

Cook Memorial Library 2019 Annual Report



Mission Statement: Cook Memorial Library provides educational, cultural, recreational and information resources through the work of its dedicated and knowledgeable staff. It is accessible to all as a welcoming and comfortable center of community activity.

At each of their board meetings, Library Trustees reviewed how the library was addressing the strategic priorities listed in the 2018-2020 Strategic Plan. The priority for faster internet was met and is being monitored in case more speed is needed. Services for older residents were expanded by offering more daytime programs, some in partnership with Tamworth Community Nurse Association. Home delivery service was publicized, and expanded to include assisted living facilities. A new program for teens, AdventureQuest, was offered thanks to game developer Kevin Mahoney, with funding from a grant from the Ossipee Valley Rotary Club, plus individual donations, fundraising by the gamers themselves, and library program funds raised by the Friends of Cook Memorial Library. Deeper community connections and understanding were fostered in many ways through interactive, intergenerational activities. In addition to a variety of library sponsored programs, connections were deepened by Cook Library's cooperation with the Chocorua Public Library to encourage people of all ages to participate in the summer reading program, and celebrating readers at a wrap-up party with ice cream. The Tamworth History Center provided outdoor space for a skywatch and Baby Parade, and remained a frequent collaborator for programs and ideas. Other examples of connecting the community include activities brought to the library: Chocorua Lake Conservancy's and Yeoman Fund for the Arts' crankie and lantern-making workshops, Tamworth Outing Club's pumpkin carving, and K.A. Brett School Band's and Chorus's holiday performances.

Trustees have committed to making strategic planning an ongoing process, and have updated the strategic priorities for the coming year as follows: increase awareness of online services, increase teen engagement, retain the priorities to expand services for older residents and foster deeper community connections and understanding.

Our library's reputation as a community hub is a result of the people who make good use of our facility and services: patrons, program participants, community groups that choose to meet at the library, volunteers who help on a regular basis as well those who answer a call for extra help, Friends who work tirelessly and cheerfully to fundraise to enhance library services. Our library staff brings a diversity of experiences, interests, and expertise to the library, creating a public library that is welcoming, stimulating, useful, and fun place to visit. In 2019, two staff members were recognized by the Board of Trustees for twenty (or more) years of service: Chris Clyne, Reference Librarian, and Amy Carter, Children's and Programming Librarian.

In 2019, our library building was refreshed with new paint on the exterior and new carpet on the interior. Both projects were done in September. Happily and conveniently, we were able to open a

temporary library at the newly renovated Tamworth Town House, keeping library services available to the public while the projects were happening at the library.

Cook Memorial Library in 2019 by the numbers

Items in collection as of December 31: 23,366
Items added: 1,088, 29% were gifts
Items withdrawn: 2,092
Active borrowers: 857 individuals checked something out;
133 people downloaded e-books and audiobooks
Items borrowed: 30,962, 15% (4,518) were interlibrary loans
Visits to library: 17,236
Reference questions answered: 1,742, includes technology assistance
Programs: 298, with attendance of 4,354
Community meetings: 312, with attendance of 1,960

Items available to check out included books, magazines, audiobooks, music CDs, DVDs, equipment, museum passes, plus downloadable e-books, audiobooks and magazines. The library provided online access to Britannica encyclopedia, magazine and journal articles from Ebsco (funded by the N.H. State Library), and genealogy resources from Ancestry and HeritageQuest.

Cook Memorial Library cardholders checked out 14% more items in 2019 than in 2018: 30,962 check-outs in 2019 compared to 27,070 in 2018. More specifically, checkouts of adult items increased 9%, young adult (teen) items decreased by 5%, and children's items increased by an impressive 28%. Reading to children and encouraging emerging readers to read on their own is vitally important to future well-being. This is a wonderful statistic to share about the children, caregivers, and families in our community.

Library Trustees voted to carry over the following 2019 unexpended funds to the 2020 budget: \$73.72 Barbara Fromm Memorial Fund; \$333.33 Susan Chiaradonna Memorial Fund; \$175.00 Sharon Malenfant Memorial Fund; \$1,557.21 income from Library Trust Funds; \$404.15 copier/fax income less expenses; \$179.65 income from fees, grants, donations, and sales; and \$1,386.94 Friends of CML funding support.

Everyone is welcome at the library, and we welcome your feedback and suggestions. See our website <https://tamworthlibrary.org> for hours, contact information, events, services, and access to library catalogs and online resources.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Cronin, Library Director

Baby Parade, May 25, 2019

