

Wilmington Memorial Library

2023 Annual Report

Library Interior Redesign

Wilmington Memorial Library was awarded a \$100,000 grant from the Cummings Foundation to revitalize the first floor of the library in May 2022. Funding support for this project was also provided by the Barbara Johnson Trust, Friends of the Library, State Aid and the Town of Wilmington.

Retired Library Director Tina Stewart, Assistant Library Director Danielle Masterson, and retired Assistant Library Director Charlotte Wood worked with Oudens Ello Architecture (OEA) to develop the redesign.

After several months of planning, the first floor was closed for six weeks beginning in early June for project implementation. During this time, all library operations took place on the second floor in the Youth Services department. Adult and Youth staff worked together to create a workflow for both departments and patrons, and did so with great success! We even brought some patrons to areas of the library they had either never been to or hadn't seen in years!

The library reopened the first floor on July 24 with new carpeting, fresh paint, new shelving, new furniture, and more.

The first floor is now more accessible, brighter, visually appealing and welcoming. In addition, the workflow is more efficient for staff and patrons. We hope library patrons will enjoy using this transformed space for many years to come.

Some features of the redesign of the first floor include:

- Quiet study space including private study pods
- Multiple seating options
- Conversation area with comfortable seats near the newspapers, magazines and a Keurig coffee maker
- New streamlined service desk for two staff members facing the public as they enter the building
- New wayfinding signage
- A new arts & crafts section added to the non-fiction area
- New sleek library catalog stations with iPads
- Self-check station near self-service holds

A ribbon cutting for the first floor was held on September 11. Retired Town Manager Jeff Hull, Library Trustees Eileen MacDougall and Don Pearson, Cummings Foundation representative Shannon DePierro, Barbara Johnson family representative Chip Ellms and Friends of the Library President Terry McDermott joined retired Library Director Tina Stewart, retired Assistant Library Director Charlotte Wood and Assistant Library Director Danielle Masterson for the official ribbon cutting.

Digital Spaces Redesign

Not only did our first floor get a redesign, but our digital spaces did too! The library got a rebrand in 2023. We created a revamped logo to coincide with the newly renovated first floor. We also began work on a new online calendar system and a newly designed library app. These services are more important than ever, with many of our patrons relying on accessing the library at their fingertips. Our new systems make it easier than ever to attend our programs, borrow materials both online and in person, and to remove paywalls from today's news sources and databases. In addition, patrons

can now apply for an MVLC digital library card from home, granting access to all of our online services with the click of a button.

Personnel

After 49 years at Wilmington Memorial Library, Tina Stewart retired as Library Director. In her career, Tina was instrumental in several library “makeovers” (2006, 2018 and 2023), the creation of the Friends of the Library in 1997, and endeavors such as the Community Roundtable – a group of nonprofit representatives who meet quarterly – and Welcome to Wilmington – a special reception for new residents to meet town employees and gather important information. Tina also ushered the library through the Covid pandemic, as well as a year-long celebration of the library’s 150th anniversary in 2021.

Prior to her retirement, residents at Town Meeting named the library’s large conference room the Christina Stewart Room.

To prepare for Tina’s retirement and the hiring of a new director, a Screening Committee made up of Assistant Director Danielle Masterson, Library Trustees Eileen MacDougall and Don Pearson, Assistant Town Manager Susan Inman and retired Assistant Director Charlotte Wood was charged with creating a timeline for the Library Director search, updating the job description and job advertisement, and reviewing and interviewing candidates for the position.

The Library received 10 applications for the Director post. Of those 10, the Screening Committee interviewed 5 candidates. Two candidates were interviewed publicly by the Board of Trustees, who voted unanimously to put forward one candidate. In July, the Town Manager’s office appointed Kate-Lynn Coraccio as Wilmington’s next Library Director.

Kate Coraccio started as Director on September 14, 2023. In her library career, she has worked roles in circulation, marketing, adult services, and most recently, as Deputy Director of the Worcester Public Libraries. In that role, she oversaw circulation, technical services, collections, community branches, two bookmobiles, and adult services for the city of Worcester.

Assistant Director Danielle Masterson and Adult Services Librarian Erin Driscoll presented an hour-long program at the Massachusetts Library Association conference with Tewksbury Public Library Community Outreach Librarian Robert Hayes. They spoke to approximately 30 librarians about the popular Reading Rivals program, answering several questions. Many of our neighborhood libraries have now started their own Reading Rivals program!

Adult Services Librarian Erin Driscoll also led a subcommittee of the Merrimack Valley Library Consortium Collection Development Committee which drafted a proposal to add “Lucky Day” titles to our OverDrive collection. The proposal was approved in May and “Lucky Day” titles were added over the summer. These titles act as “hot titles” in our digital library, and are available on a first-come, first-serve basis to patrons who scan that virtual display in our app.

Technology Librarian, Brad McKenna, is on the American Library Association’s Bridging Deaf Cultures Committee and was integral in creating a resource list, which was published on ALA’s website: Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services Interest Groups, About ALA and Accessibility, and Advocacy, Legislation & Issues.

