



CRANSTON
PUBLIC LIBRARY
2015 ANNUAL
REPORT

making connections





making connections

COMPUTER

COLLABORATE

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- 1. CENTRAL LIBRARY
140 SOCKANOSSET CROSS RD, CRANSTON RI 02920 401.943.9080

- 2. ARLINGTON BRANCH
1064 CRANSTON ST, CRANSTON RI 02920 401.944.1662

- 3. AUBURN BRANCH
396 PONTIAC AVE, CRANSTON RI 02910 401.781.6116

- 4. KNIGHTSVILLE BRANCH
1847 CRANSTON ST, CRANSTON RI 02920 401.942.2504

- 5. OAK LAWN BRANCH
230 WILBUR AVE, CRANSTON RI 02921 401.942.1787

- 6. WILLIAM HALL LIBRARY
1825 BROAD ST, CRANSTON RI 02905 401.781.2450

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A YEAR OF MAKING CONNECTIONS

The goal of the Cranston Public Library is not just to give people access to information but to connect people with each other and their community. At the Cranston Public Library, we are making connections every day. Whether it is connecting a patron with a book, answering a research question, or providing access to the information tools of the future, our mission is about making connections.

Our partnership with the Rhode Island family Literacy Initiative (RIFLI) connects new members of our community to the library and the greater promise of the American Dream. Twenty students completed our citizenship preparation class and were sworn in as U.S. citizens at a naturalization ceremony at the Central Library.

October 2015 saw the conclusion of our two-year project title “ALLAccess in the Libraries.” This federally-funded grant project allowed the Cranston Public Library to partner with RIFLI, Providence Public Library, and others, to bring adult education to public libraries.

The Cranston Public Library continues to evolve the services we offer to meet the changing needs of the community. We create powerful partnerships that further the reach of what we as an organization can provide to the community. We continue to provide new technology with 3D printing, analog to digital conversion and upgraded free wireless networks.

The library is **the** community space in Cranston; we held more than 1300 library programs this year, and community groups used our space over 200 times.

I am proud to continue to lead and represent the amazing Cranston Public Library staff who come to work everyday with the goals of providing excellent customer service and building connections with the community.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "EDWARD GARCIA". The letters are slightly slanted and connected, with a cursive-like style.

Edward Garcia
Library Director

the library's mission

MISSION STATEMENT

The Cranston Public Library brings people, information and ideas together to enrich lives and strengthen the community.

WE STRIVE TO PROVIDE:

- *Library services that are known and valued by the community, resulting in broad use by the public*
- *An engaging cultural and lifelong learning center for the community*
- *Services and collections that are readily accessible and easy to use and that are relevant to community needs*
- *An enthusiastic, well-trained and highly capable staff that works well together to provide quality service to all library users*
- *Facilities that are inviting and well maintained*
- *Technology that expands and enhances service*
- *Timely and accurate information that informs and empowers the public*
- *Defense of intellectual freedom and the confidentiality of each individual's use of the library*
- *A close working relationship with other libraries, community agencies and organizations that fosters cooperation, and makes the most efficient and effective use of taxpayer resources*
- *A variety of early childhood programs that brings families together and fosters a love of reading*
- *A relevant collection of print and non-print materials that meet the developmental needs of Cranston's youth*
- *Collaboration and support for parents and teachers as schools adopt the Common Core state standards*
- *Programs for preteens and teens*
- *The annual Summer Reading program which focuses on making reading and literacy-related programs fun and accessible for children of all ages to help avoid summer reading loss*

about rhode island libraries

OCEAN STATE LIBRARIES

The Cranston Public Library has been a member of the Ocean State Libraries cooperative network for more than 30 years. In addition to benefiting from a shared system database, our membership entitles our patrons to the diverse range of materials located at 70 other libraries across the state. A robust telecommunications network allows for high-speed Internet access at all CPL locations, and the unique sharing of resources, services, and training continues to provide our staff and our patrons with an exceptional library experience. *Library Director Edward Garcia, the newly-appointed President of Ocean State Libraries, will serve in this capacity from May 2015-May 2016.*

LIBRARY OF RHODE ISLAND NETWORK

The Cranston Public Library is a member of the Library of Rhode Island (LORI) network. This multi-type statewide library network is administered by the Rhode Island Office of Library and Information Services to foster and facilitate resource sharing and cooperation among the state's libraries and library personnel. It is comprised of libraries of all types (academic, public, school) that have agreed to share their resources and to engage in other cooperative projects. Membership in LORI for all Rhode Island public libraries is mandated in the Minimum Standards for Public Libraries which govern the eligibility of public libraries for state aid.

