THE NWPL

The Norman Williams Public Library, located in the heart of Woodstock, Vermont, is a non-profit institution serving the diverse communities of the Ottauquechee River Valley. Our patrons span every generation, from families with newborns to centenarians, and our robust lending collection, engaging programs, and essential services are tailored to meet the unique needs of our rural population.

With deep historical roots, we honor our past while actively shaping a vibrant future. As our communities face evolving challenges and uncertainties, the library remains a steady and responsive presence, adapting with creativity, resilience, and purpose.

Unlike municipal libraries that receive 85 to 90% of their funding through public budgets, Norman Williams Public Library is an incorporated (nonmunicipal) library. We receive only 30% of our annual operating funds from the towns of Woodstock and Bridgewater. As a result, we must independently raise the remaining 70% through used book sales and fundraising campaigns. These critical funds keep our doors open six days a week, ensuring free access to vital services, resources, and enriching experiences for all.

WHERE OUR OPERATING FUNDS COME FROM

30%	70%
Woodstock & Bridgewater	Generous Community Support

Certified Sustainable
SustainableLibrariesInitiative

STAFF

Clare McFarland	Director
Michael Ricci	Director of Development
Kathy Beaird	Adult Services Director
Adrian Tans	Youth Services Director
Liza Bernard	Programming & Marketing Librarian
Emily Gibson	Technology & Youth Services Librarian
Lori Mitchell	Adult Services Librarian
Tara Melrod	Adult Services Librarian
Ellen Desmueles	Cataloging Librarian
Jane Blanchard	Bookkeeper

VOLUNTEERS

James “Mac” McClelland, Richard Bennett, Elisa D’Andrea, Rose Mrosczyk, Fran Lancaster, Karen Copenhaver, Molly Hutchins, Jen Danly, Donna Steed, Jen Dembinski, Gina Auriema, Kathy Fiske, Cynthia Volk, Barbara Abraham, Sherry Belisle, Helen Cicirello, Julia Keating

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Tom List, President
Emily Lev, Vice President
Hugh “Denny” Wetherald, Treasurer
Emma Schmell, Secretary

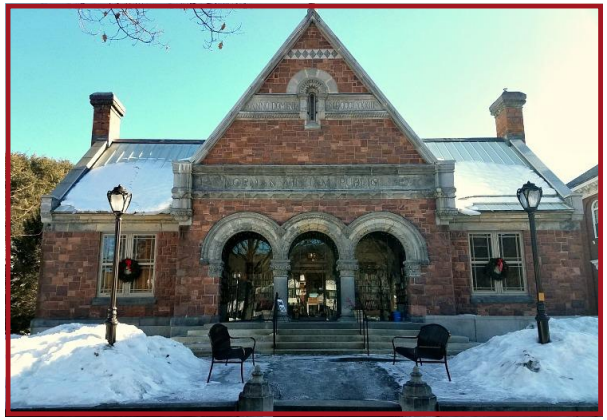
Bianca Zlatea, Jack McGuire, Priscilla Painton, Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Marisa Traniello, Robert Sollinger

Planned giving is a charitable strategy that enables you to provide long-term resources to the library in your will without reducing your income and assets today. To learn how you can initiate a planned gift to support the ongoing work of the NWPL, please call or email Michael:

802-457-2295
Giving@NormanWilliams.org

NORMAN WILLIAMS PUBLIC LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT
2025–2026



MISSION

The Norman Williams Public Library enriches the intellectual, cultural, and civic life of greater Woodstock by promoting a lifelong love of reading and learning, fostering the free exchange of ideas, and providing a welcoming space for people of all ages and backgrounds.

VISION

The Norman Williams Public Library is continually evolving to meet the communities’ need for enrichment and growth through learning, innovation, and opportunity in a safe and inclusive environment.

The NWPL is a gathering place as much as a lending library. Our monthly “Library After Hours” brings adults together for trivia, bingo, game nights, and jazz with local musicians. Week to week, our rooms welcome poets, knitters, bridge and mahjong players, the cooking club, the children’s chess club, and four book groups — small, steady gatherings where neighbors become friends and newcomers find a place to land.



Beyond these regular groups, our meeting spaces were reserved and used 247 times this year, welcoming more than 700 attendees. In addition, multiple Rotary Club lunches and meetings at the library drew an extra 200 people through the doors. Alongside our 494 public programs attended by nearly 6,000 people, these gatherings highlight the many ways the NWPL brings our community together.



Twice a year we gather in celebration: the Enchanted Wassail Evening each December and our In Full Bloom fundraiser each spring. And twice more we throw open the doors for our End of Summer Bash and the Halloween Spooky Library, two free community events that welcome families from across the region.

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

3,521 CARD HOLDERS	**394** NEW CARD HOLDERS
52,269 VISITORS	**2,304** NEW ITEMS ADDED
32,175 ITEMS CIRCULATED	**7,162** DIGITAL CIRCULATIONS
14,202 COURIER TRANSFERS	**2,240** SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS
2,083 NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS	**494** PROGRAMS
5,278 ATTENDANCE	**43** HOME DELIVERIES
2,445 VOLUNTEER HOURS	



Whatever brings you through our doors, there’s a seat at the table for you.

With generous financial assistance from the Friends of the Norman Williams Public Library, we greatly expanded our Library of Things this year. Now you can borrow far more than books.





Items in our growing collection include folding tables, a croquet set, moisture meter, blood pressure monitor, portable CD and/or DVD players, sewing machines, thermal imaging camera and so much more.





Our volunteers are the heart of our library. Their dedication, time, and energy bring our mission to life. We are deeply grateful for every hour, every helping hand, and every kind word they share.