

Goodnow Library

2021 was the second full year of the COVID pandemic. The Library opened to the public on a limited basis in April with a number of restrictions on use, including capacity and time. Many areas in the building were off limits, such as public computers and meeting space. Members of the Library staff were stationed at the entrance to distribute hand sanitizer, extra masks, and explain the “new” normal. Many visitors expressed their appreciation of the services provided during the pandemic, describing the contactless pickup system that delivered Library material into their hands “a lifeline.” Virtual programming was offered to children, adults, and teens.

The gratitude was very appreciated by the hardworking staff who were overjoyed to welcome back patrons. By June, many restrictions had been lifted and the Library returned to its regular summer schedule, and by September, the meeting rooms

were made available once again to community groups.

New Initiatives

One good outcome of the pandemic was that the virtual environment provided an opportunity for greater collaboration among libraries. Goodnow co-hosted a number of joint adult programs, including book talks from popular authors, namely a talk with bestselling author David Baldacci in December. As part of the effort to increase programming for adults, the Library introduced a new program, the Cookbook Club, for adults that enjoy cooking and trying new dishes. This monthly program has been incredibly popular. Members look forward to cooking from selected cookbooks, sharing dishes with each other, and discussing the successes and challenges of the cooking process.

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HAVE YOUR LIBRARY CARD HANDY OR DOWNLOAD THE MOBILE APP



WEAR A MASK THAT COVERS YOUR NOSE & MOUTH



USE HAND SANITIZER PRIOR TO BROWSING



MAINTAIN A 6 FOOT DISTANCE FROM OTHERS



LIMIT YOUR TIME TO 15 MINUTES



PLEASE BE PATIENT; YOU MAY ENCOUNTER A SHORT WAIT BEFORE ENTERING



This year, Goodnow introduced a new type of collection called the Library of Things. This collection of non-traditional items has been well received by the community. It allows patrons to try new things and gain new experiences. By borrowing and reusing, it not only helps to reduce consumption and waste, but creates a more sustainable environment. The more popular items have been the Nintendo Switch, the carpet cleaner, and the knife sharpener.

Community Events

As an official “Welcome Back” to the community, the Library hosted *Halloweenfest*, a Library-wide open house. It served to educate Library patrons about programs and services, such as the new Tween collection, the Library of Things, the NOW Lab, and

more. The Library partnered with the Sudbury Family Network who provided small pumpkins for decorating, and cider donuts from Honey Pot Farm. While the Library planned for 300 attendees, in total, a whopping 656 people came to join the fun. The scarecrow contest had 18 creative, book-themed entries that were installed on the Library front lawn.

Goodnow also partnered with the local non-profit, the Metrowest Readers Fest (MWRF) to bring author, Jennifer DeLeon, who wrote *White Space* and *Don't Ask Me Where I'm From*, to the Library for its inaugural event, and the first in-library program in two years. With financial support from the Goodnow Library Foundation, the Library was able to provide free copies of DeLeon's books to the public and host book discussions for both adults and teens. In 2022, the MWRF will expand to include both Sudbury and Wayland, furthering intercommunity collaboration.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)

The Library contributed significant effort towards expanding diversity, equity, and inclusion. The first major effort to level the playing field and encourage a welcoming atmosphere was the elimination of overdue fines. Research shows that eliminating late fees created a more equitable and inclusive Library. For example, late fines disproportionately affect those who do not have a reliable source of income or transportation, in opposition to the goal of libraries to be accessible to all. In addition, it has been demonstrated that late fines do not prompt patrons to return materials more quickly, and are often confusing and a source of conflict between the community and staff. The effort was given broad support, including that of the Board of Trustees, Town Manager, Library staff and community.

Other DEI efforts included creating monthly displays and book lists across all Library departments. Those featured the Library's collection on topics such as cultural heritage and gender identity. Efforts were made to decolonize the collection, and plans to audit for diversity are underway for 2022. Library staff have participated in a number of continuing education workshops, such as "Stereotypes, Implicit Bias & Stereotype Threat" and others, and DEI will be a component of the upcoming Strategic Plan.