2205 BOOKS
AND 11,462 DVDS
CIRCULATED
AS PART OF
THE CENTRAL
LIBRARY'S
EXPRESS
COLLECTION.

cpl by the numbers

Library Cardholders	37,994
Library Visits	427,546
Total Collection	290,547
Total Circulation	651,236
Reference Transactions	82,888
Library Programs	1,328
Program Attendance	25,668
Public Computer Sessions	84,984
Hours Open	9,967

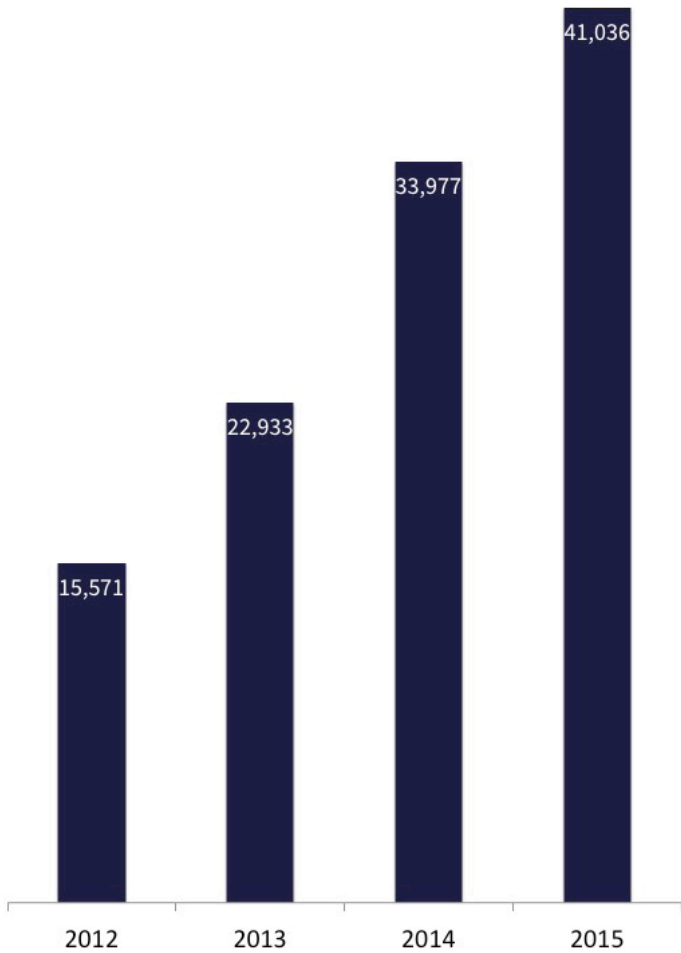
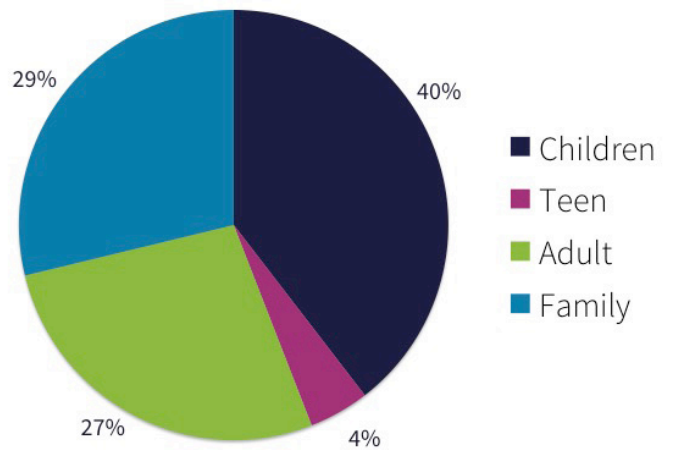
4,761 ITEMS WERE
DELIVERED TO
HOMEBOUND
CRANSTON
RESIDENTS WHO
PARTICIPATED IN
THE LIBRARY'S
BOOKS @ HOME
PROGRAM.

EZONE CIRCULATION

The eZone is the Ocean State Libraries' statewide cooperative ebook and digital media lending service. All public libraries in Rhode Island support this service through cooperative purchasing.

The circulation of ebooks and digital audiobooks among Cranston patrons increased by 21% from 2014 to 2015.

PROGRAM ATTENDANCE BY AGE GROUP



COLLECTION BY MATERIAL TYPE

Books	217,634
Periodicals	37,300
CDs & Audiobooks	17,009
DVDs	18,604
TOTAL COLLECTION	290,547

achievements



SENATOR JACK REED JOINS DIRECTOR EDWARD GARCIA AND LIBRARY STAFF IN ACCEPTING "LIBRARY OF THE YEAR" AWARD

LIBRARY OF THE YEAR AWARD

This year, the University of Rhode Island’s Graduate School of Library and Information Studies recognized two public libraries, Cranston Public Library and Providence Community Library, with “Library of the Year” awards for their contributions to public librarianship and service. Representatives accepted these awards at the school’s annual gathering in March 2015.

MITZVAH AWARD

In June 2015, Cranston Public Library was acknowledged by the Holocaust Education and Resource Center of Rhode Island (HERCRI) with a Mitzvah Award. The Mitzvah (or “Good Deeds”) Award was accepted by Coordinator of Adult and Information Services, Beth Johnson, and Community Engagement Manager, Katy Dorchies in recognition of an

ongoing collaboration between the two organizations. HERCRI has held several informational and educational programs at the Cranston Public Library since 2013. The next HERCRI event is scheduled for March 2016.

RITA WARBURTON PLAQUE DEDICATION

The life and dedication of the late Rita Warburton were recognized in April 2015 at the Oak Lawn Branch. A plaque commemorating Warburton's 15-year library employment was installed and dedicated at the branch in a ceremony attended by Warburton's family, Mayor Allan Fung, Senator Hanna Gallo, and library employees.



