

# Annual Report 2022

have fun  
be kind  
read books

Upper Hudson Library System

**“Support...support...  
support. No one  
goes it alone in the  
Upper Hudson  
Library System and  
for that, we are truly  
grateful.”**

- Kim Roppolo, Stephentown Memorial Library



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# WELCOME FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The oldest building currently serving as a library in UHLS, the Westerlo Public Library, has been around for 225 years. The first library in Rensselaerville was established in 1798. The City of Albany's public libraries trace their origins back to 1833. And Herman Melville, author of *Moby Dick*, studied engineering and surveying at the Lansingburgh Academy, which is now home to the Lansingburgh branch of the Troy Public Library. The oldest current absolute charter for a member library was granted to the Rensselaer Public Library in 1908. The Upper Hudson Library System was first chartered by the NYS Board of Regents in 1960, making 2022 our 62nd year of service to the libraries of Albany and Rensselaer Counties.

I share those facts to remind you that Upper Hudson and its member libraries have been providing essential library services, services that change people's lives every day, for a very long time. During virtually all of that time, we have all been able to comfortably take for granted that our patrons, our local, county and state decision makers, and our communities accept and appreciate the critical role that public libraries play in a thriving democracy. We have been able to safely assume that people understand and appreciate that our public libraries are places for people of all ages and backgrounds to expand their world, to learn about new and different ideas, and to serve as both a window and a mirror for everyone in the community.

Disturbingly, recent trends around the country and in our own state and region, strongly suggest that we cannot take this for granted any longer. Individuals or small but vocal minorities, sometimes supported by large national organizations, have been encouraged to target libraries with requests to remove certain material, take down certain displays, or cancel certain programs because those individuals feel that **NO ONE IN THE COMMUNITY** should have access to the ideas presented in the book, the display, or the program.

All people who understand the bedrock importance of public libraries in our free society; all people who appreciate that public libraries are for everyone; all people who make their public library an essential part of their lives, have a collective responsibility to speak up and to stand up to protect the free access to ideas and information for all of the people in our community.

As you read through this year's annual report and learn about the many ways our libraries welcome, embrace, and empower their users and their communities, please remember that this is what we all need to defend, because our libraries are essential to our democracy and every one of them makes a difference every day.



Timothy Burke  
UHLS Executive Director

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Susan Keitel, *President*  
Jackie Marino, *Vice-President*  
Fred Wobrock, Jr., *Treasurer*  
Yvette Terplak, *Secretary*

### **TRUSTEES**

Antonio Booth  
Joe Burke  
Camille Engel  
Evelyn Greenstein  
Tara Ricard  
Marcy Savage  
Lisa Scoons  
Yvette Terplak  
Arlene Way  
Scott Wyner

Sarah Clarke, *Chair*  
Mindy Fowler, *Vice-Chair*  
Sara Hopkins, *Secretary*

Joe Burke  
*Finance Committee*

Geoff Kirkpatrick  
*Administration Committee*

Sarah Clark  
*Services Committee*

## **Upper Hudson Library System Board of Trustees**

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2022

## **2022 DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION**

## **DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES to the UHLS BOARD**

## **UHLS Team**

**Timothy Burke**  
*Executive Director*

**Jona Favreau**  
*Manager, Administration & Finance*

**Mary Fellows**  
*Manager, Youth & Family Services*

**Judith Wines**  
*Manager, Adult & Outreach Services*

**Joe Thornton**  
*Manager, Automation Services*

**Robert Carle**, *Training Specialist*  
**Rawdon Cheng**, *Systems Administrator*  
**Amy DuBrey**, *System Support Associate*  
**Alexandra Ostwald**, *Finance Specialist*  
**Anne Pitlyk**, *System Support Associate*

