

## **ACUSHNET PUBLIC LIBRARY**

In 2024, the library remained a focal point in the community. Our new full-time Children's Room Assistant stepped down in March, and we welcomed Lori Richard into the Children's Room Assistant position in July. In July, we resumed regular story times, crafting programs, and specialized children's programming. Please note that having a full-time Children's Room Assistant increases services to children and their families and provides greater outreach opportunities to the town schools. In addition to our children's programming, we host 2 monthly book clubs, a knitting group, craft programming, monthly movie matinees, local author programming, and live music throughout the year.

Our building required some minor upkeep, and in February, the DPW replaced our pipes, which led to the septic tank. After numerous toilet clogs, it was discovered that the pipes leading out to the septic tank were too small. The DPW removed and replaced the pipes; we have been clogged-free since then. Our portico is finally back in place after being stored in the library's basement; special thanks to the Board of Trustees, DPW, and the Desroches Brothers for spearheading the installation of the portico back over the front door. In the summer, the library also received paint touch-ups in certain areas of the library. Lastly, a huge kudos to the Boy Scouts Troop 11, who cleaned our flower beds in November.

In 2024, we have seen a dramatic increase in borrowing of our online resources. Audiobooks have taken over as the most borrowed e-resource. Physical item circulation remains steady, and programming attendance rises, especially during the summer. The Acushnet Public Library continues to enforce its mission statement: to "inspire lifelong learning and strengthen the entire community, through its materials, programs, and services, in a welcoming space that is open to all."

Additional 2024 highlights include:

- During our Summer Concert Series, the library hosted roughly 1,489 listeners over 8 weeks.
- The Friends of the Acushnet Public Library held its first-ever 50/50 raffle during the Summer Concert Series, which raised over \$1000. Our Summer Reading sponsors gifted the library \$2875 for summer programming and prizes.
- We had over 270 participants in our summer reading program for ages 3 – adult.
- Presentations from local and regional authors included Sally Snowman, Maureen Boyle, Alfred H. Saulniers, and Daniel Harrington, 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. Overdrive and Hoopla are two ways to download books, DVDs, music, and more to personal devices and at no cost to Acushnet Public Library cardholders. 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 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 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 holds visitor passes to Buttonwood Park Zoo, Fall River Children's Museum, Parks Pass Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), New England Aquarium, New Bedford Whaling Museum, Robbins Museum, and USS Constitution Museum. Patrons in good standing can check out passes, which provide free or discounted admission to these destinations.

The generosity of the Friends of the Acushnet Public Library makes the library's Museum Pass Program, Laptop Loan program, and many special events possible. This non-profit community service organization supports and enhances library services for the community. We thank them for their hard work and dedication throughout the year. Information about how to join the Friends is on the Library's website.

A photo ID and proof of address are required to obtain a free library card. Children ages 5+ may have a card with parental permission. No card is necessary 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 week year-round. Its 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](http://www.acupl.org), and the Facebook page is [www.facebook.com/AcushnetPublicLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/AcushnetPublicLibrary).

Staff of the Acushnet Public Library: Elisabeth Botelho, Director, M.L.I.S.; Sandra Medeiros, Patron Services Supervisor; Lori Richard, Children's Room Assistant; Jonathan Kastin, Ann Lapienski, Kate Lindia, Maryellen Logan, Lesley Perkins, Jane Swiszczy, Library Technicians; Rick Sevasin, Custodian.

The six-member Acushnet Public Library Board of Trustees has custody and management of the Library and all related property. The Board typically meets monthly. The Board comprises Jennifer Alves (Chair), Nancy Francis, Jeri Howland, Alan Miner, Stephen Reale, and John Roy.

### **State Certification and Interlibrary Loan Benefit for Patrons**

The Library maintained state certification in 2024. 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 offer residents a wider variety of materials and additional services.

The Library is a full voting member of the SAILS Library Network. Through SAILS, library patrons can access 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 services, online databases, staff training, Summer Reading materials, and professional consultants at no charge to the library.

The library director and Board of Trustees thank the residents of Acushnet, Town officers, and other Town departments for their support throughout the year. We also 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 2024

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Active Borrowers.....  | 4,964  |
| Children's Programs Held.....                                  | 89     |
| Attendance at Children's Programs.....                         | 1,453  |
| Tween/Teen Programs Held.....                                  | 6      |
| Attendance at Tween/Teen Programs.....                         | 11     |
| Adult Programs Held.....                                       | 90     |
| Attendance at Adult Programs.....                              | 112    |
| Computers Available for Public Use.....                        | 7      |
| Computers Available with Internet Access.....                  | 7      |
| Sessions Held on Computers Available with Internet Access..... | 1,187  |
| Community Room Use.....  | 49     |
| Study Room Use.....  | 635    |
| People Counter.....  | 27,102 |

### Materials Holdings (Number of Items)

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Books.....   | 23,441  |
| Periodical Subscriptions .....   | 51      |
| DVDs.....  | 3,642   |
| Audio .....  | 594     |
| Downloadable eBooks/Audio/Video/Magazines (does not include hoopla)..... | 176,551 |

### Circulation (Times Borrowed)

|                                    |               |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Books – Adult and Teen .....       | 25,004        |
| Books – Children.....              | 34,105        |
| Periodicals .....                  | 2,762         |
| DVDs.....                          | 7,787         |
| Audio .....                        | 1,447         |
| eBooks.....                        | 5,293         |
| Downloadable Audio/Video .....     | 7,249         |
| Museum Passes.....                 | 143           |
| <b>Total Items Circulated.....</b> | <b>83,790</b> |