"IN APPRECIATION FOR 15 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE OAKLAWN LIBRARY BY RITA I. WARBURTON"

IMPROVEMENTS TO BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

- A new automatic front door was installed at the Central Library. The new door replaced the original door from the building's construction in 1983.
- The parking lots at Central Library, Auburn Branch, Knightsville Branch and William Hall Library were re-stripped.
- An exterior light was installed at the front entrance to the Knightsville Branch, providing light to the front of the building for the first time in the facility's history.
- A new outdoor book drop was installed at the Oak Lawn Branch.

PROJECT OUTCOME



The Cranston Public Library was accepted by the Public Library Association to be part of Project Outcome in 2015. Project Outcome was a year-long, grant-funded initiative to develop an outcomes-based performance measure application in public libraries across the United States.

HIGHLIGHTED GRANTS & FINANCIAL AWARDS

- Mobile Beacon Youth Services Laptop Grant
Mobile Beacon awarded the library a grant for a Youth Services Mobile Laptop Lab. They provided 10 laptops and 2 WiFi hotspots. These laptops are being used to conduct technology programs focusing on children and teens at the branches.
- Makerlab Club Grant
The library was the recipient of an YALSA/3D Systems Maker Lab Club grant. The library received four 3D printers with an approximate value of \$1000 each. The printers are being used for youth 3D printing workshops.

collaborations & partnerships

RHODE ISLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

In January 2015, the Rhode Island Genealogical Society loaned a selection of local history and genealogy books to the Cranston Public Library. The loan includes collections of local cemetery inscriptions, as well as specialized local history texts. The loaned items currently reside as non-circulating reference materials in the Central Library's growing Local History room.

CRANSTON FAMILY CENTER

Cranston Public Library continued its partnership with the Cranston Family Center in 2015 with the Family Game Night program for children in grades K-3 and their families. At this free program, library staff used literature to discuss themes like winning and losing, turning off the electronics, and using your imagination. Participants had the opportunity to play games of all kinds, from favorites like Bingo and Charades, to original game show-style experiences. More than 90 people attended the first Family Game Night program, and those who participated in all four weeks got to take home dry erase boards, timers, a deck of cards, and their own handmade board games. One participant said, "This was a great way to spend time with family."

AARP

For over 15 years the Cranston Public Library has been working with AARP to provide free tax preparation assistance to all residents of Cranston. This program, which is managed by AARP and conducted by trained volunteers, runs annually from late January through early April every year at the Central Library.

ARTISTS' EXCHANGE

In 2015, Cranston Public Library initiated a partnership with the Artists' Exchange, a Cranston-based, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting opportunities for arts education in the community. In September, the library participated in the Artists' Exchange's Fall Out of Summer Arts Festival. Dozens of community families learned about library services while children crafted "minions" (characters in several popular children's films).

ALLACCESS

October 2015 saw the completion of ALLAccess in the Libraries, a two year project funded by a \$500,000 Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant. ALLAccess was a partnership among the Cranston Public Library,



(LEFT TO RIGHT) THE ALL ACCESS TEAM PRESENTS AT THE ANNUAL AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

ALL ACCESS SERVICES IN THE C-LAB

One-on-One Tech Appointments

1-2 hour sessions during which patrons receive individual assistance with technology or productivity tools in a non-judgmental environment and at their own pace.

Exploration Station

An assistive technology station available to anyone who wants to explore computer features that enable people whose vision, hearing, mobility or dexterity makes using a computer difficult.

Smartphone/Tablet Club

Monthly meet-up that brings patrons and librarians together to share new apps and services and help each other with iPad, iPhone or tablet questions.

Learning Lounge

A weekly lifelong learning time that offers teacher-supported and technology-enabled adult learning in a casual environment. Adults can receive help with employment needs, computer skills, writing, math or GED preparations.

Northstar Digital Literacy Assessment

An assessment that defines the basic skills needed to perform tasks on computers and online through eight self-guided modules, including basic computer use, Internet, Windows 7, Mac OS, Microsoft Office, email, and more.



THE ALLACCESS TEAM AND PATRONS GATHER TO DISCUSS SERVICES AVAILABLE IN THE C-LAB WITH SENATOR JACK REED

Providence Public Library, Rhode Island Family Literacy Initiative and several other Rhode Island organizations. AllAccess engaged partners from various kinds of institutions to target the needs of underserved populations. These included adults with disabilities, low literacy, low digital literacy and low English literacy. Public libraries were leveraged as locations through which the AllAccess grant team could develop and provide adult education and workforce services to meet the diverse needs of adult library users.

AllAccess grant members presented on the project in San Francisco, CA at the 2015 American Library Association conference, in Rhode Island at the Rhode Island



STAFF TRAIN ON USING 3D CUBE PRINTERS

“I WORKED IN THE FINANCIAL INDUSTRY FOR 17 YEARS AND THEN, TO BE COST EFFECTIVE, THEY DECIDED TO NOT WORK IN RHODE ISLAND ANYMORE. IT IS HARD TO HAVE TO START ALL OVER AGAIN. [...]



LIBRARY PATRON, MAGDALENA SOUSA AND SENATOR JACK REED MEETING IN THE C-LAB

THEY HAVE BEEN REALLY HELPFUL HERE, EVEN JUST HELPING ME NAVIGATE THROUGH MY NEW LAPTOP. THEY ARE VERY FLEXIBLE, AND I LIKE THAT I DON'T HAVE TO TAKE AN ONLINE CLASS OR MAKE A COMMITMENT.”

