

Vermont Public Library Annual Report – 2020

Narrative Responses

What successes have you had this year?

What's new at your library?

(Note – Library's reporting periods differ based on their fiscal calendars)

Abbott Memorial (South Pomfret)

Successes

- Before the pandemic, two programs stand out, a showing of a local film and an interview with a local author. The author talk was recorded by the local television channel and has been viewed by many.
- As well, we enjoyed a Moth-style storytelling event, a poetry reading, and a book discussion at the elementary school.

What's New

- Since the pandemic began, curbside service and take-home craft kits have become popular offerings.
- We replaced our interior ceiling light fixtures, because the others had deteriorated and were unsafe. The new ones are more energy efficient and beautiful.

Ainsworth Public (Williamstown)

Successes

- Our main focus was making sure that the voters in town chose to keep us a municipal library, which they did. When Covid began, the library was a hub for information and helped distribute masks, non-essentials and information about the pandemic. Because the library was closed, we were able to make repairs and paint the library inside. This time also allowed for us to have custom made bins on wheels for our picture book collection created. We offered curbside services which went much better than was expected and served an average of 30-40 patrons a month. We are very happy that through grants, we are ready for stage appropriate opening of the library. We look forward to being able to serve our patrons by being open for them again in a safe environment.

What's New

- Due to Covid, we are offering online programming which we never did before. Our weekly online storytime and online bookgroup have increased in number from when we were doing live programming. We have repainted the inside of the entire library and have readied supplies for re-opening in a safe manner.

Albany Town

Successes

- Wonderful live owl presentation with Vermont Institute of Natural Science in town hall in January, over 100 people in attendance of all ages. Also, we hosted a community back-to-school literacy fair and barbecue at the end of the summer that was a great success. We continued to host poetry and pie events, informal readings by local poets followed by pie. We are very grateful to be in the back of the town hall, and to have access to that space to provide programming for the community. We are looking forward to the day we can gather like this again.

What's New

- Audio and ebooks new through GMLC, very successful, especially with the onset of COVID in 2020 (outside of this reporting period, but grateful we had the GMLC membership in place and active to serve the community during 2020).

Aldrich Public (Barre)

Successes

- I think we grew closer as staff. In a global pandemic, we were able to adapt our services and continue to serve the community. We learned a lot, and shared a lot of stress and grace with one another. We stayed 'open', we stayed healthy, and kept our community safe.

Alice M. Ward Memorial (Canaan)

Successes

- In FY 2019 we said farewell to our Library Director Craig Varley, and new Director started mid-summer. Our successes included reliable strong wifi and internet access, building preservation with new windows and paint, paid for by the Vermont Preservation Trust thanks to the Freeman Foundation. Our rural library continues to be a lifeline for residents of our area and nearby residents of NH and Quebec, Canada.

What's New

- We have new exterior paint, new custom windows, a public phone charger bank, as well as a paper shredder for our patrons. We also obtained a business class printer because it is very busy for our community members who rely on us for printing, faxing, scanning and copying.

Arvin A. Brown Public (Richford)

Successes

- In 2019, the Arvin A Brown Public Library was awarded a National Network of Libraries of Medicine, All of Us Technology Grant of \$10,000, to enhance technology access and delivery of health literacy information. Four desktop and 2 laptop computers for public use were purchased with grant funds.

What's New

- The library has seen an increase in use for meetings by other community organizations. The Family Services Division of Vermont's Department of Children and Families is using the library's Community Room for visitations between foster children and their parents.
- Northwest Counseling and Support Services and Restorative Justice both meet with clients at the library.

Bailey Memorial (North Clarendon)

Successes

- We coordinated with the local elementary school Media Specialist (librarian) to have chaperoned class visits to the library. This included obtaining library cards and taking out books.
- Additionally, we added another "Books to Go" patron.

What's New

- We learned how to provide services while closed through "porch" pick-up.
- Our Library Board of Trustees held meeting virtually as well as outdoors.
- We learned how difficult it is during a pandemic to communicate with patrons and how important it is find a way to keep in touch thru phone calls, emails, word of mouth, etc.

Baldwin Memorial (Wells River)

Successes

- We expanded our joint-programming efforts. More than half of our programs & activities this year were done in partnership with other libraries and organizations.

What's New

- We offer a winter coat exchange. (Coats are donated and then freely available to anyone who needs them.)

Barnet Public

Successes

- Our annual Art at the library classes were well attended this year. We held a successful class for teens on making their own zines. We had teens come 4 weeks in a row. It was fun to have a different age in the library. We offered more large programs; a humanities speaker and Joe Citro were among the most well attended. Our events were popular this year.

What's New

- The Barnet Public Library enjoyed the company and energy of our new Assistant Librarian. She offered music classes at the library for homeschoolers. We have discussed offering music/ukelele lessons through the library in the future.

Baxter Memorial (Sharon)

Successes

- Interlibrary loan requests from patrons have surged, partly due to the rise in the number of homeschooled children in the area, but also simply because people are more aware of the service. It's wonderful to be able to offer ILLs since, being such a small library, we simply can't afford to purchase everything our patrons are looking for.

What's New

- Curbside pickup has been extremely popular, and I imagine that we'll continue distributing material this way long after the pandemic ends.

Bennington Free

Successes

- We have been successful in reaching our community in unique and creative ways despite the closure of our Library. Similarly, our community has been able to connect with us. Our Library "Take-Out" service (curbside pick-up) has been extremely successful.
- We continue to collaborate with area organizations including the Bennington Museum, The Southern Vermont History Museum, Vermont Reads, Vermont Humanities Council, University of VT Extension 4-H, Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union, Building Bright Futures, Bennington Baker Street Breakfast Club (Sherlockians) and the Vermont Community foundation.
- The Children's Room launched our Summer Reading Program by providing summer reading materials via the school lunch buses. Because of this collaboration with the Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union, we reached 1,500 children. We awarded hundreds of books to children who completed their reading record challenge. We included children living in towns from Pownal to Bennington, North Bennington and Shaftsbury and served families in Arlington and Manchester as well.
- In late spring, Youth Services Librarians, Carrie Gutbier and Linda Donigan resumed our Book Express program (sadly without volunteers). This program provides themed boxes of books to

childcare centers, schools, and in-home childcare centers. Our average delivery is 18 boxes per month.

- Our library held its first mini golf fundraiser in February. It was held throughout our library buildings: local businesses promoted their services, community members visited and explored the library, and families enjoyed a fun activity indoors in the winter. In a letter to the editor of our local paper, a family described our library mini golf fundraiser as an event that "reaffirmed all of the wonderful feelings we have for our library and for Bennington".

What's New

- The library added Hoopla in April 2020.
- Library "Take-Out" for children, families and adults.
- Grab-and-Go Activity Bags: Themed bags with materials for arts/science/literacy based hands-on experiences for FUN at home.
- Regular virtual programming for children and families.

Benson Public

Successes

- We started cookies with Santa and plan on doing this yearly.

What's New

- We put in a new hot spot wireless that can be reached beyond just our building.

Bent Northrup Memorial (Fairfield)

Successes

- Saw a significant increase in print circulation.
- Offered more adult programs and saw a new level of community excitement and engagement with them.
- Received grant funding from the National Institute of Health to purchase 10 new public access computers and an iPad.
- Conducted a series of community engagement activities (group and individual conversations as well as surveys) to create a 5-year strategic plan.
- Continued to build relationships with our selectboard and other community organizations.

Bixby Memorial (Vergennes)

Successes

- Through 2019 to 2020, the Bixby Memorial Free Library navigated the Covid-19 pandemic. One of our largest successes was our ability to adapt our programs to suit the reality of socially distance. We created a curbside pickup program for pickup of physical materials and attempted a laptop lending program.

What's New

- The Bixby Memorial Free Library has an entirely new staff team this year, with a new Director, Assistant Director, Children and Youth Services Librarian, and a temporary Adult Services Librarian. We're working on expanding our collections for adults, children and young adults. We've expanded our Wi-Fi for the public and our curbside pickup to five days a week. As we move into 2021, we are planning and hosting new distanced and online programs including new Storywalks.

Brandon Free Public

Successes

- In 2019, our successes were greatly focused around tightened partnerships with local organizations. The Brandon Recreation Department collaborated with us on numerous endeavors, including a regular trivia league and Spring Swing (swing dancing). We partnered with the local elementary school to host our local afterschool group and we grew our Crazy 8s afterschool math club for grades K-5. We further established our Teen Advisory Group and outreach efforts in our community and we partnered with Sherburne Memorial Library in Killington on their hugely successful Fairy Tale Festival. 2019 also presented certain challenges at our library. We were in the 3rd year of the town-wide Segment 6 construction project, which eliminated our parking lot and made it very difficult for people to physically get to the library. This is reflected in some dips in our door count and programming numbers.

What's New

- We started a 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program with the help of a Community Building grant from Children's Literacy Foundation and developed a circulating board game collection. We also changed our ILS and completed a massive weeding project in preparation for that changeover.

Brookfield Free Public

Successes

- The library had a successful year of programming until interrupted by the COVID pandemic. An adult book group had met just once, and involved people new to the library in open and engaging discussion. An after school knitting class for kids was successful as was an ongoing evening knitting drop in for adults.

What's New

- Outdoor pick up has made accessing library materials easier for some in our community. Demand for interlibrary loan has been increasing steadily. The sharpest decrease in library patronage has been for kids and families, a trend I hope is due only to the ongoing pandemic.

Brooks Memorial (Brattleboro)

Successes

- We have been gratified by the appreciation shown for the library throughout the community. We joined forces with multiple organizations to bolster spirit and morale and provided support through messaging and tech assistance.

What's New

- We have a new website! It is bright clear, easy and pleasant to navigate and easy and pleasant to update.

Butterfield (Westminster)

Successes

- We didn't do anything special this year. Closed March 15 due to COVID.

Cabot Public

Successes

- Our main success this year has been the addition of beautiful new cherry shelving in our reading room. The new shelving inspired us to continue with renovating the room by refinishing the floors and windowsills, getting new curtains and computer desks and rearranging the collection. It will be fun for the public to see when we can finally reopen, and is greatly expanding our storage capacity for our print collection, games and more.

What's New

- We were thrilled to have a very successful celebration of Black History Month spearheaded by a new library patron in our community. She brought in poets, rappers, musicians, and story tellers for an unforgettable series of events.
- We learned a lot about how to manage library services during the covid pandemic. We learned how to offer curbside service, improve our online resources, offer outdoor library sessions, and provide updated information to our patrons to help them more effectively access online resources.
- We also started a long-range planning process to determine current needs and wants of our community, and to develop a roadmap for the eventual expansion of service offerings for patrons.

Calef Memorial (Washington)

Successes

- The biggest success we had this year was that our patrons were faithful enough to come back to the library once we re-opened.

What's New

- We have some new additions to our Vermont Collections as well as adding some local authors.