## **STAFF on the MOVE**

MOVING ON  
**Natalie Hurteau**  
*Assistant Director at GUIL*

RETIRED  
**Joseph Sherry**  
*Almost 23 years of service!*



# UHLS MEMBER LIBRARIES

## **Albany Public Library**

Thomas McCarthy, Board President  
Andrea Nicolay, Director

## **Altamont Free Library**

Deborah Marion-Katz, Board President  
Joe Burke, Director

## **A. E. Diver Memorial Library**

Angela Ross-Hixson, Board President  
Nicholas Matulis, Director

## **Berlin Free Town Library**

Doug North, Board President  
Sara Rogers, Director

## **Berne Public Library**

Lisa Raymond, Board President  
Kathy Stempel, Director

## **Bethlehem Public Library**

Mark Kissinger, Board President  
Geoffrey Kirkpatrick, Director

## **Brunswick Community Library**

Alix Duggan, Board President  
Sara Hopkins, Director

## **Castleton Public Library**

Shane Mitchum, Board President  
Melissa Tacke, Director

## **Cheney Library**

Kay Powers, Board President  
Danny Yetto, Director

## **Cohoes Public Library**

Barbara Hildreth, Board President  
Christiann Gibeau, Director

## **East Greenbush Community Library**

Lynne Oudekerk, Board President  
Jill Dugas Hughes, Director

## **Grafton Community Library**

Susan Brown, Board President  
Leanna Sweet, Director

## **Guilderland Public Library**

Catherine Barber, Board President  
Tim Wiles, Director

## **Menands Public Library**

Diana Praus, Board President  
Laura Cernik, Director

## **Nassau Free Library**

Athena Batsios, Board President  
Tracey Clague, Director

## **North Greenbush Public Library**

Kenneth Bogdan, Board President  
Mary Klimack, Director

## **Petersburgh Public Library**

Christina Hibbs, Board President  
Anita Wilson, Director

## **Poestenkill Library**

Margaret McClellan, Board President  
Donna Reily, Director

## **RCS Community Library**

Laurel Dickerson, Board President  
Lisa Neuman, Director

## **Rensselaer Public Library**

Mary Lou Knox, Board President  
Jane Chirgwin, Director

## **Rensselaerville Library**

Robert Pondiscio, Board President  
Patrick Wynne, Director

## **Sand Lake Town Library**

Nancy Patton, Board President  
Melinda Fowler, Director

## **Stephentown Memorial Library**

Jennifer Peabody, Board President  
Kim Roppolo, Director

## **Town of Westerlo Public Library**

Maureen Sikule, Board President  
Amy Powarzynski, Director

## **Troy Public Library**

Evelyn Greenstein, Board President  
Paul Hicok, Director

## **Valley Falls Free Library**

Jeanette Sassatelli, Board President  
Kelly Akin, Director

## **Voorheesville Public Library**

Belinda Heckler, Board President  
Sarah Clark, Director

## **Watervliet Public Library**

Tracy Wheatley, Board President  
Vacant, Director

## **William K. Sanford Town Library**

Donna Cramer-Sharer, Board President  
Evelyn Neale, Director

# ADULT + OUTREACH SERVICES

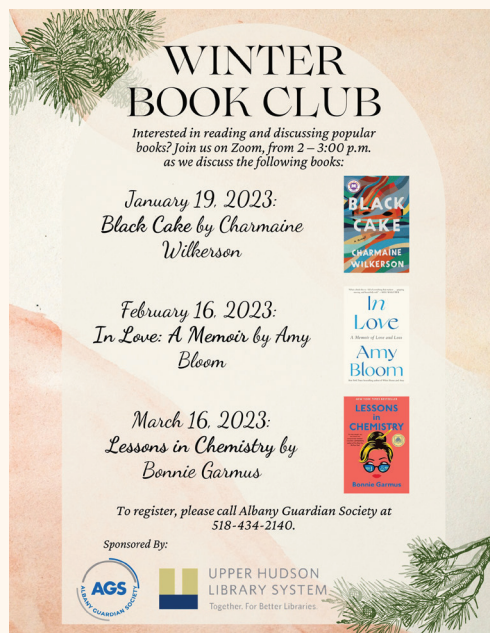
In 2022 UHLS Adult Services focused on providing resources to library staff and facilitating public-facing programming. The first category included staff technology training with Nate Heyer, a session on Improving Library Services for People with Disabilities with Carrie Painter for Rensselaer County ARC, and, in partnership with CDLC, a session on Deescalation for Frontline Library Staff.

Upper Hudson partnered with libraries to offer programs directly to patrons via Zoom. These programs included a conversation between Dr. Alice Green and Paul Grondahl on Dr. Green's book "We Who Believe in Freedom," Paint the Sound (a guided art program from the Pollock-Krasner Foundation), a Banned Books Read Out in partnership with NYCLU, Albany Public, and Voorheesville Libraries, and, in conjunction with the Clark Art Rodin exhibit, Discovery of a Masterpiece.

We took advantage of the relaxation of Covid restrictions to rekindle our Outreach relationships. In collaboration with the Albany Guardian Society, we established a book club series, fostering engaging discussions among avid readers. Our involvement in their volunteer fair allowed us to connect community members with their libraries in meaningful ways. Moreover, we diligently expanded access to digital content through the Overdrive platform for the Rensselaer County Jail. Additionally, we delivered printed books to both Albany and Rensselaer jails, providing a metaphorical escape through the power of literature. The Coordinated Outreach Advisory Council met and decided to focus on workforce development. We purchased a subscription to Cypress Resume, an online resume-building tool, and worked with our patrons to promote the service.

Our digital content collection continued to grow in use, albeit at a slower rate than in the first two Covid years. The Ecoment Advisory Council worked to create a collection development policy that addresses potential challenges, revised the "Overdrive Overview," a guide for librarians purchasing in Overdrive, and recommended a reallocation of funds in light of a change in state regulations.

In March of 2022, Natalie Hurteau, UHLS manager for Adult and Outreach Services, left her position to start as Assistant Director at Guilderland Public Library. While her skills and enthusiasm are greatly missed at UHLS, we are thrilled that she is still a colleague in the system.



**WINTER BOOK CLUB**  
Interested in reading and discussing popular books? Join us on Zoom, from 2 – 3:00 p.m. as we discuss the following books:



January 19, 2023:  
*Black Cake* by Charmaine Wilkerson

February 16, 2023:  
*In Love: A Memoir* by Amy Bloom

March 16, 2023:  
*Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus

To register, please call Albany Guardian Society at 518-434-2140.

Sponsored By:

  UPPER HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM  
Together. For Better Libraries.



# AUTOMATION SERVICES

Finally a COVID-free year, at least for our department's workflow. As our COVID scrambling subsided, our "normal" work continued:

- Many libraries went fine-free, which involved reports to persuade Boards of Trustees, Loan Rule changes in Sierra, purging of old fines and bills, and many thousands of emails to patrons whose fines were purged, urging them to return to their libraries.
- We enabled Automatic Renewals in Sierra, which pleased our patrons
- We worked on the CDLC ARPA grant, part of which included the creation of accessible (ADA compliant) websites. We used this activity as a springboard to start our own project to find find and use tools to make our existing sites accessible.
- At UHLS we led a big, money-saving project to switch our online meeting software from GoToMeeting to Zoom, and to switch our phone service to Zoom Phone. The phone switch saved us money and enabled better hybrid (office/home) work productivity.
- Google changed its policy which allowed libraries qualify for free Google Workspace accounts, which left some of our libraries with looming, unanticipated new costs. We moved them to Office 365, giving them the same functionality as Google Workspace at zero cost.
- We started work on a new UHLS website, a major project, overdue but exciting.
- Because we're IT, most of our time was spent doing the unglamorous but essential tasks of replacing hardware, updating software (including operating systems), fighting malware, troubleshooting problems at the libraries, maintaining websites (the libraries' and ours), and many other routine but important tasks.

A brief summary of the essential work that Rawdon does for the libraries includes PC and laptop support, library rewiring, firewall maintenance, printer support, outdoor digital signs, software applications, networking, and much more.

## 2022 BY THE NUMBERS

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# 3,217,934

Items Checked Out  
763,481 DIGITAL +  
2,454,453 PHYSICAL

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# 13,317

 new  
cardholders

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# 1,293,039

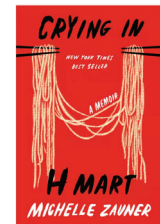
total items  
available for circulation

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## TOP CIRCULATED ITEMS



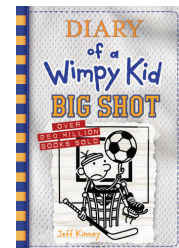
Fiction



Non-Fiction



Young Adult



Youth

# YOUTH + FAMILY SERVICES

“Welcome back!” Just as youth services staff happily welcomed more families, kids, tweens, and teens back into their libraries this year, we gladly welcomed our colleagues to our first in-person gatherings since the start of the pandemic. As always, our work centered on strengthening connections, building capacity, and amplifying resources to make the world better for youth through libraries.

