

Brooks Memorial Library Monthly Activities Report for July 2026

To: Brooks Memorial Trustees

From: Brooks Memorial Library Staff

Date: August 2026

Announcements:

- Library Director- initial screenings have taken place
- Construction updates- the upper entrance is scheduled to reopen the week of August 10. The Main St. entrance is scheduled to close on Monday August 17.

Activities that Support the Strategic Plan

Engage the community through a wide range of educational, recreational, and cultural opportunities that support diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Collect materials in accessible formats to reflect the world at large.

- Elements of the collection were highlighted in displays such as Art and the Natural World, Musical Histories, Friendship Stories. Books recommended by staff during Rapid Reviews were available for check out. Retired Library Director Meris Morrison was remembered with a display of writing by and about her.
- We reconfigured our plan for the Kanopy movie database to keep our costs predictable and sustainable. It incorporates sub-collections called “plus packs” on popular themes that can be viewed without limits at no extra cost—including the well-loved *Kanopy Kids* collection. The Friends of Brooks Memorial Library are generously supporting 60 percent of the annual fee.
- The Digital Media page has been updated to highlight special features of the various services, including e-books, audiobooks, concerts, courses from The Teaching Company, and videos from our local partners at the Vermont Humanities Council, drawing from events all over the state.

Respond to the information needs of all members of the community by providing accessible, respectful, and reliable reference and technology services.

- Both the Reference Librarian and the Electronic Services Specialist assisted patrons who needed to establish accounts, complete online forms, and check the status of applications at various public agencies in the U.S. and Canada. Both service desks assist with complex processes like these, always within the parameters of library reference services; i.e., library staff members do not provide advice or clerical services, but we do assist people in finding and using contacts and tools to accomplish their goals.
- We established the unofficial Coolest Interlibrary Loan of the Month award after obtaining an amazing autographed art book called *In Praise of Shadows* by Hiroshi Sugimoto. It features transparent pages of photographs of a candle flame in darkness, and our ILL Specialist obtained it from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University.

Offer programs that introduce and illuminate a wide range of interests and opinions.

- An ongoing Adult Summer Reading Challenge encouraged patrons to read outside their comfort zones and take advantage of library resources.
- The Friends of Brooks Memorial Library hosted a Summer Garden Party as a fundraiser to support the library.
- The first two “Unearth Your Creativity” Art Workshops, provided by a teaching artist from the River Gallery School, taught participants drawing skills through close observation of bones and feathers and how to make watercolor paints out of natural materials, as part of the summer reading program.
- The library hosted the following ongoing programs: Brattleboro in Stitches, the Sci-Fi Reading Group, and Talking about Tech.

Review and introduce new technology and develop related instruction.

- The Electronic Services Specialist (ESS) had a full appointment schedule helping patrons with technology goals large and small. A popular area of instruction is phone management, including adding and deleting apps and clearing storage space.
- The ESS built a new catalog kiosk tailored to the needs of young patrons who use the catalog in the children’s room.
- *Talking about Tech: What is WiFi?* provided an interactive gathering for patrons to ask and answer technology questions.
- New Chapter generously donated 12 gently used laptops to Brooks Memorial Library to benefit patrons and improve access to technology.

Support young children and their caregivers by providing developmentally responsive learning opportunities through materials and programming.

- Over 300 children participated in the “Unearth a Story” summer reading program.
- Presented our weekly Summer Reading Program events for children of all ages including: Monday Movie Matinees, Stories in the Sun at Retreat Farm on Tuesdays, Rhyme Time on Wednesdays, Sing & Dance with Robin on the Brattleboro Commons on Thursday mornings, and LEGOpalooza on Thursday afternoons.

Empower teens by providing them with resources for education, entertainment and engagement.

- Held two Teen Game Nights, three Wednesday Movie Nights and one outdoor Friday Night Movie showing the original Jurassic Park to keep with the “Unearth a Story” summer reading theme.

Recruit, cultivate and retain a diverse, exemplary staff. Empower and support staff well-being.

- A Circulation Clerk completed a core course in Reference to obtain a Certificate of Public Librarianship in Vermont.
- Staff members attended webinars on *How Neuroarts Can Transform Your Library*, *Crafting Community Spaces from the Outside In*, and *Early Literacy Foundations*.

Provide welcoming and accessible spaces for all members of the community.

Reconfigure current space arrangements to increase meeting and work areas for individuals and small groups.

