

Our Mission:

As the town's learning center, the Merrimack Public Library will acquire and provide access to a variety of information sources and will offer a robust slate of programming to promote life-long learning. The staff provides dynamic and responsive service to its information consumers through both physical and virtual environments to build a strong, literate community, and to improve the quality of life in Merrimack.

This year there has been an increase in news stories featuring libraries – stories that have centered on the uplifting ways libraries serve as a resource and a haven for many, but also stories about book and program challenges, intellectual freedom, and censorship. The role of the public library is to level the playing field by providing a diverse collection of resources that anyone can access regardless of income, education, or social status, giving every individual equal opportunities for improvement, be it personal growth or contributing to the improvement of our Town. We're glad to be that space for Merrimack.

Quite simply, we hope there is something in the library for everyone. We all have different interests. We can help you find just the right book for your interests and reading level. We can help you figure out how to use that new phone or tablet. Our staff can help you evaluate the quality of information that bombards you every day.

We also try to provide opportunities to improve the quality of life in Merrimack. Yes, this has always included Children's Storytimes and Adult Book Groups, but as the needs of Merrimack's residents change, the library offerings adapt. One great example is our new seed library. With help from the Moose Mountain Seed Savers Group and the Merrimack Garden Club, the seed library remained stocked with a variety of native flower, vegetable, and herb seed packets. We also hosted programs with Master Gardeners to teach you exactly how to prepare, plant, and care for your gardens.

The adaptations we have made were highlighted when our Library of Things Collection was featured during a segment on NH Chronicle "Beyond the Books" (air date March). The segment featured our musical instruments, night goggles, drones, power washer and many more items. We continued to respond to our community's needs by adding puzzles recommended by the NH Alzheimer's Association; these puzzles have fewer pieces and include questions to promote conversation and connection. We also added the Eric Carle Picture Book Museum pass to our collection.

We continue to be good stewards of our building. Margaret Dillon of Sustainable Energy Education Demonstration Services (S.E.E.D.S) completed an energy audit this year funded by a grant from Eversource; this report will help direct us in making further improvements. We replaced the granite steps at the DW entrance, and planned for a refurbishment of our 40+ year old elevator. Encountering supply chain delays, we look forward to completing the elevator refurbishment in 2024. We also embarked on our next strategic plan, hiring a consultant to

interview staff and patrons to assess our current services and plan for the next three to five years.

We rolled out a new catalog overlay (“Aspen”) and combined our two service desks into one “Patron Services” desk – two initiatives that have both greatly improved user experience as well as streamlined staff workflow. Our staff, by the way, are phenomenal, and we would like to highlight several of their accomplishments. With the restructuring of the Circulation and Adult Services Departments, we were able to promote from within to fill full time openings; Congratulations to Reggie Bourn who completed his Master’s of Library Science degree and good luck to staff who have enrolled in a MLS program or are participating in the NH Library Association’s Paralibrarian Certification. Thank you to Cathy Walter, Head of the Youth Services Department, for working with Girl Scout Melody Roe on her Gold Award project of installing a permanent story walk in Veteran’s Park. Congratulations to Jennifer Stover, Head of the Technical Services Department and Executive Department Head, who completed the Primex Supervisor’s Academy. Our Director Yvette Couser continues to preside as the President of our GMILCS Library Consortium.

We built new partnerships with the Reeds Ferry Women’s Club, the Southern NH Pandemic Parents Group, the Merrimack School District’s Department for Student Wellness, the Merrimack Outlet Malls, and the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Farmshare organization. These partnerships enabled us to innovate and expand our outreach in town.

Thank you to the many community volunteers who give their time and talents to partner with us to make the Library a real jewel in town: to our Library Board of Trustees, the Friends of the Library Group, the MPL Development Fund Committee, the Merrimack Garden Club, and so many individuals.

We are deeply honored when you consider the Library to assist with memorials, provide program funding, and donate materials to our collections. With funding from The Barry Quimby Memorial Trust, we have continued to provide remote printing services. With monies from the Watson fund and the Patterson, Lawrence & Carroll Trust funds, we are able to enhance our circulating items across all collections. Financial gifts and kind notes are wonderful, but even better is your presence and your support. Thank you.

Public libraries continue to be that third space where people choose to gather, learn new things, and build relationships. We are so glad to be part of this wonderful community and to be that space for you: The Library is for everyone!

Submitted by,

Yvette Couser
Library Director

Debra Covell
Chair, Library Board of Trustees

Merrimack Public Library Board of Trustees

The Merrimack Public Library has a 5-member Board of Trustees who are elected by the general population and each serve a 3-year term with staggered election dates. The Town Charter also allows for up to 3 Board Alternates who are each appointed by the Town Council to serve for a 1-year term.

Name	Term Expires
Debra Covell, Chair	2025
Jennifer Jobin, Secretary	2026
Janet Krupp, Treasurer	2024
Molly Mortimer	2024
Robbie Reisman	2026
Karen Freed	2024 (1) year Alternate
Ruthmarie Swisher	2024 (1) year Alternate

July 2022 - June 2023 Library Statistical Report

Total physical holdings	60,412
Total items added this year	4,167
Total items deleted this year	4,713

Check outs of Physical Items

Adult Books	37,777
Teen Books	4,295
Juvenile Books	65,422
DVD/Blu-Ray	16,252
Audiobooks	2,960
Music CDs	2,703
Video Games	3,885
Periodicals	1,946
Library of Things (incl. Kits)	2,308
Museum Passes	1,454
Inter-Library Loan	824
Total Physical Check outs	139,826
GMILCS Van Delivery from MMK	9,887
GMILCS Van Delivery to MMK	21,706
Total Physical + Van to/from MMK	171,419

MMK Patrons to GMILCS Libraries	851
Items borrowed by MMK patrons	9,727
GMILCS Patrons to MMK Library	521
Items borrowed by GMILCS Patrons	4,771

Check outs - Digital Items

eAudio (books, music)	20,627
eBook (books, magazines, comics)	15,606
Streamable Films	1377
Streamable Music	130
Streamable TV	389
Total Physical + Digital Check outs	209,548

Telecommunication Access

Website (Google Analytics)	267,195
Database Usage	67,371
Computer Users in Library	2,999

Meeting Room Usage

Children's Events/Total Attending	295/6,420
Teen Events/Total Attending	21/72
Adult Events/Total Attending	148/1,360
Library Meetings/Total Attending	9/47
Other Meetings/Total Attending	69/602
Outreach Events/Total Attending	18/5,536

Total Card-holders	12,890
Customer Door Counter (visits)	66,150