

KELLOGG-HUBBARD LIBRARY REPORT

The Kellogg-Hubbard Library is a non-profit, independent corporation that serves East Montpelier and several other Central Vermont communities as a free public library. Founded in 1894, the library is open 54 hours and six days per week. Because of high demand from our communities, it has become one of the busiest public libraries in the state. In addition to having one of the largest book collections, we borrow more items for our patrons through interlibrary loans than all but one other library.

In addition to lending books, DVDs, CDs and magazines, we provide strong programs for both children and adults. Last year we ran 575 programs, with a total attendance of 10,536. Our Outreach program brings books and story times to area preschools and daycares, provides books for borrowing at satellite lending sites, and delivers books and other materials to homebound patrons.

Our technology services continue to grow in popularity. Although we provide public computers and free, high-quality Wi-Fi at the library, anyone who has a KHL library card doesn't even have to come to the library. They can download audio and electronic books from any location with their library card. In 2015, as demand increased, we added a second online service for downloading books; library patrons downloaded over 8,400 audio and electronic books last year. The e-mail reminders we send out two days before items are due continue to be a very popular service.

East Montpelier residents are active library patrons. Last year, they checked out 17,079 items (not including downloads). We deliver books to the Old Meeting House Fellowship Lunch alternating weeks from October through May, and last year East Montpelier residents checked out 191 books at those luncheons. Our Outreach volunteers deliver books to four East Montpelier daycares, usually providing pre-reading activities and reading stories when they do; last year, those volunteers read over 600 stories to children in East Montpelier daycares. We also provide a few preschool story times at various locations in town. Last year we distributed 90 free books to children at those story times. Although the Adamant Coop is just across the town line in Calais, some East Montpelier residents borrow books at our ongoing satellite lending library there.

The library has an active and very strong Board of Trustees, and Lindy Biggs is the East Montpelier representative on it. Several East Montpelier residents are library volunteers

This year the Kellogg-Hubbard Library is asking East Montpelier to provide \$38,614 towards our operations, the same amount we requested and which voters approved last year. The library asks our towns to pay \$16 per capita in local taxpayer support; this is well below the statewide average of \$28.80.

The library's current budget is \$911,000, which is \$67,000 lower than it was five years ago. Fundraising, donations, grants and earnings on the library's endowment, provide half the library's revenue and allow it to offer high quality service to our communities at far less than the statewide average. The library is asking East Montpelier residents to pay 4.2% of our operating costs, and for that support they receive full access to one of Vermont's premier public libraries.

Tom McKone, Executive Director