

## **Hoopla Ends July 1<sup>st</sup> at the Gloucester Libraries**

The Harmony Library will be suspending its Hoopla borrowing services as of Tuesday, July 1. The library, supported by a generous donor, has provided this free service for patrons, but the library pays a fee (between \$1.99-\$3.99) for each and every item each person borrows through the service.

Over the past year, we have tried to put limits in place in an effort to make Hoopla more affordable and sustainable. In an attempt to forecast the annual cost of the service, we put a monthly borrowing limit in place.

This was a difficult decision to make but due to budgetary restraints and the unsustainability of the Hoopla pricing model, the Harmony Library will suspend its use at both the Harmony Library and the Gloucester Manton Library, going forward in fiscal year 2025-26.

The Hoopla service has also become plagued with poorly produced and AI-generated content, including computer voice synthesized audiobooks. Hoopla is purchased as a packaged collection and not as individual titles selected by our librarians following our collection development policy.

While the borrow-on-demand service is great for those who can use it, Hoopla does not make continued financial sense for the Harmony Library. More and more libraries in Rhode Island and across the country have been discontinuing their partnerships with Hoopla. With rising fixed costs across the library, continuing to subscribe to a service that only a few users are capable of using is not sustainable.

Going forward, digital materials can still be borrowed through the Ocean State Libraries eZone (through Overdrive/Libby). Links to this service is available on our website, [glocesterlibraries.org](http://glocesterlibraries.org).