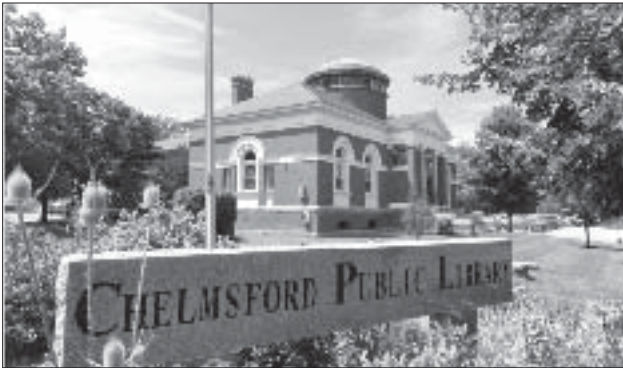




Chelmsford Public Library Becky Herrmann, Library Director



"We all live in suspense, from day to day, from hour to hour; in other words, we are the hero of our own story."

Mary McCarthy
(American novelist and critic, 1912-1989)

Library Activity At-A-Glance

Library Card Holders	27,828
Library Visitors	256,943
Library Programs	951
Program Attendance	21,893
Kids in Summer Reading	1,327
Materials Circulated	458,884
Econtent Uses	77,682
Reference Questions	48,977

It's no mystery that Chelmsford residents love their library. We are a thriving, active, community gathering spot with 256, 943 visitors to the library this past year. That is 750+ visitors per day, (for the days that we are regularly open!) We also circulated close to 500,000 items this year. We offered 951 programs with over 20,000 people attending. We are busy!

FY16 was a year filled with suspense...

- Reader's Advisory Grant –We applied for and were awarded a federal grant for \$15,000 to study the suspense genre as a team effort with the Dracut Library. We offered staff trainings, programs for the public, increased display and marketing of our materials, and significantly grew our staff knowledge of suspense. Ask us to recommend a title! Use our BookWise reading suggestion service at <http://chelmsfordlibrary.org/bookwise> to find your next good read.
- One Book Chelmsford – This year we built our entire One Book program around the suspense theme to great success. Our author events, (Steve Berry, Hallie Ephron, Hank Phillippi Ryan and Lisa Scottoline) were immensely popular with great attendance and enthusiasm. This was our tenth year of doing One Book Chelmsford and participation continues to be high.
- Winterfest at the library – We brought back the Winterfest kick-off party with a new twist. A Mystery Theater group kept party-goers in their thrall as they attempted to solve a murder in the library. Over 300 attended – and the weather kept us in suspense as we lost power all day only regaining it right before the event began!

It was also a year filled with change...

- Marjorie Scoboria Greenway project – Plans for the Carriage House storage building were in full swing this year and the enhancements to the grounds of the library began – in a large part due to the very generous donation of longtime trustee and library benefactor Marjorie Scoboria.



Chelmsford Public Library

- Staffing – Regretfully, we lost several key personnel during FY16 -- Assistant Director/ Technology coordinator, Barbara Morrison and Office/Facilities Manager, Nancy Rager both left to enjoy retirement. We wish them the very best in their leisure time! To fill in the gap, Melissa McCarthy stepped up to full-time administrative work. We also welcomed Chelmsford resident Mike Harradon on board as Technology/Facilities Manager in December. And finally, Brian Herzog was promoted to Assistant Director; Danny Lykansion took his position as Head of Reference.
- Webpage - We kept our website under wraps until the big reveal in December 2015. After a combination of staff work and professional development, we finally pulled off the veil to reveal our first new website redesign in fifteen years. Consensus indicated the suspense was justified, and with the inclusion of modern features, better navigation, and a complete listing of the library's services and resources, the website redevelopment project had a happy ending.
- Technology - With the funds approved at town meeting, we replaced 25 computers and upgraded one server. We redesigned the wireless network, upgraded the switch environment and migrated the staff and patron computers to Windows 10. Office 2010 was also upgraded to Office 2016.
- Children's Programs - In response to parents who hoped for more adult social interaction during storytimes, and a desire for less formal storytimes, we created "Stay and Play"- a program for children ages 1 and up who are invited to listen to a story, do a craft, and spend some time in free play – this free play time allows the parents to make new friends too. Another change was a focus on science with our Library Lab. School-aged children explored some mysteries of science, like how boats stay afloat and what makes objects glow in the dark.

They also worked as engineers to build bridges and catapults, then put their creations through a thrilling battery of tests.

And a year filled with community interaction...