MAGDALENA SOUSA ON C-LAB SERVICES, TO SENATOR JACK REED



CRANSTON YOUTH TINA SINDWANI VISITED THE C-LAB TO DESIGN AND PRINT A REPLACEMENT SUPPORT FOR A BROKEN KITCHEN TIMER (FINISHED PART SHOWN IN USE ABOVE)

Library Association conference and at the Rhode Island Adult Education conference.

CPL utilized the C-Lab, the digital media learning space at the Central Library, to provide AllAccess services. The C-Lab makes new technology—including 3D printers, vinyl record to MP3 converter, VHS to DVD converter, video cameras and Raspberry Pi—available for public use during Open Tech Time. Regular digital literacy classes are also offered in the Lab, covering topics such as computer basics, Microsoft Office, Facebook and web design.



CPL STAFF EXPLAIN INTRODUCE LOCAL TEACHERS TO C-LAB TECHNOLOGY



(LEFT TO RIGHT) RILA REPRESENTATIVES, TREASURER SETH MAGAZINER, MAYOR ALLAN FUNG, LIBRARY DIRECTOR EDWARD GARCIA

MONEY SMART WEEK

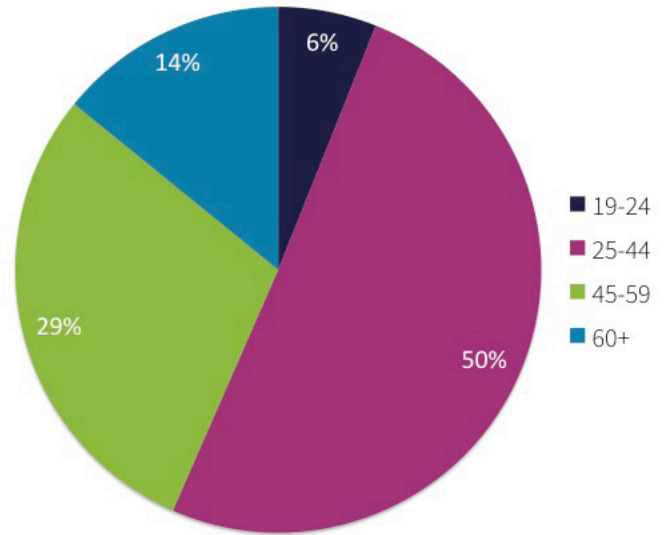
On April 18, 2015, William Hall Library was the kick-off location for the statewide celebration of “Money Smart Week.” Money Smart Week (MSW) is a national initiative that promotes financial literacy awareness.

The campaign is sponsored by a partnership between the American Library Association and the Federal Reserve of Chicago. In Rhode Island, Money Smart Week events are encouraged and promoted by the Rhode Island Library Association. State Treasurer Seth Magaziner and Cranston Mayor Allan Fung attended the kick-off, each speaking on the importance of financial literacy and declaring their support for the events and activities that would take place throughout the week. Cranston Public Library further participated in MSW by hosting a program which focused on finding and applying for college tuition grants.

RHODE ISLAND FAMILY LITERACY INITIATIVE

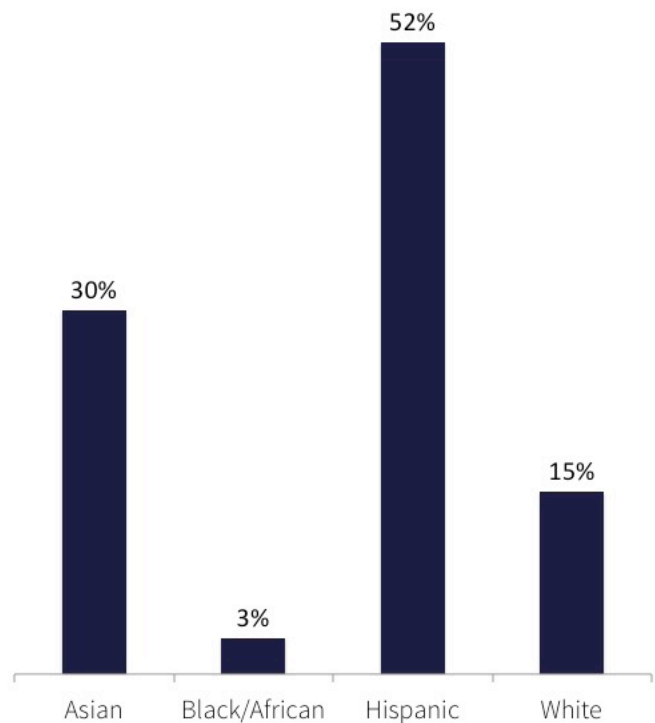
As a member of the Rhode Island Family Literacy Initiative (RIFLI), the Cranston Public Library has offered English as a Second Language (ESL) and citizenship classes for over 17 years. In 2015, RIFLI

Students By Age



served 127 students from 33 different countries including China, Guatemala, Haiti, Korea, Syria, Turkey and Ukraine.

Students By Ethnicity



AT THE AUBURN BRANCH, RIFLI OFFERS A CHILDREN'S PROGRAM TO THE FAMILIES OF ENROLLED STUDENTS. THIS PROGRAM, WHICH TAKES PLACE DURING THE ADULT CLASS, PROVIDES MUCH-NEEDED CHILDCARE WHILE PROMOTING FAMILY-WIDE LITERACY.

