

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Dighton Public Library's Mission Statement:

The Dighton Public Library (DPL) provides materials and services for the residents of Dighton, from infant to elder, for the discovery of ideas, the joy of reading and the power of information.

Dighton Public Library Building Project Update:

The DPL is ranked 11th out of 14 public library projects that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) evaluated as part of the 2016 – 2017 Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program grant round.

The library building on Main Street remained closed in 2021 due to a lack of egress and accessible restrooms. The town agreed to find temporary locations for the library to meet statutory and regulatory requirements for library services as defined by the MBLC.

In September 2021, the Dighton Public Library moved Youth Services to the lower level conference room of Dighton Town Hall. Remaining library services moved to a modular unit at the Dighton Town Hall in October 2021. The library building on Main Street remains accessible to staff for storage.

General Services:

The DPL offers access to over 32,000 books, audiobooks, DVDs, magazines, ebooks, wi-fi hotspots, maker kits, downloadable audiobooks and streaming movies. With membership in the SAILS Library Network, Dighton residents have access to over 3 million titles.

The DPL offers digital library resources for Dighton library cardholders, available all hours of the day. They include eBooks and audiobooks, continuing education classes, recipes, crafting tutorials, travel guides, genealogy research, streaming music, and films. The DPL provided assistance with computers, printing, the Internet, and wireless Internet even with a closed building.

While the library building has been closed since the beginning of covid, library services remain available to the public. Library users continued to obtain materials with curbside library service through August 2021. Patrons requested items through an online form, the SAILS catalog, SAILS mobile app or by phone and email. When their items were available, patrons would come to the library to pick up their items where a staff member would bring them outside to their car. For those patrons who are homebound, delivery is available to them. Library card applications were available online.

The DPL partnered with the Parks and Recreation Department to host pop-up library sessions during July and August. Youth services staff brought library materials to a different park each Tuesday through Friday. Weekly visits included the playground at School Lane; the North Dighton Ball Field; and the Community Playground at Dighton Town Hall. One day a week the library would visit a rotating location: Lane Field, Tricentennial Park, Osprey Landing and the tennis courts at the site of the former police station.

Programs and Events:

Toddler and preschool story times resumed in November 2021. Hundreds of take-home crafts were distributed throughout the year.

Lorie Van Hook hosted an online summer reading program, with the theme *Tails and Tales*. Summer reading was emphasized at each of the pop-up library visits, and stories in the park continued on Fridays. A Choose-Your-Own Adventure Book Group for middle school aged kids met in-person on Fridays at Old Town Hall during the summer.

Digital programs continued through Zoom. CARES Act funding carried over from 2020 funded some of these programs, such as the Virtual Meet a Zookeeper series with the Buttonwood Park Zoo. Over 250 people attended the High Flying Dog program on a hot summer day in the field behind Dighton Town Hall.

Dighton Public Library received \$3,000 from the American Library Association's (ALA) *Libraries Transforming Communities: Focus on Small and Rural Libraries* program. This award trained the library director on the best ways to hold community conversations and position the library as a community engagement leader. The DPL hosted two discussions on housing stability and what it does for a small community. Grant funds purchased a new streaming video service; a renewal of the library's Zoom subscription; and audiovisual equipment for programs and meetings.

The DPL also participated in the *Lights On Festival* with its temporary locations at Town Hall.

Friends of the Dighton Public Library:

The Friends of the Library continued to meet regularly to support the library's mission. They are crucial to the operation of the library as they assist with their countless volunteer hours and sponsorship of popular lectures, programs and the museum pass program.

In lieu of the cancellation of the Taste of Dighton, the Friends were able to coordinate with the Dighton Lions on the successful *Small Town Big Heart* fundraiser in which community members purchased heart signs to display on their property. The Friends worked with DoughLicious Pizza in Berkley to host a few fundraisers, held a gift card fundraiser before the holidays and participated in the Garden Club's Festival of Trees. The Friends also participated in the Park and Recreation Department's first Annual Firecracker Festival, an event bringing together community organizations and family activities to the field behind Town Hall.

Statistics:

Hours Open Per Week:	52 hours of curbside availability January – August 52 hours open at Dighton Town Hall September 37 hours open at the both temporary locations, October - December
Items owned by DPL:	32,581
Items added by DPL:	1,620
Total circulation:	17,080 (9.8% increase from 2020)
Total Digital circulation:	22,920 (30% increase from 2020)
Cardholders:	3,157 (1.3% decrease from 2020)

The DPL received \$13,022 from the MBLC's State Aid program for the library's Fiscal Year 21 certification. To qualify for state aid, a municipality and its library must be annually certified by the Library Commissioners and be in compliance with state statutes. The DPL again qualified for the MBLC's Small Libraries in Network Grant, given to libraries in municipalities with populations under 10,000.

Special Thanks:

Thank you to Britt Grealish-Rust, Lorie Van Hook, Phyllis Haskell, and Lisa Mello for their hard work and commitment to public service during another difficult year. Special thanks to Mason Tavares for his volunteer work throughout the year.

Thank you to the Friends of the Dighton Public Library for their unwavering support. Thank you to the Dighton Lions for sharing the *Small Town Big Heart* fundraiser and Araujo Farms for selling signs.

Thank you to the Dighton Highway Department for their help in setting up the two locations and moving library materials and furniture.

We would also like to thank the Dighton Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator, Finance Committee, Parks and Recreation department, department heads, all elected and appointed officials and residents for supporting us during this year.

The DPL also sincerely thanks outgoing trustee Alison Cembalisy for her years of service to the board. We welcome Rita Araujo to the board in 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jocelyn Tavares, Library Director
Ron O'Connor, Trustee
Rita Araujo, Trustee

Alison Cembalisy, Trustee
EveMarie Cabral, Trustee