

GROTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Vanessa Abraham, Director

Hours: Tue-Thu 10am-9pm • Fri 10am-6pm • Sat 10am-5pm • Sun 1-5pm (Sept-May) • Mon closed
Trustees meet monthly on the 2nd Tuesday at 7 pm • gpl.org • info@gpl.org

Main: 978-448-1167 • Children's: 978-448-1168 • Reference: 978-448-8000 • Fax: 978-448-1169

Mission. The Groton Public Library provides free access to collections, services, and programs that enrich the lives of all in our community. Library services are provided in a professional, friendly, and confidential environment that also promotes the joys and benefits of reading and lifelong learning.

Collections. In 2018, GPL patrons borrowed 177,584 physical items and 19,004 digital titles through Hoopla and OverDrive (ebooks, audiobooks, music, videos, magazines), Freegal (music), Safari and TumbleBooks (ebooks). Borrow from GPL's 80,000-strong collection of books and materials or from the 3+ million titles in the 36 libraries in the MVLC consortium, or from other libraries in Mass. and beyond.

Resources. This year, there were 8,373 searches in GPL databases. A lot of quality resources are copyright-protected and not available for free online. GPL subscribes to *Ancestry* (in-library only), *Consumer Reports*, *HeritageQuest*, *NoveList*, *Opposing Viewpoints*, *Pronunciator*, and *Nashoba Valley Voice*; the state and Boston Public Library provide even more – all free to library card holders.

Services. Staff is here to help with any information or technology need, from homework to home improvement to applying for a job to a good book to read; 6,554 questions were answered in 2018. Assistance and access to computers, Internet, printers, copier, scanner, fax, and 3D printing is provided.

Programs. 2018 was another record-breaking year for library programming, with 11,485 people attending 697 library programs with numbers up 9% over 2017. While all programs are popular, kids' events, school half-day Llama Lounges, and GPL's reading events draw the most, with 1,030 people (kids, teens, adults) participating in Summer Reading and over 1,000 people attending Groton Reads events around the comfy and cozy concepts in *The Little Book of Hygge* by Meik Wiking (also GPL's most borrowed book in 2018.)

Space. 100,259 people visited GPL in 2018 and meeting and study rooms were booked 1,698 times for public use and activities. In 2018, staff work space was downsized and a former staff room on the third floor was turned into the new Young Adult Lounge with all new furnishings, technology, and art. On the second floor, two large shelving runs bisecting the floor were removed, and now the browsing space is open, visible, and full of light. Also, GPL was open Sundays in May for the first time.

Challenges. Changing to a new Acquisitions system for ordering and receiving new materials was a challenge for staff this year, but the advantages to library users (the ability see what's on order, full integration with the library catalog, real-time updates to processing status, and faster hold fulfillment) made it worth it. After two decades of addressing leaks, water infiltration, ice dams, and gutter and drainage issues, the Trustees used State Aid and a CPA grant to fund a building envelope study; the results were shocking - a full replacement of all roofing and drainage systems is recommended in 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Library Board of Trustees: David Zeiler (Chair), Marilyn (Mimi) Dabritz (Vice-Chair), Nancy Wilder (Secretary), Jane Allen, Mark Gerath, and Kristen von Campe. Email: gpltrustees@gpl.org