45% of students increased their reading skills by two or more grade levels. Ten unemployed students found jobs after completing the program and seven continued on to post-secondary education or training. Twenty-four students became United States citizens.

Twelve students from several different countries were enrolled in the ESL Conversation Class this fall. The class was a new offering in 2015. Students of all levels practiced their listening and speaking skills in a fun, relaxed environment. The class focuses discussion on themes based on everyday life, including: finding a job, comparing lives in their countries to living in the USA, holidays, idioms and expressions, using the library, and speaking in social situations. Informal feedback shows that students enjoy the class immensely, as they find they are now more able to express what they want to say more effectively by speaking with their peers and building classroom community.



RIFLI STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN A SCAVENGER HUNT AT THE AUBURN BRANCH

At the Auburn Branch, RIFLI classes have grown so large that space is borrowed from the Church of Ascension next door. To ensure that RIFLI students are familiar and comfortable with using the library, a Library Scavenger Hunt was held. During the hunt, students discovered how to get a library card, the rules of borrowing materials, and how to find resources in the library.

In 2015 the following classes were offered at three library locations:

- English as a Second Language, Beginner Level (*Auburn Branch, William Hall Library*)
- English as a Second Language, Intermediate/Advanced Level (*Auburn Branch, William Hall Library*)
- U.S. Citizenship Exam Preparation (*Auburn Branch, William Hall Library*)
- Computer Skills for ESL Adult Learners (*William Hall Library*)
- ESL Conversation Class (*Central Library*)

Cranston RIFLI programs received additional funding from a \$10,000 Dollar General Literacy Foundation grant, a \$4000 Cranston Community Block Development grant and a \$2000 legislative grant from state Senator Joshua Miller.

RHODE ISLAND TRUSTEES INSTITUTE

On March 21, the Cranston Public Library hosted the Rhode Island Trustees Institute, a forum for public and special library trustees and directors. The presenter, Richard R. Blain & Associates, focused on many topics which are pressing to library trustees, including fundraising. The event was organized by the Coalition of Library Advocates, the Rhode Island Library Association and the Office of Library and Information Services, who also organized the 2014 event “Exploring the New Normal.”

LAW LIBRARIANS OF NEW ENGLAND

In February 2015, the Law Librarians of New England (LLNE) donated a selection of current legal texts to the Cranston Public Library. The books, contributed through LLNE’s “Outreach to Public Libraries” book drive, cover subjects ranging from divorce and estate planning to Rhode Island zoning and traffic law.

HARRINGTON HALL

During the summer of 2015, the Cranston Public Library initiated a partnership with Harrington Hall, a local homeless shelter. Weekly sessions were held in the C-Lab to give Harrington Hall users basic computer instruction, resume workshops, and assistance with online job applications.

CONTINUING PARTNERSHIPS

WILLIAM HALL LIBRARY SUMMER MUSIC SERIES

The William Hall Library has continued its tradition of providing free, seasonal concerts to the public. With support from the Cranston Department of Parks and Recreation, the library continues to host the “Music In Our Town” series each summer. These outdoor concerts take place on the front lawn of the William Hall Library and are a neighborhood favorite.

ANNUAL MESHANTICUT PARK TREE PLANTING

Each summer some of our summer reading participants and staff members join Councilman Steven Stycos at Meshanticut Park for a tree planting ceremony. The purchase of new trees is supported by Whole Foods Market. New trees add beauty and function to this Cranston park.



COUNCILMAN STYCOS AND LIBRARY STAFF WORK WITH LOCAL FAMILIES TO PLANT NEW TREES AT MESHANTICUT PARK

THE CRANSTON
PUBLIC LIBRARY
WEBSITE
AVERAGES 35,000
PAGE VIEWS AND
9300 UNIQUE
VISITORS EACH
MONTH.

new technology

UPDATED WIRELESS

Each year, Cranston Public Library is required to report certain statistics to the federal government. This year, a new statistic was required: wireless usage. In compliance with this requirement, the library upgraded the wireless networks at four of our six locations with a new system called Bluesocket. Not only does this new system give the library the ability to count the number of people using wireless networks, but it also is an intelligent system that will provide continuous connectivity even as users move throughout a building.

The Central Library, Arlington Branch, Auburn Branch, and William Hall Library received this system in 2015. The Knightsville and Oak Lawn branches will receive it in 2016 in conjunction with upgrades to new CAT6 network cabling.

WIRELESS PRINTING

Wireless printing is now available at the Central Library. Launched in October 2015, visitors can now print wirelessly from their laptops, smartphones, or tablets using a service called “PrinterOn.”

CRANSTON
PUBLIC LIBRARY
OFFERS 74
INTERNET
TERMINALS FOR
PUBLIC USE.

