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

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.
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grants/Gifts</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District Attorney Joseph D. Early - Young Adult Program</td>
<td>$350.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Cultural Council Grants - Blackstone</td>
<td>$4,725.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Libraries in Network Grant</td>
<td>$2,500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Aid to Public Libraries</td>
<td>$16,736.85</td>
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<td>Cookie Walk Fundraiser</td>
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<td>Friends of the Blackstone Public Library</td>
<td>$1,500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Law Office of Daniel T. Doyle</td>
<td>$450.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Memorial Funds</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patron Donations</td>
<td>$2,430.00</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other Donations</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bears Tree Farm</td>
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<tr>
<td>BZ Leaf Lifters LLC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dionne Electric</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dunkin Donuts—Blackstone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Scapes LLC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patron Donations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wright’s Dairy Farm</td>
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<tr>
<td>YMCA Family &amp; Community Partnership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MBLC Hotspot Lending Program</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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## 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 love!
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programs</th>
<th>2021</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age Group</td>
<td>In-Person Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>----------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>62</td>
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<tr>
<td>Young Adults</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adults</td>
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