

Osterville Village Library

Goodbye 2022, Hello 2023

Consistent creative commitment to the community is the firm foundation upon which Osterville Village Library achieved even greater heights in 2022. Thanks to your continued support, the sky is the limit in 2023!

Already weary of the pandemic, Osterville and surrounding communities began the past year faced with the unwelcome encore pandemic threat of Omicron. Even more contagious than the initial “ancestral” strain of the virus, fear once again spread through the community, and for good reason. During the height of the Omicron spike in January 2022, Massachusetts was reporting in excess of 27 thousand new cases per day. Applying both creativity and courage, OVL once again provided a venue for community needs, and a little bit of fun to boot!

Information as a Critical Resource

First out of the gate in response to the challenges posed by Omicron in early 2022 was a comprehensive bi-weekly newsletter complete with links to trusted sources of information as well as local and county resources. Links to various mental health organizations were also provided considering the effects of the pandemic were also taking their toll in ways unseen. While the CDC continued to recommend vaccination, many residents were unable to comply due to the fact they were computer illiterate, and thus unable to make an appointment. The library staff worked out a system to help patrons easily register for vaccine appointments at local pharmacies. The newsletter as described however went far beyond the facts. Its regular publication served to reassure the community that indeed the library was open, and stood by willing to offer its resources in any way.



Always Something Going On

Programs and events at the Library did not cease with the Omicron spike in 2022. In fact, they increased. Local residents, many of them seniors, were again “held prisoner” in their homes for fear to venture out, the library booked historical lectures, author talks, storytimes, and even pre produced art exhibits – by – video to share with the community via Zoom. The effort met with immediate and lasting success. To this day, the OVL boasts a virtual and on-demand audience on par with its actual attendance for what is an ambitious schedule of events to meet increased demand.



Essential Face to Face Services

OVL answered the call to take care of two dire needs faced by the community in 2020 which still continue... blood drives (with over 2052 units of blood collected), and income tax preparation. Hindered in their ability to host at other locations in the community, these organizations expanded their ongoing collaboration with the library to ensure their efforts continue. Similarly, the library partnered with AARP to ensure seniors and low income residents would be able to receive the tax prep assistance they needed. Other groups requiring face to face meetings were also hosted at the library, such as the VNA grief group, Al-Anon and other non-profits and local civic groups. During the summer and fall, activities hosted by the library accented “face to face” time, with an emphasis on community interaction, so sorely missed during the worst of the pandemic waves.



See you at the Sumer Soiree



From the Hydrangea Fest, to Plein Air to the annual end of summer Range Rover raffle, the summer season is the reason we live on Cape Cod. New additions in 2022 to our usual chock full fare of programs and events to serve as the centerpiece of summer included: A Cape Cod Writers Fair, an event which hosted 24 local writers under the tent on the Calvin C Gould Library Green discussing and signing their latest work. OVL's 2nd Human Library event drew curious crowds and garnered press attention from as far away as Boston. The unique event where people's individual experiences are shared face to face helped to foster a dialogue of inclusion and equity in the community.

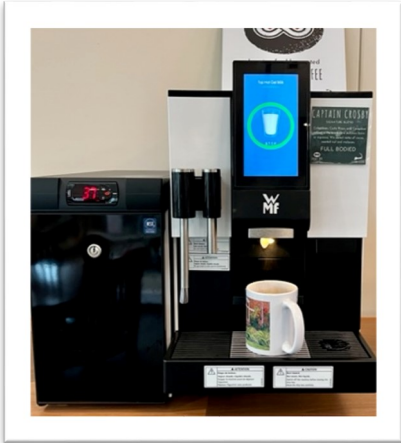
The OVL Big House Band

A unique opportunity presented itself to the Osterville Village Library in 2022. We are proud to say that we are quite likely, but not definitely, the only library in the United States with its own house band. That's right, a big band complete with a horn section! During OVL's annual summer concert series, the band was booked to play. They were so taken with the library's main meeting room as a rehearsal space, they stayed on to form a unique arrangement with OVL, providing musical accompaniment to a number of library functions throughout the year. Some people read books, others read music. We have something for both.



