

Wilmington Memorial Library 2025 Annual Report

Building Improvements

The library worked with the Public Buildings department to install five new air conditioning units on the second floor of the library. The previous AC units were more than 20 years old and no longer functioned properly. The new units were installed in the children's room, the teen room, and the Stewart Room.

Public Buildings also repainted the entire Stewart Room and its ceiling once the AC units were installed.

A new exterior "Wilmington Memorial Library" sign was installed on the back brick wall of the library facing the parking lot. The previous sign (installed in 2016) was stained and could not be cleaned nor repaired.

Personnel

There were a number of staff changes in 2025. Assistant Children's Librarian Victoria Maganzini resigned in September and Michelle Carley became Assistant Children's Librarian in October. Library Assistant Eric Berube resigned in February and Library Associate Marie Smyth was promoted to Library Assistant. Library Associates Katelyn Steen and Meghan Tompkins resigned in January. Amy Mahoney, Nick McCavitt, and Melissa Tse joined the staff as part-time Library Associates during the year.

Assistant Director Danielle Masterson represented Wilmington Memorial Library at both the New England Library Association (NELA) Conference in Rhode Island, alongside Marketing Librarian Mary Nicholson, and the Merrimack Valley Library Consortium Innovation Expo, with Adult Services Librarian Erin Driscoll. At the Innovation Expo, Danielle presented on planning and executing the library's first-floor redesign project in 2023, while Danielle and Erin co-presented on collaborative patron reading challenges developed with other libraries. At NELA, Danielle and Mary led a well-received session on collaborating effectively with a library's Friends group. The presentation earned favorable feedback in the conference's official attendee survey.

As the chair of the American Library Association (ALA) Bridging Deaf Cultures Interest Group, Technology Librarian Brad McKenna presented on how librarians can better serve the Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities at the annual ALA conference in Philadelphia.

At the quarterly staff meeting in March, Lisa Maloney from the Employee Assistance Program, presented "Optimizing the Workplace: Our Roles in Creating Cohesion." In June, the Wilmington Fire Department provided library staff with a two-hour CPR training. In September, library supervisors gave department reports. We were also debriefed on several library conferences that staff attended. At the December staff meeting, Massachusetts Library System (MLS) consultant Michelle Eberle provided training on De-escalation Basics for Librarians.

Adult Services Librarian Erin Driscoll and Technology Librarian Brad McKenna attended the American Library Association conference in Philadelphia in June. Youth Services Librarian Nicole Chevalier, Assistant Director Danielle Masterson, Marketing Librarian Mary Nicholson, and Library Assistant Marie Smyth attended the New England Library Association (NELA) conference in Newport, Rhode Island in October. Marie and Nicole received a scholarship award that helped subsidize their attendance. In April, Assistant Children's Librarian Victoria Maganzini attended the New Hampshire Library Association conference in Meredith, New Hampshire. In May, Circulation

Librarian Lisa Crispin attended the Maine Library Association conference in Newry, Maine. Additionally, the following staff attended the Massachusetts Library Association conference in May in West Falmouth, Massachusetts:

- Library Director Nathalie Harty
- Teen Services Librarian Sara Rottger
- Library Assistant Marie Smyth

In April, Library Director Nathalie Harty and Assistant Director Danielle Masterson hosted 47 library directors and assistant directors from the Merrimack Valley Library Consortium (MVLC) for a half-day Equity 101 training. M'balu Bangura, the Director of Equity and Fair Practice at Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, presented on equity-centered leadership and shared her innovative work helping libraries and other municipal organizations create diverse and inclusive cultures.

Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Library continues to support the library and its programs. The group has been instrumental in raising funds to help us with the redesign, hold library programs for children, teens, and adults, and support staff development. Volunteers work tirelessly to expertly curate and staff our Bookstore Next Door. In 2025, the Friends collaborated with local Eagle Scout Will Putney to upgrade the Bookstore Next Door's children's room. The improvements included new bookshelves and new carpeting. They also hold an annual jewelry sale, which is extremely popular, and directly benefits our library. The 2025 jewelry sale was the most successful to date. New in 2025, the Friends hosted a dunk tank fundraiser on Wilmington Night (part of the Fun on the Fourth events week). This fully volunteer-run group has dedicated their time, energy, and enthusiasm to the Wilmington Memorial Library. Thank you to our dedicated Friends group for all they do to continue to support us!

Summer Reading

The theme of the 2025 Summer Reading Program was Level Up at Your Library. It ended on August 13 with our big End of Summer Bash held the day after to celebrate. From June through August, Youth Services staff hosted a total of 108 programs, with 3,512 attendees – a 3.3% increase from last year's attendance totals. We had 530 registrants on our reading challenge software Beanstack, up 4.1% from last year's numbers, and 69% of those registrants logged at least one day of reading. We gave away a total of 289 halfway prizes (books) and 228 final prizes (ice cream coupons), plus gave out almost 11,000 beads for Read and Bead keychains. The addition of the kids' weekly raffles was a highlight for families. The grand prize included two balcony tickets to a Bruins game and the chance for a 6-12-year-old to sit on the Bruins bench for pre-game warmups.

Reading Challenges

The library participated in "Minute Madness," our fourth annual bracket-style reading competition. Wilmington made it to the "Fierce Four" round of the competition before being knocked out by worthy opponent Bedford. Our patrons logged 279,614 minutes of reading in just a few weeks. There were 16 other participating libraries.

For the second year in a row, we participated in the Massachusetts Center for the Book's Reading Challenge. This involves reading 12 books in 12 months and prompts participants with monthly themes. There were 209 patrons that registered for the challenge, and they collectively read 277 books throughout the year.

