using Beanstack! In-person, Zoom and Facebook Live events were held for all ages.



 **Thank you to the Friends of the Blackstone Public Library for their ongoing support and fundraising efforts.**



### Programs 2021

Age Group	In-Person Programs	Total Attendance	Live Virtual	Total Attendance	Hybrid (In-person & Zoom)	Total Attendance
Children	62	652	7	43	0	0
Young Adults	15	115	7	49	0	0
Adults	36	343	26	223	4	17