## Early Literacy Support

Early literacy services are now essential for every library. We support that work through Storytime Bootcamp training for staff and storytime volunteers and a robust storytime toolkit. Resources such as colorful stickers with messages to adults (“Read to Me”), kits to engage young children in STEM activities, and a regular flow of ideas keeps early literacy fresh and fun.

## Teen Connection Support

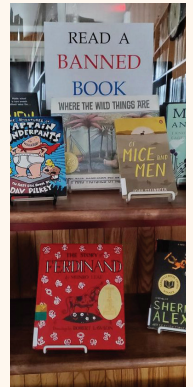
Teens in particular are struggling with mental health following the pandemic, and libraries’ teen services are more important than ever. UHLS support includes the Read It Forward (RIF) project and this year, an engaging virtual author visit with the author of our RIF book, for teens and moderated by a Colonie teen. Training, advance reader copies of teen books for giveaway, and many new YA books for review and collection development also support teens in UHLS.

## Summer Reading Program Support

Summer programming is a big push in libraries, and UHLS purchases publicity materials and supplies for libraries, and offers volunteer help, statistics consultation and training. StoryWalks® are also more in demand during summer. StoryWalk® expert Amy DuBrey created 42 picture-books-on-a-stick for libraries to post in green spaces. This project fosters partnerships and is a popular library outreach effort.

## Community Support

A new service this year is the Welcoming Library from I’m Your Neighbor Books. Comprised of 30-picture books on new arrival and new American families and a portable display unit, the collection offers a pop-up conversation on immigration. We have four collections rotating among libraries along with our media and large print rotating collections. This year we also hosted a training, “Expanding Multilingual Access, Programs, and Services,” that illuminated practices useful across the age spectrum.

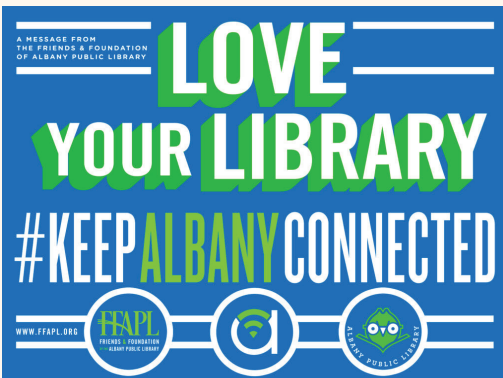


# Albany Public Library



Albany Public Library and the Friends and Foundation of APL teamed up with the City of Albany and Albany Housing Authority to #KeepAlbanyConnected. We provide WiFi internet access to 3 city parks and community rooms/spaces at 14 Albany Housing Authority facilities.

On August 1, 2022 we welcomed Andrea Nicolay as our new Executive Director. Andrea came to us from the public library system in Arlington, Massachusetts where she supervised a staff of 40 and achieved strategic goals like eliminating fines, restoring and adding staff positions, and guiding the library budget through the approval process. On arrival at APL, Andrea held meet-and-greet sessions at each of our seven branches, attended neighborhood association meetings, and oversaw the completion of APL's 2023-2025 Strategic Plan.



Our library couldn't do what we do without our staff. People tend to forget that we are one library with seven branches throughout the City of Albany. We wouldn't be able to serve the residents to the extent that we do without our fabulous staff. From our facilities staff who help keep our buildings clean and welcoming, to our professional staff who provide programming and reference assistance, to those personal everyday connections, the staff at APL are passionate about providing the best service possible to our community.

# Altamont Free Library

*What does your member library do for the community that no one else does?*

Many things! From providing early childhood storytimes, to incredibly well-attended summer concerts, to running programs for every age and interest group. The most important thing we do, though, is provide a welcoming, accepting space for everyone. Having a friendly, safe, clean, and (sometimes) quiet place where people can pursue their interests and get answers to their questions is more and more important as the world outside gets increasingly noisy, uncertain, and chaotic. There are other places that do that too, of course, but most of them won't lend you a ukulele!

In 2022, Altamont Free Library ran the second season of our Summer Reading Buddies program, which pairs first graders struggling with literacy skills with Guilderland High School students that we train to provide literacy tutoring. It's been a hugely successful program over the past two years and it's expanding quickly to other library around the state and around the country! We've talked about it in statewide conferences and Summer Reading Program workshops, and it was even featured in the nation-wide Collaborative Summer Library Program Newsletter! As a result, we've heard that libraries as far away as Indiana will be starting their own Summer Reading Buddies programs! We're so excited to see it catch on!

Our library couldn't do what we do without the support of our community. As a small library with a small staff, our staff can only do so much, but with the assistance of our incredibly hard working Trustees and volunteers, we can do anything. From running bake sales and book sales to organizing our annual Summer Concert Series and tending our gardens, our community members support the library in ways both large and small and on a near-daily basis. Without our beloved community, there wouldn't be much point to any of this, would there?



# Arvilla E. Diver Memorial Library

As far as I know, Diver Library is the single chattiest public place in all of Schaghticoke. We just talk, talk, talk all day long. Don't we have real work to do? Yes! But we'd rather hear about kids and grand-kids, the new baby, the deer in your garden, how you're recovering from surgery, if you got the part in the musical you were hoping for, and if your friend is still being mean to you for no apparent reason. Did you get the job? Did you crush the physics final? Did you close on the house, finally? Did you sort out the thing with your car? Are you living back home? Are you doing ok? Do you have someone you can talk to? If you live in Schaghticoke (or just come to visit!), you do. And we hope and believe through getting to know each other better, and showing you how much we care, we can be a better friend, a better advocate, and a better library.

In Schaghticoke, 2022 will always be remembered as the year we saved the library. In fact we only set-off on what's bound to be a years-long, complicated, challenging process, but 2022 was the year we dug our heels in and said "heck no we won't go" (off a cliff!). With tremendous support from our community, we were able to acquire a neighboring property which provided the library with safe off-street parking that we desperately lacked, and a potential exit strategy if and when Diver, precariously perched on an eroding hillside above the Hoosic River spillway, reaches a critical state. There's lots of work to be done, but 2022 was the year it all started, the year our community seized on an opportunity to ensure the future of one of Schaghticoke's treasures.

