



ETNA LIBRARY

If you haven't visited the Etna Library recently – or ever – please allow me to introduce you to a few of the many elements that make this place special. (And, hopefully, convince you to come and experience them for yourself!)

Our Rural Setting & Cozy Interior: If you're visiting from downtown Hanover, there's good news: the Etna Library is only a ten-minute drive away! Take that drive, and the shops and restaurants will fade, traffic will thin, the college will dissolve to a whisper, and trees will become ever more plentiful with each passing minute.



You'll know you've arrived when you see a small brick structure beside a gorgeous span of rolling hills: a structure that has stood in that spot for 121 years. You'll see our Reading Garden, with chairs encircled by lilacs; the library's new Pietie Birnie Memorial Gazebo; and a Story Walk that unfurls tales via picture book pages as it winds towards the King Bird Sanctuary.

Inside, the Etna Library's coziness will welcome you immediately – warm hazelwood embraces from the building's original wall-lining bookcases and stretches across the vaulted ceiling. Chandeliers, a stained-glass owl, and a dazzling bulb emerging from a real copy of *The Great Gatsby* will whimsically light your

surroundings. You'll see the library's cushioned window seats, nestled above books and beneath reaching windows, and you'll be magnetically drawn to one, with book in hand.

Our Collections: Besides books for every age and interest, you'll quickly find that the Etna Library also circulates some more unusual items, including Tonie audio figures, Yoto audio cards, video games, and Activity Backpacks replete with everything you need to bake cookies or put on puppet shows. We also have a Dog Library on our porch, with 'circulating' sticks for your pooch, and a Seed Library where you can choose from hundreds and hundreds of free seed packets.

Our Programs: A place is only as special as its people - only as special as what happens within. This is a little library that is bursting with life. Ongoing events like LEGO Club regularly draw crowds of over 30 attendees each week. And our wealth of special events reach heights not seen by many libraries two or three times our size: history presentations, magic shows, music performances, author talks, nature explorations, and so much more.

In Fiscal Year 2025, the community engaged with the Etna Library more than ever before in the institution's long history. If you're wondering why, you need only visit us and see for yourself the elements mentioned above. Nestled in nature, we're comfortable and inviting, offering eclectic collections and a packed schedule of programs.

When you do make that first visit, you may spot something as you're leaving that you initially overlooked: the small sign at the front of the building: *Hanover Town Library*. That's the 'Etna Library's' legal, official name, now as it was upon the institution's founding in 1898. And it's only fitting. We were Hanover's original, public-supported library and, today, we have more to offer every Hanover resident than ever before, whether you're looking for a book, a packet of seeds, a snug seat, or a stroll through rural fields that blend blooming nature and blossoming story. We hope to see you soon!

- Jeff Metzler, Etna Library Director