Castleton Free

Successes

- We made fantastic progress on our elevator project, in spite of Covid. Meeting first in person and then on Zoom, we were able to collaborate with a wide sector of our community (Trustees, staff, Friends, town government & staff, patrons, and other community members) to collaborate on plans, funding & timeline for a small addition with an elevator and accessible bathroom. An architect was chosen & hired. Grants were written and submitted. The Friends pledged \$300,000 from a bequest to the project.
- We also received much positive feedback for our efforts to continue serving our community during Covid closure.

What's New

- We tried our best to "make lemonade" during our period of building closure, trying new things:
- We learned to use Zoom and had our first Virtual Book Clubs. In the Children's Room, we transitioned to weekly Story Hour on Facebook Live, and a few recorded outdoor Wonder Walks. We installed our first StoryWalk on a nearby walking trail. We circulated 35 Theme Bags filled with books and projects as an option for easier curbside borrowing.
- Our beautiful hardwood floor was completely refinished.

Cavendish Fletcher Community (Proctorsville)

Successes

- I am very proud how the library responded to the COVID crisis. When we couldn't give in person services we went online. When we couldn't circulate books, we added Hoopla to our services to support our patrons. We opened up our wi-fi and gave people access. Several people would sit in our parking lot and "hop" on our Wifi, as there is poor reception in town. We partnered with USDA and gave away free breakfast and lunches during the summer to those in need. We partnered with Everyone Eats and became a meal pick up spot for our citizens and reached out to include home delivery. We held our summer reading program outside under a tent so that we could serve our community and be there for our kids. I think we shone and continue to

shine to our community. We are currently closed to the public, but continue to provide books and movies curbside as well as printing copying and faxing services for free for the duration.

What's New

- We took advantage of being closed for several weeks due to COVID and totally reorganized our space, making more separate spaces for adults and children. We put in a multi-use preschool space, which hasn't been used as it was finished in early March. We also painted and decorated our space to make it more esthetically pleasing. We moved the circulation desk to make the librarian able to see all entrances at the same time.

Charlotte

What's New

- Pre-COVID:
 - Artisan Partnership with Frog Hollow
 - Slow Food Potluck
 - NNLM-Funded ABCs of Anxiety Program Series
 - Repair Cafe Partnership with Transition Charlotte
 - Seed Library Gardening Programs with Charlotte Grange
 - Better Together Book Club (including to local author visits)
 - Make a flashlight out of an Altoid tin
 - Partnerships with NAMI, ParentIn and Vermont Health Connect
- COVID:
 - Online Programming: History and art presentations
 - Online Story Time & Baby Time
 - Porch Pickup for Materials
 - Take & Make Projects for Adults and Kids
 - Activity Kits for All Ages
 - Charlotte Community Partners Resilience Survey: Funded by ALA Resilient Communities
 - Outdoor Charlie Cart Cooking Programs
 - Seedlings to Share & Seed Swap
 - Book Chat sessions
 - Remote 1-on-1 Tech Support
 - Remote group instruction (how to: Zoom, search for books & place a hold for porch pickup, Libby, Hoopla)
 - Partnership with PBS for cross-posting programs (started with Juneteenth)
 - Music with the Grange on the Town Green

What's New

- Most of this repeats what our successes were.
 - Pre-COVID:
 - Artisan Partnership with Frog Hollow
 - Slow Food Potluck
 - NNLM-Funded ABCs of Anxiety Program Series
 - Better Together Book Club (including to local author visits)
 - Make a flashlight out of an Altoid tin
 - Partnerships with NAMI, Partnerships with NAMI, ParentIn and Vermont Health Connect
 - COVID:
 - Online Programming: History and art presentations
 - Online Story Time & Baby Time

- Online Draw with Me Sessions
- Porch Pickup for Materials
- Take & Make Projects for Adults and Kids
- Activity Kits for All Ages
- Charlotte Community Partners Resilience Survey: Funded by ALA Resilient Communities
- Outdoor Charlie Cart Cooking Programs
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Chelsea Public

Successes

- The programs that were held in 2019 were successful. This includes a Winter Speaker Series for all ages, our summer reading program, and a breakout room for middle school students. Our Halloween party had a very large attendance, as well as our Annual Chelsea Chili Challenge in the spring.
- We haven't been able to hold as many programs in 2020, but our curbside and pickup window service were very successful.

What's New

- Thanks to the Friends of Chelsea Library, we were able to start an adult book club and winter movie nights in 2019. We haven't been able to continue either in 2020, but are hopeful we can start both in-person programs up again in the future. We also held a number of Tech Nights to assist patrons with computer and technology questions they had. To make technology more accessible we started loaning Chromebooks in 2020.

Chittenden Public

Successes

- The biggest success has been navigating the pandemic. We've found ways to stay engaged with our community while following the safety protocols we feel best keeps our patrons and staff as safe as possible.
- We also were able to have a celebration of volunteers prior to the pandemic as well as added a book group specifically for youth. These are two things we'd been hoping to make happen and finally achieved this year.

What's New

- For the first time, we have our own eBooks and audiobooks through Overdrive Advantage. We also now offer curbside service and have added many new resources to our website.

Cornwall Free Public

Successes

- Although the library has been closed since the middle of March 2020, we have invested in an online catalog through ResourceMate and we have purchased access to RBDigital and now OverDrive. We have a fairly robust curbside library service.

What's New

- The Trustees hope to reopen the library this summer. We will evaluate the current status of the COVID-19 pandemic and make an informed decision. We plan to purchase a new computer this year.

Craftsbury Public

Successes

- Our Barn Dance and Ireland Tour fundraisers both generated a lot of fun and funds again this year. We began a series of "Library University" classes; patron taught courses to promote skill sharing in the community. The children's librarian made community connections through a booth at the farmers market and the July 4th town "block party".

What's New

- In 2019 we began the planning process for a new addition to include a quiet reading room as well as a small "phone booth" for telecommuters, test takers, and other meetings. Funded by a donor in memory of his late wife, the Leesa Fine Room will be a quiet place of refuge in an otherwise very busy library space.

Dailey Memorial (Derby)

Successes

- We began a new program in coordination with a local couple, Carl and Susan Taylor, to distribute two books about Kindness to every 1st grade student in Essex and Orleans Counties. The couple financed the program, and the books were ordered, sorted, distributed, and delivered by our library to the local schools. Because the books were ready in mid-March, we were able to deliver them just as the Governor ordered the schools to close, making it possible to send the books home with each child right before the shut-down.

What's New

- We finished work on our solar-powered timber framed gazebo which helped us to save electrical costs as well as providing an outside spot for patrons and community members to read, use their computers, and simply relax. When the Junior High School next door to us opened in the fall, one of the smaller classes used the gazebo as a classroom while a music ensemble used it to practice. It also provided an effective outside site for the children's summer programs and story times.

Deborah Rawson Memorial (Jericho)

Successes

- Once the stay home order was lifted all staff got right back in and started our curbside service. Within a couple of months we were able to offer appointments for people to come in. Both were completely new to us but we did it safely and effectively. Curbside is so popular I think we will always offer that in the future.

What's New

- Abbey Pasquence is new at our library. She is our amazing youth librarian! She was just getting started when we had to shut down but she adapted quickly and has built a great fan base!

Dorothy Alling Memorial (Williston)

Successes

- The Dorothy Alling Memorial Library enjoyed many successful family and youth programs in FY20 with fresh energy and perspectives from our new youth services librarian, Jess George. Afterschool programs ranged from Dog Man and Harry Potter parties to a celebration of Women of Aviation Worldwide (WOAW) Week. Our “Discover Aviation” program was a highly successful collaboration featuring students and faculty members from Vermont Technical College’s Professional Pilot Technology Program. Hands on activities included flying a flight simulator and listening to live air traffic control.
- The library responded to the pandemic by collaborating with the town Recreation Department to establish a StoryWalk® along Williston's bike path. A new story was installed each month and was very popular with families. Take home craft kits were also a huge success.

What’s New

- The Dorothy Alling Memorial Library invested in some materials in different formats this year. We purchased a small collection of Wonderbooks, a print book with a ready-to-play audiobook inside. Children always enjoy hearing books read aloud, and parents are enjoying the convenience of having the audio and book together in a single unit.
- The library added four ukuleles to our collection of non-traditional items. We have offered some online ukulele instruction, and having instruments to loan has increased patrons' accessibility to the program.
- We have also added several STEM Kits to our collection covering a variety of STEM topics. These, too, have been very popular with families.

Essex Free

Successes

- Despite the challenges of the pandemic, we successfully established new and safe procedures in order to continue to serve the public. We have learned how to serve patrons in nontraditional ways and have expanded our virtual offerings and technology. We extended our wifi to reach people outside of the building, and we developed a large following with our Facebook and YouTube videos. We also found success with grab 'n' go craft kits. Prior to the pandemic, our in-person children's programming was thriving and our attendance at adult programs increased significantly. We also upgraded our four public work stations. After discovering mold in the children's area, the library underwent some major mold remediation renovations.

What’s New

- We are pursuing new online services for our patrons: Hoopla and Flipster. We are also developing our "Library of Things," which currently consists of ukuleles, snowshoes, puzzles, games, and a projector. We also hope to develop a new and improved library website and to develop a library logo.

Fair Haven Free

Successes

- The Fair Haven Free Library was closed to the public from March 16,2020 through until May 6,2020 when we began offering curbside service. During the closure we looked for creative ways to connect with our community. The Friends of the Library started a Grab and Go bookcase at our local Shaw's Supermarket. All the books were wrapped in wrapping paper with only the genre listed on the spine. We included books for all ages, even having a section of large print titles. The concept we used was based on the "blind date with a book" idea that many libraries have used. The bookcase was open from April through September 2020. In that time

7321 books were given away. The project was featured twice on WCAX Channel 3 and created much needed positive energy during a very dark time.

What's New

- During 2019-20 the library had to replace the pump for our downstairs bathroom and update the pump alarm system. We purchased two new computers and had a consultant in to upgrade all the computers in the building. We also increased our digital holdings through GMLC overdrive and added a zoom account and Hoopla.

Fairfax Community

Successes

- The library had many successes this year, particularly with our programming for patrons. Library staff worked with Fairfax Success by Six and the BFA-Fairfax PTSA to plan this year's Welcome Baby Social and Book Dedication for families who had or adopted a baby in 2018. About 20 families signed up to have a new picture book added to the library collection in honor of their child and to participate in a library celebration event in the spring. Collaboration with the Fairfax Rec Dept. and the BFA-Fairfax PTSA to put on the Community Egg Hunt was also successful. The library distributed many copies of March: Book One, which we were awarded as part of the Vermont Reads Grant. Activities for this program included a book discussion as well as the distribution of small canvases that patrons decorated in the theme of "Peace and Justice". The artwork was then displayed in the library.
- Our library was happy to participate in the Vermont Fairy Tale Festival with a table and activities. During this year's Summer Reading Program, our young readers logged 370.7 hours of reading this summer and many were thrilled to win prizes. Adult readers participated in a summer Book Bingo challenge with prizes as well. The library was very fortunate to have several generous supporters that supported guest presenters to be a part of the program and allowed the library to offer many prizes to readers. In the fall, residents of Fairfax generously donated Halloween candy that was distributed to townspeople who live in the village, and more than 40 trick-or-treating families visited the library for candy and costume photos on Halloween. There were many ongoing programs like Chess Club, a winter music series called Cabin Fever Café, and Preschool Story Time. Other special programs during the year included Family birding adventures, Glow in the Dark STEM, Exordium: The Planets, Butterfly Tales: Young People's Storytelling, STARBASE Eggs in Space, PJ Story Time, and the Fairfax Mini Renaissance Faire.