The Library collaborated with several community organizations to bring the discussion of DEI to the

community at large. The first was a collaboration with the National Center for Race Amity to present a Zoom lecture, film screening, and community discussion on *Race Amity America's Other Tradition: A Primer* by William H. Smith, Ed.D. Secondly, the Library worked with the committee that brought the film "*I'm Not Racist . . . Am I?*" to Sudbury. These collaborations facilitated important community conversations and furthered the mission of the Sudbury Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission to "support diversity, achieve equity, and foster inclusion for every member of this community, respecting all aspects of identities."

Services to Children



June brought the start of Summer Reading and the launch of weekly outdoor programming held "Live on the Lawn" at the Wayside Inn. After nearly sixteen months of virtual programming it was fantastic to have children and families physically present at programs again. Using the 2021 Summer Reading theme "Tails and Tales," the Children's Department partnered with Mass Audubon's Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary to develop an engaging summer program centered on different animals. Weekly story times featuring an "animal of the week" were filmed at Drumlin Farm. Over two thousand take-

and-make activity kits were created and distributed as companions to these story times. As a result, 688 children collectively read for more than 5,200 hours. In 2021 the Goodnow Children's Department offered 263 programs (a combination of virtual, outdoor, and in-person indoors) attended by 14,282 people, and distributed 3,050 take-and-make activity kits.

Services to Teens

During the 2021 year, the Teen Department shifted from virtual back to in-person programming, while still offering a variety of passive programming opportunities. The Teen Librarian planned, oversaw, and ran 83 programs for 535 participants over the calendar year. This summer the Library debuted "Teen Summer Read" bags, a collection of small items that thematically accompanied the Summer Reading Program, to great success. All 50 bags were distributed and had a waitlist of 20 patrons.

"This [program] was amazing!! Giselle loves every single one of your classes, and especially listening to your lovely anecdotes. It has really helped get us through a very long and isolating year."

Going forward, the Library will continue the hybrid approach to the Summer Reading Program and further rely on gamification to increase participation. Rather than simply offering a traditional Summer Reading Program where the goal is simply to read books with the chance to win a prize, additional achievements were offered to create a more immersive experience. By tying in activities other than just "read for x hours," the teens were incentivized to take advantage of more Library services with the promise of unlocking badges and winning prizes. For example, attending a program or reading a specific type of book earned achievements that unlocked the chance at more prizes. This "gamification" is mutually beneficial to both the Library and the patrons by broadening the experience of the Library, and inspiring them to go beyond their usual habits.

The Teen collection has also developed over the past year. In addition to an increase in e-books and video games, the Teen Librarian has refreshed the non-

fiction section to better fit modern needs. A diversity audit is currently in progress for the Teen fiction collection to give a better understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the collection, and develop a strategy for material acquisitions going forward.

As the Library continues to adjust to the new normal, the Teen Librarian will continue developing collaborations with the local school librarians and community organizations to better serve the teens of Sudbury.



Sara Sherman NOW Lab

Much of the focus of the work in the Library's makerspace this year was on supporting patrons remotely and in-person, and collaborating with other departments and outside groups. NOW Lab equipment and staff expertise were instrumental in designing and producing components for Take and Make craft kits, which were provided to participants while the Library was closed during the pandemic. NOW Lab staff supported both the Children's Department and Reference Services to create projects for February break and Summer Reading Program craft kits. This included using a programmable electronic cutting machine to produce hundreds of kits for the children's programs and laser cutting for the Reference Department. In supporting the Children's Department's outdoor summer story times, the Lab's large-scale printer was utilized to create large props that would be visible to the audience on the lawn.