- Provided free and accessible space for: Great Books Reading Group; Vermont Pastel Society; Game Cafe!; Green Carnation Book Group; Brattleboro Stamp Club; SEVCA; Climate focus group; local board and committee meetings; and virtual medical appointments.

Revamp and improve exterior space for increased accessibility and public usage.

- Construction at both entrances continues, and we're keeping our community informed using signage, e-news, and updates on the library's website. The upper entrance will re-open in August and the Main St. entrance will close.

Establish, strengthen, and sustain community connections to promote a culture that is accessible and welcoming to all, making a concerted effort to reach out to groups that have been historically marginalized.

Increase relationships with local partners to promote initiatives and programs.

- The library offered *Art & Exploration with the Library*, an art and books workshop series for seniors, in collaboration with the River Gallery School and the Bradley House. Participants had the opportunity to browse and check out a curated selection of books at the workshops.
- In partnership with the Retreat Farm, the library was able to offer a limited number of free tickets to cover admission to the Food Truck Roundup events in July and August.
- Held the second of our monthly Sci-Fi Film Series at the Lathis Theatre with a showing of 2001- A Space Odyssey on Sunday, August 2.

Identify and catalog community assets to better serve our patrons through resources and referrals

- The Access Brattleboro Community (ABC) team met with Rebecca Baruzzi, Executive Director of United Way of Windham County, to brainstorm ways to collaborate, highlight volunteer opportunities, and inspire local agencies to list in ABC. We welcome this partnership with United Way!
- We stocked up on bookmarks for our Outreach & Programming Coordinator to bring to local gatherings of service agencies in Brattleboro. The bookmarks encourage agencies to make profiles in the ABC Directory, and they include a QR code for easy access.

Establish diverse and inclusive connections to support underserved and vulnerable sectors.

- Provided an air-conditioned cool space and water fountains to protect community members from heat-related illnesses during high temperatures.

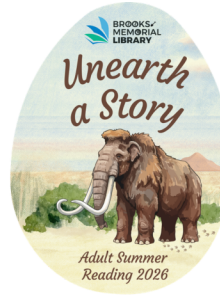
<i>Some Mid-Year Statistical Highlights, January-June, 2026</i>	
Museum Pass Uses: free and discounted visits to museums & parks	424
Total physical items added to collection	1,633
Physical books & recordings circulated Adult: 25,835 Children & Teens: 33,029	58,864
E-book, e-magazine, e-audiobook, & streaming video checkouts	24,229
Digital newspaper articles: VT State News Collection + NYTimes	11,288
Appointments for individual and small group technology help	170
Meeting Room Sessions for public and private meetings	1,424

Adult Circulation Report July 2026



Adult Summer Reading

Challenge Cards	269 Picked Up
Rapid Reviews	30 Attendees
Birds are Dinosaurs (VINS)	115 Attendees (40 children)



Summer Reading Adult Art Workshops	
Drawing Bones & Feathers	13 Attendees
Make Your Own Paints	16 Attendees
Stone Still Life with Walnut Ink	Registration Full (8/15)
Dinosaur Needle-Felting	Registration Full (8/8)

Museum Passes

Usage is increasing every year due to:

- Improved booking system
- Introducing digital passes
- Adding new passes
- Increased marketing

Pass Checkouts
Jan-Jun (6 months)

2025 **2026**
230 → 420

Passes sponsored by 

Top Passes

Brattleboro Outing Club
MassMoCA
Magic Wings
VINS
Eric Carle Museum
Montshire Museum

Food Truck Roundup Tickets



In partnership with the Retreat Farm, the library offered a limited number of free tickets to the Food Truck Roundup events in July and August.



New Chapter Laptops

New Chapter generously donated 12 gently used laptops to the library to benefit patrons and improve access to technology.

Displays 	Art and the Natural World, Musical Histories, Friendship Stories, Rapid Reviews, Remembering Meris Morrison
Crafts 	Origami Paper Folding



