Growing into the Future

COVID has changed our lives in many ways, but it has not changed the important role public libraries play as community anchors and supports, serving all members of the community, no matter their income, politics, age, etc. COVID has not changed what we do. It has changed how we do it—in some cases not just for now, but for the future.

As just one example, COVID has not diminished the love of reading or of learning among our patrons, but it has changed how we are reading and learning. While our circulation of print materials has rebounded to pre-pandemic levels, use of our digital resources has more than doubled since 2019. That means we need to rethink how we allocate funds and teach our patrons how to use these new resources.

Similarly, COVID has changed the way we engage our patrons through programs. Though we now have some in-person programs again, we continue to hold many programs online and will continue to do so. Through virtual programs we have been able to collaborate with other libraries and partners and offer a wider range of programs. All these things will continue when we no longer need to limit in-person gatherings.

COVID has pushed us to expand our ways of providing information and connecting our community. And that is all for the good.

On a personal note, and on behalf of the Library’s staff and Board of Trustees, I want to thank the voters in Ancram, Copake, and Hillsdale for voting to increase public funding for your library with your overwhelming “yes” votes this past November. Your vote of confidence in your library inspires us to work harder to support the communities that have supported us.

Tammy Gaskell
Library Director

In 2021 Your Library:

- Launched new, SHARED COLUMBIA COUNTY LIBRARIES MUSEUM PASS PROGRAM with a wider variety of museum passes to check out and print at home
- Began HOMEBOUND DELIVERY SERVICE
- Held its SECOND ANNUAL TEEN JOB FAIR
- Held its FIRST SMALL BUSINESS SEMINAR
- Converted fluorescent lights to more ENERGY-EFFICIENT LED LIGHTS
- COLLABORATED WITH NEIGHBORING LIBRARIES on a number of virtual programs
- Held a series of OUTDOOR CONCERTS at the Roe Jan Park
- Hosted flu shot and COVID VACCINE CLINICS
- Held more of the very popular TECH LABS THAT TEACH DIGITAL SKILLS

To receive our e-newsletter, which keeps you up to date on programs and resources, send an e-mail request to COMMUNICATIONS@ROEJANLIBRARY.ORG

Also visit our website, ROEJANLIBRARY.ORG, and our FACEBOOK and INSTAGRAM pages

Register for a library account by visiting ROEJANLIBRARY.ORG/GET-A-CARD

Feel free to contact us with any questions—we are here to help!

TAMMY GASKELL, LIBRARY DIRECTOR, 518-325-4101, DIRECTOR@ROEJANLIBRARY.ORG

PATRICIA A. PLACONA, PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, PATPLACONA@GMAIL.COM

Invested even more heavily in online resources to better meet increased demand

Passed 414 referenda in Ancram, Copake, and Hillsdale to increase public funding in 2022

Welcomed new library associate and communications manager Ingrid Kildiss

Began weekly programs for home school families

Resumed Farm Market Kids at the Copake-Hillsdale Farmers Market
**2021 BY THE NUMBERS**

**OUR COLLECTION: WHAT YOU CAN BORROW AND USE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Print material</td>
<td>20,005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic materials</td>
<td>32,101 (up 59% from 2020)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-electronic materials</td>
<td>5,248</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total holdings: $7,354—up 13% from 2020

**2021 CIRCULATION**

- Total circulation: 48,087 (up 43% from 2020, 19% from 2019)
- Registered borrowers: 4,476—up 4% from 2020
- New patrons: 242
- Total number of visitors: 25,708

**2021 PROGRAMS**

- Adult program sessions: 122
- Children’s and teen program sessions: 92
- One-On-One programs: 334 (job search help, homebound delivery, “take and make” programs)

**PROGRAM ATTENDANCE**

- Adult program attendance: 2,038
- Children’s and teen program attendance: 1,855
- One-On-One program attendance: 334

**WHAT DID THE MONEY PAY FOR? EXPENSES — $352,925**

- Personnel (salaries, benefits, other related expenses): $205,468 (58.2%)
- Debt service: $35,290, paid from funds set aside for this purpose in previous years.
- Program expenses: $21,929 (6.1%)
- Library materials, supplies, fees: $33,823 (9.5%)
- Building operation and maintenance: $46,878 (13.3%)
- Miscellaneous: $15,526 (4.4%)
- Grants: $61,788 (17.5%)
- Fundraising and communications: $21,029 (6.0%)
- Equipment and technology: $8,132 (2.3%)

**HOW WAS YOUR LIBRARY FUNDED? INCOME — $387,541**

- Fundraising events and individual contributions: $183,804 (47.4%)
- State and county funds: $15,382 (4.0%)
- Business partnerships: $4,075 (2.3%)
- Taxes from, Copake & Hillsdale, donations from Ancram & Taghkanic: $116,000 (29.9%)
- Grants: $51,753 (13.4%)
- Miscellaneous income: $6,527 (1.7%)
- Friends’ contributions: $5,000 (1.3%)

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**2021 LOCAL PUBLIC FUNDS IN COMPARISON TO OTHER LIBRARIES (3-YEAR AVERAGE)**

- RJCL: $15.79/capita
- Columbia County libraries: $32.34/capita
- Mid-Hudson Library System libraries $52.20/capita

**A CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATE OF THE AMOUNT PATRONS SAVED BY BORROWING MATERIALS AND ATTENDING FREE PROGRAMS: $690,000.**

AND THAT DOESN’T INCLUDE THE MANY OTHER BENEFITS OF HAVING A LIBRARY IN YOUR COMMUNITY!