

ACUSHNET PUBLIC LIBRARY

In 2023, the library was faced with a flurry of arrivals and departures among its staff. The first departure occurred with the bittersweet exit of library director, Dina St. Pierre in April. There are not enough words to describe the impact that Dina left on the library and the community she served so well. In June, a new library director, Elisabeth Botelho was appointed and three Library Technicians positions were filled due to departures. The long battle for getting a full-time Children's Room Assistant was finally approved in the FY24 budget. This new full-time role allows for increased services to children and their families, as well as greater outreach opportunities to the Town schools. The Children's Room Assistant position was filled in September and we ended off the year strong with the return of Wednesday's Storytime and new children's programming such as Break a Record.

Additional 2023 highlights include:

- The Summer Concert Series had its highest attended concert with 275 participants who listened to the Pearly Baker Band.
- In April, the library participated in the SAILS Ultimate Road Trip. Visitors stopped by to receive a stamp on their SAILS Library maps. Opening that week, we hosted Toe Jam Band with over 170 grooving participants and Hot Club Cheese Roll ended the SAILS Ultimate Road Trip week with a performance in our pavilion.
- With donated funds, five outdated staff computers were replaced featuring Windows 11 operating systems and a much faster processor.
- Presentations from local and regional authors included John Bullard and Christopher Daley, and multiple art workshops were held in the library's Community Room.

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, Wi-Fi, online databases, and mobile device and technology assistance, all at no cost. 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. 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 storytimes are offered throughout the year. 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 Drop in Crafts are sought after. A new member-driven Dungeon and Dragons group geared toward those ages 10 -17 meets bi-monthly in the Community Room. The Library also offers programs for adults. Member-driven book groups meet monthly, in addition to a Knitters Group that meets monthly. Regular

Technology sessions are scheduled, and the Community Room continues to attract various local and state non-profit groups to hold meetings and workshops.

The Library held visitor passes to Buttonwood Park Zoo, Heritage Museum, Parks Pass Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), Museum of Science Boston, New Bedford Whaling Museum, Newport Art Museum, Robbins Museum, Roger Williams Zoo, 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, and many special events are made possible by the generosity of the Friends of the Acushnet Public Library, a non-profit community service organization that supports and enhances library services for the community. We are grateful to them for their hard work and dedication throughout the year. Information about how to join the Friends is on the Library's website.

To obtain a free library card, a photo ID and proof of address is required. 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.

Library Hours of Operations, Staff, and Board of Trustees

The Library is open 45 hours per a week year-round. Hours of operation are 10:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, 1:00 p.m., - 5:00 p.m., Friday, and 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 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: Elisabeth Botelho, Director, M.L.I.S.; Sandra Medeiros, Patron Services Supervisor; Ren O'Brien, Children's Room Assistant; Jonathan Kastin, Ann Lapienski, Kate Lindia, Maryellen Logan, Lesley Perkins, Jane Swiszc; Library Technicians; Rick 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, Stephen Reale, and John Roy.

State Certification and Interlibrary Loan Benefit for Patrons

The Library maintained state certification in 2023. 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 – these elements allow the library to provide residents with a wider variety of materials, and also allow the library to provide additional 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 home.

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.

The library director and Board of Trustees thanks the residents of Acushnet, Town officers, and other Town departments for their support throughout the year. In addition, we thank the businesses, organizations, and individuals who fund our very popular Summer Reading Program and Summer Concert Series, and the many library patrons who donate time and materials.

Respectfully submitted,

Elisabeth Botelho, Library Director and Acushnet Public Library Board of Trustees

LIBRARY STATISTICAL REPORT 2023

Active Borrowers.....	3,707
Children's Programs Held.....	80
Attendance at Children's Programs.....	1,471
Tween/Teen Programs Held.....	2
Attendance at Tween/Teen Programs.....	9
Adult Programs Held.....	90
Attendance at Adult Programs.....	1,900
Computers Available for Public Use.....	7
Computers Available with Internet Access.....	7
Sessions Held on Computers Available with Internet Access.....	1,099
Community Room Use.....	32
Study Room Use.....	587
People Counter.....	23,834

Materials Holdings (Number of Items)

Books	23,171
Periodical Subscriptions.....	45
DVDs	3,584
Audio.....	612
Downloadable eBooks/Audio/Video/Magazines (does not include hoopla)	185,328

Circulation (Times Borrowed)

Books – Adult and Teen	24,151
Books – Children	34,849
Periodicals.....	2,903
DVDs	8,386
Audio.....	2,071
eBooks.....	5,881
Downloadable Audio/Video	6,558
Museum Passes	154
Total Items Circulated.....	81,880