What's New

- One of the new initiatives at the library this year was a survey prepared by the Library Trustees and distributed to the community. The goal of the survey was to gather feedback from patrons that would help with decision making that will inform the drafting of a new Strategic Plan to guide the library for the next few years. In addition, the school and public library staff participated in meetings with the school administration to discuss potential capital improvements to the library's physical space. Meetings with an architect took place and the improvements considered would include improvements to the circulation area, the library entrances, and instructional and program spaces. Any changes made in the future will depend on the community voting to approve these plans.
- This year brought a new configuration of staff in the fall. The library assistant hours were increased to include additional time for program planning. This was a change from the library assistant and the program planner being two separate job positions in the library. Programming is planned collaboratively with the public library director.

Fletcher Free (Burlington)

Successes

- Pivoting quickly to respond to our community's needs during a time of great challenge is something we are very proud of. Our team grew tremendously, and it became very clear how beloved and vital the library is to the people of our city.

What's New

- The shift to virtual programming has informed us in surprising ways; we believe that we will continue offering some hybrid programming from here on out, even after the pandemic.

Fletcher Memorial (Ludlow)

Successes

- Sorting our way through Covid-19 and coming up with a very workable curbside plan.

What's New

- Since we are closed to the public, we have been very actively sorting out our collections, re-covering as needed, re-catalog if needed, moving collections around - just plain sprucing up where we are able. Weeding the entire collection and since no book sale, we have offered all withdrawals as Grab-n-Go in a covered ramp area at our rear entrance. So very appreciated by the communities we serve and a great way to move the discards!!

George Peabody (Thetford)

Successes

- The After School programs on Wednesday continue to draw new young patrons to Vermont's oldest library building still serving as a library.

Georgia Public

Successes

- The year 2020 called us to be nimble in discerning the essential. At Georgia Public Library, we listened, studied and reached out to respond to the changing needs of our community. This was our first full year on KOHA, staff demonstrated resilience, creativity and skill in meeting the challenges of a dramatically changed workplace. We upgraded our website, offered Overdrive Advantage and virtual programming in response to the needs of the community.

What's New

- We placed 242 direct calls to patrons to express our care and let them know we are still available for community, books, audio-visual items, and more. We pivoted to develop a continuity of operations plan, secure necessary supplies, develop on line content and curbside/window model of service. We offered a seed library and take and make crafts.

Gilbert Hart (Wallingford)

Successes

- We managed to navigate Covid-19 without shutting down completely, offering curbside services with reduced hours even as the lockdown began. We also initiated a community book path in July 2020 in partnership with the town conservation committee; 36 panels provide books on view in the recreation area along a beautiful path. So far, 12 books have been displayed and countless folks have toured the area which has open access.

What's New

- We have a renovated community space waiting for when the public can come back to meeting and attending various programs, both library and other-group sponsored. Our assistant librarian has completed her first full year of service and continues to work towards certification.

Grafton Public

Successes

- We've supported programming at our local elementary school, co-sponsored a very successful book group with a local natural history museum, hosted a popular weekly conversational Spanish group, and have maintained close contact with our patrons during challenging circumstances. We've been a clearinghouse for vital information and an emotional support for many-- with books, materials and communication.

Grand Isle Free

Successes

- We feel our Take & Make Bags and our curbside service were both great successes.

What's New

- We hired a new a new Library Director.

Greensboro Free

Successes

- 2019 was a year of collaborative programming. We held a poetry series for middle schoolers and a StoryKeepers unit with Natalie Kinsey at Lakeview Elementary funded by a VCF Spark grant, composting and recycling workshops for youth with the NEK Waste Management environmental educator, and a CLiF storytelling event & book giveaway at Caspian in partnership with WonderArts. Our summer reading program featured rocket building and launching and visits by Mike Metcalf- "Teacher In Space" and Gaj Birur of Peck Space Engineering. We also held a December Toy Swap.

Groton Free Public

Successes

- 2019 can be remembered as the year the Groton Free Library pushed hard to get the ball rolling to include more family fun activities. In 2019 we successfully added a family game night, coordinated a regular group of story hour participants, reformed our crafts & conversations group, and ended the year with a gathering of 200 people to celebrate the Winter Solstice! While none of these events are new to the Library-- they were groups that needed some added energy and spark to regain their energy!
- 2019 also was a year to look at the Internet service we had in place. After many struggles to offer patrons and the community good, reliable internet we finally successfully made changes, and now offer some of the best internet in town!

Guilford Free

Successes

- When the library was closed for COVID, we moved Storytime and Talk About Books online almost immediately. Both are well attended and more used now than ever before.
- Storytime attracts grandparent/child pairs, which are often in different states. This is really delightful.
- We even had a participant from France. She usually spends a few weeks in Guilford in the summer, but was unable to come this year. She attended Storytime until this past fall when she went back to school. Her family has actively used our ebooks this year, too.

What's New

- We're in the process of planning an addition to the library, which will increase our program space and provide a nice permanent outdoor space.

H. F. Brigham Free (Bakersfield)

Successes

- 2019 was the first full year of the library being part of Koha in the Catamount System! We have an online catalog!

What's New

- The Catamount System! A learning curve for sure.

Hancock Free Public

Successes

- We have survived the COVID Pandemic so far. The Valley Readers Book Club has continued to meet 10 months of the year. Meetings have taken place on ZOOM during the pandemic. A Knit and Stitch Group was formed and meet for a number of months before the pandemic. Children/Youth STEM programs met monthly until April.

What's New

- We are providing curbside services. We also provide printing and copying service. WIFI is available 24/7 from our parking lot. We have begun barcoding our collection in anticipation of joining the Audio Graphics VERSO program.

Hartford

Successes

- Our greatest success this year has been keeping our library active in our community in spite of COVID restrictions.
- We are constantly finding ways to keep connected to our patrons and the community at large. So far, these connections remain very strong.

Hartland Public

Successes

- The library staff were able to pivot to several new modes of library services after the pandemic hit in March 2020, such as Curbside pickup of library materials, Flipster digital magazines, curbside fax/scan/copy service, purchase and loan of two wifi hotspots, and chromebook lending.

Haskell Free (Derby Line)

Successes

- The 2020 financial year began on a strong note. After almost two years of heavy turnover in both the board and the employees, we were finally fully staffed with eager and enthusiastic individuals. The board had begun work on a new strategic plan, focusing on more community engagement. Because of the staff, we launched a new activity and program schedule, with immediate success. It was also looking like it would be the busiest year yet in terms of tourism. In just three months, usually considered as our slow months, we received almost 4,000 visits, including tourists from Germany, France, Spain, Estonia, Columbia, China, the Middle East, Mexico, Brazil, Cuba, and New Zealand.

What's New

- Due to the pandemic and our physical location directly on top of the US-Canada border, we needed to close our doors to the public in mid-March. When it became obvious that the pandemic wasn't going to go away anytime soon, we arranged for some core staff to return to work. We have tried find any means possible to offer services to our community, unfortunately with no success to date. But we have been productive, embarking upon a complete inventory of the library, an aggressive weeding project, and a reorganization of the stacks.

Haston (Franklin)

Successes

- Navigating the pandemic shutdown; instituting curbside pickup; the painted rock garden; trying to support the community in whatever ways are safe and possible.

What's New

- Curbside pickup, which has been very popular.
- Prior to the pandemic, we were partnering with other local groups on programming, and we hope to do more of that in the future.

Highgate Public

Successes

- This year has been the year of the unexpected! It started off strong in 2019 with a great summer reading program, fun and educational in-person programming, and great circulation statistics. Things took a turn once the pandemic hit in early 2020. Our library was forced to close in mid-March and we were not able to offer curbside pick-up until mid-May. The library stayed closed through the rest of the fiscal year, but offered curbside pick-up and curbside craft activities to the community as well as 24/7 WiFi. Despite the challenges the pandemic presented the library was able to pivot and still offer some services to the community. The curbside crafts were especially successful within our community!

What's New

- We brought in several new programs. This fiscal year we added a third story time to the mix with Saturday Story Hour. We also began offering curbside pickup to the community when the pandemic hit and the library doors had to close. This still gave patrons access to their library collection, especially new materials, just in a different way. The library also began offering curbside craft kits to children within the community. We put together a curbside craft program every week beginning in May and this was a huge success within our community.

Huntington Public

Successes

- Our wonderful Trustees and staff were able to close the Library to the Public on March 13 and begin offering "Books to Go" aka curbside service March 23!

What's New

- Due to the restrictions of the pandemic, we offered non fiction Storytimes visits to Homeschoolers. Being outside and at patrons homes was very exciting for everyone!

Ilseley Public (Middlebury)

Successes

- The library's main success this year was pivoting quickly and effectively to providing essential services remotely, something we had never done before. On March 24th, the library building closed to the public and the staff in response to COVID-19. During this time, the library

continued to provide core library services remotely, such as creating and renewing library cards; providing reference and technology support; building and maintaining the library's collections; and offering digital programs. In addition, library staff assisted patrons in applying for unemployment benefits. Crucially, the library continued to offer free high-speed Wi-Fi in the library garden. We suspended library fines so that everyone could continue to access library materials during a difficult and trying time. Starting on June 1st, the library started offering Outside Pickup Service, another major service model change for us. The library also received a grant from the Historic Preservation Department of Vermont to restore the historic windows in our beautiful 1924 building.

What's New

- We are refocusing our efforts on customer service and access: in 2021, we will roll out an improved library website, as well as Aspen Discovery, which will allow library patrons to search all library materials—physical and digital—in one place. We will also increase our capacity to provide high-speed Wi-Fi in the area surrounding the library building. Perhaps most exciting, the library will go fine free in July 2021.

Island Pond Public

Successes

- On the Anniversary of the 1969 Moon Landing (actually the day before) we had 180 participants in our program with the Fairbanks Planetarium "To the Moon". It featured actual Moon Rocks and the kids and adults were all fascinated and mesmerized by it. Several parents said "Thank you...Now we've got a new (5 to 8 yrs. old) astronaut on our hands."

J. G. McCullough Free (North Bennington)

Successes

- In 2020, the McCullough Library had a very strong first quarter before closing in mid March due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The library successfully prioritized public health through 2020; the library wasn't a vector for illness in our community and our small staff remained healthy. In many ways, the library was well prepared to meet the challenges brought about by the pandemic, and library staff responded with new approaches and services to meet emerging and changing needs. When it became apparent that curbside service would be possible, safe, and sustainable for staff, it was enthusiastically embraced by our community. Additionally, we brought our library account application form online, and welcomed many new members despite the fact that the building was closed. Our craft kits have been especially popular.