Assistant Librarian of Children’s Services Amy Caira resigned from the position for a new adventure out of state. In her time at WML, Amy contributed several new programs, including Tiny Art Show, Pokémon Party and Kids Book Café. Former elementary school educator Victoria Lanzilli joined the staff in November to take over the role of Assistant Children’s Librarian.

Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Library continue to support the Library and its programs. They have been instrumental in raising funds to help us with the redesign, fund library programs for children, teens, and adults, and support staff development. They work tirelessly to expertly curate and staff our Bookstore Next Door, which we think is the best deal in town! They also hold an annual jewelry sale, which is extremely popular, and directly benefits our library. This fully volunteer-run group has dedicated time, energy, and enthusiasm for the Wilmington Memorial Library. Thank you to our dedicated Friends group for all they do to continue to support us!

Summer Reading

The 2023 Summer Reading program encouraged patrons to “find their voice,” and was reflected in our programming throughout June, July and August. Throughout the summer, patrons logged their reading through Beanstack, either through the app, website, or with a paper log.

Residents collected reading incentives along the way, like beads to make a Read and Bead bracelet, a free book after reading 15 days, and a free ice cream coupon for reading 30 days. The goal for all readers, regardless of age, was to read for 30 days, out of the 55 days of summer. Patrons could also enter two “big ticket” raffles for either a Bose Portable Bluetooth Speaker or a Museum of Science year-long membership. They could earn raffle tickets for each day of reading and each activity that they logged.

The Find Your Voice summer reading program ended with our annual End of Summer Bash. Complete with food trucks, raffles, a prize wheel, lawn games, a community painting, and live music by Philip Alexander and The Wild Things, over 300 patrons attended.

2023 Summer Reading Program (Find Your Voice) by the numbers:

- 599 registrants (422 kids age 0-11, 48 teens age 12-17, 129 adults age 18+)
- Of those 599 registrants, 75% logged at least one day of reading, 45.6% completed the challenge
- Over the course of the program, participants logged 12,815 days of reading total
- 58.5% of participants completed challenge activities, earning a total of 1,658 badges
- There were 6,660 entries into the Museum of Science Premier Pass and 3,823 entries into the Bose Speaker drawing
- The indoor scavenger hunt was completed 693 times from June to August and the outdoor scavenger hunt around town was completed 39 times

Reading Challenges

WML participated in the third-annual Reading Rivals Challenge against Tewksbury Public Library. We drummed up a lot of interest using school visits, programs, flyers, reading logs, bookmarks, social media graphics, a new logo for 2023, custom stickers, and more. Team Wilmington was made up of 673 residents, and while ultimately WML lost, we read almost 2,000,000 minutes! One Instagram follower said, “I’ve never been so invested in a competition in my life. What have you done to me, @wilmlibrary?”

In addition to Reading Rivals, we recruited 21 libraries to participate in “Minute Madness” – our second-annual bracket-style reading competition. Wilmington made it through the first three rounds of challenge, but we were defeated by familiar rival Tewksbury in the “Fierce Four” semifinals. Altogether we had 228 participants log an impressive 337,048 minutes of reading.

Programming & Events

Throughout the year, the library hosted several educational, informational and entertaining programs.

In celebration of Black History Month, we hosted Kevin Hazzard for a virtual author talk on his book *American Sirens: The Incredible Story of the Black Men Who Became America's First Paramedics* and Rodney Mashia for an afternoon concert "A Tribute to African American Musicians." This was our largest afternoon concert since the start of the pandemic. Rodney sang several well-known songs, including "A Change Is Gonna Come" by Sam Cooke, as well as self-penned songs about growing up in rural Louisiana, twice removed from slavery.

On St. Patrick's Day, we hosted harpist and storyteller Kate Chadborne for an afternoon concert with Irish Songs and Stories which drew in a large crowd, including several families.

In the spring, the library hosted a series of programs on sustainability and environmental appreciation including a talk with Boston College's Aftermath Learning Lab on Fast Fashion and Textile Waste; a presentation with Massachusetts Audubon on "Landscaping & Gardening for Wildlife," and an Intro to Nature Journaling walk in Hathaway Acres with Andrew Prazar from North Shore Nature Programs.

We hosted Kelly Brotzman from the Prison Book Program for a talk on mass incarceration and the importance of access to books. In addition to Kelly's talk, we hosted the Prison Book Program's art exhibit "Art From Inside" in the large conference room throughout the month of August. All of the pieces displayed in this exhibit were sent to the Prison Book Program by incarcerated readers across the country as a token of gratitude for a shipment of books.

Library Associate Christine Johnston and members of the Wilmington Historical Commission presented "Dishing the Dirt: Artifacts from 19th Century Wilmington" to a packed house. Attendees were so excited to see what they had found in their archeological dig at the corner of Lowell and Woburn Streets over the summer.

We celebrated Italian Heritage Month with a series of programs sponsored by the Wilmington Sons and Daughters of Italy including a talk on Italian Cinema History with Frank Mandosa, an Armchair Travel Guide to Northern Sicily with Jeff Klapes, and a discussion and demonstration of Commedia del' Arte theatre with the Pazzi Lazzi Troupe.