Programming & Events

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

In May, we launched our biannual Behind the Books author series. These events feature well-known authors from around New England and beyond. The first guest was bestselling novelist Chris Bohjalian (*The Flight Attendant*, *Sandcastle Girls*). We hosted him in The Fez Room of the Shriner's auditorium where 124 people showed up to ask him questions and have copies of his books signed. In September, we welcomed bestselling naturalist Sy Montgomery (*The Soul of an Octopus*) at the new Wilmington Senior Center. This event attracted 183 people. A local bookstore selling Ms. Montgomery's books all but ran out of inventory.

In September, we resumed our biennial Welcome to Wilmington reception for new residents. Representatives from other town departments as well as other community organizations participated in presenting information and resources to 38 our newest neighbors.

We launched our new Slice & Dice board game program series for adults. Featuring a select game each month, attendees enjoy pizza while playing. This event is full every month.

We also hosted the library's first After Hours Drag Queen Bingo. Forty-five people attended and had a great time playing bingo.

We partnered with the Wilmington Senior Center for a Longest Day event, shining a light on Alzheimer's disease. This all-ages event included a memory/Storywalk, a kindness rock craft, music, ice cream sundae bar, and a table of library resources.

Youth Services hosted their first large author event in June. This was held at the new Wilmington Senior Center and featured award-winning graphic novelist Jarrett Krosoczka. On a large screen, he demonstrated how he creates his graphic novels while 87 children, teens, and adults asked him questions and drew their own comics.

Youth Services held 428 programs throughout 2025, with 10,876 attendees. Thanks to summer vacation and the Summer Reading Program, our busiest month was June when we held 34 programs with 1,702 attendees.

The teen services department offered many events for young adults in grades 6-12. This included the very popular Bubble Tea Party, as well as crafts, video games, and a fundraiser collaboration with the Friends of the Library. A Keurig machine was installed in the teen room, and a free menstrual products dispenser was installed in the family restroom near the Youth Services area.

In the Community

Youth Services staff represented the library at the Wilmington Public Schools Family Literacy Night. One hundred fifty people visited the library's table where they learned about library resources, received branded tote bags and pens, and checked out books.

For the third year, the library took part in the town's annual tree lighting ceremony in December. Hundreds of residents stopped by the library's booth and took photos with our Wilmington Memorial Library wreath. We also offered free bubbles, glow-sticks, and pens.

The library also had a booth at the Wilmington Celebration Committee's Fall Fest.

Services and Collections

For Arbor Day, we provided 100 free white spruce seedlings to patrons.

The library added 3 new discounted museum passes to our offerings, including Sandmagination, Einstein's Workshop, and the Public Health Museum in Tewksbury. We now have 26 passes available.

We added many new items to our Library of Things collection including: memory kits (backpacks filled with activities to help create moments of connection between caretakers and their loved ones with dementia), a new indoor HD TV antenna, and a Nintendo Switch 2.

The library began a partnership with the Wilmington Police department in December. Samantha Cavanaugh, the town's social worker, began offering weekly drop-in and pre-scheduled appointments at the library. This service is open to any resident who needs assistance with mental health, substance abuse, housing, food insecurity, transportation, applications, and caregiver support.

Technology and Digital Services

The library purchased and installed its first assisted listening system in the Stewart Room. This system has receivers that can be used with headphones for patrons without hearing aids or cochlear implants, neck loops for patrons with T-coils in their hearing aids or cochlear implants, and an app for patrons that have connected their phones to their hearing aids or cochlear implants.

A new business center was set up in the front foyer. Patrons can now use a shredder and laminator for free.

Technology staff continued to offer free digitization services to patrons. In 2025, they digitized 1,445 items including VHS, slides, cassettes, CDs, and 8MM reels.

The library also provided free technology help to 426 patrons in 2025.

The library lost access to free statewide research databases due to federal cuts to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). In the past, the library had access to these databases via the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) which receives federal funding for many Massachusetts libraries.

LIBRARY STAFF (as of December 31, 2025)

Library Director – Nathalie Harty

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
Children's Services –Michelle Carley
Technical Services - Laurie Wierzbicki
Teen Services - Sara Rottger

Library Assistants

Marie Smyth
Jacqueline Strob

Part-Time Library Associates

Britney Chin, Christine Johnson, Rebecca Lowe
Amy Mahoney, Nick McCavitt, Melissa Tse

Library Pages

Ian Brazell, Alexander D'Anna, Adania Deshnica
Alexandra Erler, Hannah Noah, Kyle Tibbetts

BY THE NUMBERS **Wilmington Memorial Library** 2025 Statistics

105,890

people visited the library this year



40,013

patrons helped at our service desks



834

new patrons registered



LIBRARY CARD



8,740

total registered borrowers

WML provided access to thousands of physical and digital items

44,595

Physical Items in Collection

116,501

Digital Items in Collection

The items in each collection circulated almost 300,000 times

152,506

Physical Items Borrowed

135,222

Digital Items Borrowed

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

14,481

Items from our collection borrowed by MVLC libraries

30,654

Items from other MVLC libraries borrowed by WML Patrons

and thousands more were borrowed from libraries across Massachusetts

2,526

patrons accessed our public computers



658,239

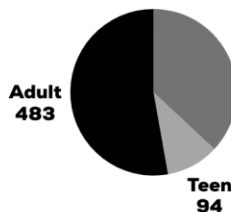
visits to wilmlibrary.org and the WilmLibrary app



1,021

library museum passes borrowed

Library Programs



Adult
3202

Teen
518

Children's
10447

Total Attendance

There were over **900** programs held at the library, with over **14,000** patrons in attendance

2025 was a great year at WML!

