

ACUSHNET PUBLIC LIBRARY

Continuing to use the FY2019-2023 Strategic Plan as a guide, Library staff and the Board of Trustees made it a priority to increase hours of operation at the Library in 2019. Friday hours had long been requested, and staffing levels now allow for the increase in hours. The Library saw an average of 133 additional checkouts per week by opening for four hours on Friday afternoons. Initiatives launched in late 2018 by the SAILS Library Network made an impact throughout 2019: automatic renewals of items that are renewable and a mobile app are two ways the Library is now easier to use than ever before.

Additional 2019 highlights include:

- A 45% increase in overall circulation from 2018, with over 46,000 children's books borrowed throughout the year.
- A 15% increase in program attendance from 2018, with 4,500 children, teens and adults visiting the library to attend an event.
- With donated funds, five brand new PCs, featuring Windows 10, were purchased and installed for public use. The Laptop Loan program, funded by the Friends of the Acushnet Public Library, continued to be of great service.
- 304 new library cards were issued.
- Presentations from local and regional authors including Jeff Belanger, Brian Murphy, and Ted Reinstein, art workshops, Portuguese fado musician Jose Vinagre, and a popular outdoor summer concert series.

Library Mission and Offerings – Materials, Programs, Services

The mission of the Acushnet Public Library is to inspire lifelong learning and strengthen the entire community, through its materials, programs and services, in a welcoming space that is open to all.

The Library offers books, DVDs, audiobooks, music CDs, eBooks, newspapers, magazines, public computers, wifi, online databases, two Study Rooms, and mobile device and technology assistance, all at no cost. Print subscriptions to The Standard Times, The Advocate and the Sunday Boston Globe are held, in addition to over 80 print magazine subscriptions. There are two ways to download books, DVDs, music, and more to personal devices and at no cost to Acushnet Public Library cardholders: Overdrive and hoopla. Digital magazines were added to the Overdrive catalog in 2019. Printers, a copy machine, and a fax machine are available to the public for a small fee.

Free children's programs support emerging literacy and are always in demand. Regular story times are offered throughout the year. In 2019, the library partnered with the local PACE program to offer play group style meetups for parents and caregivers with their

young children. A 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten initiative was launched in the spring and continues to be popular. The annual Summer Reading Program encourages children to read during the summer months while reinforcing the skills gained during the school year. Hands-on programs for kids, including LEGO Club and Take Apart Workshops, are sought after. The Library also offers programs for adults. Member-driven book groups and a Movie Club meet monthly, in addition to a Knitters Group that meets bimonthly. Regular Technology sessions are scheduled. The delivery service, for homebound patrons, continues. The Community Room attracts various local and state non-profit groups to hold meetings and workshops. The monthly office hours for Acushnet's State Representative, Girl Scouts meetings, and the 2019 session of the Council on Aging's Memory Café are just a few specific examples of how the Community Room is used.

The Library currently holds visitor passes to Buttonwood Park Zoo, The Hall at Patriot Place, Massachusetts Parks Pass Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), Mystic Aquarium, New Bedford Whaling Museum, Plimoth Plantation, Robbins Museum of Archaeology, Roger Williams Park Zoo, and USS Constitution Museum. Patrons in good standing are able to check out passes, which provide free or discounted admission to these destinations.

The Library's Museum Pass Program, Laptop Loan program, Library of Things, featuring a telescope, cookie cutters, and cake pans, as well as many special events are made possible by the generosity and dedication of the Friends of the Acushnet Public Library, a non-profit community service organization that supports and enhances library services for the community. Information about how to join the Friends and the group's work can be found on Facebook at www.facebook.com/AcushnetPublicLibFriends and on the Library's website.

To obtain a free library card, please present a photo ID and proof of address. Children ages 5+ may have a card with parental permission. No card is required to use materials and services within the Library, with the exception of public computers.

State Certification and Interlibrary Loan Benefit for Patrons

The Library maintained state certification in 2019. Required: a Director with a Master's Degree in Library Studies from an accredited institution and certification by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners; a minimum of 40 hours open per week; a minimum of 16% of the total budget expended on materials; a municipal appropriation that increases by 2-1/2% each year over a three year average.

Certification entitles Acushnet residents to borrow materials from other Massachusetts libraries and qualifies the Town to apply for state aid and state grants to libraries, which allows the Library to provide residents with a wider variety of materials and services.

The Library is a full voting member of the SAILS Library Network. Through SAILS, library patrons have access to the collections of over 70 libraries. In addition to the automated system, SAILS provides cataloging services, technical support and continuing education. The SAILS system allows users to search the catalog, reserve materials, and renew items from a home PC or on a mobile device.

The Library is also a member of the Massachusetts Library System. MLS provides delivery of materials between libraries, regional reference and inter-library loan service, on-line databases, staff training, Summer Reading materials, and professional consultants at no charge to the library.

Library Hours of Operations, Staff, and Board of Trustees

The Library is open year-round. Hours of operation are 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., Monday and Wednesday; 1:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday; 1:00 p.m. – 5:00p.m., Friday; and 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Saturday. The telephone number is 508-998-0270 and the fax number is 508-998-0271. The website is www.acupl.org, and the Facebook page is www.facebook.com/AcushnetPublicLibrary.

Staff of the Acushnet Public Library: Dina M. Brasseur, Director, M.S.L.I.S.; Sandra Medeiros, Patron Services Associate; Bethany Vieira, Children’s Room Assistant; Elisabeth Botelho, Dolores Henry, Kate Lindia, Mary Marshall, Lesley Perkins, and Cynthia Souza, Library Technicians; Richard Sevasin, Custodian.

The six-member Board of Library Trustees has the custody and management of the Library and all related property. The Board typically meets monthly. Acushnet Public Library Board of Trustees: Jennifer Alves (Chair), Diane Ferreira, Nancy Francis, Jeri Howland, Henry Preston, and Stephen Reale.

The Board of Trustees thanks the residents of Acushnet, the Friends of the Acushnet Public Library, Town officers, and other Town departments for their support throughout the year. The businesses, organizations, and individuals who fund the very popular Summer Reading Program, and the many library patrons who donate time and materials, are thanked, as well.

Respectfully submitted,

Dina M. Brasseur, Library Director and the Acushnet Public Library Board of Trustees

LIBRARY STATISTICAL REPORT 2019

Active Borrowers.....	5,134
Children’s Programs Held.....	164
Attendance at Children’s Programs.....	3,053
Tween/Teen Programs Held.....	21
Attendance at Tween/Teen Programs.....	98
Adult Programs Held.....	139
Attendance at Adult Programs.....	1,340
Computers Available for Public Use.....	11
Computers Available with Internet Access.....	9
Sessions Held on Computers Available with Internet Access.....	3,126
Community Room Use.....	107
Study Room Use.....	326

Materials Holdings (Number of Items)

Books.....	22,118
Periodical Subscriptions	90
DVDs.....	3,583
Audio	698
Downloadable eBooks/Audio/Video (does not include hoopla count)	47,418

Circulation (Times Borrowed)

Books – Adult and Teen	28,206
Books – Children	46,182
Periodicals	3,486
DVDs.....	18,429
Audio	2,748
eBooks/eMagazines	3,338
Downloadable Audio/Video	3,386
Museum Passes.....	300
Total Items Circulated.....	106,075