**Unearth Your Creativity Workshop:
Make Your Own Natural Paints**



**Unearth Your Creativity Workshop:
Drawing Bones & Feathers**



Friends Garden Party



**Accepting Donated Laptops from
New Chapter**

Museum Pass Uses January - June 2026

All Passes	Uses
Digital Passes	
<i>Brattleboro Outing Club</i>	76
<i>MASS MoCA</i>	67
<i>Vermont Institute of Natural Science</i>	28
<i>Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art</i>	27
<i>Clark Art Institute - The Clark</i>	18
<i>Cheshire Children's Museum</i>	15
<i>Children's Museum at Holyoke</i>	12
<i>Hildene, the Lincoln Family Home</i>	11
<i>Emily Dickinson Museum</i>	8
<i>Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium</i>	7
<i>Bennington Museum</i>	4
<i>Billings Farm & Museum</i>	3
Physical Passes	
<i>Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory & Garden</i>	57
<i>Montshire Museum of Science</i>	22
<i>Brattleboro Music Center</i>	19
<i>Nelson Withington Skating Facility</i>	18
<i>ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain</i>	8
<i>Springfield Museums</i>	7
<i>Historic Deerfield</i>	4
<i>Next Stage Arts Bandwagon Series</i>	4
<i>Vermont State Parks</i>	3
<i>Living Memorial Park Pool</i>	2
Total	420

Youth Services Report for July 2026

The closure of the upper entrance did not deter families from visiting the library this summer. In fact, the Children's Room and YA combined circulated 6607 items in July. That is 99 more items than last year with most of that increase coming from the YA collection which had 620 books circulated- one of our biggest months on record! All those books led to many prizes as teens filled their punch cards by checking out books from the YA collection. Teens rolled bone shaped dice to determine their prizes which included books, stickers, erasers and raffle entries. Winners for gift certificates to Beadniks, Everyone's Books, Ray Gun Comics and Zephyr Designs will be announced in August.

We had 302 children participate in our Unearth a Story summer reading program. By the end of July, we had given away 172 level 1 prizes, 143 level 2 prizes, 107 level 3 prizes and 64 level 4 prizes- that is over 2,000 hours of reading so far! Children have until August 8 to turn in their reading records and pick up their prizes. Children completing all 4 levels earn a free book, a coupon for a small cheese pizza at Domino's, a set of three VOX digital book cards and are entered into a drawing for Latchis movie tickets. Winners will be announced in August. Our Monday Movie Matinee numbers improved a bit from the last few years since we moved the start time to later in the day. We have added two more weeks of movies, extending through August 10. Unfortunately our Stories in the Sun at Retreat Farm did not enjoy many sunny days as we had rainy mornings on most of the Tuesdays this summer. Our Wednesday morning Rhyme Time drew a good crowd each week averaging 11 children and 6 adults which again is a good turnout considering the back entrance was closed all of July - much longer than originally planned. Sing & Dance also drew strong numbers even when we had to relocate from the Commons to the Community Meeting Room some weeks due to poor air quality and a heat advisory. Our extra long LEGO-palooza sessions were popular. We were happy to see parents getting into the fun and building their own creations to add to our display.

We will be wrapping up the summer reading program in the first week of August then taking a hiatus from most programming so that staff can take time off with their families.

The Children's Room will see a big change in August as long time staff member John Kilduff retires after almost twenty years. John has been a welcoming presence for families over the years and will be dearly missed by many. Children and parents will be invited to make cards for John at the craft table to thank him for all he has done over the years and to wish him well in his next adventure as he moves closer to his grandchildren.