NEW FRIDAY
HOURS WERE
ADDED AT THE
ARLINGTON
BRANCH
STARTING ON
AUGUST 8, 2015.
ARLINGTON IS
NOW OPEN 4
DAYS A WEEK.

new services

MADDALENA LAB

In July 2015, the Auburn Branch opened the Maddalena Lab. Purchased through the Betty Maddalena Fund, the lab is a collection of six laptop computers that is made available to school-aged children as well as ESL and citizenship students attending Rhode Island Family Literacy Initiative classes at the branch. *The Betty Maddalena Fund was established in October 2014 by Joseph Maddalena in memory of his mother, dedicated library patron, Elizabeth “Betty” Maddalena. Managed by the Cranston Public Library Association, the fund serves to financially support Books @ Home (Cranston Public Library’s homebound delivery service), in addition to ESL and citizenship services.*

ANCESTRY LIBRARY EDITION

In summer 2015, Cranston Public Library purchased a subscription to Ancestry Library Edition, a version of the popular Ancestry.com database created for library use. This subscription allows library visitors to access billions of genealogy records from any Cranston Public Library location. Available records include census data, Social Security Death Index and military records.

THE AUBURN
BRANCH AND THE
KNIGHTSVILLE
BRANCH BEGAN
LOANING BIKE
LOCKS TO
VISITORS IN 2015.
BIKE LOCK LOANS
LAST FOR ONE
DAY ONLY, AND
LOCKS MUST BE
RETURNED TO
THE LIBRARY ON
THE SAME DAY,
BEFORE THE
LIBRARY CLOSES.

adult programming highlights

THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE: 100 YEARS LATER

In recognition of the Armenian Genocide centennial, Cranston Public Library hosted “The Armenian Genocide: 100 Years Later” at the Central Library in June 2015. Pauline Getzoyan, Co-Chair of the Genocide Education Project’s Rhode Island Branch, joined the library for a candid discussion about the history of this event. The presentation explored the various stages of the Armenian Genocide of 1915, the continued denial surrounding the events, and the effects of the experience on survivors. The event concluded with a number of personal testimonies, readings from first-hand accounts, and a closing Q&A session.

USCIS NATURALIZATION CEREMONY

Cranston Public Library was honored to welcome the USCIS in June 2015 and host a U.S. naturalization ceremony at the Central Library. With kind words and a heartfelt congratulations from Cranston Mayor Allan Fung, CPL Assistant Director Julie Holden, and USCIS Field Office Director Adam Bergeron, more than twenty new citizens were awarded certificates of citizenship.



NEW CITIZENS STATING THEIR OATHS OF ALLEGIANCE AT THIS YEAR'S USCIS NATURALIZATION CEREMONY

PHOTOGRAPHY FOR BEGINNERS

In the summer of 2015, Cranston Public Library launched a three-part “Photography for Beginners” class series at the Central Library. The series, taught by Matthew Celeste of Blueflash Photography (Cranston), explored the entire photography process, from determining appropriate camera settings to editing final images.

WATERWALK FUNDRAISER



INSTALLATION OF THE WATERWALK AT THE CENTRAL LIBRARY

The Cranston Public Library held its first WaterWalk fundraiser this year, a project that sought to brighten rainy days by transforming library entryways. Much like the more traditional “buy-a-brick” fundraisers, interested community members purchased walkway squares

at the Central Library, Auburn Branch, or Oak Lawn Branch. Participants selected one of three library-themed images and created a short, customized messages for their squares. The designs were applied to walkway squares using stencils and a superhydrophobic (water repellent) solution. Thirty-eight squares were sold, and the event raised nearly \$1000 for the Cranston Public Library Association.

#LIBRARYLOVE

On Valentine’s Day 2015, staff at the William Hall Library invited visitors to pose for photographs and submit written, paper hearts to show why they love their library.



Among many others, patrons offered the following reasons for loving their library...

“IT’S AN INSTITUTION IN COMMUNITY - HAS BEEN FOR YEARS - OFFERING MANY OPPORTUNITIES. [...]”

“I’VE BEEN COMING HERE FOR OVER 35 YEARS! I’M SO THANKFUL AS A PARENT AND TEACHER FOR THIS WARM, WONDERFUL PLACE.”

“I GET TERRIFIC SERVICE AND ASSISTANCE.”

“IT IS A BEAUTIFUL PLACE, FILLED WITH BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE, WHO PROVIDE A BEAUTIFUL SERVICE.”

“A WORLD OF IDEAS IS AVAILABLE TO ME FOR FREE.”



(LEFT TO RIGHT) LIBRARY DIRECTOR, EDWARD GARCIA; CRANSTON MAYOR ALLAN FUNG; SECRETARY OF STATE, NELLIE GORBEA; SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, NICHOLAS MATTIELLO AT NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

On September 22, the Cranston Public Library participated in National Voter Registration Day. This nationwide initiative—driven by thousands of national, state and local organizations—is committed to registering and educating voters, mobilizing volunteers, and inspiring dialogue about voting and democracy. In addition to holding a voter registration drive, the library also welcomed RI Secretary of State Nellie Gorbea, RI Speaker of the House Nicholas Mattiello, and others to speak on the importance and value of National Voter Registration Day.

