

# 2020 YEAR IN REVIEW ERVING PUBLIC LIBRARY

This was a challenging year due to the pandemic, and an exciting year thanks to the construction and completion of a beautiful new building at 2 Care Drive!

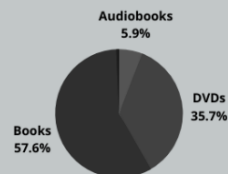
## PATRONS

We are proud to serve our patrons! Our total number of cardholders was **939**. We issued **32** new library cards. **152** patrons visited our library by appointment between October and December. Our amazing patrons also donated time, money, and materials to our library!

## CIRCULATION

Our items circulated **8,260** times. Erving patrons borrowed **7,980** items. We were a net lender (we loaned more than we borrowed.) The total value of items circulated: **\$72,470**

Most circulated item types:



## COLLECTIONS

Our physical collection numbered **13,724** items.

As a member of CW MARS, this consortium provided patrons access to nearly 2.5 million physical items and nearly 140,000 digital items through Overdrive. Patrons also have access to Hoopla, Freegal, and Gale databases. Our library also contains the Traversari local history collection, and digitized collections at [digitalcommonwealth.org](http://digitalcommonwealth.org)

## PROGRAMS

105 programs  
600 total attendance

When the pandemic shut libraries down in March, Erving Public Library staff pivoted very quickly to the new situation and began offering virtual programming within two weeks.

## SOCIAL

Our number of Facebook page followers increased **22%** during 2020, reaching **505**. Help us hit 1000 in 2021!

## HOURS

Our regular hours were **1pm-7pm, Sunday-Thursdays** with some variations during the March-June lockdown.

## NEW IN 2020

- We welcomed two new substitute staff, Barry Dietz and Bridget Mientka, in February
- The new library building opened in March
- Virtual programming commenced in March
- Locker & curbside pickup commenced in May
- Natane Halasz was hired as Director in June
- We added "Take & Make" Kits and more non-traditional items to our collection

## SERVICES

- Access to books, DVDs, CDs, audiobooks, magazines, kits, games, museum passes, and much more
- Access to digital collections for research and recreation
- Printing, scanning, and photocopying
- Computers with internet, word processing, and printing
- WIFI inside of the building
- Year-round programming for all ages

***Erving Public Library's Mission is to Help Make Erving a Great Place to Live!***

## ***Our People:***

### ***Board of Library Trustees***

Mackensy Bailey, Chairperson (January-June)  
Daniel Hammock, Chairperson (July-December)  
Peter "Rupert" Roy-Clark served as Trustee until his resignation in November. Our thanks and gratitude to Rupert for his many years of service to the Board.

### ***Friends of the Library***

The Friends sustain the organization's main goals to fund library supplies, promote library events and sponsor programming.

President & Secretary: Rebecca Hubbard

Vice President: Dulcie McAndrews

Treasurer: Arlene Wonsey

Board Members: Geraldine Cornwell. Board Member Carol Gregory passed away in May and will be missed.

The Friends sponsored: February's fundraising Trivia Night at the Montague Elks 2521 club, raising \$1,400 for the new library; refreshments for Senator Jo Comerford's March visit to officially open the new library, and tours to guests at this event; Summer Reading Program Northfield Drive-In tickets and prizes; Take & Make kits; and virtual Craft Days. The Friends, working in conjunction with the Fundraising Committee, helped to raise over \$10,000 for the building project. The Fundraising Committee disbanded in March.

### ***Volunteers***

We are grateful for the efforts and time of volunteers:

- Ann Lucas, for completing her 11<sup>th</sup> year shelving and paging books
- Maggie Fidanza, for developing and offering monthly craft days for the 6<sup>th</sup> straight year
- Charles Zilinski, for his work on a video and photo montage to thank state officials for the new building

The Library Building Committee (in alphabetical order): Marcia Bernard, Jacquelyn Boyden, Sara Campbell, Rebecca Hubbard, Peter "Rupert" Roy-Clark, Deb Smith, Charles Zilinski. The Library

Building Committee was assisted by Barbara Friedman, The P3, Inc. project management team of Daniel Pallotta, Rob Todisco and Nick Jablonski, Phil O'Brien, LEED AP Principal, and Stewart Roberts, AIA Principal, architects with Johnson/Roberts Associates. William Bembury and Scott Bastarache, Board of Selectmen, liaisons to this Committee and Mackensey Bailey, Erving Library Trustee Chairperson. The Fundraising Committee (in alphabetical order): Beth Bazler, Marcia Bernard, Jacqueline Boyden, Sara Campbell, Holly Fitzpatrick, Rob Fletcher, Teresa Foster, Barbara Friedman, Rebecca Hubbard, Rupert Roy-Clark and Phyllis Stone.

### ***Staff & Collaborations***

Barbara Friedman retired in June after 12 years as Library Director. Her successor Natane Halasz started in June. Jean Daley completed her 8<sup>th</sup> year as Senior Library Assistant. She received her official para-librarian status in 2020. Andrea Deluliis completed her 3<sup>rd</sup> year as Library Assistant. She began her studies towards a Master of Library and Information Science at Simmons University in September. Jean and Andrea continued their professional development through attendance at webinars and virtual conferences.

The library staff frequently collaborate with other town departments, libraries, and state agencies. We owe special thanks to the Highway Department, especially Pam McNamara, Glenn McCrory, and Becka Walsh, for helping us move to the new building, ensuring a high level of sanitation and cleaning amidst pandemic conditions, and learning the systems and details of a new building. Thank you to all Town Departments who helped us serve the community during the unusual circumstances we faced in 2020. We also enjoyed working with Community Network for Children; and Jane Urban, Erving Elementary School Librarian.

We continued to be a part of the "Libraries in the Woods", a collaboration of 26 local libraries that brings community reads and programming to our towns. 2020's community read book was *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants* by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

### ***Our Programs:***

Programming highlights from our 100+ programs include:

- The Summer Reading Program, themed *Imagine Your Story*, ran for the month of August; each week we had prize giveaways, Take & Make Kits, Facebook activities, Bingo activities, and free tickets to the Northfield Drive-In on Wednesdays (over 50 patrons registered)
- Virtual story times presented by staff member Andrea, including a special evening Spooky Storytime in October
- Opening of the new building – guest Senator Jo Comerford, Senior Day, and tours for Erving Elementary School students and staff
- Virtual S.T.E.A.M. and social programs for children and adults, presented by staff member Jean
- Take & Make Pumpkin Decorating presented by the Friends of Erving Library
- Virtual performances/presentations by musician Rob Fletcher, author Archer Mayor, chef Rob Scott
- StoryWalk® presented by Community Network for Children

### ***Our Facility:***

With gratitude, we are pleased to report that the new library building opened to all on March 1. Mackensey Bailey, Sara Campbell, Geri Cornwell, Becky Hubbard, Terry LaBonte, and Dennis Wonsey assisted with the move to the new library. The 8300 ft<sup>2</sup> building features three meeting rooms with kitchenette and restroom access; dedicated teen and children's spaces; a makerspace; spacious front and back patios; solar panel array; electric vehicle charging station; easy parking; ADA compliance; and energy efficiency. There is plenty of space, sunlit by 2900 ft<sup>2</sup> of windows, for the collections, staff, and patrons alike. Although pandemic conditions and restrictions have deferred use of the facility to its maximum potential, these will eventually end. This beautiful building will be here for Erving to enjoy for decades.

Prepared by Natane Halasz, Library Director