Lindsay Bellville- Youth Services Librarian

Brooks Memorial Library

Budget vs. Actuals: Budget_FY27_P&L - FY27 P&L

July 2026 - June 2027

	TOTAL				
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	REMAINING	% OF BUDGET	% REMAINING
Income					
Total Income			\$0.00	0.00%	0.00%
GROSS PROFIT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	0.00%
Expenses					
BR01 - Buffer Account		10,000.00	10,000.00		100.00 %
BR03 Conferences & Workshops		2,606.29	2,606.29		100.00 %
BR04 Contractual Services		5,824.83	5,824.83		100.00 %
BR05 Books Adults	-17.40	26,381.00	26,398.40	-0.07 %	100.07 %
BR06 Juvenile Programs	55.35	4,547.69	4,492.34	1.22 %	98.78 %
BR07 Reference Sources	300.00	11,474.91	11,174.91	2.61 %	97.39 %
BR08 Local History Source	30.00	5,177.83	5,147.83	0.58 %	99.42 %
BR09 Young Adult Sources		5,036.34	5,036.34		100.00 %
BR10 Non-Print	5,200.00	8,896.71	3,696.71	58.45 %	41.55 %
BR11 Periodicals		5,020.87	5,020.87		100.00 %
BR12 Trustees Conferences		1,912.34	1,912.34		100.00 %
BR13 Adult Programs	25.98	1,589.01	1,563.03	1.63 %	98.37 %
BR14 Fine Arts		6,142.62	6,142.62		100.00 %
BR15 Board Approved Projects		43,130.38	43,130.38		100.00 %
FA01 Fine Arts Auction Sales Revenue		10,000.00	10,000.00		100.00 %
Total BR15 Board Approved Projects		53,130.38	53,130.38		100.00 %
BR16 Books Children	103.78	10,129.68	10,025.90	1.02 %	98.98 %
BR17 Outreach					
OR01 Marketing		6,835.90	6,835.90		100.00 %
OR02 Outreach		3,142.88	3,142.88		100.00 %
Total BR17 Outreach		9,978.78	9,978.78		100.00 %
BR18 Conservation	310.43	500.00	189.57	62.09 %	37.91 %
BR19 Short Term Gift Funds					
BS01 Brattleboro Stamp Club Donation		90.20	90.20		100.00 %
DU01 Helen Durant Fund 9/6/2007		65.85	65.85		100.00 %
EJ01 Edward Johnson Fund		164.38	164.38		100.00 %
SG01 Small Gifts	-310.82	3,604.46	3,915.28	-8.62 %	108.62 %
TB01 Tom Burdo Fund 1/2/2012		124.00	124.00		100.00 %
Total BR19 Short Term Gift Funds	-310.82	4,048.89	4,359.71	-7.68 %	107.68 %
BR20 Projects					
SP01 Building and Grounds Committee		11,908.64	11,908.64		100.00 %
Total BR20 Projects		11,908.64	11,908.64		100.00 %
BR21 Legacy					
BF01 Building Fund		22,152.21	22,152.21		100.00 %
BN01 Brown Fund		283.03	283.03		100.00 %
CK01 Calista Book Fund		2,380.35	2,380.35		100.00 %
DW01 Dowley Fund		1,977.51	1,977.51		100.00 %
FR01 Frothingham Fund		4,648.98	4,648.98		100.00 %

Brooks Memorial Library

Budget vs. Actuals: Budget_FY27_P&L - FY27 P&L

July 2026 - June 2027

	TOTAL				
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	REMAINING	% OF BUDGET	% REMAINING
GB01 George Brooks Fund		802.50	802.50		100.00 %
JR01 Jerard Fund		1,621.53	1,621.53		100.00 %
LU01 Loud Fund		13,707.25	13,707.25		100.00 %
PG01 Pageant Fund		617.05	617.05		100.00 %
SH03 Schorling 2007 Books Ref		143.16	143.16		100.00 %
WY01 Wyatt Fund		1,395.45	1,395.45		100.00 %
Total BR21 Legacy		49,729.02	49,729.02		100.00 %
BR22 - Employee Leave Awards		5,000.00	5,000.00		100.00 %
BR23 Downloadable					
DL01 Youth Downloadable		6,915.39	6,915.39		100.00 %
DL02 Adult Downloadable		11,884.30	11,884.30		100.00 %
Total BR23 Downloadable		18,799.69	18,799.69		100.00 %
Total Expenses	\$5,697.32	\$257,835.52	\$252,138.20	2.21 %	97.79 %
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$ -5,697.32	\$ -257,835.52	\$ -252,138.20	2.21 %	97.79 %
NET INCOME	\$ -5,697.32	\$ -257,835.52	\$ -252,138.20	2.21 %	97.79 %

