



## The Etna Library

### TRUSTEE REPORT

The Etna Library, the original Hanover Town Library, continues to welcome all visitors throughout the year. As you enter the Etna Library, you'll receive a warm welcome from Jeff Metzler, Library Director since 2021, and from Assistant Librarian Sarah Molesworth. Jeff and Sarah are the Etna Library's sole staff members (plus two dedicated substitutes), and they work tirelessly to supersede the staffing and space limitations of this small but powerful place.



Weekly clubs, vibrant and engaging, bring the library to life. They include the LEGO club, Cookbook Club, Universal Yums, Story Times, and many more. The monthly Book Club, ongoing for over twenty years, continues to encourage new participants to enjoy good books and lively conversations together.

There are also a variety of engaging special events during the year that offer a terrific balance of historical and environmental topics, magical activities for younger audiences, and entertaining experiences for all.

The exciting addition of the Gazebo in 2025, built with the gift from the Birnie family in memory of their mother, Pietie, has already further enhanced the Etna Library's connection to Hayes Farm Park and the King Bird Sanctuary. The view of the gazebo as you pull into the library's parking lot and look up into the field is a welcoming and exciting one, igniting in one's imagination the innumerable outdoor events that this new space will make possible.

The Etna Library, while constantly offering new programs and circulating items, is also tapping into its deep roots like never before. Jeff helped form the Etna Historical Society and he and the Etna Library have been instrumental in assisting community members with documentation and the Society's efforts to preserve historical artifacts. The library's pivotal role in this process is just another way that this institution ties the community together.

And it is community that's at the core of the Etna Library. As Jeff mentioned in the Library Director's Report, this community is utilizing the Etna Library like never before. The library's usage statistics have climbed dramatically over the past four fiscal years. In key categories such as the numbers of items circulated, attendees at events, and visitors to the library, the Etna Library has seen its statistics increase by up to 92% this fiscal year compared against pre-Fiscal Year 2022 record highs.



As a lifelong member of this community, it has been so exciting to watch new life and energy breathed into the Etna Library, expanding it beyond what many thought possible. This institution is moving in wonderful new directions, welcoming all to enjoy and to learn. We are so grateful for this library and for all that it offers.

- Betsy Storrs, Etna Library Board of Trustees, Chair