

# REUBEN HOAR LIBRARY

PROJECT INFORMATION STATUS —SPRING 2019



## What is a modern library?

A multi-faceted community resource that offers many services intended to improve and enrich life for every member of the community.

In Littleton, Reuben Hoar Library is the vibrant heart of our community.

It is the place where we...

Discover new books

Meet new parents

Learn to knit

Look for jobs

Meet up with our friends.

Join a club



It's about books, **but also so much more.**

RHL is **more active** than your average library.  
Let's take a look at the numbers.



Our circulation rate is more than **TWICE** the state average.

**20**  
items  
checked out  
per patron

**180K**  
items  
circulated  
per year

**77%**  
of residents  
have a  
library card

Annual  
savings of  
**\$340**  
per person



A Library is more than books.



**OverDrive**  
Download eBooks and Audiobooks to your computer or mobile device



Need help?  
**BOOK - A - LIBRARIAN!**

SEED LIBRARY LITTLETON

The Boston Globe

freegal music 4.0

CR Consumer Reports

Save A Watt. HD HEAVY DUTY



Take Control of Your Power

zinio  
The world's largest newsstand is now on your library's website!



The New York Times On the Web

FamilySearch

Method Test Prep  
Online ACT and SAT Test Prep



ACORN tv

girls who code

The Washington Post

lynda.com  
Learn. Grow. Do.  
2,000+ tutorials on multimedia production, design, professional skills and more.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL  
WSJ



Rocket Languages  
Learn a Language with Rocket Languages on Your Own Terms and in Your Own Time!

Free Online Tutoring  
Available from home, school or the Library.  
GET HELP TODAY!

tutor.com

UNIVERSAL CLASS  
LEARN ON YOUR OWN TIME  
Over 500 Online Courses including continuing education classes



eBooks Language Learning

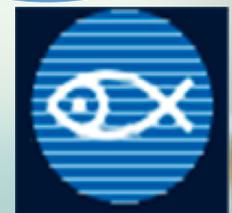
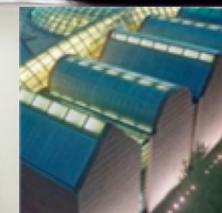
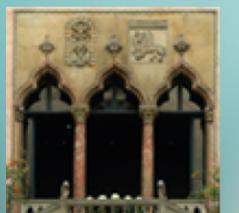
Good Reads Check out our eLibrary! Career Info

Newspaper & Magazine Articles Health Info and more!!

The Friends provide **discounted** museum passes.



**869**  
Museum  
passes  
borrowed



The library is a place we meet and build community.

**1,950**  
Meeting  
rooms used  
annually



**Demand exceeds availability;** far more are turned away due to lack of space.

We provide internet access via library computers.

**6,500**

Hours of  
computer  
use

**BECAUSE MORE  
THAN A  
QUARTER OF U.S.  
HOUSEHOLDS  
DON'T HAVE A  
COMPUTER WITH  
AN INTERNET  
CONNECTION.**

**LIBRARIES  
TRANSFORM**  
AN INITIATIVE OF THE AMERICAN  
LIBRARY & SOCIETY

LIBRARIES TRANSFORM. ORG

We provide a place get together to learn and play.

**480**  
programs

**More than**  
one per  
day!!



## Did you know?

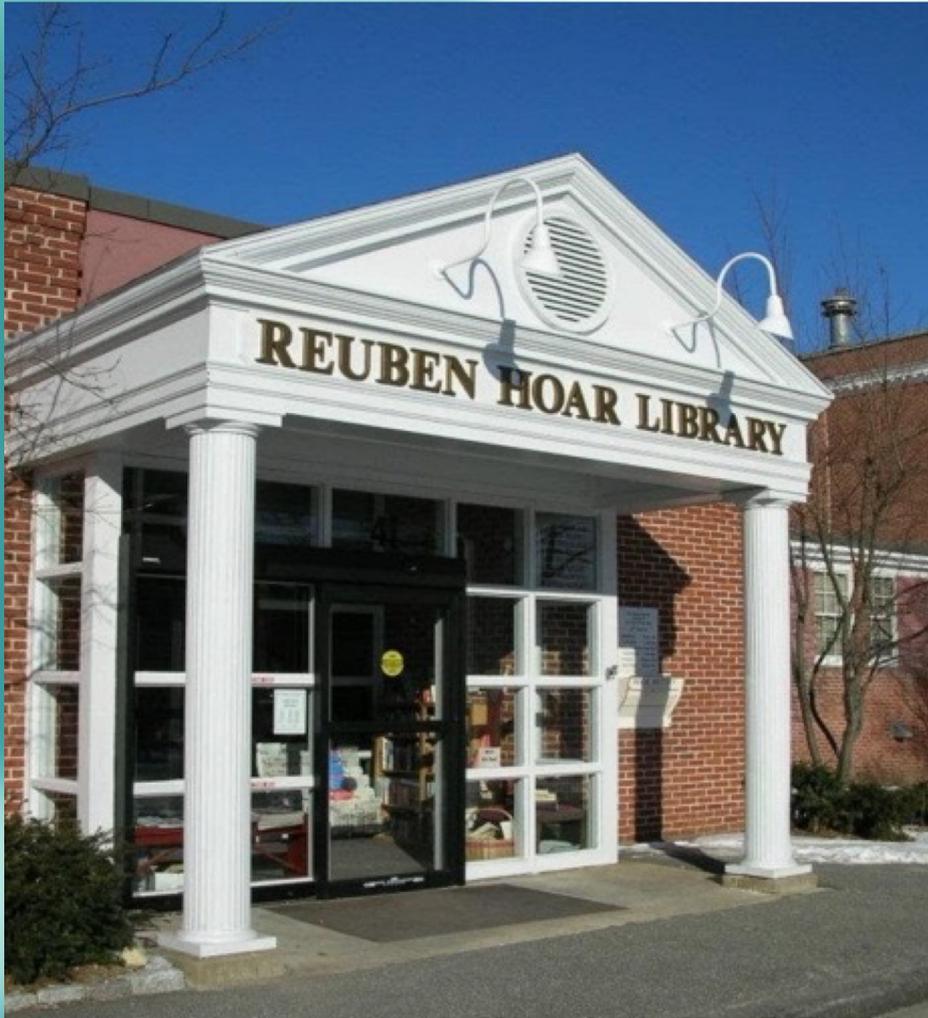
Littleton has never paid for a designated library building.



