

The Martha Canfield Library

528 East Arlington Rd, PO Box 267 Arlington, VT 05250
martha_canfield_lib@hotmail.com | www.marthacanfieldlibrary.org

The Martha Canfield Memorial Free Library (MCMFL) serves the communities of Arlington, Sandgate, Shaftsbury, and Sunderland; over 150 of our patrons reside in Sandgate. This has been a transition year for our library with the retirement of Phyllis Skidmore after 44 years of dedicated service. The new director, Kyrra Howard, started in June and is excited to embark on this new chapter at the MCMFL.

During 2024, the library welcomed 10,535 patrons and hosted over 100 free programs. The MCMFL stepped out of the uncertain times the COVID-19 pandemic brought and began hosting more programs for patrons, and looks forward to more in the new year. The library is committed to the towns and communities it serves, striving to provide the best service possible. Plans have begun for new programs for all ages, including a cookbook club and a book making program with Vermont children's book illustrators.

Programming is only a piece of what this library has in store for patrons. The MCMFL Canfield Gallery will showcase a variety of local artists and themes for patrons to experience and learn about. From upcycled art to mining, there will be a lot to see in the gallery this coming year. Also, available are computers, a copier, printers, and a 3D printer. For kids, there are learning kits and book express boxes for families and local schools to check out for their classrooms. These are available to help kids learn about gardening, building circuits, tools and machines, and so much more!

The Russell Vermontiana Collection and MCMFL's curator Bill Budde have a wealth of local and state history to share. Whether you are looking for information about family genealogy, a local residence, or a general history of Bennington County or Vermont, Bill can work with you to search for more information. 2024 was a busy year for the Russell Collection. The major activity was preparing and installing the Main Street: Past and Present exhibit at Arlington Common. Three presentations related to the exhibit were given: "Main Street, Past and Present," "Arlington Industries," and "Mill History of Arlington, Sandgate, and Sunderland." Other recordings and interviews included eight "History Minutes" for radio, and video segments for GNAT-TV on the Hawley/Crofut House, the History of the Intersection of Rtes. 7A and 313, and the Ira Allen House. Other presentations included one on the Carthusian Monastery, and participation in promoting and follow up Q and A for the Les Craven movie "Lost Nation." Preparation for the 250th anniversary event of the March to Fort Ticonderoga focused on identifying the Arlington residence and purchases of Ethan Allen. Preservation work included the completion of a finding aid for the USS Bennington Collection, as well as scanning important early ledgers, including the early Arlington Masonic Lodge Ledger (1799, Newton Lodge), the Mallory/Brownson Ledger (1757-1820), and a general store ledger from Williston, Vermont (1812-1815).

Thank you all for your support and we hope to see you at the library soon.

Respectively submitted,

Kyrra Howard, Library Director