What's New

- While the library's mission remains the same, the methods are new, and some may be here to stay. Wiping down books with sanitizer is new and will likely remain part of how we care for the collection. Book pickup service is a new name for placing holds on items, and the books-in-a-bag approach will likely remain after the library reopens for regular service. Craft kits are new and will likely remain. Virtual programs are new and will likely remain. Through grant funding we were able to purchase access to Lynda.com (now LinkedIn Learning) for our patrons, and they have made good use of this new service. A community herb garden was planted outside the garden, which is just one part of our planned response to food insecurity. Library staff are working to position the library as a central component of the social and economic recovery that is ahead.

Jamaica Memorial

Successes

- During the fiscal year where we were physically opened, we created stronger ties with our local elementary school and started an After School Program once a week for kids upon sign up. We ran for a few hours from 3:30-5:00pm and had snacks donated, and fun activities planned. That was incredibly successful and fun to become more intertwined with the school. We also saw almost every grade at least once a week for book check outs and for lower grades they came up for story-times and book check out during the school week.
- Putting a positive spin on COVID, it was an opportunity for our library to become innovative in ways or reaching out to our community. We created a resources page on our website that had virtual, fun, and free events for kids, adults, and families. I (Cassidy Menard,) did YouTube story-time videos that I posted to our Facebook page. (This followed all copyright guidelines that publishing company released.) We tried out virtual events. We created tutorial videos for our community to watch to learn our to use our catalog system, how to place holds, when it came time to start curbside. We reached out to local newsletters and tried to seep our community up to date with what was happening at the library.
- Jamaica was also a recipient of the CLiF grant this year!
- We are working hard to remain connected with our community with hopes that we can open in the near future.

What's New

- JML has created closer ties with the Winhall Memorial Library which is only 10 minutes from us and we are working together to create virtual events, take home crafts, and giveaway goodies. We also joined the courier together!

Jaquith Public (Marshfield)

Successes

- We received a grant from the IMLS to launch a Marshfield Story Project with the goal of bringing together our community – young, older and in between – to preserve Marshfield's community memory through intergenerational dialog, oral history video interviews and creating a digital archive.
- We were selected as one of eight libraries in the United States to be part of the Rural Library & Social Wellbeing Project. The eight libraries were visited for in-depth interviews with community residents, as well as library trustees and staff.

What's New

- We began focusing on racial justice buy hosting a monthly program: Showing Up For Racial Justice and developing a racial justice book collection for children and adults.
- We started a weekly handwork circle program for people to gather, chat and do their handwork together.

Jericho Town

Successes

- The new library director submitting this support only started in October 2020 and cannot speak to this.

Jeudevine Memorial (Hardwick)

Successes

- The summer of 2019 seems so distant from our current status as so much has changed. Last summer we had many wonderful children's events and our first ever teen, summer Intern, Audrey Grant who did an incredible job. We had many fundraising events during the summer

and the fall for the Jeudevine Expansion Fund culminating with our Police Chief, Aaron Cochran, winning the Kiss-a-Pig Contest. There was a lot of good will and he kissed the amazingly cute miniature pig named Orville.

- The Campaign Task Force worked hard at getting grants and talking to people who might donate to the expansion fund. We sent out a large mailing to possible donors which included Hardwick Academy and Hazen Union alumni, plus the grand lists of Hardwick, Greensboro and Woodbury as well as library patrons. In the winter we continued to work on getting grants. Our chair, Jodi Lew-Smith worked very hard contacting grant possibilities and wading through all the many hoops to get funding from the USDA and the Vermont Community Block Grant Program which is also federally funded. She also got us a Vermont Arts Council accessibility grant towards the elevator.
- I was just starting a second round of programs with science-based book discussions from a grant from the National Science Foundation when we started to hear about the “novel” Corona virus, which ultimately was named COVID 19. I had the first few programs in January and February. Then.....COVID 19 entered our lives.

What’s New

- Once the pandemic hit the library became an important partner in the Ad Hoc Group: Hardwick Neighbor to Neighbor. The library got involved with this effort because of the Chair of our Board, Jodi Lew-Smith and our Youth Librarian, Diane Grenkow. I hopped on. The Library was the central point for people seeking information. This is part of our job in any case. The group worked to gather resources for the community, put them onto a website, set up a phone system to answer queries, set up phone trees by neighborhood in the community, and send out a postcard to all households with information on how to contact us for us to help them get the information that they need. The idea is to lay this foundation and be able to keep it in place for any future crisis. There is a really good team of people working on it. Eventually there was information on the town website and on the Jeudevine website. The library became the information hub for the group. We answered all the phone calls, emails and text messages. We directed people to the services they needed. The group made an online survey and through that we got a list of many volunteers. The library contacted the volunteers and matched them with people requesting help. It was a big, community effort and was a wonderful showing of how a community can stand up and help those in need. We are continuing that effort even now, helping people get information about vaccines, working with other community groups including the Center for Ag, the Hardwick Area Food Pantry, WonderArts, and others, to keep people informed and to put on some community events.

Jones Memorial (Orleans)

Successes

- More Home schoolers

What’s New

- Completed our collection of United States President's Biographies.

Joslin Memorial (Waitsfield)

Successes

- Being forced to shut down the Library this year presented the significant challenge of how to still allow our patrons access to the Library & its services. What we found out was that through detailed planning, we were able to successfully establish an online materials request form, as

well as a new patrons request form. Both have been used often, & as a result, we've had pretty good circulation, both physically & online, as well as a whole slew of new patrons.

What's New

- In April, we were able to successfully establish an online materials request form, as well as a new patrons request form. Both have been used often, & as a result, have had pretty good circulation, both physically & online, as well as a whole slew of new patrons. Additionally, we added to our added offerings to our list of online services, including Overdrive Advantage, & Kanopy, the latter of which has been heavily used by our patrons.

Kellogg Hubbard (Montpelier)

Successes

- We completed a number of building upgrades including leveling and refinishing parts of our basement floor and enclosing an office on the second floor. We drafted a volunteer management plan and a fundraising plan.

What's New

- We added Kanopy and Flipster for digital movies and magazines. This increased our total digital access to over 80,000 items. For the first time in history our patrons have access to more digital library resources than physical library resources.

Kimball Public (Randolph)

Successes

- Kimball Library hired our first Outreach Librarian, which has resulted in a plethora of new initiatives, among them: our podcast, "Kimball's Tiny Table;" publishing the "QuaranZine" and "HallowZine," featuring youth art and writing; a series of innovative and comforting Facebook posts to support community wellbeing when COVID19 closed the Library; and a downtown scavenger hunt. Other successes include presenting Drag Queen Story Hour, with an attendance of nearly 100; circulating laptops, which became critical when COVID19 hit and the building was closed to the public; and communal jigsaw puzzling that attracted community members who did not previously frequent the Library.
- COVID19 challenged us to be careful, creative, and compassionate with our community members. We learned lessons about how to adapt to ongoing change, how to remain relevant, and how to provide the best possible service.

Latham Memorial (Thetford)

Successes

- The number of people downloading materials continued to increase.

What's New

- A new Board of Trustees was elected at the end the year and is working on many new goals for the Latham Library.

Lawrence Memorial (Bristol)

Successes

- During this reporting period, Lawrence Memorial successfully hired and trained a new director and Nancy Wilson retired after 30 years of library service. Our successful pivot due to covid-19 allowed many patrons to safely access library service via curbside checkout, eBooks/audio books and virtual programs.

What's New

- We have a new director, Coco Moseley, and a new website. We expanded our virtual programming.

Lincoln

Successes

- We had a wonderful 20-year celebration in February 2020, with over 150 people, food, preschool singing, a skating rink and music. Also, we have been successful at keeping our patrons in reading materials; whatever the obstacles.

What's New

- Curbside is new, a result of the pandemic, but probably with us to stay (as an option). Likewise with exterior book cleaning.

Lydia Taft Pratt (West Dummerston)

Successes

- We succeeded in maintaining relationships with our library users and keeping our presence in the community on people's minds, through various electronic communication tools. These included regular email newsletters, posts in the Front Porch Forum, posts to our Facebook page, and emails sent via the Town Clerk. Additionally, our activities were publicized or reported on in print via press releases sent to the Brattleboro Reformer and The Commons, as well as articles appearing in The Views of Dummerston.

What's New

- We successfully transitioned into a library that provided curbside borrowing services, and we continued to offer lending of our own materials as well as those available via interlibrary loan. And, we transitioned again to being open for browsing. We conducted our Summer Reading Program almost entirely online, and expect to host more online programs, events and activities in the future.

Maclure (Pittsford)

Successes

- Maclure Library was awarded a grant to help finance the replacement of the fluorescent lights.

What's New

- Cookbook Club and Maclure Maniacs were two new, very successful programs.

Martha Canfield Memorial (Arlington)

Successes

- Our summer program sponsored by the VT Dept. of Libraries was very successful. We held a virtual dance program and had over 1100 views in the week it was available online.

What's New

- We have greatly expanded our virtual presence, due to the pandemic, and many more people are following us on Facebook, especially our virtual story time, so we plan to continue virtual programming, even after we can meet in person again.

Mary L. Blood Memorial (Brownsville)

Successes

- In late 2019, we began concerts and lectures inside the library!

What's New

- A comfortable new chair, a rug in the reading room.

Middletown Springs Public

Successes

- All our successes are around the pandemic and the grace in which we were able to maintain services to our small community despite our building being closed for 15 weeks. Our staff of two did an admirable job under trying circumstances.

What's New

- Besides PPE, plastic sneeze guards and book quarantine shelves, we launched a periodic library e-news using Mail Chimp. It became a way to support the community and keep library services in front of people while the building was closed. We used the initial time the building was closed to learn the program. We will continue using this tool long after the pandemic subsides. We also put some effort into increasing our visibility on FaceBook and Instagram.

Milton Public

Successes

- When the pandemic started we were able to immediately (within the same week we closed) switch our story time to a virtual Story time.

What's New

- Virtual Programming

Moore Free (Newfane)

Successes

- Outdoor programming was a hit with adults, children, and families. We had family yoga, outdoor book discussions, outdoor visits from our state rep, and more. We were blessed with mostly great weather. We also offered beginner computer classes, which were really helpful. We received a gift of two chromebooks that we could circulate to patrons. Indoor family yoga and movie nights pre-pandemic were also a hit. We put out a tent and tables and chairs for people to use our wifi. Also getting a wifi booster was helpful.

What's New

- We got a wifi booster installed outside the library, so we were able to broadcast our hotspot farther. There were people parked in front of the library and using the tent, table, and chairs we set up outside nearly every day during the summer and fall. We also added a monthly StoryWalk, which was a big hit with patrons and out of town visitors. In February, we partnered with RiseVT to offer yoga during school vacation week, which was a big hit and which we brought into the summer for outdoor programming.

Moretown Memorial

Successes

- Whether offering safe curbside pickup services, assisting patrons applying for unemployment, or providing free Wi-Fi access, the library has been uniquely positioned to keep the community connected to information and resources during the coronavirus pandemic. Responding to the need to be together safely during isolation, we created a variety of free virtual programming, including series of fun trivia nights hosted by MRV Libraries, several parenting book clubs and an Open Mic Night reboot.
- Once the Governor's Stay Home/Stay Safe order was lifted we organized safe outdoor programming with a month of summer learning events, a Fungi Foray, DIY Elderberry Syrup and a "Hike and Play" group for grateful families. As students returned to a hybrid school model we

created collaborative supports with the public libraries in our school district for families dealing with at-home learning.

