

2020 Annual Report



Table Of Contents

Board of Trustees & Friends Board.....	2
Library Director’s Message.....	3
Mission Statement.....	3
Accomplishments.....	4
Programs & Services For Everyone.....	5
Community Engagement.....	6
Success Story.....	7
Services For The Young & Homebound...8	
Tech Lab & Idea Studio.....	9
Services During COVID19.....	10
Operating Budget.....	11
We Are In Your Community.....	12

Board Of Trustees

Stephanie K. Carter	Chair
Ella C. DeFusco	Vice Chair
Michael Riccitelli	Secretary
Nancy Dorsey†	Trustee
Diane Erban*	Trustee
Patricia Major*	Trustee
Jeff Ursillo*	Trustee
Kimberly Wineman	Trustee

The Warwick City Council appoints the Library Board of Trustees to three-year terms. Trustees control the budget and are the legal guardians and custodians of the library buildings, books, and materials.

Friends Board

David Dupéré	President
Michael Kanelos	Vice President
Loretta Furtado	Treasurer
Stacey Popule	Recording Secretary
Cheryl Cotter	Corresponding Secretary & Book Sales
Maureen Wishart	Membership & Marketing
Jayne Berghorn	Newsletter Editor
Sandy Hartley	Board Member
Yvette Kenner	Board Member
Evelyn O’Hearn	Board Member
Heidi Showstead	Board Member

Board and Friends Board members as of June 2020
 †Term ended on August 2020 *Term began on August 2020



Library Director's Message

Welcome to the Warwick Public Library. We are one of the largest and busiest public libraries in Rhode Island.

What started out as a banner year, in terms of the number of library users and materials borrowed, came to a halt in mid-March with stay-at-home orders from the City and State in response to COVID19. We were forced to reduce services to on-line platforms. Luckily, we offer many on-line databases, movies, e-books, and audio-books. Usage of Universal Class skyrocketed, as did borrowing of e-books from the E-Zone® and Hoopla®. We doubled the number of books and movies patrons could borrow from Hoopla® to help accommodate the demand. We also continued to offer reference librarian services via chat, e-mail, and telephone. Librarians presented Story Hours and other virtual programs online using Zoom®. In April, the Governor announced a reading challenge to keep school children reading while at home. She asked libraries to participate, and we did by using curbside delivery of children's books which had been donated for the Friends' book sale that had been canceled. Children's librarians bagged books according to school grade level and scheduled pickup times by phone. We developed a three-phase opening plan and the contactless curbside book loan program gave us insight that allowed us to provide curbside pickup for patrons of all ages during the month of May.

On June 8, we opened our doors to the public again, offering limited services which included browsing new books and DVDs, reserves pickup, 20-minute computer use and self-service copy and fax services. Phase III will have the book stacks open for browsing and additional computers available for up to an hour. Per RI mandate, we asked our patrons to wear a face covering and they have been responsible.

We were fortunate to obtain a \$224,200 grant from the Champlin Foundation for the remodeling of the public restrooms, and the addition of a companion restroom for single use, or use by a person with a caregiver or child.

We are excited to work with the Department of Parks and Recreation on Storywalks for Warwick, which are story book page boards erected in a local park. This project has been made possible by a \$10,000 Rhode Island Foundation Community Grant. Kudos to the Children's Librarian, Ellen O'Brien and Parks and Recreation Director, James Scott.

I commend the staff for their excellent work during this crisis, both from home and in the buildings. The Library Trustees, who donate their time and expertise to manage the Library, deserve special thanks. We thank the Friends of the Library who have paid for programs and necessary services, volunteers who donate their time, and the Mayor and City Council for their support, especially during the pandemic.

Keep informed and safe,

Chris La Roux
Library Director

Mission Statement

The Warwick Public Library is the hub of community learning where every child can be a reader, every resident can connect to the digital world, and lifelong learning enriches every life. The Warwick Public Library is your open door to learning and everything online.



Accomplishments

Materials Borrowed.....496,138
Library Website Visits.....331,330
Patron Visits.....280,661

Wireless Internet Users.....41,261
Computer Users.....30,515

Active Library Cards.....29,063
Questions Answered.....23,283

Programs.....950
Program Attendance.....18,957


Virtual Programs.....70
Virtual Program Attendance.....7,323

Grants.....\$235,200
Friends Donations.....\$20,604



Programs & Services For Everyone

A Concert of Red Roots Americana
by Singer-Songwriter




THEA HOPKINS

Thea Hopkins sings about hope, justice, her Wampanoag heritage, and essential truths. Stripped down to voice and guitar, her songs are potent, and when she plays, all of her sensitivity, cleverness, and joy beams through.

Her songs from her acclaimed album *Love Comes Down* and other original tunes.

