

In 2024, the Solomon Wright Public Library:

- Offered **26 free events** for a variety of ages, including programs from the Pownal Historical Society, Southwestern VT Council on Aging, local author Elizabeth Winthrop Alsop, VT Natural History Museum, Sunrise Family Resource Center, Head Start, Bike Hub, Bennington Theater, and Summer Block Parties in partnership with Faith Church.
- Provided **services and outreach** to local children at Pownal Elementary School, Oak Hill Children's Center, Pownal Head Start, and Sunrise Family Resource Center
- Participated in **community events**: Celebrate Pownal Day, Witches' Walk, Pownal Tree Lighting
- Added **100 new patrons** from Pownal and surrounding areas
- Recorded **58% more patron visits** this year than in 2023
- Received **4 grants**: for summer programming, interlibrary loan, building accessibility upgrades, and technology (providing high speed wifi to patrons and making the library a hotspot)
- Offered **resources from local organizations**, voter registration, free Covid tests, Take Care packs from ACT Bennington, and healthy snacks for kids and adults
- Collected nonperishable food items for the **Pownal Food Pantry**
- Added the library as a **stop on the Green Mountain Express**
- **Hosted numerous Pownal organizations** in our meeting room space, including the Selectboard, Parks and Recreation Committee, quilting group, and book club
- Continued to provide citizens of all ages with **diverse choices for reading material** in all genres, as well as **online access** to Libby/Overdrive and The Palace Project
- Continued to encourage checkout of items from our **Library of Things** and **Peckham Toy Library**
- Continued to provide **passes to local museums, state parks, and historic sites** for free entry

In 2025, we will continue to honor the legacy and vision of the Wright family by offering Pownal residents a welcoming and beautiful space to gather. We will expand our programs and events that we established this year and will consider the community's needs and requests as we add to our collection of books and items to loan.

Thank you for your support!

Emily Gold, Director