What's New

- Due to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, the library engaged in virtual programming for the first time to meet the needs of community members isolated at home. We also upgraded our public computers, and became a free community wi-fi hotspot in partnership with our local telecommunications company.

Morrill Mem. & Harris (Strafford)

Successes

- In 2019, we hired a new Children's Programming Coordinator who has been doing a wonderful job and has been welcomed by the community.
- In 2020, we were able to offer curbside pickup service, browsing by appointment, and run a hybrid (in person/online) summer reading program, including a Story Walk at our local edible Pocket Park.
- We also established a WordPress site for children's programming, book reviews and activities to substitute for some of our in-person programming.

What's New

- We had the interior of the library painted. We changed the color of the walls in the main room, from a pale yellow to a creamy white, and our collection of artwork from Senator Justin Morrill's collection, including his portrait by Constantino Brumidi, look much better against the lighter color. The whole space feels fresh and warm, and we look forward to welcoming back our patrons.

Morristown Centennial

Successes

- In the 2019-2020 year, we instituted Current Events Cafes, in which local legislators met with community members one Saturday per month at the library to share coffee and light breakfast fare and to hear what was on people's minds. Meaningful and well-attended until the pandemic. The hope is to resume after it is safe to do so.
- During the pandemic closures, we offered curbside pickup until the shutdown order in March; we then resumed curbside and senior outreach deliveries in May and June, and have done a brisk business since.
- During the lockdown phase, the director daily collected, quarantined and sanitized incoming materials, maintained the building and answered telephone and email queries, provided help with digital resources and worked toward the long-awaited completion of the library's website, alongside webmaster Tom Kepler. While the pandemic conditions certainly presented many hardships, we count this as success because it was noted that the processing of materials prevented a backlog and the building presence and oversight staved off a couple of would-be HVAC/plumbing malfunction crises, while telephone and email conversations helped establish and strengthen rapport with patrons. Several reported feeling that they had a connection to the library despite the conditions. One patron said that it was the first time in weeks that she had had a real conversation with someone. The website completion represented a triumph after a series of setbacks, and we are proud of our usable, content-rich site.
- Rachel Funk, the Youth Services Librarian, recorded and posted weekly story times and other content throughout the lockdown phase, and once staff returned to the building in May, produced a lot of virtual programming for Youth. Staff learned to use Zoom. Adult book

discussions were held via email (members were Zoom-averse) and a virtual garden program and a community Vermont Reads discussion were held this summer and fall via Zoom.

- We got a lot of positive feedback about another, self-directed aspect of our programming: our kits. These were collections of art supplies, puzzles, color pages and other at-home activities, for all ages, which people could request to pick up curbside just as they would a book. The Howlin' Halloween Bags were especially popular--a bit of candy supplemented by foldable paper toys, masks, coloring pages and the like.
- Another success was Youth Librarian Rachel Funk's and Youth Services Assistant Cari Varner's Outdoor Story Times, offered in late summer and fall, in shifts, with sanitization of seating in between, as weather permitted. With participant limits and a seating design to keep "pods" of people separate on the lawn, with a sound system and big print books, these were another winner, and were appreciated by families with young children.
- When we reopened for the month of October, it was preceded by months of COVID policy-writing, scheduling, cleaning, procurement of PPE, installation of protective barriers and reconfiguring of workspace. We have had to find new, creative ways of serving our public safely, to the best of our abilities given the situation. We had to design a new schedule and structure for patron visits, and publicize our intent to our community throughout each phase. Given the unprecedented nature of all of this, our perseverance is a success.
- Our success this year has been in our adaptability and resilience as library workers, as providers of service to our community, and as colleagues in a larger network of similarly dedicated professionals.
- Library staff has a lot to be proud of this year.

What's New

- There is a lot of transition here. New Youth Services Assistant/ Outreach Coordinator Cari Varner joined us in February 2020, and she has been an active, dedicated and creative new team member. After over six-year here, the current director has accepted a position at another library, so there will be a new director of MCL in 2021.
- We have tried a number of new programs, services and strategies over the past year. Which will be COVID-specific and retired once the final phase of reopening is completed, and which will become a permanent part of the library landscape remains to be seen. As of now, curbside service is so popular
- As the current director, one of my longtime project goals is being completed as I write this: due to a generous grant from the Copley Munson Fund, and the donation of electrical work by master electrician and trustee John Buttolph, we were finally able to install automatically-opening doors in our lobby, so that our patrons with mobility issues will be able to enter and exit the library with ease. The work is being finished today. It is with deep gratitude that I observe this, since the requests of patrons inspired me to pursue the project. It will be gratifying to know that when it is once again declared safe to reopen, all of our patrons will be able to access the library with ease.
- This past year has proven our mettle, statewide. Whatever the future holds, I am confident that MCL will thrive, and continue to be for our community a vibrant gathering place, resource for services and venue for lifelong learning.

New Haven Community

Successes

- I think the major success we have had, this strange Covid-19 year, was in keeping loyalty and strong interest in the library alive and kicking in our town, despite lock down.

- This was reflected in our very strong Front Porch pickup numbers, our ballooning ILLs, our new patron sign ups, and the positive communications we received from patrons and townspeople.

What's New

- Other than Front Porch pickup, there was not a lot new this past year.
- We signed up for a virtual summer program for the first time, with limited success (8 kids) despite an incredible offering. (Tom Verner's Magic Tutorial).
- We did receive (once again) an incredibly generous donation from a town resident, that allowed us to continue with strong collection development throughout the year.

Norman Williams Public (Woodstock)

Successes

- The Norman Williams Library continues to offer a wide array of successful and popular programs for our patrons. All programs are offered free of charge. The library is greatly appreciative of the members of our talented and generous community for freely sharing their knowledge and expertise in a variety of different offerings.
- When the Covid-19 pandemic forced us to close our building to the public we adapted quickly to a new reality. Acutely aware that our library is a critical resource for people of all ages, our staff worked swiftly to transform our offerings, tailoring them with technology and content to meet the needs and interests of our patrons. We have learned to adapt and become more creative librarians in our determined efforts to keep our patrons engaged and informed.

What's New

- We began the year knowing that our historic building's heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) system was severely compromised and needed to be replaced. We raised the necessary funding and have installed a far more efficient, state-of-the-art climate-control system. We completed this project within budget, and have since also invested in a community solar energy project. We look forward to a much smaller carbon footprint as well as a significant savings on our energy bills.
- In July the library's trustees appointed Clare McFarland, veteran librarian and Children's Director as the library's new full time Director.

North Hero Public

Successes

- Had a great 2019 summer and were able to shift gears for summer 2020. Realized what the library was capable of without letting people inside. People were kind and patient which made my job easier.

What's New

- We have lots of great kits to check out and we have started a new relationship with the school.

Norwich Public

What's New

- NPL went fine-free in February 2020!

Pawlet Public

Successes

- Through a grant from the Children's Literacy Foundation, we forged a more active partnership with our local public elementary school. Our volunteer literacy specialist developed leveled text book bags for grades K-3, and created a reading and art educational series for grades 1-6. Our

adult public program series from July-December featured well attended potluck programs that featured an outdoor band concert, newcomers panel, and Holiday Tea. We also offered a "Vermont Life" skill share series to teach community members about canning fruit and how to manage woods, harvest trees, and prepare firewood. At the onset of COVID-19, we successfully publicized our online services and tutored patrons on how to access them. This resulted in 25 new online users.

What's New

- In December we hired a grant-funded Community Connector for 16 hours per week. The creation of this new position was in response to what we learned during our community-engaged strategic planning process: the 13 Town and community organizations that participated in the process wanted to work together for the community and needed a leader to help make that happen. The objectives of this position are 1) to increase organizations' effectiveness, to share resources, to inform the community about events and initiatives, and to attract more people to public service; and 2) to encourage and empower additional leaders to participate in solutions for town improvements and to drive initiatives to completion. Since January, the Community Connector has met monthly with leaders from these Town and community groups, transitioning to Zoom meetings during the pandemic. During the first six months, they became familiar with each organization's ongoing work and found ways to connect their endeavors. They worked together to find a solution to transportation issues for older adults in the community, and the Community Connector developed and publicized a directory of local service organizations that provide free transportation options. Their work continues to address the aspirations of community members documented in the library's strategic planning process.

Peacham

Successes

- July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020
 - In March 2020 at Town Meeting the voters approved an increase in the town appropriation from \$12,000 to \$26,000 per year. This increase will cover new software for financial and donor management, as well as increased hours and pay rate for the Library Director.
 - We had a successful series of Summer Programs, funded by a grant from the Vermont Humanities Council, called "Peacham Landings", recounting stories of why people have moved to Peacham.
 - Throughout the year the library is used as a meeting place for town boards and committees, and for other groups and classes. Some of the groups we worked with to provide programming include "Aging Well in Peacham", PAMfest and Vermont Coverts. We fed pie to over 100 cyclists participating in Fall Fondo. We started holding weekly Story Times at the Farmer's Market each week. In September we hosted Drag Queen Story Hour with Nikki Champagne and Emoji Nightmare. We held six successful gallery exhibits. We managed to hold three Saturday evening Coffeehouse Concerts Jan-Mar, before we had to close due to COVID-19 situation. The building was completely closed until the end of April, when some staff returned to work to fill requests for Porchside Pick-Up or delivery to patrons' homes. While the building was closed we communicated more frequently with the community through facebook and our email newsletter. We made calls to patrons who did not use the computer. One staff member created cards and envelopes and then sent notes to patrons she missed visiting with during her shifts at the library. We began online programming, including a continuation of our weekly

Friday Coffee Hour via ZOOM. We applied for and received a Payroll Protection loan, which was later forgiven.

- Post July 1, 2020 Though the library was still closed to group meetings, we served as a site for flu vaccines in the fall and then in January for assistance with making COVID vaccine appointments.

What's New

- We started a gardening group which met once a month for a potluck at the library. We also hosted family potlucks on Sunday late afternoons that included a Story Time and craft project.
- After the library closed we tried many new things including Porchside Pick-Up of book requests, ZOOM programs and Story Walks®. We added titles to ListenUp Vermont through the Advantage program, giving our patrons a wider selection and shorter waiting times. We added Kanopy, the streaming movie service. One of the trustees installed a blackboard on our front porch where the community could share messages of hope and cheer. We put a picnic table and benches on our front lawn, so people using our wi-fi would have a place to sit. Adirondack chairs were donated and added to the lawn - which also gave patrons of the cafe across the street someplace to sit outside and enjoy their food. Someone donated a subscription to the Caledonian Record so people could read the newspaper outside. Summer Reading began with weekly craft bags available for pick up at the library, the free meal site at the school and at the Farmer's Market pick up spot. Each week one craft bag had a coupon for a free quart of ice cream that could be claimed at the Farmer's Market. We worked with the Peacham Historical Association to create a Quest called the "Pandemics of Peacham Past", which was a self-guided walk around the village to places of historical significance. Each stop had a sign with a short description and one letter was specially marked on each. Guests were given maps and invited to "collect" the special letters and unscramble them. If they did so correctly, they received a coupon for one free beverage at the Peacham Café. Many of the new things that we began during the time of COVID-19 are so popular that they may well be continued even when we are "back to normal".