- Library Legislative Day – We hosted a very successful breakfast event on Library Legislative Day with the highest number of representatives (or their proxies) attending of all the legislative breakfasts held. Speeches by Town Manager Paul Cohen and Library Friend Madeleine Needles were very much appreciated. Representative Jim Arciero was the host.
- Chelmsford Arts – FY16 was a great year of collaboration with the Chelmsford Cultural Partnership as we worked together to make Fallfest, the Rotary Club's Duck Race and Winterfest great successes.
- Teen Volunteers - One of the highlights of the Young Adult Department is our active group of Teen Volunteers. Teens are indispensable in helping us plan and run many of our events. We have a core group of more than thirty volunteers who spend their vacations, weekends, and afternoons helping to make the library a better place. Some of the programs they've lent their talents to: Harry Potter's birthday party, a Superhero party, school vacation crafts, Dads and Donuts, Lego Club and ice cream making.
- Friends of the Library and Adult Volunteers – this past year we had 242 volunteers who donated 5,147 hours of their time to us. The Friends of the Library run an incredible book sale every year at which they raise money to benefit the library. The bulk of library programs are paid with Friends of the Library funds. In addition, library volunteers help with programs, crafts, and activities. They provide clerical support, bake cookies and make us smile every day.



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Winterfest kick-off party Mystery Theater group

We are proud that Chelmsford chooses to support its public library so staunchly. We recognize how fortunate we are to have so many groups that unselfishly donate their time and ideas to improve library services. Our volunteers, Friends of the Library, the Board of Trustees, our staff and all our generous donors work diligently together to make CPL the place for exploration, discovery, education and community engagement.

Electronic Resources

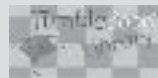
Here are some of the library services you can use online, 24 hours a day! Find out more at chelmsfordlibrary.org/econtent



Overdrive: Popular fiction and non-fiction ebooks, audiobooks, and videos



Safari Books Online: computer and business ebooks



Tumblebooks: Read-aloud children's ebooks



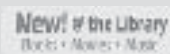
Zinio for Libraries: Full-color digital copies of popular magazines



Hoopla: A variety of movies, TV shows, music, comics, audiobooks, and ebooks



Freegal: Music – download 5 songs per week and keep them forever



Wowbrary: weekly announcements of new items



Social Media: connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, Pinterest, and our blog



Chelmsford Board of Library Trustees

Maggie Marshall, Chair

According to the Massachusetts Public Library Trustees Handbook, "a library board of trustees... is a group of citizen volunteers to whom the governing of a public library is entrusted. Board members are the vital link between the library and the community. Trustees are library advocates and leaders in developing service willingly, responsibly and creatively for all members of the public." Due to the solid leadership of Library Director Becky Herrmann and her great staff, the Chelmsford board has very few worries about day-to-day operation of its public libraries. The Chelmsford Board of Library Trustees is also grateful for the support and guidance provided by Town Manager Paul Cohen and other town departments. Our final round of gratitude is for our wonderful Friends of the Library, who work tirelessly to support the library in many ways.

This past year, the focus for the Trustees has been to assist the Library Director in developing the property adjacent to the library. Our new Carriage House, built to store library maintenance equipment and to serve as a book drop off for the Friends, will be completed by September 2016. Funds for the building and initial sitework (reconfiguration of parking lots, clearing land, construction of an underground drainage system, creating a rain garden to filter storm water before it enters wetlands, and the planting of some trees and bushes) were provided by town meeting and library trust funds. To complete this project, which we are calling the Marjorie Scoboria Greenway Project, we are asking for outside donations. This final phase of the project will encompass grading and hardscape of the rest of the site, including ADA accessible walkways, benches, a reading circle, trees, bushes, and flowers. More information on this exciting project, which coincides with the town's Center Village master plan, is available at the library.

Additionally, the Board of Trustees developed a Master Calendar for its own activities, which



Library Trustees, Standing from left to right, Lisa Daigle, Maggie Marshall, Jillian Kenny, Andrew Silinsh, Donna Newcomb. Sitting, from left to right, Pamela Davies, Becky Herrmann Library Director, Peggy Dunn

assists us in being more intentional about assisting the library staff in certain aspects of library programming. We also held our first four-hour work session, which allowed us to spend time on developing a longer-range focus and to develop some long term goals for the library board.

We said good-bye this year to long time trustee, David Braslau. David has been invaluable to the board and library director with his wealth of knowledge on all issues related to buildings and grounds. We are grateful to David, not only for his exemplary service, but also for his continued willingness to assist the library.

As many have said, democracy is not a spectator sport. We are happy and proud to serve as your board, and welcome your questions or concerns at any time.

MEMBERS:

Maggie Marshall, Library Chair

Donna Newcomb, Vice-Chair

Lisa Daigle, Treasurer

Pamela Davies, Friends Liaison

Andrew Silinsh, Capital Planning Liaison

Peggy Dunn, Friends Liaison

Jillian Kenny, Correspondence Secretary