

**M.G. Parker Memorial Library**  
2019 Annual Town Report

COLLECTION, CIRCULATION, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

The Parker Library continued to be a busy place in 2019. We were open 3,000 hours, including 296 Saturday hours and 182 evening hours. In 2019, 149,096 people visited the library. A total of 16,968 Dracut residents hold library cards. They borrowed 161,496 items from our library, including books, magazines, compact discs, DVDs, downloadable music and videos, streaming music, audio and eBooks. Participation in the Merrimack Valley Library Consortium (MVLC) continued to benefit our patrons. Dracut residents borrowed 25,617 items from other libraries in MVLC, and lent out 30,485 items to residents of other Massachusetts communities. The library currently holds 141,052 items.

Demand for our Quiet Study Rooms continues to outnumber the space. In 2019, the two rooms were used a total of 1,175 times by 3,004 people. Our large meeting room was used 35 times by outside groups, with an attendance of 1,907. The reference staff answered 20,781 reference questions. There were 30,887 sessions on our wireless connection.

We held 189 programs that were attended by 1,923 adults; 51 programs that were attended by 493 teens, accounting for a 32.5% increase in teen attendance. We held 272 children's programs, which were attended by 4,779 children.

The Friends of the Dracut Library, led by President Gretchen Mayall, once again supported the Museum Pass Program, offering free or discounted admission to eight area museums, including Boston Children's Museum, Discovery Museum, The Massachusetts State Parks Pass, Museum of Fine Arts, Museum of Science, New England Aquarium, USS Constitution, and Zoo New England.

The Friends held their Annual Book Sale in May and a Fall Raffle in October. In addition, the Friends held several Pop-Up Book Sales as well as their daily Book Nook at the library, where hardcover books are sold at \$1.00 each and paperback books are sold at \$0.50 each. In total, the Friends brought in \$12,834 in 2019, which will go towards the Museum Pass program, staff development, and to funding programs for children, teens, and adults. As always, we are grateful to the Friends of the Dracut Library for their hard work and dedication to the library.

In 2019, the Parker Library Enrichment Foundation funded ten new laptops for the library. The Reference and Young Adult staff are currently planning computer training sessions in Basic Word, Basic Internet Searching, and more, which will utilize these laptops. We extend sincere thanks to the Foundation for making these small computer classes possible.

The Board of Library Trustees voted to use State Aid funds to replace all staff and public computers in 2019. This was done because all of our computers were 10-12 years old and very slow. In addition, they were Windows 7 computers, which were no longer going to be supported. We got an excellent price on the new computers through MVLC (Merrimack Valley Library Consortium), who ordered the computers,

installed all of the necessary programs, and set them up for us. MVLC will continue to support these computers as long as they are under warranty.

## CONSORTIUM

The Parker Library is a member of the Merrimack Valley Library Consortium, which is made up of 36 public libraries. In 2019, the Directors of the Merrimack Valley Library Consortium voted to participate in the reciprocal borrowing of downloadable items. Dracut cardholders may now download eBook and audiobook titles from the following networks, by using their Parker Library card: CLAMS (Cape Libraries Automated Materials Sharing); BPL (Boston Public Library), CWMARS (Central/Western Massachusetts Automated Resource Sharing); OCLN (Old Colony Library Network); MINLIB (Minuteman Library Network); NOBLE (North of Boston Library Exchange); and SAILS (Southern Automated Integrated Library Services).

## PHYSICAL PLANT

We had a major flood in the basement in 2019, losing a large amount of cleaning supplies, books for sale by the Friends, and display materials. Tom Ayotte, Facilities Manager, worked with Jay Looney from the Library's Maintenance Department, to detail the damage and oversee the work that needed to be done. The Town's insurance covered the damage.

We vetted several complaints about the library's sidewalks, which are in need of repair. Mark Hamel, Town Engineer, and Ed Patenaude, Director of Public Works, set up a demo of a product that we could possibly use to repair them. They then worked with Library Director, Nanci Milone Hill, and Interim Town Manager, Ann Vandal, to submit a capital budget request for the repair work.

## BUDGET

The Parker Library met certification requirements with the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners in 2019.

## STAFFING

In 2019, we bid a fond farewell to Penny Berube, our longtime Children's Librarian. Penny retired after 30 years with the Town of Dracut, over 20 of which were spent at the Parker Library. A retirement party was held at the library, attended by over 600 patrons. The turnout of the event illustrates just how much Penny meant to the children and parents of Dracut. She will be missed.

Joan Powers took the reigns as our new Children's Librarian in October of 2019. Joan had been Penny's Library Assistant for two years. She was an invaluable part of the Children's Room staff during her tenure as an Assistant, and has proven to be well-deserving of the promotion in the months since taking over as Children's Librarian. Her displays, attention to diversity in the collection, and attendance in webinars and workshops to grow her knowledge base are not only noted, but appreciated.

Jay Looney joined us as Maintenance person in 2019. Jay retired from the U.S. Post Office before joining us at the Parker. He is a welcome addition to our staff.

Leslie Oxtan, Terri Penny and Deb Brodeur joined our Circulation staff in 2019, adding more welcoming smiles as you enter the building.

Respectfully submitted by  
Nanci Milone Hill, Library Director  
on behalf of the Board of Library Trustees

Dr. Linda Trouville, Chair (term expires 2020)  
Eric Jackson, Vice-Chair (term expires 2020)  
Mrs. Gretchen Mayall (term expires 2021)  
Mr. James Nolan (term expires 2021)  
Mrs. Monique Verville (term expires 2022)