



# Cumberland Public Library

## Annual Report 2023

In the last year,  
town support for  
the Library was  
\$1,473,344 with  
State support of  
\$337,599

Cumberland  
patrons received  
services and  
materials valued at  
\$5,729,546  
That's why we are  
the best bargain in  
town!

### In FY 23:

127,721 people walked  
through our doors.

The Library has 12,639  
library card holders

We answered 14,616  
questions last year

Library patrons used our  
computers 6,073 times

25,018 people logged  
into our free WiFi

316 groups used our  
meeting rooms.

21,513 people attended  
our programs.

## This Is Your Library!



This fiscal year saw increases in library cards, library visits, program attendance, and computer use. More people used our wifi, which is available indoors and outside. We answered 3,238 more reference questions and 11,546 more people visited our website.

We are still offering programs outside, especially for those age groups who are too young to be vaccinated. Grab n Go crafts for all ages are still sell-outs, but we also welcome back patrons for in person crafting programs. Circulation of digital materials is still quite high, but circulation of physical materials is slowly increasing.

While we call the library addition of 2000 "new", it is now 23 years old. We spring a lot of leaks! We were able to replace one HVAC unit with a grant and will replace four more with another grant in FY24. Almost all of our HVAC units have been rebuilt as they are also 23 years old.

The Library increased its Library of Things with a grant from Senator Ryan Pearson. We now have many outdoor games, tools, and a power washer to lend to patrons.

We received several large grants this year. The Simon W. Wardwell Foundation gave us an additional \$40,000 to replace more HVAC units. The Champlin Foundations gave us \$17,345 to replace our Circulation Desk. We also received a \$20,000 grant to upgrade from magnetic security strips to RFID. And our very generous Friends of the Cumberland Library group gave us over \$24,000 for programs and furnishings in FY22.

## Who We Are

The Cumberland Public Library was established by the Town Council in 1971 and moved to its present location on the Monastery Grounds in 1976.

The Library is governed by a seven member Board of

Trustees, appointed by the Cumberland Town Council.

The Library is a member of the Ocean State Libraries statewide network. Your Ocean State Libraries card gives you access to the

holdings of public libraries in 39 cities and towns, over 5 million items!



## By the numbers...

Last year Cumberland Library card holders checked out 179,359 books; 37,121 movies and CDs; and 57,157 digital downloads. Usage of the RI eZone and Hoopla digital collections continues to grow.



Membership in Ocean State Libraries allows patrons to use their library card to choose from over 5 million items statewide. Besides borrowing from their home library, last year our patrons received 36,792 items from around the state. We aren't selfish though, we shared 39,329 items with those same libraries. Our excellent delivery system, paid with state funding, brings materials every weekday.



## Your Library is always open!

Your library card is also good when we are closed. Use it to access our online resources:

- **Hoopla** - Borrow ebooks, eAudio, digital movies and TV shows. There are no wait times with Hoopla!
- **EBSCO Magazine Index** - Access to hundreds of full text magazines
- **Newsbank** - Provides access to newspapers across the country, including the Providence Journal back to the 1980's. Our most popular database.
- **RI eZone** - Nothing to read? Download ebooks and audiobooks to your personal device. Borrow music or stream a movie! 55,790 circulations last year!
- **NextReads** - Sign up for newsletters for your favorite genre, upcoming bestsellers and previews of Library programs.
- **Universal Class** - Free with your library card! Choose from over 540 classes on topics ranging from computers to flower arranging.

### Check it out!

Our Library of Things includes: Pickle Ball set, Giant Jenga, power washer, VCR, Giant Yahtzee, wildlife camera, badminton, programmable robots and more!

## Inside the Library

The Library is over 55,200 square feet of information and entertainment opportunities. We call ourselves the “best bargain in town” and it is so true!

