



SHERBORN LIBRARY HOURS UPDATE

FEB 2025

LIBRARY HOURS WILL BE REDUCED BY HOW MANY HOURS?

The Library's operating hours will be reduced by 10 hours. The Library will be closed to the public on Monday and reduce evening hours on Tuesday, open 10am-6pm.

WHY HAS THE LIBRARY CUT BACK ITS OPERATING HOURS?

The Trustees of the Library have made the difficult decision to reduce operating hours. The renovated Sherborn Library has been a tremendous success, acting as the community center for the town since reopening in March 2023. Due to the increased demand of Library service, the Library needs to match the demand to the current staffing level. This reduction will allow the Library and its staff to operate at its optimum for library patrons.

WHEN DO THESE CHANGES TAKE EFFECT?

February 2025

WHEN WILL THESE 10 HOURS BE RESTORED?

Pending FY26 Town Budget

HOW WILL THIS REDUCTION AFFECT LIBRARY SERVICES?

The change in operating hours will affect services in the following ways:

- Reduce public access to Library and materials on days of closure
- Reduce non-Library meeting room bookings
- Reduce Library led programming

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STAFFING SITUATION AT THE LIBRARY?

Sherborn Library currently has 4 full-time Librarians (Children's, Teen/Children's, Adult/Reference, Director), 6 part-time Library staff and 4 student aides (equivalent hours of 3 full-time staff). The Library is currently open to the public 52 hours per week, 6 days per week 4 evenings and 1 Saturday. The Library staff is also running all programs (587 annually) and meeting room and study room bookings (860 annually).

HOW DOES SHERBORN LIBRARY STAFFING COMPARE TO OTHER PEER LIBRARIES IN NEIGHBORING TOWNS?

Sherborn Library hours are in line with Dover, Medfield and Swampscott, but all of those libraries have 2 to 3 more full-time equivalents and larger operating budgets.



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IS SHERBORN LIBRARY MAKING REQUESTS TO THE TOWN TO INCREASE ITS STAFF?

Yes, Sherborn Library has requested the following from the Town for FY26 budget:

1. Adding a 19 hour (with no benefits) Children's Library Assistant
2. Increase Technical Services Librarian;s hours from 25 hours to 32 hours (position has existing benefits)
3. Increase Circulation Supervisor from 19 hours to 32 hours (benefits will be required to do so)

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE LIBRARY AND THE CHALLENGES IT IS FACING?

You can contact Brian Connolly, Chair of Sherborn Library Board of Trustees at sherborn@minlib.net.

HOW CAN I SUPPORT THE LIBRARY?

Here are some upcoming meetings where you can share your thoughts on operating hours at the Library (find Zoom links on sherbornma.org):

- Tuesday, February 18 at 7:30pm: Library Trustees Meeting
- Saturday, March 22 at 9:00am: Advisory Hearing
- Tuesday, April 30 at 7:00pm: Town Meeting