Our library couldn't do what we do without feeling super confident (like absolutely certain) that healthy, cared-for, supported people and strong, bonded communities (even small ones) make the world better.





## Berlin Free Town Library

Berlin Free Town Library offers our community a warm and welcoming place for children and families to visit. It's a place where they are free to learn and explore to their heart's content by offering educational and entertaining programs. Our ability to provide these programs at no cost to families is something that we offer to our community that no one else does. These programs give families with young children the opportunity to encourage early literacy development as well as fostering a lifelong love of reading and learning.

The most memorable experience in 2022 was our Donor Recognition Party held in the summer of 2022. We held this reception as a way of thanking our loyal donors for their generous contributions to our library. The party also included the introduction of our new Library Director Sara Rogers, who began her position in January 2022. The director's initial focus has been to continue to develop programs to benefit the community, with an emphasis on educational opportunities for children. We also recognized David Theriault for his 30 years of dedicated service as a Library Board Trustee.

Our library couldn't do what it does without the continued support and dedication of our library's patrons. The dedication of the community and their love for our library is what keeps our doors open. Whether it be by borrowing a book from our collection, making a suggestion for a new acquisition, attending a new program, or by making a donation, the patrons are the cornerstone of our institution and we couldn't do what we do without them!

# Berne Public Library

The Berne Public Library hosts many programs, however, there is one program that stands out for the last 5 years and keeps getting bigger. The Incredible Heldercon event held in September and is open for all ages. Not only does this event have physical activities, but it also provides an interview with a comic book artist, a make your own comic, and comic book giveaways. All relate to literacy.



In 2022 we were able to secure a small benefit for the staff at the library. In the past, staff worked on most holidays except for the 5 major ones. Starting in 2023 the library will be closed on all Federal holidays, plus staff assigned to the holiday will get paid for that day.

Our library couldn't do what we do without the members of The Friends of the Town of Berne Library. For instance, the beautiful library garden, the monthly changing of artwork in the community room, physical help at programs, food supply at the five Music in the Parks a year, and the annual photo contest. All would not be possible without the Friends.



# Bethlehem Public Library

Bethlehem Public Library offers people a place to just be – inside and out. We are the sole year-round community center for the town, offering a welcome gathering space for groups and individuals. Our doors are open from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. on weekdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturdays and noon-5 p.m. on Sundays except in the summer. This means people can access our services when it is convenient for them – after work, in the morning, on a Friday night or on the weekend. We also provide an extensive free WiFi network in public areas around the town that is available 24/7.



In the summer of 2022, Bethlehem Public Library joined the growing number of libraries that have gone fine-free. This transition has been received positively by the community and staff, and has created a more welcoming environment for everyone – especially those who have avoided the library because of worries about past fines. One of the most amazing things we have noticed more than six months after its implementation, is that it has little to no effect on the on-time return of materials.

Bethlehem Public Library couldn't do what we do without the people who make us what we are.

**Our staff:** Our library workers are professional, kind and compassionate. They strive to find new ways to help people find the answers to their questions, as well as entertain and delight our community.

**Our patrons:** We feel the overwhelming support of our community in many ways, big and small – whether it be the thank you notes or treats delivered to staff or the resounding stamp of approval our voters give the annual budget. Our patrons love their library and constantly push us to be the very best we can be.

**Our community partners:** Our extensive WiFi network would not be possible without a close relationship with the town. Some of our most popular programs and series are also a result of partnerships with local organizations like the Bethlehem Historical Association, Senior Services, the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy and so many more.

**Our Friends:** This all-volunteer group is instrumental in drumming up support for library activities and funding some of our popular programs and collections. Their twice-annual book sale fundraiser is a major community event.

**Our trustees:** Our board is filled with dedicated library lovers who want to see the library excel in every way. They maintain a thoughtful approach to planning for the library's future while keeping an eye on the here and now.



# Brunswick Community Library

As of 2022, our library now has a Community Garden and Compost. Built as part of a patron's Girl Scout Gold Award, these exciting additions have allowed us to host gardening programs with our patrons. We now plant seeds with our community, help our plants grow, teach children about where their food comes from, and share the harvested produce at our front desk! Community members can visit the garden and contribute to / collect from the compost whenever the weather allows.

Our library is proud to have started Community Clothing Swaps in 2022. We began this eco-friendly program as a way to help our patrons reuse and redistribute children's clothing, but quickly realized that grown-ups wanted to participate, too! At this point, we have hosted multiple clothing swaps and redistributed gently-used clothes to a few hundred people, at no cost. This helps our families save money and helps keep clothing out of landfills. Many patrons have come to this program simply because they love fashion and want to reduce their carbon footprint. Other patrons have left with tears in their eyes because leaving with a bag of free clothes made such a difference in their personal lives.

Our library couldn't do what we do without our fabulous Board of Trustees and Volunteer Club. We host multiple large-scale community programs each year and rely heavily on our trustees and volunteers to bring supply donations, host library fundraising tables, and run family activities. We could not host our annual Garden Day or Fall Fest without such a motivated group of library-lovers! Their creativity and hard work has helped our community events grow beyond what we thought was possible for our little library.



# Castleton Public Library

Castleton Public Library is a unique and special part of Castleton/Schodack because we offer a place where people of all ages and walks of life can learn, play, explore, and connect with others. We are attuned to our community's needs, people, and history, and we provide an important local gathering place; yet we also provide access to information, entertainment, and perspectives from all over the world. We are a place where everyone is served with kindness, and where everyone can know that they are valued and welcomed.



Our library couldn't do what we do without our connections with community partners! Whether it's collaborating with Castleton Elementary School to get every student a library card, partnering with Schodack Island State Park to create a StoryWalk for families to enjoy, or coordinating with Castle Hill senior housing to offer a book delivery service and technology help to residents, working with other organizations allows us to reach people throughout the community. Funding from partners such as the Friends of Castleton Public Library, the Castleton-Schodack Kiwanis Club, and other local donors helps us to bring educational opportunities and events to people of all ages.



