



Looking Back at 2025

Our Fantastic Friends Group hosted our Winter Holiday Open House this year. As Director, I am so grateful for this wonderful group of people who eagerly participated and organized some of the events that our library offers to patrons.

We had an eventful year at the Thornton Public Library. We offered two reading challenges with prizes, two NH Humanities guest lectures: one in May and one in November, a Summer Reading program, family ancestry programs, and a lecture on wild mushrooms. Our story walks behind the library had three various animal related stories. We also featured an outdoor telescope program in October at the Sugar Shack Campground. We offered a CPR class, taught by local patron: Mike Wheeler. And this year the Open House was organized by the Friends with a multicultural theme on December 13th with guest musicians: a local ukulele group playing carols along with a talented young patron, Leora. Santa was here to give out books and candy canes to the children. The basket raffle was sponsored by the Friends group along with free refreshments. For the children there were crafts and a dreidel game. Honorable mention to Mary Ellen Sakura for her artistic multicultural displays at the Open House. See the photos below.





Our staff: Christine, Cathy, Sandia, and Vivica are here to help you with our resources. Pictured are two of our trustees, Anita and Marty, on each end of our staff get together.

Contact us if you are interested in story time, the book clubs, a Lego club, cake pans, nature back packs, movies, copying, Ancestry, Family Search as well as finding books online. Our services are listed on our website, which is being upgraded. We have four book clubs that we service, with one meeting on site once a month.



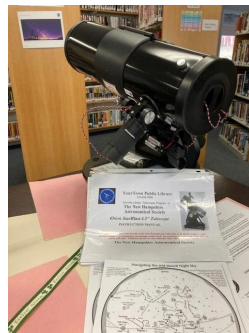


Volunteers helped us with our gardens and window cleaning in May as a project with the United Way Day of Caring.



Basket winners from our reading challenges: Kim Siner (above) and Jacqueline Belanger at left. Below is a telescope acquired with a grant that is available for borrowing by patrons.

Beekeeper Ginny Bergeron (see below) gave a presentation during our summer reading program in July.

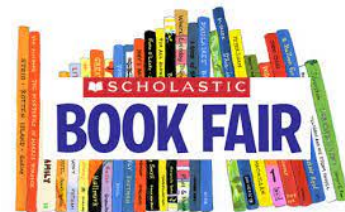


In March a bouquet with vase was given to Diane Gravel at the town meeting for her 21 years of service as a Trustee of the library: see photo at right.

Mike Wheeler gave a First Aid class on November 1st, which was sponsored by the Friends.

At left is Kylie Wheeler who was awarded a certificate for the books she read with her family in the 1000 Book Before Kindergarten program.

Our library hosted two book fairs for the school children this past year: one in April and one at the end of September.



Our Friends group has been instrumental in providing and assisting us with programs and events. A group of them helped to reorganize the fiction shelves in the adult room in June. They raised funds with a book sale, participated in National Night Out and Trunk or Treat, and hosted the December Open House.



The Friends of the Thornton Public Library was established as a Nonprofit 501(c)(3) in 2024 to connect the library with the community through communication, engagement, and fundraising.

We work directly with the community, becoming a key resource, connecting people, supporting individual growth and education, and providing an inclusive and inspiring space to gather and engage.

To meet our goals, this year we:

- Held a Holiday Open House at the library that required participation by many volunteers as we created Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Solstice and New Year displays; donated 9 "baskets" for a raffle (including 2 handmade quilts); provided snacks, live music and crafts; and a visit from Santa
- Executed a fundraising campaign for our Thornton Central School children experiencing food insecurity. In this season of giving, individual community members, Friends and their families responded with love and generosity beyond anything we had hoped to support our children. We are enormously grateful that over \$9,000 was contributed. Thornton Central School will manage and distribute these funds.
- Sponsored a CPR and First Aid Class for the community with instructor Mike Wheeler
- Reorganized the entire adult fiction bookshelves in the library which had previously been displayed by genre - a system that is ideal for children's books, but not for an adult collection. These books are now arranged by author.
- Participated in Trunk or Treat and National Night Out - two community building, fun events that foster town unity
- Purged, cleaned and organized closets making use of new outdoor storage cabinets purchased by our Library Trustees. Space in our library is extremely limited - we do our best to utilize the space while creating a welcoming environment for adult patrons and schoolchildren.
- Held our second book sale with 1400 books donated primarily by individuals. This event raised over \$800 (twice as much as our first sale) that will be used to support Friends programming. Many of the remaining books were donated to the Vet's Rest Stop in Lincoln, creating a library for their residents.
- Provided passes to the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center for patrons of the library. This family-friendly Center in Holderness has enlightened visitors since 1966 about the importance of our natural world through live animal exhibits, educational programs, a public garden, and guided Squam Lake cruises

Friends of the Library give their time, resources, expertise, and encouragement to ensure that our library remains a welcoming place for everyone.

As we look ahead, we are excited to continue building a library that reflects the heart of our community. We encourage everyone who enjoys a good book, wants to explore interesting topics, or wants to be involved in our community to join the Friends of the Thornton Public Library.

2025 Officers of Friends of Thornton Public Library:

Kevin McKenna, President
Kelli McGrath, Secretary
Lori Harris, Treasurer
Marilyn Pomerantz, Member-at-Large
Julie Retelle, Member-at-Large