She has appeared at the Warwick Civic Club Room, the Sandwich Film Festival, the Rhode Island State House, the Massachusetts Museum of Fine Arts, and the Providence Film Art Museum at AMC.



Sunday, February 9 at 2 p.m.

In February, we hosted a concert of Red Roots Americana by Singer Songwriter Thea Hopkins. She sings about hope, love, justice, her Wampanoag heritage, and essential truths. Stripped down to voice and guitar, her songs are potent, and when she plays, all of her sensitivity, cleverness, and joy beams through. The audience loved it.

In November, a popular program taught how to create a “Junk Journal: An Arts & Crafts Workshop.” Participants made two creative styles of junk journals at an arts & crafts workshop at the Library. Junk journals are handmade journals created out of all kinds of paper, such as wallpaper, mail, greeting cards, and envelopes. Junk journals can be used for journaling or turned into art journals.

Wallpaper Journal



Make a Junk Journal
An Arts & Crafts Workshop

Junk Journals are Handmade Journals created out of all kinds of paper, such as paper bags, wallpaper, junk mail, envelopes, and greeting cards.

Bring scissors, white glue, and paper-including copy paper, magazines, pages from books, greeting cards, and junk mail.

Bring a paper bag with handles if you want to make a Paper Bag Junk Journal. All other materials will be supplied.

Junk Journals can be used for journaling or turned into art journals.



Saturday, November 23

Paper Bag Junk Journal 10 a.m. and 12 p.m.
Junk Journal 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.



Warwick Public Library, Barrington Public Library, Cranston Public Library, North Kingstown Free Library, and the Office of Library & Information Services are developing a new, statewide platform for library events: Rhody Radio. The podcast brings you voices from your neighbors around RI. Discover local writers, artists, experts, scholars, musicians, and performers from across the Ocean State, and enjoy lectures, stories, and conversations selected for you by Rhode Island librarians.

One of our most popular Teen activities was our “Escape Room.” This is where young patrons competed to solve puzzles, crack clues, codes, and discover how to escape the room in less than 90 minutes*. Many were ready for the challenge and had so much fun. Teens had to search the room for clues and then they had to work together to try to solve puzzles, codes, and more to discover the security code to get out of the room.

* The room was never locked, it was just pretend.



One of our children’s offerings was the Sensory Play Saturdays program where children of all abilities and ages benefit from sensory play. The class allows them to connect ideas with concrete experiences, it stimulates the brain which helps strengthen neural pathways, and it helps develop fine and motor skills. Our Sensory Play Saturdays invited families to go at their own pace as they visited the interactive stations to touch, see, and explore.



2019 Pumpkin Walk: Families were invited to wear a costume and bring their carved pumpkin to the Children's Library to be part of our Pumpkin walk. Flame-less candles were added to each pumpkin and the lights turned out. Families strolled through the stacks to view the bevy of Jack-O-Lanterns and enjoy seasonal snacks and music.



Quidditch Championships: The Mayor announces that Warwick will host the Northeast Regional Quidditch Championship games in October 2019 and 2020. Pictured: James Scott, Director of Parks and Recreation; Kristen Adamo, President & CEO of the Providence Warwick Convention & Visitors Bureau; Joseph J. Solomon, Mayor, City of Warwick; John Gibbons, Executive Director of the RI Sports Commission; Karen Jedson, Director, Warwick Department of Tourism, Culture and Development.

The Boscov's at Providence Place Grand Opening was a fundraiser for non-profits. Early shoppers bought tickets to enter the store and the proceeds went to various non-profits in RI.




Police - Community Partnerships

We gave out over 400 gifts to visitors to our table at the annual Night Out on Oakland Beach. Everyone loved playing Plinko!



You may not think of a tarantula as beloved, but the Children's Library pet, Beezus (below) certainly is. On February 19, we celebrated our prized pet tarantula's sixteenth birthday. It was a true celebration complete with a huge cake for all her guests, a party, games, favors, and a balloon twister!



In September 2019, we hosted a group exhibit of "Veterans Art." We wanted to celebrate the accomplishments of our vets and discuss the therapeutic aspects of art. A robust questions and answers session followed the well-attended show reception. Many in attendance made connections with other participants.



Hello!

My name is Katherine (Kate) Eminger. I attended Story Hour at the Apponaug branch of the Warwick Public Library from 2001-2003. I was three years old when I started. I stopped when I finished kindergarten and started going to school for the entire day.

Yesterday, I graduated from Rhode Island College with a B.S. in Early Childhood Education. In my studies, I took a Child Development class in which I analyzed parts of my own childhood. One thing that I realized was how impactful that Story Hour was. It was a large part of my social development (I still have friends from Story Hour!) It was an even larger part of my cognitive development.