SEED LIBRARY & GARDENING CLASSES

This year, the Seed Library at the William Hall Library continued, with a collection of non-GMO, non-hybrid and primarily local varieties of vegetable, flower and herb seeds to “borrow.” The Seed Library opened on April 25, 2015, with a number of gardening-related crafts, including grass sock monsters, recyclable seed starter pots, and seed balls. Gardening classes and events took place throughout the season to support gardeners’ efforts and harvests. By the end of the season, more than 600 packets of seeds were distributed to library patrons. In the late summer and fall, gardeners collected seeds from fruit and flowers and returned them to the library, helping to stock up for next year.

youth services programming highlights

SUMMER READING PROGRAM 2015

The summer reading program continues to grow in popularity participation every year. Sign-ups increased by 100 in 2015, and the number of children who completed the challenge increased by 10%. Those who completed the challenge read for at least 20 minutes, five days a week for the duration of the program. Children who completed the challenge were rewarded with the opportunity to attend a finale, where they received a free book and gift bag, free tickets to a Paw Sox game, coupons to Corner Bakery Café, and a chance to win an “ultimate comic-making kit.”

Also, during the summer, the Cranston Public Libraries offered 160 free cultural and educational programs for young people. About 14% of these programs were performers like magicians, science educators, and martial arts instructors, which were partially paid for by the Office of Library and Information Services. Average attendance at performers increased from 38 to 45 in 2015.

This year’s summer reading sponsors included:

- Cranston Public Library Association
- Alice I. Sullivan Charitable Foundation
- BankNewport
- Bob’s Discount Furniture Charitable Foundation
- Cranston Municipal Employees Credit Union
- Dollar General Literacy Foundation
- Friends of the Cranston Public Library
- Pawtucket Credit Union Charitable Foundation
- The Time Capsule
- Whole Foods Market, Cranston
- Rhode Island Office of Library and Information Services

“THE LIBRARY IS ONE OF THE BEST RESOURCES IN CRANSTON. THE PROGRAMMING IS GREAT, AND EMILY BROWN, WHO IS CHARGE OF YOUTH SERVICES, ALWAYS HAS INTERESTING THINGS FOR KIDS TO DO.”

GRACE S., TRIPADVISOR

“I JUST WANT TO SAY THANK YOU TO STEF BLANKENSHIP. SHE HAS BEEN OUR HERO THROUGHOUT THESE PAST 6 YEARS. ETHAN WOULD NOT BE THE AMAZING READER HE IS WITHOUT HER GUIDANCE! SHE TRULY HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE IN HIS LIFE AS WELL AS FINA’S SO THANK YOU! SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY... THERE ARE AMAZING PEOPLE INSIDE OF THEM.”

JIM MURO, OAK LAWN BRANCH
FACEBOOK PAGE

TEEN 3D PRINTING WORKSHOP

The Cranston Public Library added four “Cube” 3D printers to the C-Lab through a grant from 3D Systems in February of 2015. This allowed youth services staff to offer 22 hands-on 3D printing workshops for teens and kids in grades 2-5 during the year. Trained teen volunteers assisted at workshops at the Central Library and Auburn branch, where participants learned how to operate the 3D printers and design objects using Tinkercad. Library staff also demoed the printers at a training for summer learning educators and a mini Maker Faire at the Warwick Barnes and Noble.



TEEN 3D PRINTING PARTICIPANT ASSISTS YOUNGER CHILDREN WITH THE LIBRARY'S 3D PRINTER



YOUTH ENJOYING A SESSION OF 1, 2, 3, MOVE WITH ME! AT THE OAK LAWN BRANCH

1, 2, 3, MOVE WITH ME!

Last January, Cranston Public Library introduced a new program at the Oak Lawn Branch—an early literacy program which did not include books. Inspired by audience enthusiasm during more traditional storytimes’ “Hello” and “Goodbye” songs, 1, 2, 3, Move With Me! welcomes children ages 1-5 and invites participants to work on memory and retention through song, repetition, and physical movement. This popularly-received program is now offered at multiple Cranston Public Library locations.



A BLIND DATE WITH A BOOK DISPLAY AT THE KNIGHTSVILLE BRANCH

BLIND DATE WITH A BOOK

Following a well-received initial reveal in 2014, each Cranston Public Library’s location participated in a “Blind Date with a Book” display program in February 2015. Librarians across the city placed teen books on display after they had been specially wrapped to disguise their titles, and adorned with clues as to their plots or genres. Teen patrons were asked to complete a “rate their date” slip when they returned their books to the library. The review slips qualified teens to enter a drawing for a pair of movie passes. The contest was open to readers aged 10-18, and 75 wrapped books were borrowed during this program.

HERO CON

Tying into the 2015 Summer Reading Challenge’s theme of “Every Hero Has a Story,” Cranston Public Library held its first mini comic book convention, Hero Con, at the William Hall Library in July. This two-hour program was staffed by incredible teen volunteers, and featured an art contest, video gaming (provided by GameStop), Minecraft, and costumed characters from Star Wars as well as the Marvel Universe (provided by members of the New England Chapter of the 501st Battalion, a cosplay group). Sixty-nine children and teens, and 48 adults attended the program and participated in the gaming, photo opportunities, and raffle.

FROZEN

Elsa and Anna, from the popular children's film *Frozen*, visited the Knightsville Branch in July 2015. More than 40 boys and girls seemed mesmerized by the princesses, as they listened to stories and sang songs. At the end of the program, Elsa and Anna posed for pictures with individual children. The Cranston Herald covered the event and included an excellent group picture, which truly captured the excitement of the children.

