

Martha Canfield Library Town Report 2020

The Martha Canfield Library is here to help you read, learn and expand your horizons in a variety of ways. Even with a pandemic, we have worked to find ways that you can still access the majority of our services with curbside pickup for books, movies, games and puzzles, interlibrary loan, and printing services. We have 24/7 online access to audio and ebooks, along with other databases for research and classes through the links on our website: marthacanfieldlibrary.org. All you need is your library card barcode. Our library assistant Holly has held virtual storytimes on Facebook, and we have offered virtual programs for adults as well as children. And, thanks to a grant from the Berkshire Bank, we were able to provide activity kits and free books for over 125 children during our summer reading program, Imagine Your Story.

The Russell Vermontiana Collection had a busy year, darkened by the COVID-19 pandemic and the unrelated death of David L. Thomas, longtime supporter, member of the library Board, local preservationist through the Arlington Townscape Association and local history expert. The collection received important donations of Kenny family memorabilia related to the Green River Inn, Arlington ledgers and photos, Dorothy Canfield Fisher letters and memorabilia, a Norman Rockwell framed print, trophies awarded by the Arlington Fire Department for their auto shows, Hale Company records, a sampler made by an 8-year old Arlington girl in 1826, artifacts from the Remember Baker Mill saved by Tom Weakley, photographs of local events and families, and local history and genealogy related to the Gowey, Bentley, Barney and Brophy families. Research queries were received from throughout the United States including California, Texas and the east coast on genealogy, local, state and business history of our service towns of Arlington, Sandgate, Sunderland and Shaftsbury.

We greatly appreciate your support through the years as we strive to provide services essential to a well-informed community. Let us know how we can help: check our webpage, follow us on Facebook, email with requests and questions, call us.

Respectfully submitted, Phyllis Skidmore, Director, Sheila Kearns, President, Board of Trustees

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