I can confidently say that it was here where I learned to love books and reading. It was the highlight of my week. I loved our little library (and our big one as well)! That is why I found it appropriate to take some of my Senior photos there.

I know that sometimes the impact of these programs goes unrecognized or unmentioned. I wanted to thank you from the bottom of my heart for providing this Story Hour and for continuing to spark a love of reading and learning. Throughout my studies, I have realized the importance of our local libraries. They are such an amazing resource for children and families. I can't wait to pass on this passion and knowledge to the students that I work with.

Thank you. You made a difference!

Kate Eminger

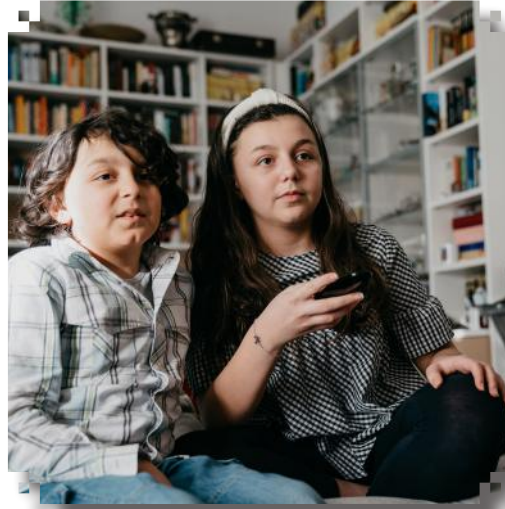


Services For The Young & Homebound



1000 Books is a family challenge that celebrates early learning and sharing stories. It is an ongoing program for babies, toddlers and preschoolers. Why 1000 Books? The best way to ensure a child has the skills necessary to learn to read is having someone read aloud to them. They will learn that letters make sounds, words make stories. Reading to your child also increases vocabulary, instills a love of reading, and creates lifelong memories.

School Outreach & Visits



Virtual School Visits for the Summer Learning Challenge: Each spring we visit Warwick public schools to promote the summer reading program to high school and teens. This year we brought our message directly to their homes through their Google classroom. Students watched Warwick Public Library librarians explain the program and students were able to sign up for the program online.

Home Delivery by Mail



We use the U.S. postal service to mail library materials to homebound Warwick residents. We now have 93 patrons who receive monthly mailings of reading and viewing materials. Librarians select about 465 items monthly based on the patron's requests, and the Library pays the postage in both directions, to the patron and back to the Library.

Tech Lab



The Tech Lab houses the virtual reality equipment along with a vinyl record player, audio equipment, and many classic vinyl records. Since opening in 2019, the Tech Lab has received quite a bit of use during the year. This sought-after lab temporarily closed this past March 2020 due to COVID19. We plan to offer these items and services after we are safe to reopen.



Idea Studio



The Idea Studio was used for adult computer classes and craft group meetings. When the Library reopened to the public in June, the children's department used this room for limited children's services, as the Children's Library was temporarily closed. We hope to open the Children's Library on the second floor in the Fall. We look forward to when we can again open the Tech Lab and Idea Studio for public use.



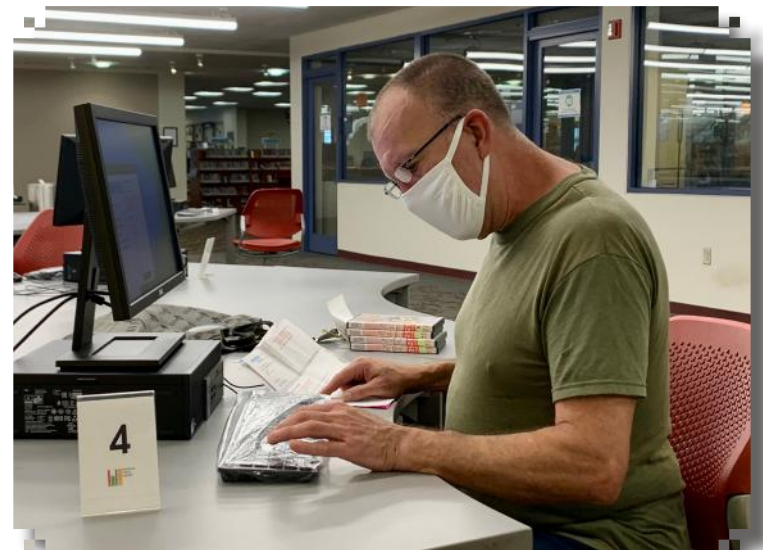
Services During COVID19



We closed to the public mid March and staff worked from home, providing reference assistance by telephone, e-mail, and chat. We also ordered books and provided programs using Zoom. In April, we developed curbside pickup to provide books to school children in support of the Governor's reading challenge. We came back to work in May using our experience with curbside pickup and online programming. Hundreds of patrons took advantage of this service to access their library materials prior to the Library reopening to the public on June 8. Contactless pickup meant staff was checking out requested books and DVDs, placing them in plastic bags, and scheduling convenient pickup times with patrons.