Local History

The Historical Collections Committee of the Library undertook to create a permanent display of a special collection of thirteen oil paintings by local historian A. S. Hudson. After the paintings and frames were

The map shows the Sudbury Plantation boundary in blue. Numbered locations are as follows:

- 1 Cakebread Mill
- 2 Government Storehouse - Sand Hill
- 3 Mill Village
- 4 First Meeting House
- 5 Mount Wadsworth Cemetery
- 6 Goodnow Library and Chapel
- 7 Wayside Inn (How's Tavern)
- 8 Haynes Garrison House
- 9 Walker Garrison House
- 10 Old Brown Garrison House

Other locations marked on the map include Sudbury Center, Mill Village, Framingham, and Needham Heights.

In January, the Library Board of Trustees formally dissolved its relationship with the Friends of the Goodnow Library. This decision was made after many months of deliberation, which resulted in an inability to find a path forward. The Library worked to develop alternative funding sources due to the loss of Friends donations, as well as provide community events such as the book sale, museum passes, and programming.

community, a fundraising gala held in September at the Wayside Inn, and through sales from the Book Nook. The Foundation hosted a contactless book drive in March, and in October, the first in-person book sale since the pandemic began. The Foundation supported summer reading for children by donating to Drumlin Farm, and held a Be Bold Speaker Series hybrid event in October with Samantha Greenfield. Despite the challenges to gathering, the Foundation was able to engage in community partnerships and increase donations over the previous year.

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because I love the library!
The Goodnow library is a
wonderful community
resource that speaks to
the hearts and souls of
the public while
expanding their horizons.

GOODNOW LIBRARY

2022 will bring exciting developments as the Library unveils a new website, designed for easy navigation and accessibility. It will showcase all of the many services, programs and resources the Library has to offer. Additionally, Library staff will be working on presenting a new strategic plan, developed with the input of Sudbury's many stakeholders. The Historical Room Project is expected to be completed in 2022, capping a multi-phase effort to reimagine the second floor of the Library. It will offer quiet workspace and

improved display and storage of the Library's unique local history collection.



Statistical Snapshot

Unlike the rest of this report, the statistics shown here are tracked on the fiscal year, in this case July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021. As a result of COVID, the Library's statistics were significantly impacted. The Library was closed to the public for nearly the entire fiscal year, but it opened in April three days a week. In June the Library opened to full hours, but programming remained virtual. This heavily impacted program attendance, the volume of visitors, and circulation of materials. The revenue from meeting rooms and passport applications was zero, as those services were not offered during the fiscal year.

Of particular note is the effort that went into getting books into the hands of patrons. At first glance, it appears that total Circulation decreased from the previous year. However, the Library processed 18,604 contactless holds pick-up appointments from June 2020 through May 2021 averaging 2,000 appointments per month. The task was labor intensive and daily took the efforts of Library staff from every department to complete. The lists generating the requests were taken to the shelves where the items were pulled. Then they were taken to the Circulation Department where the items were checked out to the patron, bagged, labeled and set

out on the pick-up carts. There were many phone calls, knocks on the doors to answer questions, confirm appointment times, and retrieve wayward items.

Statistical Report			
FY21 (July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021)			
	FY2021	FY2020	Change
Total Circulation	314,804	348,992	-9.8%
Number of Children's Programs	285	697	-64.2%
Attendance of Children's Programs	16,865	29,645	-43%
Number of Teen Programs	74	101	-26%
Attendance of Teen Programs	436	943	-53%
Number of Adult Programs	82	5	+1540%
Attendance of Adult Programs	747	1,213	-38%

Financial Report*		
FY21 (July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021)		
	Revenue	Expended
Lost book Fund	\$401.59	\$1,003.13
Meeting Room Revolving Fund	\$60	\$8,149
Passport Revolving Fund	\$0	\$4,360
State Aid Funds	\$33,571.07	\$30,288.69
Fines	\$2,838.76	

**Revenue amounts do not reflect the pre-existing balance in each account, but rather the amounts brought in and expended during the specified time*

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