The 1887 Reuben Hoar Library building also served as Littleton Town Hall



The 1895 Houghton Memorial building was given to the town by W.S. Houghton's children



Did you know?

Our current library building was originally a school.

It was never intended to be a permanent library space when the library moved there in 1986 - 33 years ago.

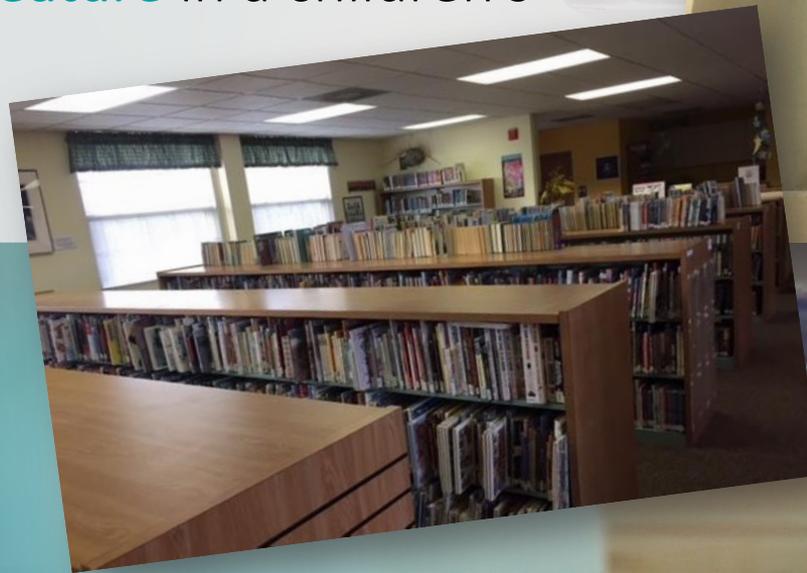
There are **critical concerns** with the current library building: ADA compliance, lack of space, poor layout, building infrastructure.

## ADA compliance concerns

The library is not navigable in a wheelchair due to lack of space between shelves.

Handicapped Elevator is too small

Taller children's room stacks accommodate wheelchairs, but block sight lines - an **important safety feature** in a children's room.



## Lack of space

Children's room **is limited** to 30 people per fire code.

**Meeting space:** Meeting requests regularly denied due to lack of space. Among those turned away are **community groups**.

**Space for quiet study:** The library has **limited space** for quiet study.

**Space for materials:** Due to accreditation requirements, the library must constantly purchase new books. Without space, old books must be **“weeded out.”** There is **no room for new materials**.



## Poor layout

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) states that the current RHL building is:

**“neither a functional nor efficient space.”**

In fact, they use Littleton as an example of **why NOT** to have three floors in a library building.

## Building issues

**Plumbing, roof, and HVAC issues:** Bathrooms need constant repair. Despite repairs, persistent, leaky roof.

The building is often too hot or cold with no adequate temperature regulation.

**People get stuck in the lift.** The lift **jams**.

Patrons and staff **often trip** on the stairs leading to the front desk.

The windows are **dangerous** to operate. They are too costly to replace.

Weight estimates of books and shelves **exceed** floors' load capacity.

Small changes have been made to address these concerns. These are **stop-gap measures** and not long term solutions.

The Elevator allows **unrestricted** access to the library from the town hall.

**Back door** has been **retrofitted** as a **handicapped entrance**, allowing patrons who have difficulty with the front entrance to come in the back.

**Larger Capacity Shelves** have been added in the **children's room**. However, they **obstruct sight lines**.