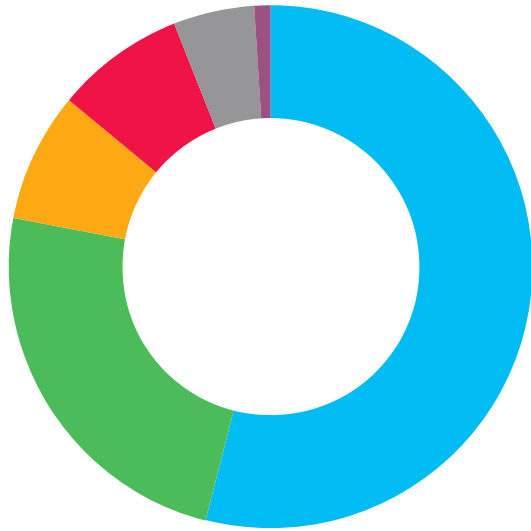
From March through the end of June, 7,323 people attended virtual library programs. Programming had to change from in-person to virtual which required the librarians to learn how to use video equipment and the Zoom app. The public also had to learn how to use Zoom, but both staff and public met the challenge. Children's services were offered from the Idea Studio and most of the building remained closed to the public. In July, we opened the entire first floor with access to computers but as of this printing, there is no seating or meeting rooms available. We are continuing to phase in operations following state regulations and RI Department of Health protocols.



2020 Operating Budget: \$4,239,921

Expenses:

Budget figures: July 2019 to June 2020



Staff: 54%



Books, Media & Programs: 8%



Benefits: 24%



Computers & Internet: 5%

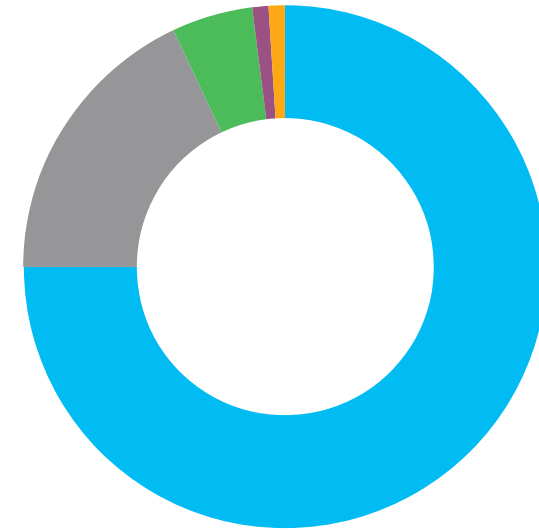


Operations: 8%



Support Services: 1%

Income:



City Funding: 75%



State Funding: 18%



Grants: 5%



Endowment: 1%

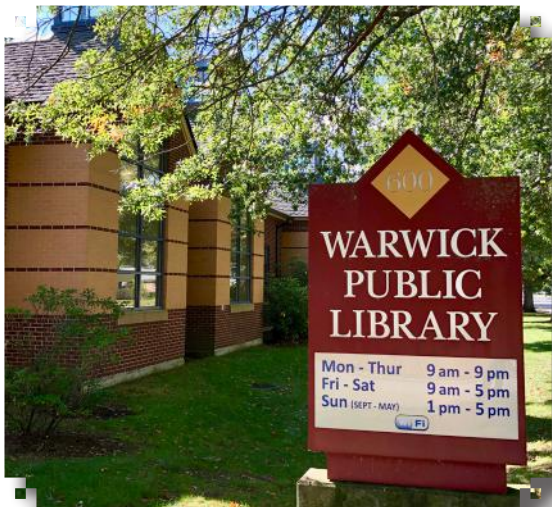


Friends, Donations, Lost items & Fines: 1%

We acknowledge memorial donations: Janice Percie DiFranco Fund for the purchase of library books and media. Ms DiFranco was the first Deputy Director of the Warwick Public Library and founded the Rhode Island Film Cooperative. She left a donation to the Library when she passed away, continuing her charitable work. The **Pia DeConcilis Fund**: Pia DeConcilis was a Library user who endowed the Library to purchase large print books. Other memorial donations: **Elaine Fiorenzano, Jerome Parker, Anna & William Nicanor Sundstrom, and Norma Ward.**

We Are In Your Community

Central Library



600 Sandy Lane (401) 739-5440

Apponaug Branch



3267 Post Road (401) 739-6411



Joseph J. Solomon
Mayor
City of Warwick
Rhode Island

WarwickLibrary.org



Norwood Branch



328 Pawtuxet Ave. (401) 941-7545

Conimicut Branch



55 Beach Ave. (401) 737-6546