Pettee Memorial (Wilmington)

Successes

- This year was not an easy year, but I'm very proud of the way our staff and patrons have reacted. Our staff worked hard to provide services to our patrons. Likewise, our patrons have been incredibly supportive and thankful of our efforts. We have been able to be open since the end of June, despite some shortened hours, we have been able to continue most of our services, as well as adding other ways to support our community.

What's New

- Curbside pickup is something that will continue indefinitely and we added snowshoes to our collection, which has been very popular. We were able to take advantage of a brief period of time when inside work could be done, but the library was still closed to do some much-needed renovations.

Platt Memorial (Shoreham)

Successes

- We launched a Revisiting the Founding Era grant and had a fun time presenting those materials and stories in our community. We also greatly increased our programming options for families coming together to the library. Our summer reading program was really stellar-- we increased our programming offerings by 17% and our program attendance by 27%. We also received a set

of snowshoes from RiseUp Vermont in 2018 and circulated them with great success during the 2019 snow seasons.

What's New

- We administered our Vermont Historic Preservation Grant and repaired and restored the front entrance of the library.

Pope Memorial (Danville)

Successes

- The renovations on our Pope Memorial Library Community Center (formerly the Caledonia National Bank) were completed in May, 2019. We now have a beautiful kitchen, new floors, everything is newly painted, the upstairs is carpeted, and both bathrooms are renovated. We put in an additional egress which allows us to have more people in the building and also a new fire escape. The new back walkway is handicapped accessible.
- We now have an inside space to hold our book sales and an area to store the books between sales. We had an open house in December to show off our new Community Center.

What's New

- In March, 2019 we hired Marilyn McDowell as youth librarian. We love her energy and vast experience with libraries, children and all things literacy related. She is a welcome addition to our library team.

Poultney Public

Successes

- We were very proud of our Summer Reading Program. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, closings, and limits to gatherings we had to scrap our original plan. We were able to create a full reading program from scratch in a very short time. The entire program could be completed without coming into the library and was complete with challenges, prizes, outdoor family activities, take home crafts and STEAM projects, and custom artwork from a local artists for prize buttons. It was such a great program that we will be implementing some of the new ideas even after we are able to resume traditional programming.

What's New

- In an effort to make content available to patrons stuck home during COVID-19, we finally made the move to add more digital services. We have added Hoopla and Kanopy and they have been quite popular. We also added Playaway Launchpads for circulation. Many people in our area still do not have access to home internet. These tablets come pre-loaded with educational games for children, and do not require an internet connection, so they have been a great asset to families without home internet.

Putney Public

Successes

- This year's measure of success is completely different than any other year I have answered this question! I think the successes that stick out to me are all under the theme of "we kept going". We didn't miss one week of story time in the transition from in-person to Zoom, we continued to provide library materials to our patrons throughout the pandemic, kept providing programs, and were creative with our budget to get the most to our community. Pivoting relatively quickly is something to look back and be proud about.

What's New

- We have re-worked so many ways we provide services and I think we'll keep some of these new methods post-pandemic, specifically: The way we now emphasize computer use OUTSIDE the building and provide for it in a more active way. The way we broadcast programs now really works for people who couldn't make it before because they couldn't drive at night, so future programs might need to be a hybrid of in-person and Zoom. Providing Kanopy instead of just DVDs was a change that was forced by the pandemic but meets people's needs in a better way (and keeps them renewing their library cards!) We provide kids grab-and-go craft bags now in place of programs, but we might continue this once our building re-opens because they're such a big hit.
- We've also formed new partnerships within the community and strengthened old ones. I met weekly with the new local Mutual Aid organization, the food shelf, the Community Cares organization and other social service delivery organizations to cross promote our services and check in about community needs. This was a very powerful group to be part of and I think the library has many more informed advocates now that we've demonstrated our services during COVID.

Quechee

Successes

- Through the pandemic, we were able to offer hybrid book discussions, allowing those who preferred to participate at the library, socially distanced and masked, with participants, including facilitators, on Zoom. As the pandemic worsened we had to switch completely to Zoom. We never discontinued the several monthly book discussions and found the positive in being able to reunite former participants who have moved away or had other in-person conflicts. We anticipate continuing the hybrid form with some modifications in the future.
- While working mostly remotely, we kept the library visible and continued to provide services to very appreciative patrons. One example was a lengthy, daily poetry post in April providing links and readings of exceptional poets.
- Patrons supported this work with donations but also, very importantly, with wonderful words.

What's New

- Ventilation systems, necessitated by Covid, were purchased primarily through donations by our patrons. Plexiglass screens were built as well by a volunteer. While we'll be thrilled to remove a lot of the protection erected, the ventilation systems will improve the facilities for ongoing health of staff and visitors.

R.K. Kittay Public (West Rupert)

Successes

- The R.K. Kittay Library has enjoyed many successes for year! We hosted several events such as our annual No Strings Marionettes performance, this year The Hobbit was the selected story. The Easter Egg hunt was enjoyed by many children, and adults! Our patrons also had the opportunity to learn to make origami's, learn about local mushrooms, and about Snowshoes! The Summer Reading Program was a hit with the children, as was the Gingerbread House Workshop where children decorated their own gingerbread men and created a giant Gingerbread House.
- Our art shows continued to blossom, one of our receptions drew in over 50 people!
- Lastly, our fundraising activities continued to operate with the support from our community in helping us generate the necessary funds to continue our objectives.

What's New

- As mentioned in our successes the RK Kittay library has introduced a few new programs to its roster; The Gingerbread House Workshop, Origami Making, and a Mushroom Program. We also now have Snowshoes available for patrons to check out.

Readsboro Community

Successes

- Family oriented activities were received well and the parents were involved and shared photos. A to Z Reading Challenge was implemented to avoid the summer slide combined with the fact that the children were remote since March. Nailed It cake baking and decorating contest was a huge success. Character cake pans were loaned out and the family made and decorate then shared photos.

What's New

- Due to covid our programming was always in person and we were glad that the parents responded well to the home delivered craft kits.

Richmond Free

Successes

- Strengthening collaborative relationships with other organizations such as Radiate Art Space (art studio), Community Senior Center, RiseVT, Richmond Climate Action Committee, Richmond Elementary School, Green Mountain Audubon Society, Vermont Land Trust and others.

What's New

- Learning to make instructional videos for browsing the catalog, placing holds. Making music/story videos in lieu of in-person programming.

Rochester Public

Successes

- Our adult program continued to have strong public support. We had a successful fundraising drive to supplement our book budget.

What's New

- Contactless porch pick-up and browsing by appointment.
- Author events, book discussions, and Great Decisions Foreign Policy Discussion series online via Zoom.

Rockingham Free Public (Bellows Falls)

Successes

- We received a VT Arts Council Cultural Facilities Grant, which was matched by our Friends of the Library, to install a Hanging Rail System in the Library's Adult Services, Youth Services Department, and the Top Floor Meeting Room. The wall hanging system included 258 feet of molding rail, and materials necessary to use the railings. This equipment will allow the Library to hold art exhibits of students and local artists, in a safe manner and on all three floors of the Library.

What's New

- In March 2020, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Library took on a new job of creating and hosting the webpage for the Rockingham Helpers community group. This group formed in the wake of the health crisis to help organize volunteers and to connect those in need with those who could help. Our Youth Services Librarian represented the Library at their weekly

meetings, and also updated the website as more information became available. This new service was a natural extension of our role as an information hub for our community.

Roxbury Free

Successes

- I would proudly share that our library successfully served our community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Did we do so perfectly, absolutely not. But we did find ways to leverage our small size to our benefit and safely connect our community continually with resources throughout the pandemic. In 2020 I truly believe that was the best that could have been expected of our library.

What's New

- In 2020 we had a great new assistant director, Lisa Mercurio, join our ranks just in time to help navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. Somewhat unexpectedly, in 2020 we decided to start offering curbside pickup of library materials which seems to be really popular with patrons.

Royalton Memorial

Successes

- To help mitigate the spread of the Co-Vid virus schools closed on March 25, 2020 and our library closed to the public on March 26, 2020. In an effort to keep kids connected to the library during this time we developed a "Take Home Activity Kit" program. We identified the need for kids to have "off screen" activities that would encourage creativity, aid in developing fine motor skills and to have fun. The kits were designed to provide 3 to 4 activities including supplies and directions for the coming week. The goal was to create kits that would be attractive to both boys and girls and be adaptable for a wide range of ages. We also had to consider if the supplies for each craft would be accessible and affordable in large quantities, non toxic and be able to be securely packaged to protect from leaks and breakage. Each week the kits were planned around a common theme. We began the program by providing 30 kits the first week. The second week we increased the number of kits to 40 and due to demand we increased to 50 kits each week. During the months of June through August we incorporated the summer reading program into the kits. When our town's school opened to in person learning in September, we then transitioned the kits to complement each week's virtual Story Time theme. We expanded the program to include a monthly adult craft kit. We plan to continue providing kits until we can hold in person events.
- In August 2019 the town of Royalton celebrated its 250th birthday. To recognize this milestone as well as to encourage summer reading, we set a goal for our summer readers to read a congregated total of 250 books by August 17, 2019, the day planned for the town's celebration. Each participant was invited to march in the town's 250th birthday parade and they were awarded with a specially designed t-shirt printed with the words "I beat the 250 Challenge" on one side and "Royalton Memorial Library" on the back. Our readers not only met the challenge they beat it with a total of 260 books. We are very proud of our summer readers.
- April 1, 2019 we broke ground for our long awaited historical preservation, accessibility and expansion project. On February 15, 2020 we celebrated with an open house which brought close to 300 community members to see the new accessible, expanded building.

What's New

- Our renovated building is now handicapped accessible with a new addition that offers a "maker's space" kitchenette and a community meeting room. The new addition also provides

space to expand our collection, a history/reference room and a technology counter with charging outlets.

- During fiscal year 2019/2020 we re-organized our children's picture book collection. The picture books were previously organized by author's last name. Now the picture books are shelved by subject. Subjects are identified by a colored label and signage with pictures. The books are now divided into 12 categories, things that go, tales & legends, dinosaurs & reptiles, holidays & celebrations, seasons & weather, conceptals, growing up & life skills, rhymes/music & puzzles, bugs, water & marine, people at work and animals & pets. The goal is to encourage little one's interest in books, develop independence and confidence for them to be able to find their own books and encourage browsing through favorite subjects and themes.

Russell Memorial (Monkton)

Successes

- We passed the bond for a new Town Hall / library. We've been writing grants for the new space for outdoor gatherings, technology, handicapped door openers, and more.
- We mastered the "porch pick up" model of circulation for borrowing books! Our craft kits have been a big hit!

What's New

- We'll be moving into the new building this spring. It meets some new standards we hoped for like drinking water, adequate heat, and more space. It has a back yard with a great view of the Adirondacks.