- Borrow movies, TV shows, books, video games, toys, literacy kits, tools, outdoor games and more.
- Read over 140 magazines and newspapers; use our computers with Internet and MS Office; bring your own device and use our free WiFi.
- We have study rooms for quiet study or small groups and seven larger rooms for community groups and organizations to use for their meetings.
- Enjoy the art work and photographs of local artists in the *Hayden Art Gallery* on the second floor. Each month we highlight a different local artist or photographer.
- Our Rhode Island Room has local history books, RI General Laws, Cumberland High School yearbooks and a genealogy collection. The library also subscribes to Ancestry.com, an online genealogy tool containing hundreds of databases and thousands of records.

All together people **21,513** attended our programs in person  
and virtually last year!

## Entertainment

The Library holds programs and events for all ages and interests. Storytimes, crafts and performers for the children; book discussions, cooking demonstrations, art groups and more for adults; clubs, volunteer work and crafts for teens; and other events for families are held throughout the year.

The annual Summer Reading Program is designed to help children maintain their reading levels during summer break. Kids earn points for reading and can use their points for small rewards or donate to a charity. Thanks to donations from Navigant and the Cumberland Lions Club, they were able to donate \$300 of supplies to the Manton Avenue Project!

Our Music at the Monastery Concert series included three outdoor concerts on our Front Lawn. Over 300 music lovers enjoyed the free concerts in June, July and August.

## Financials



 \$77,264 on print materials, books, magazines and newspapers.

\$28,430 on movies, TV shows, audiobooks and music CDs



\$74,280 on video games, museum passes, educational toys, databases and digital books



\$26,583 on library programs for all ages.



\$195,178 on utilities, maintenance and service contracts



\$1,396,273 on the rest including salaries, printing, supplies, computers and licenses

## Friends of the Cumberland Library

The Friends of the Cumberland Public Library are an amazing group of volunteers dedicated to raising funds to pay for items and programs we might not otherwise be able to afford.

The Friends Bookstore, open only seven and a half hours per week, is the envy of all the libraries in the state. They are so organized their store has generated over **\$316,500** in revenue in the sixteen years that they have been open. And their most expensive book is only **\$2.00!**

In FY23 the Friends funded programs and purchased items for the Library totaling **\$24,405.00.**



### FRIENDS BOOKSTORE HOURS

WEDNESDAYS 10:00—2:00

SATURDAYS 9:00—12:30

## A Little Help!

While the bulk of our funding comes with town support we always seek out grants and other resources to help us reach our goals. In FY 23 we thankfully received the following:

- RI Legislative Grant—\$2,000 from Senator Ryan Pearson for items to expand our Library of Things collections
- Friends of the Library—\$11,842 for programming. \$3,000 for RFID. Almost \$10,000 for other equipment and furnishings
- Champlin Foundation—\$17,345 to build a new Circulation Desk.
- Simon W. Wardwell Foundation—\$40,000 to replace/repair HVAC Units
- Ocean State Charities Trust —\$20,000 to convert to RFID.

*All grants are used to make our library better without impacting the town.*

## Family Fun Days...

We are hosting a **MysteryFest** this year with Live Action Clue, trivia contests, and talks by local mystery authors

### Dr. Dan de'Lion



**Description:** 5'4" Black hair, blue eyes

**Relationship to the victim:** Friend

**Motive:** Mr. Boddy is a frequent funder of his friend Dr. de'Lion's passion projects. But his interest has been waning, especially since double has been cast on Dr. de'Lion's credentials.

### Scarlett Rose



**Description:** 5'6" Brown hair, brown eyes

**Relationship to the victim:** Business (Art Dealer)

**Motive:** Ms. Rose has been selling a lot of fraudulent artwork. Did Mr. Boddy have anything to do with it?

**Who Killed Mr. Boddy?**

## Looking Ahead



- The new circulation desk will make room for our RFID (Radio Frequency ID) equipment.
- Our website is due for a major upgrade to be user friendly and give out more information.
- We will be continuing to upgrade HVAC units, paint, and maintain the building.

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