

Ainsworth Public Library

As one of the most important hubs for information in Williamstown, the Ainsworth Public Library is very proud to serve the town. Did you know that more than 900 people use the library as patrons? Our full time Library Director, Sarah Snow is a VT Certified Librarian that has been working in the library for five years. The library has four part time clerks: Autumn Bissonette, Monique Hayden, Joy Redington and Glen Townsend. The library has an active Friends of the Library group that is chaired by Ilene Elliott and Eileen Corriveau. The Friends meet monthly the first Thursday of each month at 6PM and work hard to fundraise for projects at the library. There are currently eight active volunteers that work in the library weekly. The library's Board of Trustees are Jill Plastridge, Karla Perkins, Carol Corneille, Katlin Burnor, and Helen Duke as the chair. The Trustees welcome suggestions, comments and feedback about the library and hold open meetings the second Friday of every month at 11am. Their agendas and minutes are posted on the library website monthly.

The library had some wonderful transformations this year. Larry Ellison and Irene Burd helped to create gardens in the front and side of the library (including cherry tomatoes for the Storytime children to munch on!). Larry Wiggins and Larry Ellison, helped to remove the cherry tree on the side of the building because it was interfering with our septic system. This year Karla and John Perkins gave the railings in front of the library a new life by repairing and painting them. Tim Lanctot donated a piece of glass for the circulation desk and it looks wonderful! The library appreciates all of the volunteer work that people have donated. We get so many compliments about what a beautiful building we have and all of the care and effort that goes into making it a welcoming and inviting environment.

After compiling our library survey from the last town meeting, people asked for three main issues to be addressed at the library. The first was our parking problem, the second was to have more morning hours and the third was more programming. We are actively working on the issues of parking, which include: limited parking, no parking spots for the handicapped, and safety concerns for patrons with children as well as the elderly getting in and out of their vehicles on such busy roads (RT 14 and RT 64). The library also does not have any crosswalks. Our Trustees had the property surveyed this fall in hopes of soon presenting ideas to the Selectboard for proposals for parking. We will continue to work with the Selectboard to address these issues until we can find workable solutions. We have adjusted our hours at the library so that we are now open 3 mornings a week (M & W 10-6, SA 10-2). The library is open a total of 34 hours and continues to offer several evenings of operation. (T 2-7, TH 2-6, FRI 2-7) The library offered a variety of programming this year. Highlights included the Summer Reading Program, Weekly Storytime, collaborations with WES (pre-K classroom visits monthly, Onward visits monthly, help with Capstone Projects and class visits to the library), two monthly adult bookgroups, two author visits, popular craft programs for adults, journaling programs for adults, a winter reading program and much more. The library tries to offer programming every month for a variety of ages. Look for our monthly newsletter online or in the library for more information of what we offer.

The library is utilized in many ways by many different ages of people. Our library cards are FREE (ages 4 and up), we do not have fines, and we offer more than books. We have DVD's, audio books, puzzles, 6 passes (reduced or free visits to the Echo Center, Shelburne Farms, State Parks, State Historic Sites, the Vermont Historical Museum and the Precision Museum), online services and a great place to sit and read the local newspapers. Did you know we order new books, audios and DVDs every month and that you can recommend items for us to order? Our space serves as a safe place to do homework after

school, our upstairs hosts our Young Adult collection, has comfortable chairs and work stations. Families love coming to play with our toys or meet for play dates. Want to use our building for a meeting? Contact the Library Director to get information on how to do that. We have a very active Interlibrary Loan service that makes it possible for the library to get items that you need that our library doesn't have; this service is free and includes audios, DVD's, books and more. Don't have time to come to the library? With a library card you can access more than 500 free online classes, e-books and audios.

The library continues to offer fax service (25 cents a page for local/50 cents a page for long distance), printing needs (15 cents a page black and white and 50 cents a page color), and scanning (free). We have 3 public computers, participate in ListenUp Vermont (a service that allows patrons to download e-books audio books for free), Universal Classes (over 500 online non-college credit Continuing Education Courses) and we are a drop off place for the Williamstown Food Shelf.

This year we started a program called, "Adopt an Author". Patrons choose from a list of authors and support the library by paying for titles every time a new book from that author comes out. Perks of the program include: recognition at the library, a reduced price on the book through the library's purchasing account with Baker and Taylor Books, a book plate placed in the book, and the chance to be the first to read it. For more information, stop in the library or look on our website. This is a great way to honor a loved one, highlight a special occasion, and share your love of reading.

The library began another important program this year, "Take What You Need but Leave Some for Others". An issue that the library faced was that toilet paper, paper towels, soap and such would go missing from our bathroom. That meant there were people in the area that were desperate for these necessities and felt they needed to take them. We created a space in our bathroom where people can come in and anonymously take toiletries, toilet paper, paper towels, toothbrushes, etc. as they need them. This program is by donation so if you find yourself with a surplus of: toilet paper, paper towels, diapers, toothpaste and tooth brushes, female monthly products, hand soap, or dish soap, stop in and speak with the librarian or clerk and we will be happy to add your donations to the shelves. And by the way, we no longer had missing toilet paper, soap and towels, etc. once this system was implemented. Win! Win!

On behalf of the library, we would like to thank the town for their continued support. The library is an essential community hub and we are grateful to be such an integral part of the town. Please visit our website www.Ainsworthpubliclibrary.org or look for us on Facebook for pictures, information and upcoming events. If you haven't been to the library yet, stop in, we would love to meet you.