Rutland Free

Successes

- Managed the Covid shutdown and restart and were active in the statewide library community in helping other libraries navigate curbside / reopening.
- We were ahead on all metrics at the time of shutdown, especially programming and downloadable circulation.
- Established curbside / concierge service.
- Added Kanopy video service, continued growth in downloadable services.
- We were the main distribution center for the "Out of the Box" program, offering take-home activity boxes to kids 5+. We were asked to distribute 30 boxes as a test and handed out 3,000+ over five weeks.

What's New

- Kanopy was a big hit with patrons.
- Concierge service (forced on us via curbside initially) absolutely took off and will be a regular way to loan items for years to come.

Sheldon Public

Successes

- With our library being open most of the year, only for curbside, we were able to offer patrons prompt delivery of books, videos and creative kits curbside. We reduced our hours by at least half and our patron count came down in direct effect to hours.
- Our patrons look forward to the weekly craft/reading kits we offer. Many say it gives their children something to look forward to every week.

What's New

- We have still been adding to our circulation and patron count. Where last years views to our website was under 100 this year it is 463.

Sherburne Memorial (Killington)

Successes

- We were able to host another Vermont Fairy Tale Festival with the help of great libraries across the state. We also upgraded our ILS system from Mandarin to Insignia, which has improved our service to the community overall. The pandemic allowed us, because we were closed for a number of weeks, to rearrange some of the interior library space to showcase more of our collection. Joining in the Valentine's Day Phantom Project helped showcase what the library can do to keep the community connected and thriving in difficult times.

What's New

- We have a new children's librarian and added a new person to concentrate specifically on story time. Both have been great additions to the library staff. We were able to purchase a new book drop this year as well.

Shrewsbury

Successes

- 2019 was a typical year for our library. We had our usual fundraiser events: Mettawee Theater, Haystack Dinner/Street Dance, Quilt Raffle (biyearly), Book/Bake/Tag Sale, and Holiday Silent Auction/Cookie Share. Our donation letter brought in the usual amount of funding for our several categories. We maintained the building by painting and replacing siding in needed areas. We reinforced the storage shed floor and had shelves built in this building to better be able to store items.

What's New

- If this section pertains to the present things really changed this year (2020) with the COVID virus. We closed the library to patron visits and became curbside pick-up. Then we opened for only 6 hours a week with precautions. We did not have any of our fundraising events but did put out our annual fundraising letter early and had a wonderful response. The Children's Committee did put out several crafts for the children to take home and do. They had a Cookie Mask Decorating event where folks pick-up cookies shaped like masks, decorated them at home with frosting and sprinkles we provided with the cookies and sent a picture to our website. This committee is now working on a Storybook Trail to be placed outdoors around the Library for children to walk and read. We are in the process of constructing these ourselves. We had a Little Local Library fabricated and placed on the porch of the local store in the northern part of town with books and puzzles in our REK mode (Return, Exchange or Keep). Puzzles became a very popular pastime for the community during this home-isolation period. We now are in the process of hanging a cupboard unit on the outside of the Library to hold more REK books and puzzles along with some unfreezable Food Shelf items. We are in the first stages of planning to take orders for floral bouquets on Valentines Day and Mother's Day.

Solomon Wright Public (Pownal)

Successes

- We were able to complete a major renovation and assess and weed our entire collection.
- Additionally, the staff, Trustees, municipality and architects worked together to finalize design and make value engineering decisions for our new library.
- Completed a salary study and presented to municipality with positive outcome.

- Maintained connection by phone and email with our users after closing for the pandemic and offered curbside prior to a gradual opening in June.
- Returned to adult programming using Zoom and offered taped children's programs.

What's New

- We are now offering delivery, curbside pickup, virtual programming, and switched from desktops to laptops.

South Burlington

What's New

- Worked with A4TD to offer job training with a retired adult.
- Collaborated with SURJ to offer anti-racism book discussion groups.
- Last summer of very successful storytime programs at Wheeler Park.
- Added Novelist Plus to our catalog for easy public and staff reader's advice.
- Started our seed library.
- Began labeling adult fiction series by order

South Londonderry Free

Successes

- Patrons appreciated curbside service when not open & are grateful for all the months that we are open. We are the only library in the area that permits patrons to come inside. Curbside is still offered if preferred.
- Book sales at the local pharmacy was successful & appreciated by people who didn't want to go to a library or bookstore.

What's New

- Art kits created by our local art teacher that children took home.
- Jigsaw puzzle exchange during these pandemic times.
- Outdoor story walks were appreciated.

St. Albans Free

Successes

- I'm hoping reading the answers to this question has to be inspiring after the year we have had. Like many libraries we see the success has been that we could continue to provide services to our patrons while remaining safe and healthy. A bit of creativity, a dose of strong-willed staff and an overwhelming supportive community made it all possible. We all say we are more than a building filled with books and this year has proven that the Library reaches out far beyond our four walls.

What's New

- We all found out what Zoom is.

St. Johnsbury Athenaeum

Successes

- The annual Gala was another success this year. "A Novel Dinner" was held among the stacks. We continued our community collaboration with the St. Johnsbury Academy Culinary Arts program. It was well-attended and a good time was had by all.
- The Athenaeum hosted a Hot Topics in YA literature event featuring several local authors.
- Youth Services hosted the annual Geography Fair and History Fair which continues to have large participation from area Homeschool families.

- The Youth Service Library successfully partnered with the St. Johnsbury School's kindergarten classes with a monthly visit storytimes and activities that tied in with the current curriculum. We collaborated to get library cards for all KG students and created an ongoing art installations at Athenaeum to encourage more families to visit and borrow books.

What's New

- The St. Johnsbury Seed Library is a community project that started in 2019 through the interest of one of our patrons. People can participate in the Seed library regardless of whether they are patrons of the Athenaeum. We recommend that members of the Seed Library bring seeds in from their harvest or contribute organic seed packets to help maintain the inventory.
- A monthly Athenaeum Book Club was started with the collaboration of several interested patrons.
- Youth Services started several new programs in 2019:
 - Lapsit Storytime
 - Teen Writer Series taught a local author
 - Paint by Pages, Picture book to art program
 - Art Fair for area Homeschool families

Stamford Community

What's New

- We took advantage of our extended Covid-19 related closure to begin a mini renovation project and make some long overdue updates to our space.

Starksboro Public

Successes

- Front Porch Library! Carts, crates, tables, sanitizer and signage were hauled outside the building. This allowed patrons to browse a limited selection, request from the entire library collection and visit with staff through a plexiglass panel hung in the doorway.

What's New

- First steps have been taken to create a new, inviting, young adult space out of a former work and storage area.

Stowe Free

Successes

- Stowe Free Library's successes in FY20 were threefold: programming, collection development, and COVID mitigation.
 - Programming – We had some well attended children's programs including weekly Toddler Storyhours and Dance Party sessions, two Escape Room programs ("So You Want to be an Astronaut" working in collaboration with a local NASA Solar System Ambassador and a "Stranger Things" themed session), a Spring Break Camp collaboration with the Helen Day Art Center in Stowe (attendees created a graphic novel), and a Halloween Open House including face painting (300 attendees). For adults, the Library satisfied the Rural Gateways' Pushing the Limit STEM for adults grant requirements with 4 book discussions - Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mendel, Flight Behavior by Barbara Kingsolver, The Diving Bell and the Butterfly by Jean-Dominique Bauby, and Love, Life and Elephants by Dame Daphne Sheldrick. In response to the discussion of the Sheldrick book, The Friends of the Stowe Free Library sponsored through the Rural Gateways Grant and the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, a year-long adoption

of Naleku, a baby elephant, living in a Nairobi Nursery. Updates on Naleku's development were announced on the Library's Facebook page. The Library also collaborated with Lamoille County Librarians and the Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District to provide presentations on composting. Other successful adult programs were the onsite and online book talks at the Copley Woodlands senior center and the inside, outside, and online book talks to adults who prefer YA novels.

- Collection Development – The Library continued to address lost titles from the December 2018 library flood. Success is the fulfillment of replacement orders, the shuffling of books on the bookshelves, and the smiling faces of the patrons. The preserved/reconditioned local Stowe Reporter issues dating from 1954 to 2018 that were water damaged were returned to the library. All issues were arranged in the newly refurbished dry room of the library.
- COVID Mitigation – The Library and Library Trustees worked on COVID mitigation plans when Vermont went down on lockdown in March of 2020. Mitigation procedures were put in place and staff returned to the library in June. Returned library items were accepted in June (the end of the fiscal year) and plans were in place to safely restore some library services. As Director of SFL, I commend my staff for pitching in, accepting the risk, and devising alternate plans for service. The silver lining of the unfortunate COVID-19 pandemic era has been growth as a library team.

What's New

- The Stowe Free Library Board of Trustees worked with Gary Deziel of the UVM Extension office to create an Endowment Policy. The policy has been completed and approved.

Swanton Public

Successes

- We are continuing to modernize - we converted our ILS to Koha this year, which has been FANTASTIC in terms of data analysis; we offer streaming video through Kanopy; we restored our historic windows, making them a.) a bit more energy efficient, b.) beautifying them, and c.) helping to preserve them for their next hundred years; we gave away hundreds of books at Halloween and were sold out for our Annual Harry Potter Night (take-home kits this year).

What's New

- Streaming video is available at the Library via Kanopy. We also have an events calendar that let's members of the community submit and create their own tickets for events (subject to approval).
- Also, in this time of COVID, remember you can always have materials delivered to you within the town.

Tenney Memorial (Newbury)

Successes

- Renovation work done on our building, taking advantage of High Mowing Organic free seeds offer to bring new people into the library, lured a few more volunteers, making our programs better known...but especially continuing and making an annual event of our support of the Poetry Slam starring children from Newbury Elementary School and our 3rd annual program of local Master Story Tellers.

What's New

- We have started loaning jigsaw puzzles to adults and this is catching on. Many people have started donating puzzles, too.

Townshend Public

Successes

- In spite of challenges this year, we were able to pivot as required and still provide services to the community.

What's New

- Take and make kits.

Vernon Free

Successes

- Programs and groups remained active this year. The library continued to be a "community meeting place" for many. The last 3 months of the fiscal year, the library closed it's door during the Governor's stay at home order during the COVID-19 pandemic. There was no interest by the various groups in continuing to meet electronically.
- Our curbside service started the last 6 weeks of this fiscal year and was getting used more and more.

What's New

- Curbside service is a new service for the library.

Wardsboro Free Public

What's New

- Our long-time library staff of Jill Dean and Jennifer Finaldi Children's Librarian and Nancy Dawson resigned in July of 2020. During the absence of a paid staff, the library was run by a team of volunteers for loaning of books. The Board of Trustees hired Beth Liller as the new library director effective November 9, 2020.

