

ACUSHNET PUBLIC LIBRARY

Now in its third year at 232 Middle Road, the Acushnet Public Library continues to be a valued community entity. In September of 2017, the Library Board of Trustees and staff were pleased to announce the FY2019-2023 Strategic Plan, outlining the direction the Library will be taking over the next few years. The main themes of the plan were developed with the assistance of a 13-member Strategic Planning Committee composed of community members, and were further shaped by the results of two community surveys. The five specific goals of the Strategic Plan are:

- Patrons will find the library relevant, useful and attractive to their needs
- Children and their caregivers will have access to the materials and programs they need to create a lifelong love of learning
- Library services will be available and accessible to all residents
- The Library will have greater visibility in the community
- The Library will receive the funding necessary to meet the community's needs

The Strategic Plan is available in its entirety at the Library and on www.acupl.org.

Additional 2017 highlights include:

- A massive 535% increase in program attendance over attendance figures in 2015
- A sustained 30% increase in overall circulation since moving from the old Russell Memorial Library facility
- 308 new library cards were issued
- A visit from the Boston Bruins mascot, Blades, as part of the Summer Reading program, which saw its highest participation in the Library's history
- Presentations from local and regional authors Maureen Boyle, Edward Lodi, Milena Rodrigues, and Michael Tougias

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 three ways to download books, DVDs, music, and more to personal devices and at no cost to Acushnet Public Library cardholders: Overdrive, Axis360, 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. A popular LEGO club and book club for ages 10+ were launched in 2017. The Library also holds programs for adults. Both the Knitters Group and Crafters Group meet bimonthly and are always welcoming new members. Member driven book groups meet 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 staff provides outreach to the Town schools.

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, Roger Williams Park Zoo, and the 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 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 the Friends group can be found on Facebook at www.facebook.com/AcushnetPublicLibFriends, and on the Library's website.

To obtain a library card, please present a photo ID and proof of address. A child may have a card with parental permission and when able to print his/her name. 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.

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; Elisabeth Botelho, Dolores Henry, Mary Marshall, Lesley Perkins, Cynthia Souza, and Bethany Vieira, 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: Diane Ferreira, Nancy Francis, Jeri Howland, Kristen Leotti (Chair), Henry Preston, Jean Stripinis.

State Certification and Interlibrary Loan Benefit for Patrons

The Library maintained state certification in 2017. 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 2-½% 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 2017

Active Borrowers.....	4951
Children’s Programs Held.....	98
Attendance at Children’s Programs	1904
Teen Programs Held	26
Attendance at Teen Programs	202
Adult Programs Held	117
Attendance at Adult Programs	843
Computers Available for Public Use	7
Computers Available with Internet Access.....	5
Sessions Held on Computers Available with Internet Access.....	2699
Community Room Use	76
Study Room Use	367

Materials Holdings (Number of Items)

Books.....	22681
Periodical Subscriptions	104
Videos/DVDs.....	3103
Audio	633
Downloadable eBooks/Audio/Video	66266

Circulation (Times Borrowed)

Books – Adult and Teen	18523
Books – Children	21652
Periodicals	2483
Videos/DVDs.....	11750
Audio	2247
eBooks	2237
Downloadable Audio/Video	1004
Museum Passes.....	211
Total Items Circulated.....	60107