

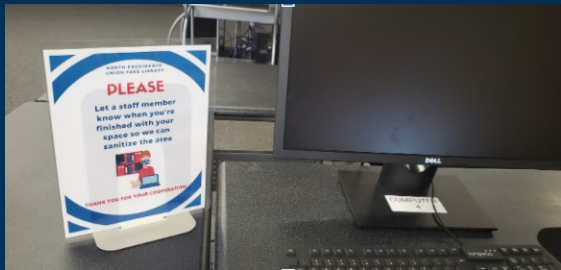
# Bridging the gap...

## REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

The Reference staff, under the lead of Department head Joseph Uscio, have been providing computer access and assistance to patrons daily. Patrons in need of internet and computers have found solace upstairs in Reference. Patrons can also borrow mobile hotspots for at-home internet use free of charge. Staff also brought carts of books for patrons to browse when the stacks were temporarily closed.



**SINCE REOPENING ON JULY 28, 2020 WE HAVE HAD 1,261 COMPUTER USAGES AND COUNTING!**



## Safety and Sanitization Maintenance Department

The Maintenance Department, led by Jerry Russell, has dedicated each day to sanitizing and cleaning the building to ensure a safe environment for staff and patrons. Their hard work and dedication have allowed us to continue operations during this time.



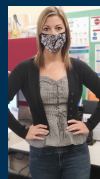
## Guidance and Support

### ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

The Administration Team, comprised of Director Stefanie Blankenship, Deputy Director Liz D'Amore, and Administrative Assistant Heather Zanni, stay informed about current library trends amid the pandemic.

Stefanie Blankenship became Director in July prior to reopening the library to the public. Former Acquisitions manager Liz D'Amore was appointed Deputy Director after serving as acting Director since closing in March. They offer support to the staff through various means, including updated plans and security measures. The team has acquired grant money to support safety measures in the library and services for patrons.

Heather Zanni took the reigns as Administrative Assistant upon opening full time in October to offer support and clerical duties to the Director and Deputy Director.



Director  
Stefanie Blankenship



Deputy Director  
Liz D'Amore

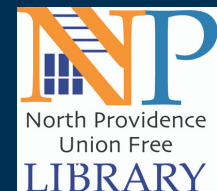


Administrative  
Assistant  
Heather Zanni



Be "socially distanced" with us!  
Stay connected!

## NORTH PROVIDENCE UNION FREE LIBRARY 2020: A YEAR OF CHALLENGES, CHANGES, AND OPPORTUNITIES



*"Stepping Into New Possibilities"*

**"Victory is always possible for the person who refuses to stop fighting." -Napoleon Hill**

# STEFANIE BLANKENSHIP

## Director's Message



On March 13, 2020, the North Providence Union Free Library closed to the public. The staff were uncertain of when, if, and how they would reopen again. With an unprecedented event unfolding in our state, country and world, they braved the unknown to provide books and services to residents of the town.

From lobby pickup and a "little free library" to using technology to reach their audience in ways they never had before, the team at the library did not let distance become a barrier.

I stepped into the role as new Director amidst turmoil and uncertainty. Succeeding Mary Ellen Hardiman, Director for over 30 years, meant I had big shoes to fill. I became Director during a period of rebuilding and change, of reopening safely in a perceived unsafe environment. These aspects led to new opportunities for learning, growth, and adaptation. As a town and as a library, we faced and continue to face challenges as we navigate through this pivotal time in history. We will continue to provide our patrons with the most efficient and safe environment within our control.

We are appreciative of our Mayor and Town Council for their support in reopening our doors to the public. We are fortunate to work for a generous Board of Trustees. And we are forever thankful to our patrons for giving us the drive to continue to move forward.

When we reopened our doors on July 28, 2020, each patron who walked through expressed their happiness and gratitude to be able to enter the physical library once again. We could have not done this without our steadfast staff, the support of our Mayor, and Board of Trustees.

We look forward to seeing you at our library soon.

## Responding to the call....

### CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT

The Circulation Department staff, under the lead of Gina Marciano and Mary Albanese, pioneered many services for patrons during 4 months of closure including lobby pickup, virtual crafts, free books, and virtual cooking programs.

FISCAL YEAR  
2020

80,806

MATERIALS  
CHECKED OUT  
23,136 eZone  
checkouts

12,629 wireless  
usages

11,258 Library card  
holders



CIRCULATION  
MANAGER GINA  
TAGS RETURNED  
ITEMS FOR 3 DAYS  
OF QUARANTINE.



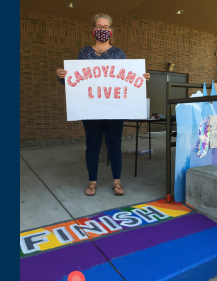
CIRCULATION ASSISTANT  
MANAGER MARY LEADS AN  
ONLINE CRAFT  
DEMONSTRATION AND  
PROVIDES BAGS OF  
MATERIALS TO-GO.



## Bringing the library outside...

### CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

The Children's Department staff, under the lead of Jenny Durant, have been providing a plethora of outdoor and virtual adventures for the families of North Providence. Weather and distance cannot hold them back!



CHILDREN'S  
DEPARTMENT  
HEAD LIBRARIAN  
JENNY GREETS  
FAMILIES FOR  
CANDYLAND  
LIVE. THEY HAD  
OVER 200  
PARTICIPANTS!



THE CHILDREN'S  
DEPARTMENT SET UP  
VARIOUS STORY  
WALKS AT NOTTE  
PARK.



GETTING CREATIVE:  
BALLOON ARTIST  
JENNIFER CONDUCTS A  
"DRIVE THRU" PROGRAM  
FOR FAMILIES.

STACY CONDUCTS A VIRTUAL  
FLANNELBOARD STORYTIME,  
LYNDA SHARES TOWN GEMS  
ONLINE, AND FAMILIES "TALE-  
GATE" FOR OUTDOOR STORIES  
EVERY WEEK.