Warren Public

Successes

- We were named a 2019-2020 CLif Rural Libraries Grant recipient. In addition to receiving new books for our collection, our co-recipients, the Warren School, also received new books for their collection and to give away to every student.
- During the winter, we co-sponsored a series of contradances in our town hall (above the library) with the Warren Arts Commission. These community-building events were attended by all ages and abilities.
- Our Peeps Diorama contest continues to be an event that people really look forward to. This year we added a reception/award ceremony that attracted 35 people to celebrate creativity and, perhaps, some silliness.
- The collaborative efforts with the other libraries of the Mad River Valley (Joslin Memorial and Moretown Memorial) on our summer learning program is a true testament to our strength in numbers. It has become a truly valley-wide program and families look forward to seeing what we have to offer. By pooling our time, money, and effort, we offered 11 programs over 4 weeks, attracting almost 400 people in total.

What's New

- In the Fall of 2019 we partnered with the Central Vermont Council on Aging to provide a weekly Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program.
- In youth services, we added a creative writing series for homeschoolers. We also lowered the age requirement for our Free-Play Friday afterschool program to include first through third graders (had only been fourth through sixth). This was wildly successful and resulted in us

making changes to the program in 2020 to accommodate the number of children who wanted to participate while working within our limited library space.

Waterbury Public

Successes

- Some of these items are also new. Notable successes in 2019 include -
- Outreach:
 - In the fall our new Patron Services staff person began making story time and delivery visits to Childcare providers
 - Worked with local school to send out a library letter to all parents for the first time
 - A staff member began reading for the ABLE recording project
 - We partnered with several local organizations to host collection boxes in the library for a variety of drives
- Patron Services and Programs:
 - After-school programs were full most weeks
 - Drag Queen Story Hour was well attended and we experienced no negative incidents
 - Adult programs increased, and were generally quite well attended
 - Art installations featuring all local artists were beautiful and well received (new one about every 6 weeks)
 - Seasonal open house featured an ugly sweater contest, which was great fun
 - Monthly tech classes were appreciated by patrons and often packed
 - A VHC program motivated the launching of a Race Conversation program which ended up going for 18 months and resulting in the formation of the Waterbury Area Anti-racism Coalition
- Other:
 - We successfully switch from stand alone to membership in GMLC for our audio and ebook collection
 - The new State Trooper who covers Waterbury in the daytime came to a staff meeting for introductions and a chat
 - Our new staff member started working on her VT Public Librarianship Certification
 - Visits, circulation, computer use and programs attendance all rose significantly from 2018 to 2019

What's New

- 2019 was a year of expansion for the Library. The following are some highlights of new initiatives and activities.
 - Patron Services and Programs:
 - Added a Community Resources page to our website
 - Began borrowing small collections of large print books from the ABLE library for our patrons
 - Added nontraditional items including a telescope and 10 pairs of snowshoes
 - Provided free tick removers to patrons
 - Held our first annual Puzzle Swap
 - Worked with local cable channel to begin filming and posting some of our adult programs for 24/7 access
 - Added several new Area Attraction Passes to our lending program
 - Director began sending a Welcome Letter to each new patron
 - Circ. Staff created a new multipage brochure for new patrons
 - Facilities:

- With financial support from the Friends and Commissioners, added new furnishings, toys and puzzles to the Youth area.
- Started up an ongoing book sale with our Friends group. Shelves were built by VT Correctional Industries
- Installed privacy screens on public computers
- The Town installed a large generator that will power the municipal complex (which includes the library) during power outages.
- Added blinds for large windows in reading areas and in bathrooms
- Staff:
 - After a long struggle to get it funded, we added a new part time position called Patron Services Manager
 - Most staff attended the ARSL conference held in VT
 - Help in-service trainings: Stop the Bleed, Narcan, Opioids, new technology, Active Threat Management
- Other:
 - Non-resident fee was increased from \$10 to \$25

Waterville Town

Successes

- In 2019, we had the annual sledding party, a greeting card making workshop, and a visit with children from the Waterville Elementary school led by the school librarian and two trustees.

What's New

- The Waterville Historical Preservation board is setting up an area with displays in the Library building.

Weathersfield Proctor (Ascutney)

Successes

- The WPL YouTube channel was reestablished with twice-weekly video story times.

West Hartford

Successes

- The Farmer's Market continued to be hosted here at the library last summer and into the fall. The Friends of the West Hartford Library and the library hosted our annual Village Party on the grounds of the library with a program by Vins, live music, a barbecue, craft booths, silent auction, and book sale. Of course, we got rained out near the end again. We started a small garden and joined in the Town of Hartford's Resilience Committee Potato Fest by growing our own potatoes to share. We have since added to this raised bed garden and grew vegetables and herbs to share with our patrons. There were many Fence Story Strolls of picture books.

What's New

- My mother in-law's general store dollhouse was added to the library. It was generously refurbished and updated by our patrons Wendy and Herb Yohe. It is now called the West Hartford General Emporium. All patrons are enjoying visiting the past, circa turn of the century.
- During this pandemic, we have been offering family friendly take-home crafts to our patrons available in a curbside bin outside the library.
- We tried to continue our Craft Night with a gathering outside the library this spring weekly. It quickly turned into a social activity instead. It was just so nice to meet and greet socially and distantly during the Spring and Summer months. We bought two additional picnic tables to

accommodate us along with a few tents. One of the tents met with a demise when water dumped on it during a large storm. Lesson learned there, do not put up a tent close to your library roof runoff.

- The Town of Hartford Coalition for Hunger set up free lunches every day this past Summer at our library. We provided the picnic tables and they had a tent. Many Appalachian Trail Hikers were also able to benefit from the lunches if they happened to walk by the library at the right time.

Westford Public

Successes

- It's hard to reflect back to the time period beginning 7/1/2019. Everything seems so recently overshadowed by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is really nice to look back and see all the wonderful things we did in the past.
- We had a very successful Summer Reading Program about space. We had almost daily activities and lots of crafts and materials went out. In the fall, we partnered with our local school and added in visits from a private school, operating as their school library. Our adult book group continued to grow and read very engaging books. We added a new program - CookBook Club which brought in a new variety of people to the library. We added a few new "clubs" to our afterschool programming - like LEGO and coloring clubs.
- We also made some major improvements - replacing a failing porch and entrance ramp with a new, sturdy, and accessible porch, steps, and ramp. We also improved lighting in the building and lined and capped the chimney. These were costly improvements, but they were necessary in order to keep the library in good repair and as an attractive and accessible place for all.
- Then COVID-19 stopped us in our tracks.
- We closed the building on March 18, but we did not stop our services. We pivoted immediately to provide curbside service, online book group, expanded ebook and audiobook collections, and digital story times (500 views in our first month!). We even ran our popular Summer Reading Program, enrolling 77 children. We reopened in person services on August 1 and then closed again at the end of November.
- The library remains at the heart of the community. During the pandemic we became a food shelf collection site when other locations were closed, we distributed Green Up Day bags, we partnered to collect gear for the Winter Wear Share program, and we cultivated an already strong partnership with the Westford Conservation Commission to provide special hikes, story walks and unique trail experiences for Westford hikers of all ages.
- During COVID, the library worked on several lighting and drainage projects, was deep cleaned, including windows and carpeting, and made a thoughtful and well-crafted reopening plan that has become the model for other libraries and community organizations.

What's New

- Perhaps the thing that has impacted our community the most is the extension of our WIFI network. The library secured grant funding to install a seamless mesh network (this actually fell at the very beginning of July 2020, so it will go one next year's stats report), providing WIFI to our entire town common. This service allowed space and privacy for distance learning, tele-medicine, vital internet usage, and some well-deserved distractions. This service, growing every month, sees almost 100 users a day!
- Besides that, we continue to provide curbside and virtual services and will base our reopening on state, local and national health and scientific data.

Westminster West Public

Successes

- We got together an automation committee and are now well on the road to becoming real members of the 21'st century!

What's New

- We have nice new and bright lights outside and an upgraded handicap ramp.
- We also installed a nice projector and I look forward to lots of viewing events after the pandemic.

Whitingham Free Public

Successes

- Summer reading 2019 - Hosting programs at the local summer camp.

Windsor Public

Successes

- 100 Fall Frolics and Finds.
- Breakout EDU
- 191 Rest Stop Bake Sales and a new Summer send-off event for fundraising.

What's New

- New copier/faxer/scanner
- 5 new computers with Windows 10 thanks to a grant from GE Elfun.

Winhall Memorial

Successes

- Fiscal year 2019/2020 we continued to welcome the community to our regular events such as our monthly community luncheons in collaboration with the Winhall Community Arts Center, Book Discussion, CookBook Club, and Artist Receptions (artists display their creations in our space). The children from The Mountain School at Winhall continued their field trips to the library this FY. We had a successful Summer Reading program kicked off by Ed Popielarczyk's Magical Flea Circus. In September, Dawn worked with our local community media station, GNAT-TV, on a video for Banned Books Week. We were elated to be a recipient of the Children's Literacy Foundation's Rural Libraries Grant (although the pandemic has kept us from having phase 2 of the giveaway at the school). Delicious cookies were shared at our Holiday Cookie Swap. The library was featured on the Sisters In Crime New England website in February 2020. Also, throughout February, we held our popular Blind Date With a Book event. Of course, the world is completely different since we closed the building to the public in March. Our WiFi was open to the public throughout. We maintained online services and made sure to utilize our website and social media to share vital information for the community. We began curbside pickup and printing services on May 19th, 2020.

What's New

- Our Book Discussion Group rolled with the punches and met virtually after the library building was closed due to COVID-19. We adapted, and in the warmer months were able to meet outside. We begin an Armchair Traveler series in January 2020 and hope to offer something similar in the next FY. In November 2019 we expanded our hours to 16, adding Wednesdays. Unfortunately this was put to a halt in March 2020. We have made great strides in inventorying and automating our inventory in FY 2019/2020.

- Basically our numbers were not only affected by the pandemic, but in large part due to the road work along Route 30 in front of our library. This project ran from approx. April 2019 till October 2019. Our summer numbers of circ items were down due to the difficulty of people being able to access the library. The road construction basically ripped up the road for approximately 10 miles and left it that way while side work was completed. It was a complete nightmare. My normal commute of approximate 20-25 mins turned into an hour. I know that people were avoiding route 30 completely, effectively avoiding the library.

Winooski Memorial

Successes

- Continued strong community programming and youth engagement. With the onset Covid-19, we were quickly able to pivot to curbside pickup and home delivery as well as launch a robust virtual read-aloud series.

What's New

- Longtime director Amanda Perry left after 16 years at the helm. She was replaced in October by new director, Nate Eddy.

Wm. & Lucy Rand Memorial (North Troy)

Successes

- In 2019 we had a very successful children's program and we started an adult book club that included 6 members which was a huge success for us.

Woodbury Community

Successes

- In this odd year, the trustees showed up as the mighty rock of the library. They supported the librarian during the initial closure phase and supported a slow reopening. When the librarian left in the fall, and her replacement left shortly thereafter, the trustees continued to keep the library open and running. This is an amazing testament to the power of volunteers who love their community and library.

Worthen (South Hero)

Successes

- The Worthen Library opened this year! It was a huge accomplishment by our library board and our broader community to fund raise, publicly support, and physically move the books to the new location. We really hit the ground running with new and exciting programming that wasn't possible in our old location. We had daytime hours year-round for the first time ever.