We were very excited to restore our slate of in-person classes and events to pre-pandemic levels over the course of 2022! Although we re-introduced outdoor, in-person classes and events by spring 2021, our offerings were far fewer than pre-pandemic levels as we tried to balance service and safety. By the time our Summer Reading Club started in June 2022, we were back to the frequency of events and classes our community enjoyed prior to COVID-19. We loved getting the library back into full swing as a dynamic and fun place to explore and learn!



# Cheney Library

Cheney Library has become a vibrant hub for the town's teens and tweens. In Hoosick Falls, places where young people can be themselves and have meaningful social experiences are limited. The library has responded by offering programming, volunteer opportunities, and safe spaces where teens can hang out and engage with one another. Our Teen Advisory Group has made a massive impact within the library by creating programming, helping library patrons, assisting with garden projects, and more. As a result, library services have improved for the entire community.



In 2022, Cheney Library kicked off our Garden Restoration Project, which will lead to increased sustainability and biodiversity within the library grounds. This 4-5 year plan features creating habitats for pollinators, planting new trees, and creating signage to teach patrons about Cheney's plant life. Garden space will be used for programming about seed-saving, herb-growing, and ecology: all vital subjects within the agricultural community of Hoosick Falls. Our overall goal is to bring learning elements outdoors so that the Cheney Library educational experience begins the moment you step foot on the grounds.

Our library couldn't do what we do without our staff and volunteers! We have such talented people on the Cheney Library team. Artists, bakers, tailors, builders, teachers, historians, gardeners... and the list goes on. Each individual is a vital piece of an extraordinary puzzle which ensures our organization thrives. Their willingness to collaborate and learn is simply inspiring. To all of these wonderful human beings, our library extends its sincerest appreciation!



# Cohoes Public Library

The Cohoes Public Library offers hand-made hats, gloves, and scarves each winter to those who may not have proper dresswear to keep warm during the colder months. These are provided by our weekly program attendees, the Beau Knitters, Wednesdays from noon to 3 pm. To keep this program going, the library itself collects yarn, knitting and croquet needles, and other hand-craft projects to keep the crafters going and the weather gear coming in.

Our library has been in transition since COVID arrived in 2020, especially with the move to the Cohoes Senior Center in July 2021 due to water damage to our building, causing the masonry to deteriorate. What we didn't expect was another move within the Senior Center less than a year later, AND just before Summer Reading. So, with little time to decorate, we worked with Balloon Gal Jenny to create a balloon twisting and decorating workshop to help decorate our new space. Patrons had a great time and everyone experienced a seascape library with the Oceans of Possibilities theme for the entire summer.



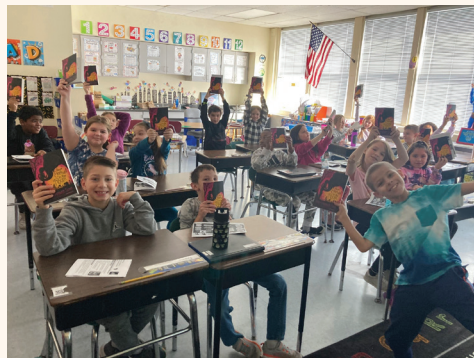
Our library couldn't do what we do without the help of our friends and neighbors. The Menands Public Library and North Greenbush Public Library donated library-grade shelving for our satellite library. The Cohoes Senior Center gave us a temporary home to house the library until our building is repaired (what was once three to six months has now extended to almost two years). Members of the staff of UHLS helped us move out of the main building into the Senior Center, and are waiting with bated breath to help us move back. The Friends of the Cohoes Public Library sponsored all of our programs, including Summer Reading and, most of all, we are thankful for our neighbors who serve as patrons, volunteers, and ambassadors as they still frequent the library, bring their friends who thought we might still be closed after COVID, and communicate to the general community all that we are doing to keep the community reading, learning, connecting, and participating in a myriad of things every day. They are grateful we are open and we are grateful to be given the opportunity to be a central part of their activities.

# East Greenbush Community Library

We collaborated with the East Greenbush Central School District on a community-wide literacy initiative titled *One District, One Community*, One Book which encouraged people of all ages to read the chosen community book The Elephant in the Room by Holly Goldberg Sloan. The Children's Room had special activities that supported the book -- a scavenger hunt, an interactive window display, take & make elephant crafts, elephant games and activities at two Saturday Create and Play programs, plus a visit from Veda, a giant stuffed elephant who sat for selfies with 113 students! Miss Molly was a guest reader for the district and read Chapter 12 aloud for their video library. We also lent bins of LEGOS from our collection to the Green Meadow after school enrichment program.

Meet a rooster and hen at the EG Community Library! In the summer of 2022 environmental educator George Steele provided a two-part egg incubation program to teach kids about the life cycle of birds which was later followed by a program with a demonstration of the candling process which is used to see a chick's growth within their egg. The library hosted an incubator in the Children's room which was dutifully monitored by staff and viewable, in-person or via a webcam, for all the eager "mother hens" to watch chicks hatching! This program was provided in collaboration with George Steele and sponsored by the Rensselaer Elks Lodge.

Our library couldn't do what we do without the Friends of the library who work tirelessly sorting, organizing, and curating donations to be used for various fundraising outlets which include their year-round in-library and featured sale cases, bi-annual book sale events, raffle basket fundraisers, and their newest venture - eBay research and sales. In 2022 the Friends volunteers, a team of 50+ active members, donated over 1,100 hours of their time sorting and working sales events. Through their fundraising efforts the library was able to secure funds to provide materials for special collections, such as Hot Off The Press (multiple copies of bestsellers, no waiting!) and free or discounted museum passes to 25+ local venues; to fulfill specific lending requests (craft books); to support summer, winter and ongoing reading programs with music concerts, crafts, and prizes; for tank maintenance to keep the library's beloved fish happy and healthy; and to provide playground furniture in our children's room.





## Grafton Community Library

Each August, the Library teams up with the Grafton Lakes State Park to hold a fundraising event to benefit our library. The event consists of a USATF sanctioned 5K foot race and children's 1 Mile Fun Run at Grafton Lakes State Park. Registrants receive a t-shirt, a rose and a book. The Run for the Roses' reputation as a unique area race is well established. It has become a popular and eagerly anticipated annual event, attracting many enthusiastic runners while raising much-needed funds for Grafton Community Library.

