



The James Blackstone Memorial Library 2015—2016

With a grant from the State Library, the Blackstone Library was able to expand classes in the MakerLab this year, focusing on beginning and advanced 3-D printing, circuitry and sewing. The grant also allowed us to add new equipment including sewing machines.

Our Friends of the Library continues to hold a very successful book sale. In September 2015, gross receipts from the sale totaled \$55,543. Proceeds supported arts and cultural programs, materials for the collection, Mango Languages database, museum passes, and continuing education for staff—significantly enhancing the resources we offer to the Branford community. The Friends’ end of year gift of \$5,000 will be used to support our materials collection and to purchase a new 3-D scanner.

Our children’s summer reading program continued to see strong participation due to a strong relationship with the public schools. There were 923 participants who read 7,216 books this year.

In October 2015, our first annual CaddyStacks mini golf tournament earned \$8,406 in gross receipts. Our second annual Murder at the Blackstone earned \$7,640 for the library’s operating budget in May. Donations and direct appeals earned over \$49,437 for the library.

Staff are encouraged to take advantage of professional development opportunities on a regular basis: 11 staff and 2 board members attended the CLA conference which was held in Hartford this year; 2 staff attended the New England Library Association annual conference in October; staff attended a Maker workshop at the Westport library and circulation staff attended a customer service workshop in October. Staff also attended a variety of webinars to keep their skills current. Our annual in service training in February allowed staff to practice presentation skills and share

what they had learned throughout the year with other staff.

We continue to look for support for our building renovation project designed by AKV Architects. Our plan preserves the architectural integrity of the building and reallocates space in order to become more functional and better serve the needs of the community. This year the RTM approved our request for \$50,000 to be matched by Library funds to hire an architect to review the plan and develop schematic drawings. The Library Board of Trustees hired Silver Petrucelli and Associates to complete this phase of design.

Other highlights of the year include the refinishing of badly deteriorating doors on the Cedar Street side of the building. We added new barcode scanners that are able to read smartphones, wifi hotspots which offer internet access on the go are available to our patrons, and we participated in the CT Library Association’s Passport to CT Libraries program. We qualified as a partner of Pro Bono Associates which provided legal counsel to update our employee manual at no cost. Library staff organized a very popular local author expo on May 21. Finally, a group of local teens used library resources to create a video highlighting the summer reading program and were recognized as the CT winners of the nationwide teen summer reading video challenge.

Statistics	2015-2016
Registered Cardholders	10,109
Material Circulated	228,660
Reference Questions	74,102
Children’s Program Attendance	9,137
Auditorium Events Attendance	5,486
Lucy Hammer Room Bookings	2,431
Average Patrons Per Day	591

Library Materials

Books	62,520
Newspapers/Periodical Subscriptions	143
Audiovisual Material	10,482
Electronic/Digital collection	11,191
Total Collection	84,336

Karen Jensen
Library Director

**James Blackstone Memorial Library
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**Murder at Blackstone Abbey
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