INTERNATIONAL GAMES DAY

On November 21, Cranston Public Library joined hundreds of libraries across the country to take part in the global celebration of gaming in libraries known as International Games Day. Held at the Central Library, the event included five different gaming consoles, board games, and the ever-popular Minecraft. Participants were instructed to use game cards to earn stamps for the games they played. Five or more stamps qualified participants to be entered in a raffle for movie passes. Other prizes and giveaways included *Star Wars Battlefront*, posters, key rings, and more.

NANOWRIMO KIDS WRITING WORKSHOP

Adults and children participated in National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) at Cranston Public Library in 2015. NaNoWriMo—a fun, seat-of-your-pants approach to creative writing—takes place every November, and this year we invited writers in grades 3-8 to write a book (comic book, screenplay, picture book, or chapter book) in just one month. Participants

received writing kits, took part in read-alouds and discussions on the craft of writing, and learned about setting personal goals. By the end of the five-week program, 24 kids finished their stories.



TEENS AND THEIR FAMILIES AT THIS YEAR'S HERO CON AT THE WILLIAM HALL LIBRARY



PLAYING WITH QUEEN ELSA AND PRINCESS ANNA AT THE KNIGHTSVILLE BRANCH (P 25) PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE POPIEL, CRANSTON HERALD



NANOWRIMO PARTICIPANTS DISPLAY THEIR FINISHED BOOKS AT THE END OF NOVEMBER

library funding

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The Cranston Public Library operating budget for fiscal year 2015 was \$3,063,894. In fiscal year 2015, the library received a 1.5% budget increase from the City of Cranston, with an appropriation of \$2,437,415. The library also received \$539,079 in state grant-in-aid. The remainder of the library's operating budget came from fines and fees.

CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The Cranston Public Library Association (CPLA) is the nonprofit fundraising arm of the Cranston Public Library. CPLA assists the library in providing programs and services that exceed the level of tax-based funding. CPLA is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3), making all contributions fully tax deductible.

CPLA welcomes donations from individuals, organizations, corporations, and foundations. Donations assist with the promotion of early literacy, expansion of book and media collections, provision of programming, and more.

To make a donation to the CPLA, please call 401-943-9080 x100 or visit: cranstonlibrary.org/support-library



ALLACCESS TEAM MEMBERS WELCOME CRANSTON MAYOR ALLAN FUNG AND CONGRESSMAN JIM LANGEVIN TO CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY'S C-LAB

“WHEN IS THE
LAST TIME YOU
VISITED YOUR
LOCAL LIBRARY? [...]

I VISITED THE
CRANSTON
PUBLIC LIBRARY'S
CENTRAL
[LIBRARY]

YESTERDAY AND
WAS BLOWN AWAY
BY THE WORK
THEY'RE DOING”

CONGRESSMAN JIM LANGEVIN,
FACEBOOK

LIBRARY SUPPORTERS

The Cranston Public Library and Cranston Public Library Association seek donations and grants throughout the year to fund additional programs and improvements to the library. The following is a list of selected supporters (July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015).

\$200,000+
Champlin Foundations (for renovations to the Central Library Children’s Room)
\$30,000+
Institute of Museum and Library Services (ALLAccess in the Libraries Grant)
\$10,000+
Joseph Maddalena (to establish the Betty Maddalena Fund)
\$5,000+
California Community Foundation
\$2,000+
Auburn Library Association
Niederhoffer Management
Senator Josh Miller Legislative Grant
\$1,000+
Alan Shawn Feinstein
BankNewport
Cranston Community Development Block Grant
Dollar General Literacy Foundation
Representative Robert Jacquard Legislative Grant
R. Chad Dreier & Norman Dreier
Rhode Island State Council/IRA

\$500+
Cranston Municipal Employees Credit Union
Friends of the Cranston Public Library
Margaret Caprara
Senator Hanna Gallo Legislative Grant
Whole Foods Market, Cranston
\$200+
Alice I. Sullivan Charitable Foundation
Jim Manning
Pawtucket Credit Union Charitable Foundation
Time Capsule Comics
\$100+
Alex and Ani, Charity by Design
Bob’s Discount Furniture Charitable Foundation
Hearing Loss Association of Rhode Island (Paul Holliday Memorial Collection)
Hope Highland PTO
Jennifer and Mark Smith Charitable Fund
Steven Stycos & Christine Herbert
Susan Surova

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTORS

Mobile Beacon (security cameras at the Auburn Branch)
Mobile Beacon (Youth Services Laptop Lab)
3D Systems/Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) Grant (four 3D printers)

library administration

Edward Garcia Director

Julie Holden Assistant Director

Barbara Hayden Office Manager

Emily Brown Coordinator of Youth Services

Beth Johnson Coordinator of Adult & Information Services

Corrie MacDonald Coordinator of Technology

Stefanie Blankenship Oak Lawn Branch Librarian

Adrienne Gallo William Hall Library Branch Librarian

Karen McGrath Auburn Branch Librarian

Nancy Gianlorenzo Knightsville Branch Librarian

Linda Archetto Head of Teen Services

Katy Dorchies Community Engagement Manager

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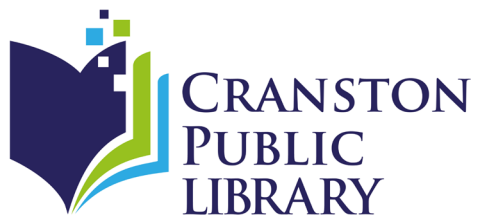
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