We collaborated with eleven other libraries to host Dr. Norman E. Rosenthal for a virtual program on defeating Seasonal Affective Disorder. We had 92 total attendees, with an additional 197 patrons registered to receive the event recording. This program was supported by Wilmington Family Counseling, who had provided funding for mental health programming at the library.

In the Community

The library worked with the School Department to reignite our Kindergarten School Night at the library for both the Boutwell and Wildwood schools. These events encourage families that may have never utilized the library to bring their kindergartener to sign up for a library card, participate in a library scavenger hunt, enter to win raffle baskets and attend a reading with a mystery guest. We promote library programs and offerings at this event and answer many questions on how the library can best serve them. In 2023, WML hosted two Kindergarten School Nights, with 174 attendees. These collaborations have continued into 2024.

In addition to school nights, the Youth Services staff worked with educators at the annual STEM Fair in March, the Woburn Street Poetry Assembly and classroom/lunch visits to over 2,000 students.

Librarians also held pop-up libraries and storytimes at the Sunday Farmer's Market. These sessions were well attended and gave patrons a chance to check out a book, hear a story, and shop at the same time!

For the first time, the library took part in the town's annual tree lighting ceremony in December. Thousands of residents stopped by the Library's booth and took photos with our Wilmington Memorial Library wreath.

The library – in partnership with the Town Planning & Conservation Department, the High School Environmental Club, and the Wilmington Methodist Church – hosted our annual “Town Wide Clean-Up Day” on Earth Day. Participants traded in 60 bags of litter for a spin at the prize wheel.

September was National Library Card Sign-Up Month! The library partnered with four local Wilmington businesses – Heav'nly Donuts, McDonald's, EJ's Pizza, and Josie's Bakery – and ran four weeks of promotions for WML cardholders. Each week, patrons could show their library card at the participating business and receive a free item or discount. This was a big hit amongst patrons and the businesses enjoyed the community partnership as well.

Technology Librarian Brad McKenna began joining Adult Services Librarian Erin Driscoll at Windsor Place to offer Tech Help sessions to our patrons there. Additionally, AdviniaCare, another local assisted-living and rehabilitation facility, reached out to arrange monthly Library Pop-Ups starting in the New Year. Tech Helps are also coming soon to the town's Senior Center!

Technology Upgrades

The library now takes credit cards and mobile payment, such as Apple Pay, at our public printer and copier! Our new printing service also makes printing from home and printing from patron devices in the library much easier.

In 2023, we also added a fax machine, which allows patrons to fax documents for free. While many of us don't think of using a fax, there are several times when patrons need to communicate via fax. We are pleased to offer this service to residents free of charge.

Looking to 2024

I wanted to take a minute to thank all of our amazing patrons who visited or used the library services in 2023. We had an amazing year with many positive changes, and we are committed to continuing to serve the town of Wilmington. I have been welcomed with open arms and genuinely supported by our staff, patrons, and the entire town. We have a lot planned for 2024 and all of us at the Library are excited for what comes next - Kate Coraccio, Library Director.

LIBRARY STAFF (as of December 31, 2023)

Library Director - Kate Coraccio

Assistant Library Director - Danielle Masterson
Administrative Assistant - Gloria Corcoran

Department Heads

Adult Services - Erin Driscoll
Marketing - Mary Nicholson
Technology - Bradley McKenna
Youth Services - Nicole Chevalier

Assistant Librarians

Circulation Services - Lisa Crispin
Technical Services - Laurie Wierzbicki

Children's Services -Victoria Lanzilli
Teen Services - Sara Rottger

Library Assistants

Eric Berube
Jacqueline Strob

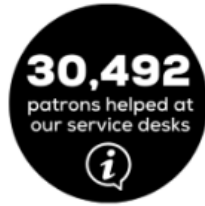
Part Time Library Associates

Britney Chin, Meghan Tompkins
Rebecca Lowe, Christine Johnston

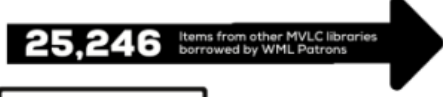
Library Pages

Giselli DeOliveira, Uriel Hernandez Osorno, Hannah Noah,
Kyle Spinney, Neda Stoeva, Amanda Tran, Amber Vlamis

BY THE NUMBERS **Wilmington Memorial Library** 2023 Statistics



Thousands of books, DVDs, and audiobooks, and more were borrowed throughout our 36 library consortium (MVLC)



and thousands more were borrowed from libraries across Massachusetts

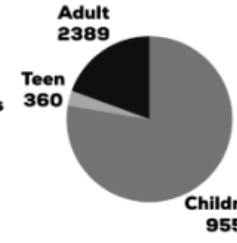
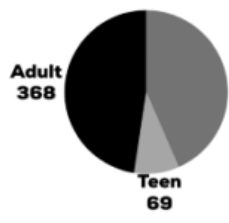


354,239 visits to wilmlibrary.org



763 Library Museum Passes borrowed

Library Programs



Total Attendance

There were over **700** programs held at the library, with over **12,000** patrons in attendance

2023 was a great year at WML!

