

ACUSHNET PUBLIC LIBRARY

With the FY2019-2023 Strategic Plan as a guide, the staff and Trustees of the Acushnet Public Library set out to achieve new goals in 2018. The need for a Children's Room Assistant had been evident to all since the relocation to Middle Road in 2015, and the position was created and funded by mid-2018 and then filled in October. This new role allows for increased services to children and their families, as well as greater outreach opportunities to the Town schools. The Library, in partnership with the Acushnet Council on Aging and Senior Community Center, also launched a popular homebound delivery program in January of 2018. By year's end, 369 items had been delivered to Acushnet residents not able to physically visit the Library.

Additional 2018 highlights include:

- A 32% increase in program attendance from 2017, with over 32,000 people visiting the Library throughout the year, which also represents an enormous 700% increase over numbers seen at the Russell Memorial Library.
- A 20% increase in overall circulation from 2017, which also represents a 76% increase in overall circulation since moving from the old Russell Memorial Library facility three years ago.
- Through the SAILS Library Network membership: a mobile app available in the Google Play and Apple stores, and automatic renewals of borrowed materials.
- 268 new library cards were issued.
- Presentations from local and regional authors including Christopher Daley, Stephen Kurkjian, Catherine McLaughlin, and Filomena Tripp, art workshops and a popular outdoor summer music 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, 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 story times 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 Take Apart

Workshops, are sought after. A book club for ages 12+ remains popular. The Library also offers programs for adults. Member-driven book groups meet monthly, in addition to a Knitters Group that meets bimonthly. 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 currently holds visitor passes to Buttonwood Park Zoo, The Hall at Patriot Place, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Massachusetts Parks Pass Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), Mystic Aquarium, New Bedford Whaling Museum, Plimoth Plantation, Roger Williams Park Zoo, USS Constitution Museum, and Zoo New England. 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, new 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 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.

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; and 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Saturday. It was announced in late 2018 that the Library will also be open 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., Friday, beginning in January of 2019. 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, Mary Marshall, Lesley Perkins, and Cynthia Souza, Library Technicians; Diane Fuller, 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, Diane Ferreira, Nancy Francis, Jeri Howland, Kristen Leotti (Chair), and Henry Preston.

State Certification and Interlibrary Loan Benefit for Patrons

The Library maintained state certification in 2018. 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 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 the many library patrons who donate time and materials.

Respectfully submitted,
Acushnet Public Library Board of Trustees

LIBRARY STATISTICAL REPORT 2018

Active Borrowers.....	4,997
Children’s Programs Held.....	107
Attendance at Children’s Programs.....	2,573
Tween/Teen Programs Held.....	31
Attendance at Tween/Teen Programs.....	139
Adult Programs Held.....	132
Attendance at Adult Programs.....	1,188
Computers Available for Public Use.....	11
Computers Available with Internet Access.....	9
Sessions Held on Computers Available with Internet Access.....	2,950
Community Room Use.....	91
Study Room Use.....	332
People Counter.....	32,459

Materials Holdings (Number of Items)

Books.....	21,842
Periodical Subscriptions.....	90
DVDs.....	3,386
Audio.....	910
Downloadable eBooks/Audio/Video.....	42,042

Circulation (Times Borrowed)

Books – Adult and Teen.....	21,867
Books – Children.....	26,264
Periodicals.....	3,011
DVDs.....	13,466
Audio.....	2,858
eBooks.....	2,513
Downloadable Audio/Video.....	2,387
Museum Passes.....	243
Total Items Circulated.....	72,609