



The James Blackstone Memorial Library 2016—2017

This year, the library was able to install high speed fiber internet at no cost to the town, thanks to a grant from the State of CT. We also received a grant to establish a new program, Uncover Branford, this year. With funds earned by the Friends of the Library we were able provide two new online streaming resources: HOOPLA and Kanopy. Library patrons may now renew items and receive hold notifications via text message. Improvements were also made on the grounds in the form of two new planters donated by the Garden Club and sculptures loaned by local artist, Jonathan Waters.

Our Friends of the Library continues to hold a very successful book sale with gross receipts in excess of \$60,000. These funds provided programs, materials for the collection, Pronunciator and SCOLA language learning databases, museum passes, and continuing education for staff. The Friends’ also made a \$25,000 pledge to our Capital Campaign. They plan to start selling books online soon in hopes of increasing revenue.

Our Youth Services Department received a donation from the New Haven Astronomical Society of an Orion StarBlast 4.5” Astro telescope that is available for loan to the public. We participated in the summer lunch program with the Branford Public Schools for the second year—distributing 455 lunches to children in need. Miss Carly and Miss Mary, our Youth Services Associate and Assistant, were inducted into the Branford Education Hall of Fame in May 2017.

In November 2016, we held the second Caddystacks which earned \$10,158 in gross receipts. Donations and direct appeals earned over \$40,350 for the library. Our Development Committee began planning for the 4th Hogwarts class to take place in October 2017. We modified our donor levels to introduce the Ella Wheeler Wilcox Guild at an annual donation of \$250.

I served as President of the CT Library Association this year; Katy Dillman served as the CLA Conference Exhibits Co-Chair and initiated a state-wide library development roundtable. Sarah Mallory, a part-time reference librarian, won a special achievement award at the annual CLA conference. Staff are encouraged to take advantage of professional development opportunities on a regular basis: staff attended the CLA conference which was held in Mystic this year; the New England Library Association annual conference in October; and a variety of webinars and state-sponsored workshops to keep their skills current. Our annual in-service training in February focused on emotional intelligence.

We launched a capital campaign in March of 2017 with a matching grant opportunity of \$100,000 from the Branford Community Foundation. We worked with Silver Petrucelli & Associates to complete the design development phase of the renovation project which was given preliminary approval by the Town Center Revitalization and Review Board in March. We worked with Downes Construction to complete a detailed project estimate and hope to receive funding approval from the RTM in Fall of 2017. By the end of the year, we were halfway to meeting our Campaign goal of \$800,000.

Statistics	2016-2017
Registered Cardholders	11,119
Material Circulated	240,893
Reference Questions	73,624
Children’s & Teen Program Attendance	9,096
Auditorium Events Attendance	5,559
Lucy Hammer Room Bookings	2,314
Average Patrons Per Day	534

Library Materials

Books	60,997
Newspapers/Periodical Subscriptions	143
Audiovisual Material	10,601
Electronic/Digital collection	13,892
Total Collection	85,633

Karen Jensen
Library Director

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*Fiscal Year 2017
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