



The Hooksett Library continues to be a vital resource serving the current needs of our community. This year, efforts at the library focused on initiatives and collaborations to enhance services and provide greater access to the library's resources.

The Library has long played a central role in connecting our community with our town's heritage. This year the Library embarked on a large-scale digitization project to make our collection of historical scrapbooks available online. Local photographs and newspaper clippings, Hooksett town newsletters, school reports, and event brochures, among other memorabilia will be available through a cloud-based archive with exhibit galleries for viewing. Some notable images include the 1922 Hooksett Centennial parade, the aftermath of the 1936 Flood, and the 1976 US Bicentennial Celebration. Providing these materials online offers a more convenient platform for research and increases access for members of the local community while making Hooksett history available to a global audience. This project enhances access while preserving the materials for future generations.

**Collection**

Hooksett, New Hampshire Flood of 1936

**Tags**

1936, Flood of 1936, Floods, Hooksett (N.H.), Hooksett Public Library Scrapbooks, Hooksett, Merrimack County, New Hampshire, Merrimack County (N.H.), Merrimack River (N.H. and Mass.), New Hampshire, Public utilities, Rivers

**Description**

Aerial view of flood damage looking northwest over Main Street Hooksett, New Hampshire. The third span of the Boston and Maine Railroad bridge has been dislodged by the left side of the Twin Bridges covered bridge span (not pictured). Beyond the railroad and passenger bridges is the fire station and railroad station. In the middle of image is the Holy Rosary Church, parochial school, and priest's house. To right of the Holy Rosary Church is the Congregational Church of Hooksett and residential buildings. Note that the Village School no. 6, which previously was located next to the Congregational Church of Hooksett, has been destroyed by the floodwater. The Holy Rosary Cemetery is visible in the foreground. People can be seen standing along Main Street where the Merrimack River bank has risen to.

In line with highlighting Hooksett's history, the Library teamed up with the Hooksett Bicentennial Committee and the Hooksett Historical Society to host more than a dozen local history programs as part of this year's Bicentennial celebration. These events have featured New Hampshire Humanities and local experts who have shared their extensive knowledge on the history of Native Americans in New Hampshire, the history of unique and unusual weathervanes

in our state, a viewing of the stereographs collection from the Hooksett Historical Society and Rising Water: Hooksett and the Flood of 1936 with our very own, Jim Sullivan.

In July, the Library had the distinct honor of hosting Governor Christopher Sununu and his Executive Council for an on-the-road breakfast and business meeting. Town of Hooksett Council Chairman Jim Sullivan played an integral role in hosting the event and spoke to the Governor and the Executive Council about the town's rich history and current Bicentennial celebrations. Following his remarks, Library Director Heather Rainier highlighted the important work being done at the library and the critical role public libraries play in New Hampshire.

Engaging community members in ways that add benefits to their daily lives has been a central focus for programming at the Library. This year, candidates running for elected positions in Hooksett took part in interviews conducted and recorded by the Library. Voters then had the opportunity to view the recorded interviews to get to know the candidates and learn about their priorities. In the spring, a new Walking Book Club launched, inviting community members to connect with others while taking part in a healthy activity.

The Youth Services department has returned to its pre-pandemic status as a community hub for families. Beginning in the summer of 2021, we re-launched in person programming much to the delight of the families in our community. We expanded our Family Place playspace with new active learning centers and toys. Our 2022 Summer Reading Program, "Oceans of Possibilities," has engaged the community in stories and programs revolving around our oceans and sea life. UNH Marine Docents taught us about whales and seals, we learned about tides in our STEM the Tide program, and we welcomed Wildlife Encounters and their animal ambassadors to our library. We are finishing off our summer reading program with our first ever community-wide art show featuring paintings by kids of all ages.

Expanded access to library materials is being made available to all Hooksett Library cardholders through the innovative offering of Smart Lockers. These lockers, located at the Library's front portico, provide 24/7, contact-free access to Hooksett Library cardholders for their requested items. This new service is made possible by a 2021 grant in the amount of \$15,833 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in partnership with the NH State Library under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).



Thanks to generous support from the Friends of the Hooksett Library, the Library has been able to expand its Library of Things collection. The growing collection includes useful items such as metal detectors, trail cams, thermal leak detectors, check engine light meters, radon detectors, wood burning kits, knitting looms, and more coming soon.

The Hooksett Library continues to play an essential role in our community. Through engagement with library patrons and partnerships with local organizations, the library seeks to identify and fill the needs of our community with in-person and digital resources and services, increased access to library materials, and by facilitating programs and dialogues that educate and inspire.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Rainier, Library Director

Library Board of Trustees

Mary Farwell, Chair  
Barbara Davis  
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**2021-2022 Statistics:**

Items circulated at the library:	145,371	Donations added to the collection:	317
Books and materials purchased:	4,359	Books and materials withdrawn from collection:	3,585
Visits to the library:	45,320	Registered patrons as of 06/30/22:	6,907
Adult programs:	195	Youth programs:	220
Adult program attendance:	2,225	Youth program attendance:	6,341