Looking ahead: New social groups will be founded as the library serves as ground zero for community participation, complete with a brand new cappuccino machine! Our website has been updated with dedicated pages to community news and updates. Our commitment to reading and learning continues with over 4000 free online courses, study guides and hands on exploration, plus thinking and creativity kits for children.

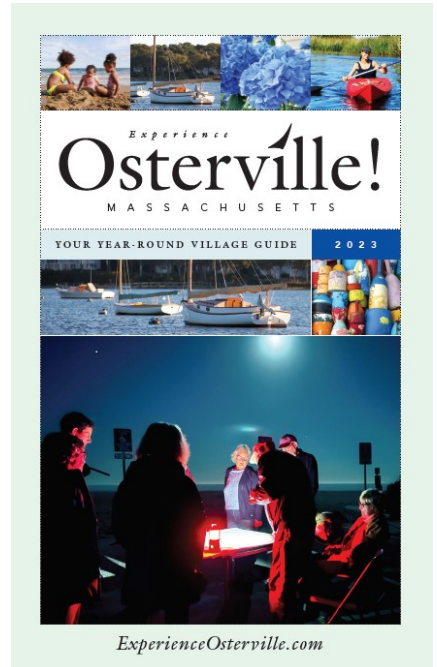
We are so grateful for our community partners and their support of OVL!



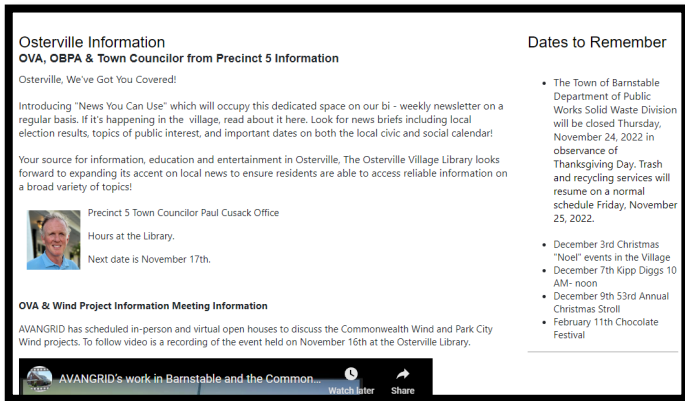
Enjoy a cappuccino, latte, espresso or coffee with Capt. Crosby Coffee.



Preserving Osterville's history with Paul Chesbro



Our Experience Osterville Guide is now in its 11th year!



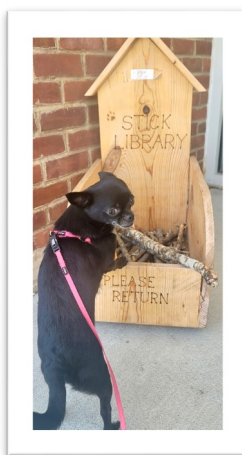
New, improved website with local and community information and updates. Plus, monthly in person office hours with our State Rep & Town Councilor.



A special place for children and families to meet and play.

Three Additional Awards for OVL in 2022

- The Institute for Nonprofit Practice's Changemaker Award recognizing those on the frontlines who support their neighbors and communities, demonstrate remarkable service, courage and generosity while confronting unprecedented adversity over the past two years.
- The Library Journal, designation as a "2021 Five Star Library" based on reviews of public library data reported to the government that include visits, sessions per capita and which ranks the best performing libraries within budget categories.
- Voted by the public and recognized by Cape and Plymouth Magazine as one of the Nonprofits to Watch in 2022.



Our Stick Library is still a favorite stop for all size dogs!



Honoring those who served, on our annual Veterans Day walk.

Commitment, Creativity, Courage and Foresight.

The Osterville Village Library – Tomorrow's Library, Today.

The Osterville Village Library endures thanks to your continued support. Ensure the traditions this library works to uphold are passed onto the next generation. Lend your name in support for those who will rely upon this institution tomorrow. Naming Opportunities are available. Contact CyndyCotton@clamsnet.org for details.