Brooks Memorial Library

Budget vs. Actuals: FY_2025_2026 - FY26 P&L

July 2025 - June 2026

	TOTAL				
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	REMAINING	% OF BUDGET	% REMAINING
Income					
Total Income			\$0.00	0.00%	0.00%
GROSS PROFIT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	0.00%
Expenses					
BR01 - Buffer Account		10,000.00	10,000.00		100.00 %
BR03 Conferences & Workshops	992.55	2,598.84	1,606.29	38.19 %	61.81 %
BR04 Contractual Services		3,824.83	3,824.83		100.00 %
BR05 Books Adults	16,448.63	26,829.63	10,381.00	61.31 %	38.69 %
BR06 Juvenile Programs	2,611.68	2,159.37	-452.31	120.95 %	-20.95 %
BR07 Reference Sources	10,853.56	11,328.47	474.91	95.81 %	4.19 %
BR08 Local History Source	371.60	5,549.43	5,177.83	6.70 %	93.30 %
BR09 Young Adult Sources	5,626.31	5,662.65	36.34	99.36 %	0.64 %
BR10 Non-Print	11,228.44	20,125.15	8,896.71	55.79 %	44.21 %
BR11 Periodicals	4,172.89	3,193.76	-979.13	130.66 %	-30.66 %
BR12 Trustees Conferences		1,912.34	1,912.34		100.00 %
BR13 Adult Programs	1,564.13	3,153.14	1,589.01	49.61 %	50.39 %
BR14 Fine Arts	-4,029.20	2,113.42	6,142.62	-190.65 %	290.65 %
BR15 Board Approved Projects	-2,435.33	26,375.54	28,810.87	-9.23 %	109.23 %
FA01 Fine Arts Auction Sales Revenue	10,971.27	20,971.27	10,000.00	52.32 %	47.68 %
Total BR15 Board Approved Projects	8,535.94	47,346.81	38,810.87	18.03 %	81.97 %
BR16 Books Children	8,684.01	8,813.69	129.68	98.53 %	1.47 %
BR17 Outreach					
OR01 Marketing	498.43	7,334.33	6,835.90	6.80 %	93.20 %
OR02 Outreach	263.03	3,405.91	3,142.88	7.72 %	92.28 %
Total BR17 Outreach	761.46	10,740.24	9,978.78	7.09 %	92.91 %
BR18 Conservation	864.33	864.33	0.00	100.00 %	0.00 %
BR19 Short Term Gift Funds					
BC01 Brattleboro Camera Club (deleted)		0.00	0.00		
BP01 Brattle Post Card Fund (deleted)		0.00	0.00		
BS01 Brattleboro Stamp Club Donation		90.20	90.20		100.00 %
DU01 Helen Durant Fund 9/6/2007	240.00	305.85	65.85	78.47 %	21.53 %
EJ01 Edward Johnson Fund		164.38	164.38		100.00 %
HS01 Harold Sheldrick Fund 9/30/15 (deleted)		0.00	0.00		
SG01 Small Gifts	931.31	4,535.77	3,604.46	20.53 %	79.47 %
TB01 Tom Burdo Fund 1/2/2012		124.00	124.00		100.00 %
Total BR19 Short Term Gift Funds	1,171.31	5,220.20	4,048.89	22.44 %	77.56 %
BR20 Projects					
SP01 Building and Grounds Committee	21,970.72	23,879.36	1,908.64	92.01 %	7.99 %
Total BR20 Projects	21,970.72	23,879.36	1,908.64	92.01 %	7.99 %
BR21 Legacy					
BF01 Building Fund		16,139.94	16,139.94		100.00 %
BN01 Brown Fund		222.55	222.55		100.00 %

Brooks Memorial Library

Budget vs. Actuals: FY_2025_2026 - FY26 P&L

July 2025 - June 2026

	TOTAL				
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	REMAINING	% OF BUDGET	% REMAINING
CK01 Calista Book Fund		1,580.35	1,580.35		100.00 %
DW01 Dowley Fund	-572.20	1,405.31	1,977.51	-40.72 %	140.72 %
FR01 Frothingham Fund	135.89	3,216.89	3,081.00	4.22 %	95.78 %
GB01 George Brooks Fund		802.50	802.50		100.00 %
JR01 Jerard Fund		1,458.01	1,458.01		100.00 %
LU01 Loud Fund		12,515.77	12,515.77		100.00 %
PG01 Pageant Fund	-57.69	559.36	617.05	-10.31 %	110.31 %
SH03 Schorling 2007 Books Ref		143.16	143.16		100.00 %
WY01 Wyatt Fund	51.92	997.38	945.46	5.21 %	94.79 %
Total BR21 Legacy	-442.08	39,041.22	39,483.30	-1.13 %	101.13 %
BR22 - Employee Leave Awards	5,267.23	5,267.23	0.00	100.00 %	0.00 %
BR23 Downloadable					
DL01 Youth Downloadable	2,320.96	4,236.35	1,915.39	54.79 %	45.21 %
DL02 Adult Downloadable	6,320.61	6,204.91	-115.70	101.86 %	-1.86 %
Total BR23 Downloadable	8,641.57	10,441.26	1,799.69	82.76 %	17.24 %
Total Expenses	\$105,295.08	\$250,065.37	\$144,770.29	42.11 %	57.89 %
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$ -105,295.08	\$ -250,065.37	\$ -144,770.29	42.11 %	57.89 %
NET INCOME	\$ -105,295.08	\$ -250,065.37	\$ -144,770.29	42.11 %	57.89 %