



Liberty Library Annual Report 2022

The Liberty Library is an invaluable asset to our local communities. Library membership is free for anyone who pays taxes or lives in Liberty or Montville. The library is open 5-days a week, Monday 12-7:00 and Tuesday-Friday 10-4:00. You will usually find the Library Director there on Thursday and Friday. Library volunteers staff the other days. This year the library loaned about 8000 books, DVDs, audiobooks, Discovery Kits, and passes to Maine State Parks and Farnsworth Museum. A popular new program was free tickets to the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens.

The Liberty Library is part of MILS (Maine InfoNet Library System), a consortium of small Maine libraries. About 900 additional items were borrowed for patrons from other libraries. Items are requested online or you can contact someone at the library for help. Van delivery is on Thursday. An email is sent when your items are ready to pick up. If the item is not available in the MILS system, you have access to MaineCat, a statewide catalog of more than 3 million items that combines library collections across Maine.

A new service this year called Maine Reciprocal Borrowing allows patrons to visit participating libraries and check out books in person. You can visit any of the other 50+ participating libraries and check out materials. It is often referred to as “walk-in” borrowing because it essentially turns your local library card into a “statewide” library card! Liberty Library does not normally give out library cards, but you can request one so that you can take advantage of reciprocal borrowing.

Members really took advantage of digital services from hoopla®, Download Library/CloudLibrary, and ComicsPlus by downloading or streaming 2666 eBooks, audiobooks, videos, TV shows, music, and graphic novels. Even if you don’t have internet at home, most can be downloaded to your smart phone or tablet and viewed or listened to at home. Liberty Library offers the fastest internet speed around of about 1 gigabit per second and wi-fi is available 24-7. Throughout the year, many folks viewed their classes or Zoom programs, sometimes while sitting in their car. Computer use and printing of documents is available inside the library.

We offered ten virtual or live programs this year, as well as fundraising events such as Pie Sales and raffles this summer. A grant from the Maine Arts Commission enabled us to offer a printmaking workshop with Holly Barry this fall. Monthly Scrabble games are the second Wednesday and Book Discussions are the third Wednesday of the month. A weekly Story Time for preschoolers happens on Fridays at 10:30am. For upcoming events, subscribe to our newsletter at liberty.lib.me.us.

Twenty years ago, the Liberty Library moved to its present location in the renovated “old firehouse.” Buildings age and the well pump needed replaced in June and LED retrofits were installed to the building’s lights in October. We hope to mitigate our heating costs with two heat pumps installed in November. We applied and received assistance from Efficiency Maine for some of these expenses.

In order for the library to continue to provide services, we need you to allocate funds to the library. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Rehmeyer
Library Director

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