The library is in the fifth year of major physical changes. These improvements are thanks to grants from the NY Department of Education Library Construction Fund and the McCarthy Charities, Inc. grants. Physical improvements have included construction of a vestibule with handicap access and parking to our basement level, LED lighting throughout the library, new siding, installation of air conditioning and a kitchen and meeting room in the basement level. We also redesigned the upper level of the library making it more efficient for the staff and patrons.

Our library couldn't do what we do without our dedicated staff, without the staff, we would not be able to function. Our volunteers and the generous financial support of our community. Local support from the Town of Grafton, contributions to our annual appeal, and sponsorship and participation in the library's fundraiser, the Run For the Roses 5K Race, each play a part to enable the library to continue providing service to our community.

# Guilderland Public Library

We are a true Community Center in a town without a “Main Street” neighborhood. In addition to great programming and use of Community meeting and study rooms, we are an amazing drop off point for Guilderland Food Pantry, the Caring Closet, and other community drives to help our neighbors. Our programs and story hours are nearly always full.



We held an amazing virtual program in conjunction with Union College, featuring a Ukrainian student and a Russian student, both attending Union and providing background to the war, which at the time was only a month or two old. The event also served as an online fundraiser for the humanitarian effort, and it was amazing for the more than 100 participants to get perspective from the students, one of whom had returned to Europe to coordinate efforts to collect medical supplies to personally drive into Ukraine. This event was coordinated by new GPL librarian Jill Tominosky, who was in her second month of her new job at GPL.

Our library couldn't do what we do without our amazing staff, Board members, and Foundation members. Each group makes its own contributions to a whole that is much greater than the sum of its parts.

# Menands Public Library

We are always happy to provide children's craft session on demand when our children's librarian is in! These have been a huge hit with families that struggle to make it to normally scheduled craft sessions. Come in anytime to see what the craft of the month is!



As always, the Menands public library staff was blown away by the community enthusiasm for our different holiday parties. It was so great to see the variety of new faces for our Diwali and Christmas parties, as well as some of our regulars. You make all the hard work worth it! We can't wait to see you again for our summer reading kick off.



Our library couldn't do what we do without the love and patience of our patrons. As we work on improving our over 140 year old building for our community we are thankful to all our patrons who have remained flexible during curbside hours and short term closures. We are working hard to provide you with the library you deserve and we are so thankful for your support during these trying times. Stay tuned for all our future projects!



# 2022 UHLS ANNUAL AWARDS

## ADULT LIBRARY PROGRAM OF THE YEAR: COMMUNITY GARDEN & COMPOSTING, Brunswick Community Library



The program had its beginnings as a Girl Scout project to encourage composting, but quickly expanded into a community gardening project involving the entire library community. Community composting facilities, raised planting beds behind the library, and a pop-up greenhouse all helped to spark community interest and participation. Green educational programming for adults and extra produce and herbs available for free to library users were just some of the benefits for the library as the result of this simple idea. From the nomination letter, “This exciting project has helped us make new use of our outdoor space and involve our community in a brand new way. Rolling into our second year, we have patrons eagerly asking “When will it be warm enough to start planting again?” The Upper Hudson Library System commends the Brunswick Community Library for embracing a small idea and “growing” it into an impactful community experience.



## TRUSTEE OF THE YEAR: MICHAEL POOST, East Greenbush Community Library

Serving as an elected library trustee for more than 30 years, most of that time in a board leadership role, Michael has dedicated his time and talent to creating, maintaining, and ensuring the future of the East Greenbush Community Library. From his work on the original creation of the library district, to lending his professional expertise to the design and construction of the library building, he has helped the library grow, quite literally from the ground up! More recently, he has led the effort to responsibly manage library funds to allow the library to maintain the facility for future generations in the community. He has also been a leader in strategic planning, board recruitment, and mentorship of new library trustees. The Upper Hudson Library System honors Michael Poost for his many years of dedicated service to help create the East Greenbush Community Library and ensure its sustainability far into the future.



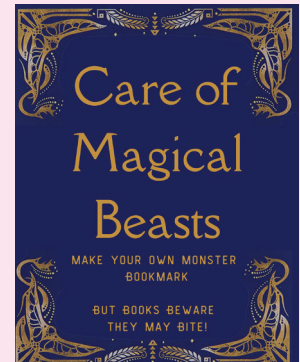
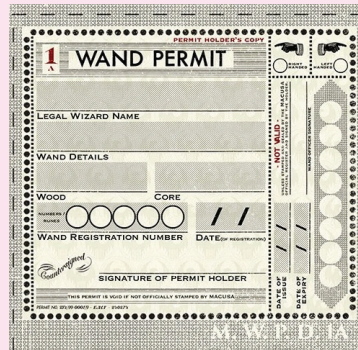
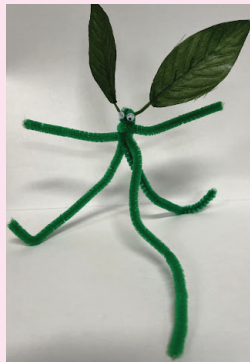
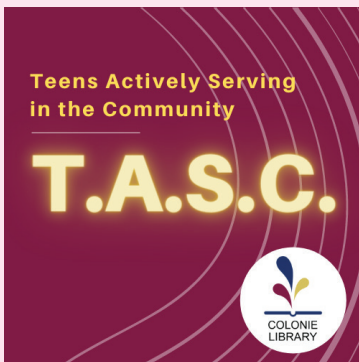
## VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: ANNE MARIE GROWNEY, William K. Sanford Town Library

After retiring as a Library Assistant from the Wm. K. Sanford Town Library, Anne Marie continued her service to the community as a library volunteer. Presenting her much loved “Mother Daughter Book Talk” for more than a decade, she has created a unique opportunity for mothers and daughters (and grandmothers, aunts, nieces, and friends) to learn about new ideas and about each other in a warm and welcoming library setting. From the nomination letter, “Fresh baked sugar cookies, hand cut Korean kimchi, homemade apple pie, sweet mango salsa...the common denominator? Colonie Library volunteer Anne Marie Growney and her Mother Daughter Book Talk. Paid for out of pocket, done on her own time, made with love, and served with care to our community.” The Upper Hudson Library System honors Anne Marie Growney for being an outstanding exemplar of volunteer service to her library and to her community.



## YOUTH & FAMILY LIBRARY PROGRAM OF THE YEAR: HOGWART'S NIGHT AT ST. CATHERINE'S CENTER FOR CHILDREN, Wm. K. Sanford

This program, which was made possible by the enthusiastic engagement of the Library's teen volunteer group, transformed the St. Catherine's Center school gym into the magical world of Harry Potter for an evening, giving children experiencing difficult family times the opportunity to escape to the world of Hogwarts, while also enabling twenty teen volunteers to experience the “magic” of volunteering to make a difference for others. The Upper Hudson Library System commends the William K. Sanford Town Library for this creative program that brought magic to children who needed it and also provided an opportunity for teens to give back to their community.



# Nassau Free Library

The Nassau Free Library hosts a monthly Open Mic Night program that brings the community together to share their talents and love for music, poetry, short stories, and comedy. The Nassau Free Library also hosts an International Potluck Club. We gather to “travel” to a chosen distant land through food, music, and community. Patrons bring a dish to share inspired by the chosen country’s cuisine. “Travelers” enjoy meeting new and old friends, eating and sharing new recipes, all with scenic views and music playing in the background.

In 2022, through the help of a 50/50 matching NYS Library Construction Grant, and through library annual appeal donations, we have a brand new kitchen space, a new deck on our front porch, and new front and back doors. We have been using the kitchen space for our Teen programs, Open Mic nights, and our International Potluck Club.



Our library couldn't do what we do without our patrons who support and use the library for all it provides, our volunteers who dedicate time and attention to the library workings, and the staff who provide excellent customer service and welcome all who enter through our doors.



# North Greenbush Public Library

At NGPL, we make a concerted effort to foster a warm and welcoming community-oriented atmosphere in our library. We encourage our patrons to visit and chat with us or one another. We love it when we hear our patrons chatting about movies in the DVD section or chuckling with one another about checking out holiday books in June. Our library enjoys providing our patrons with their library materials while also being a space for them to connect with one another.

Our weekly storytime program really flourished in 2022! Led by Ms Donna and Ms Mary Ann, our storytime friends read, sang, danced and crafted their way through so many fun storytime themes including boats, snow days and rhyming. The children learn important literacy and language skills but mostly importantly, they are also learning how to interact with one another. We love visiting with our storytime friends every week.

Our library couldn't do what we do without our amazing staff! We are so thankful for our wonderful library staff. As more and more patrons returned to the library as COVID restrictions eased in 2022, so many of them commented on the staff and how much they had missed seeing them. Our library would not be the same without them!



# Petersburgh Public Library

The Petersburg Public Library functions as an important social hub of this small, rural community, offering services and programs that differ from the nearby Town Hall and Veterans Memorial Center. One of our annual summer events is exhibiting the creative work of patrons of all ages when we host a “Community-Wide Art Project,” which brings in a vast range of images and ideas. We also feel strongly about contributing as team members to the other organizations of the town and willingly support them in any way possible with their own events and fundraisers. We believe that collaboration and active participation foster a friendly and vibrant sense of community for our patrons and neighbors. A newly-formed “Friends of Petersburg History” is working diligently on documenting and uploading a trove of information and photos through the library’s space for storage, meeting rooms, and website.

Last year we were able to break ground for the recently completed geothermal system, made possible by a library construction grant. We are very grateful to the NY State Education Department, UHLS, our local Town Board, and Town Facilities Manager for helping the Library Board bring this major project to fruition. The atmosphere in the building is cleaner, more comfortable and consistent, and energy efficient. We are happy to have had the cooperation and support needed to realize this wonderful improvement.

Our library couldn’t do what we do without our dedicated, hands-on Board of Trustees. The board members are active, present, and generous with their time and efforts. They work hard to accomplish tasks necessary to support the library’s endeavors and ensure that we have what we need to provide services to our patrons. Our awesome patrons are also very supportive, encouraging, and appreciative of what the library provides.



# Poestenkill Library

In our rural community there aren't any places for teenagers to gather beyond school or their homes. We not only welcome them into the library, but we seek out their opinions, listen, and allow them to have their own voice. We provide a safe, judgement free space for them, a social outlet, and both learning and entertainment opportunities. That's likely not any different than what other libraries are providing for teenagers in their communities but it's one of our favorite, and perhaps most important offerings, especially for today's young adults.



Since 2000 our Friends of the Library have branded their Annual Appeal as the Annual Holiday Lights Appeal, running from November - December to coincide with Giving Season. The donor solicitation features a beautiful image of the library all aglow, decked out in our finest colorful lights and buried in a blanket of snow. Donors can choose to give at the string of bulbs, wreath, or candle level. The Friends have been incredibly successful with their Annual Appeal efforts using this festive theme. However, as you know, the current economy is tough and the Poestenkill Library hasn't had an increase in local funding since 2017. We rely heavily on the support of our Friends of the Library. So, hoping to shine even more light on their fundraising efforts and to create a sense of good cheer and camaraderie in the community, the Poestenkill Library held its 1st Annual Library Lighting and Winter Celebration in 2022. The event, held on December 4th, included both indoor and outdoor activities. We filled the library and the neighboring Town Hall with games, crafts, cookie decorating, a hot cocoa bar, face painting, an ugly sweater station, a (plush) snowball fight, visits with Santa and more. We topped it all off by gathering on the library lawn at dusk and counting down to the moment when we threw the switch to light up the library's holiday lights!

Our library couldn't do what we do without the support of UHLS and the sharing, collaboration, and open communication among all the member libraries.





## RCS Community Library

Our trustees and staff say we provide a safe place with age-appropriate activities for children, families and adults to hang out together. We provide computer and internet access/copier, fax & scan at low cost, reading and AV materials to borrow for free - even those from college libraries, a place to meet, a place to sit, relax and wait for your car to be repaired, a place to study or work, storytimes, a safe place to play, a place to hang out with your friends, movie matinees so you don't have to travel to Albany or Guilderland for them, assistance with your personal tech devices, answers to questions, a sympathetic ear, opportunities to learn or try something new for everyone who is interested.



Getting back to a more normal summer reading program with in person programming. We started off with watching 80+ kids and adults go crazy for a Bubbles program. Mid-summer, we held a Tide Pools at the library program. That one saw a lot of sand in the library. When you consider that we are not located near a beach, and when you consider how much enjoyment kids and young people got out of the homemade tide pools that we improvised, this was a real success created from some back-breaking work (literally - all that sand and water was heavy!). Then we finished with families oohing and aahing over reptiles in late August.



Our library couldn't do what we do without:

The steadfast support of our community.

Our wonderful director and staff.

Our staff is incredibly helpful. The direct, ongoing support and connections with our patrons is really unique in my experience.

# Rensselaer Public Library

We are the business center and community hub for information, providing tech help, inexpensive business services, and teaching technology skills.



We had many wonderful events, but our staff feels that the biggest accomplishment this year was replacing the bookdrop on our building wall before the icy winds of winter could make drafts in our old bookdrop slot.

Our library couldn't do what we do without tech support from UHLS, helping us purchase, update, fix and keep up with our technology for staff and patrons.

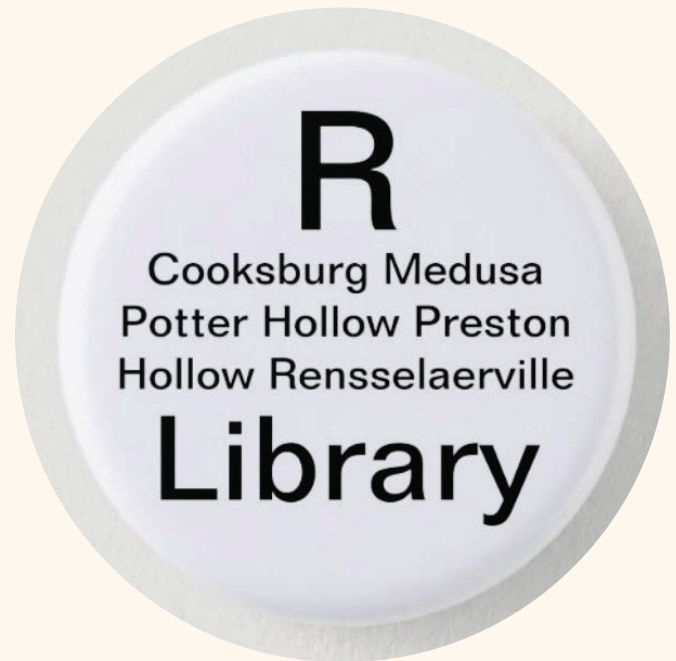


# Rensselaerville Library

The Rensselaerville Library is an essential hub of our rural community. Besides providing traditional library services, the library is a catalyst of other activities, workshops, lectures and events that foster the spirit of volunteerism and community involvement within the Town of Rensselaerville. We look forward to expanding services and programs to more fully connect with the five hamlets of our town: Cooksburg, Medusa, Potter Hollow, Preston Hollow, and Rensselaerville.

One of the more memorable experiences of 2022 was our Open House on the evening of the winter solstice. Throughout the pandemic period, the library served a central role in our community as transmitter of reliable information, as well as essential local news through our former director Heidi Carle's newsletter. Our Open House event was an opportunity for our library community to celebrate together in person, and to honor the exceptional work of Heidi Carle and Susan Cunningham, our beloved volunteer coordinator.

Our library couldn't do what we do without our staff, but especially could not without the hard work, dedication to detail, thoroughness and just overall competence of our library assistant, Christina Silvers. Christina's energy and ability to focus deeply in order to resolve any and all issues is inspiring, but more so is her willingness (and patience) in assisting, in instructing her colleagues calmly -- and, of course, welcoming and helping our patrons.



## Sand Lake Town Library

Like all libraries, Sand Lake Town Library provides books and other materials for the community to borrow. We provide free access to the internet in-house, but also loan out hotspots for patrons to take with them and use to connect to the internet wherever they may be. We provide one-to-one technology help by appointment and on drop-in visits.

Our LEGO Club really blossomed in 2022 with lots of creativity. A steady crew of Lego-maniacs participated each week, with others dropping in from time to time. One of our favorite programs of 2022 was Waffle Weekend where we made waffles to order - plain, strawberry, blueberry, or chocolate chip. The library smelled wonderful and everyone had a good time coming together to eat and chat. Plus, we now have small waffle makers that we can loan out!



Our library couldn't do what we do without our hardworking, welcoming staff. They are the backbone of all we do and really are the best!

# Stephentown Memorial Library

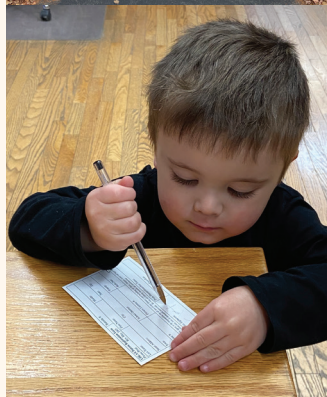
Hmmm...what don't we do! (Just kidding)

The Stepentown Library does so much for the Stepentown Community. We are often described as the Community Center for Stepentown as we hold free programs and offer free services that can't be found elsewhere. We hold Teen Nights, Book Groups, Story Times, Adult Education Programs, Summer Camp, Free Lunches during the summer, Art Classes, and more. And of course, we are the only place in town to get free books, DVDs, computer access, and Wifi. We also are the only place to get warm in the winter and cool in the summer without being obliged to buy something.

The most memorable thing about 2022 was being able to get back to our normal services after the Pandemic. It was so wonderful to see the number of people back in the library coming to programs, using the computers, and borrowing items. Our "return to normal" was also SML's 75th birthday!

Celebrating 75 years of service to the community by being completely open again was a true gift. We have always known that the Stepentown Library has a special role to play in the Stepentown community but you don't realize how important that role is until it goes away. Opening our doors again helped us all to see just how much people depend on the library. Whether it's for faxing important paperwork to employers, having a safe space for teenagers to hang out, enriching people's lives with new skills and information, or just having a place to stay warm on a cold winter day, SML is here and will be for the next 75 years.

Our library couldn't do what we do without the support of our community and volunteers, the support of our wonderful Board of Trustees, the support of UHLS, and the fantastic work of all of the SML staff. Do you see a theme?? Support...support... support. No one goes it alone in the Upper Hudson Library System and for that, we are truly grateful.





## Town of Westerlo Public Library

The Westerlo library finds the answers and information that people need to thrive. A great deal of our reference work is in helping patrons find services that they require for school, family and home. