



Wadleigh Memorial Library

49 Nashua Street Milford, NH 03055-3753

Phone # 603-249-0645 Fax # 603-672-6064

www.wadleighlibrary.org wadleigh@wadleighlibrary.org

www.facebook.com/wadleighlibrary

LIBRARY 2016 Annual Report

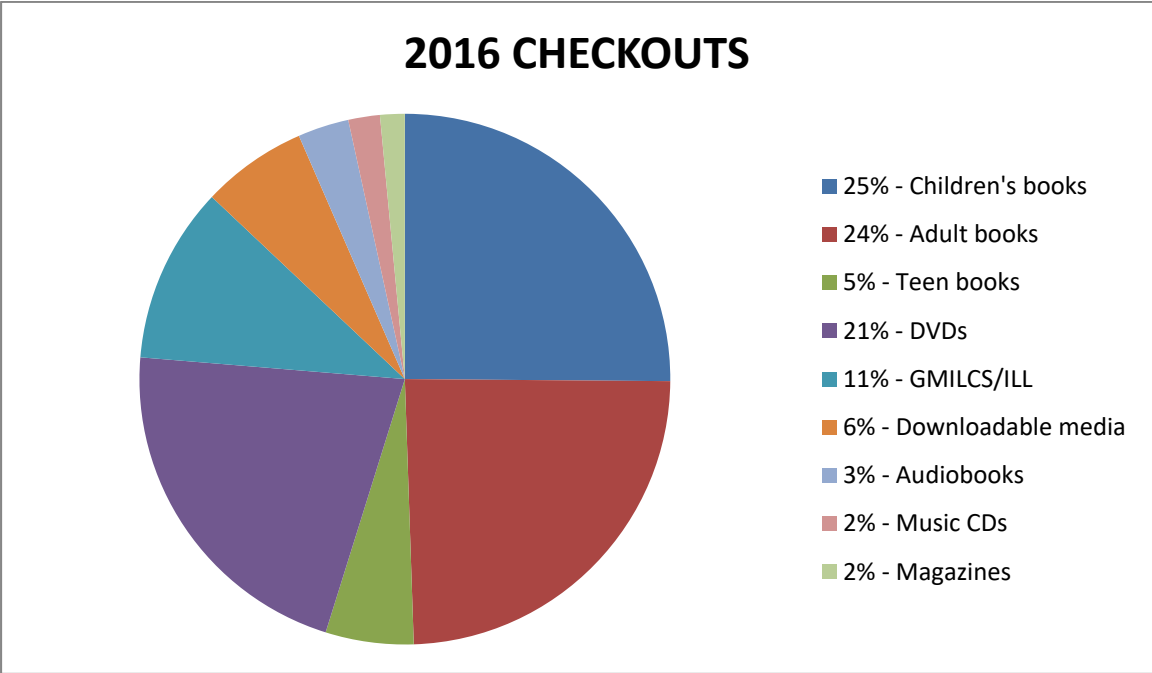
2016 was a busy and eventful year. For the second year in a row, the library presented a warrant article for a new building, and for the second time, the request was denied. While space and aging building systems are still an issue, the library continues to be a busy, vibrant and exciting place to be.

A wide range of programs were offered in 2016. The Acoustic Café had another successful year, as did the Summer Reading Program, Exercise Your Mind, Read! The library participated in the BIG READ, featuring *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck, along with other libraries in the state. Book clubs for grade 2 through adult are ongoing. New programs this year include a Makerspace program and a WordPress program—both facilitated by community members volunteering their time. Thanks to our Young Adult and Children’s Librarians (Katie Spofford and Letty Goerner), the library now offers yoga for children and teens. The Children’s Department continues to offer several popular storytimes for newborns through age 5, as well as programs covering art, science, Legos, and crafts. The monthly “PAWS to Read” program remains popular. In Adult programming, presentations made available through the NH Humanities Council were very well attended, and our first Birds of Prey program geared toward adults and all ages drew a large audience.

The WiFi system was upgraded and the basic Comcast connection was upgraded to Business Class. New computers were purchased with Windows 10, and others were upgraded. Laptops and Notebooks are available to check out for use within the library as well. Computer stations were replaced by a laptop bar in the Teen Area.

Thanks to a donation from the Milford Area Seniors we digitized a large portion of the Milford Cabinet microfilm and made it freely available online in a searchable format. By the end of 2016, papers from 1802 - 1924 were accessible online. The Trustees agreed to send 25 more rolls at the end of December, bringing online access up to 1967. This provides a searchable, indexed Milford Cabinet for a significant chunk of Milford’s history.

Total circulation is slightly down, reflecting a trend noticed throughout the state. Library staff have continued to curate the collection and also shifted a few sections to highlight and better merchandise Fiction and Literature. Audiobooks were moved closer to the Large Print and New Books.



The age of the library building and its various systems is an ongoing problem. For most of 2016, the plumbing system provided quite a challenge. Options for a permanent fix are being explored.

The fountain has been dismantled and is currently undergoing an extensive restoration. Joel Trafford, Library Facilities Manager is overseeing this task with the help of the Milford Water Utilities Department.

In August, Library Director, Michelle Sampson left to take another position in York, Maine. This meant a search for a new director, and it took some time to find just the right person. In the meantime, senior library staff, with help from the library trustees, assumed the duties of the Director for the last few months of 2016. Michelle did a wonderful job of promoting and improving the library services during her tenure. We wish her well in her new endeavors.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Gabert & Diana LeBlanc
Interim Library Co-Directors



Wadleigh Memorial Library

49 Nashua Street Milford, NH 03055-3753
Phone # 603-249-0645 Fax # 603-672-6064

www.wadleighlibrary.org wadleigh@wadleighlibrary.org
www.facebook.com/wadleighlibrary

2016 Library Trustees Report

At the Wadleigh Memorial Library, our incredibly dedicated staff works hard to make the library a welcoming environment for all Milford residents – regardless of age, interests, or needs. The Wadleigh continues to be the most heavily used building in town aside from our schools. We all work hard every day to make sure the library is the best that it can be.

People

2016 brought with it a major staffing change at the library. After eleven years of service, library director Michelle Sampson left the Wadleigh to become the director of the public library in York, Maine. Her last day was at the end of August. Trustees and staff made a decision to take our time in the hiring process for her replacement. All Wadleigh staff members stepped up and took on more responsibilities as the Trustees conducted interviews. Special mention goes to Kim Gabert, Mary Ann Shea and Diana LeBlanc because they assumed increased leadership positions in the absence of a director.

Trustees Jennifer Hansen, Deborah Faucher and Judy Gross formed the search committee for a new director. We received roughly 30 applications from all over the country. After initial phone screenings, four candidates came to Milford for in-person interviews. After several rounds of interviews, the Trustees hired Elizabeth (Betsy) Solon as the new director. Betsy is a resident of Brookline, and has spent the most recent part of her career as the director of the public library in Brentwood, NH. We are extremely excited as Betsy starts her duties at the Wadleigh. We are looking forward to new, fresh ideas to take the Wadleigh ever forward.

Over the past year, many of our staff members and Trustees attended regional meetings and conferences. Here, we were able to confer with other library staffers and Trustees to share notes and ideas. These forums are extremely valuable. Among the topics discussed were: fundraising, new technology, grants and program ideas for all ages.

Building Project

The library's building project continues to be a major focus of the Board of Trustees. As a board, we decided not to put a warrant article on the ballot in March of 2017. This was due to the fact that for the past 4 months of 2016, our main focus was on hiring a new director. We still believe that the Wadleigh needs a renovation/expansion, as we continue to deal

with facilities issues throughout the building, as well as space constraints. Now that our new director is on board, we welcome her thoughts and ideas as we ramp up work on the building proposal once again.

Facilities

The library continues to experience many issues with our building. Facilities Manager Joel Trafford works extremely hard to keep the building up and running, despite major hurdles. In 2016, we had significant problems with the sewer system. We had multiple backups in the sewer drain, which resulted in contamination in the library's basement. We used a new camera system to better understand the aging piping. Once we had this information, Joel worked to best fix the problems, but the concern over the aging pipes is not going away. The concrete near the parking lot entry sidewalk has further settled, making the library more noncompliant to Americans With Disabilities standards. The 1950's ceiling above the circulation desk is resting on the drop ceiling. This needs to be removed, as the insulation is a fine, old fiberglass that if disturbed would get into the air. This project will need to be completed by an abatement company. In a basement office, the asbestos floor is becoming powdery from chairs rolling on it.

These are only a few of the very serious issues that the building continues to face. The Wadleigh Memorial Library is extremely heavily trafficked. We do the best we can to continuously make temporary fixes to the problems – but this can only last for so long. The care of our building needs to be taken seriously by town leaders and residents. We are continuously amazed at Joel's ability to keep the library functioning with little disruption to our patrons and staff.

One exciting and uplifting facilities project involves the beloved fountain which rests on library grounds. Restoration work is currently being done on the fountain. It is our hope that the fountain will be running again by Memorial Day. The work is being done right in Milford, with help from the Water Utilities Department. A big thank you goes out to that department's director, Dave Boucher, for his offer to help.

Programs and Services

In 2016, we continued to offer programs and services that fit the interests and needs of all Milford residents. A broad range of programs and activities were rolled out to reach a wide variety of patrons.

Our adult population has access to a large variety of classes, programs and groups. There are many services available at the library, including income tax assistance; the knit/crochet club; conversational Spanish and book clubs for all ages. The 3D printer located at the Circulation Desk continues to be very popular with patrons.

The classic novel *The Grapes of Wrath* was the cornerstone of a successful collaboration spanning 15 towns in Southern New Hampshire last fall, supported in part by a New Hampshire Humanities community project grant. Milford's participation in "The Big Read" included a contra dance featuring music from the 1930's, and two book discussions of the novel.

Our children's programs continue to be very popular. Programs throughout the year included: baby lapsits, family story times, Paws to Read, wildlife programs, arts and crafts, art and science classes, and Lego parties. Museum passes are available courtesy of the Friends of the Library. The summer reading program was a great success. Teenage patrons continue to be interested in the library's book clubs for middle and high school students, Anime and Doctor Who clubs, and various craft programs.

The library is very fortunate to have many citizens who donate to various programs and initiatives of the library. We are also very often the recipient of many kind and generous memorial gifts honoring lost loved ones in the community. We are so very grateful.

Other Library Properties

Both the 29 and 39 Nashua Street properties are currently being rented. The profits from the rent will go to offset the cost of our building project.

Conclusion

The mission of the Wadleigh Memorial Library is to be "the educational, cultural, technological and social center supporting lifelong learning and improving quality of life by connecting the community to resources and services." We work hard to achieve this goal on a daily basis. The Wadleigh Memorial Library Board of Trustees was very busy in 2016. As we enter 2017, we continue to move forward to shape the ever-changing role of public libraries in our lives.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Hansen, Co-Chair

Deborah Faucher, Co-Chair

Wadleigh Memorial Library Board of Trustees

