

JOURNAL

Vol. 151 - Issue 50

Published Each Thursday by Neighbor-to-Neighbor News Inc.

February 6, 2020

A variety of new items are able to be checked out at the Boston Free Library with its Library of Things.

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To go along with the many books, CDs, DVDs, audiobooks and Blu-rays available at the Boston Free Library, new technology items are now able to be checked out. From a metal detector to a bubble machine, the new Library of Things at the Boston Free Library offers a variety of unique items to the community.

The Library of Things allows anyone with an adult

library card to take out less traditional items from the Boston Free Library. Items in the Library of Things include a metal detector, outdoor projector and screen, karaoke machine, video camera, ukulele, green screen, trail camera, therapy light, digital radon detector, telescope and bubble machine. The library also offers a record player that will convert vinyl record, cassettes and CDs to

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Boston Free Library kicks off new Library of Things



Photo provided

3D printer also purchased with grant at Boston Free Library

Library of Things from page 1



The Boston Free Library.

Photo provided

a USB and film convertors that will convert film slides, negatives, photos, Super 8 or 8 millimeter film to an SD card.

The new technology was purchased for the library through a grant secured by Senator Patrick Gallivan's office. While the library previously offered a variety of yard games including bocce, Kan Jam, corn hole, volleyball, croquet, Kubb, ladder ball and Giant Jenga, the grant allowed the Boston Free Library to expand its unique offerings to the community.

"There are several libraries across the county that are expanding into starting Libraries of Things ... things necessarily that people can't buy, can't afford to buy on their own or items they might only use once or twice a year," Boston Free Library Director Lydia Herren said. "Based on the success of the yard games,

I started thinking that we can use some of the funding from Senator Gallivan to purchase some of these technology items for the public to actually be able to check out."

Getting the Library of Things started, the Boston Free Library looked at other similar libraries and what they offered in their Library of Things, got input from the community and looked for items in demand when deciding on what to purchase for Boston's Library of Things. Since starting the program in early February, reception from the community has been positive with people checking out a variety of items, Herren said.

"They are going good so far," Herren said. "I have already checked out the outdoor projector and screen, the trail camera, the film conversion and the green screen ... and based

on what the demand is for those items, we will determine what we are looking at purchasing and expanding into in the future."

Along with items in the Library of Things, the Boston Free Library was also able to purchase a 3D printer available for public use. The cost for printed items is based on weight at .05 cents per gram. Policies, where to send projects and information on finding projects can be found at buffalolib.org.

Items are available for people to borrow for seven days with a valid Buffalo and Erie County Public Library adult library card. Items must be picked up and returned at the Boston Free Library.

For more information about the Library of Things, visit the Boston Free Library at 9475 Boston State Road or call 941-3516.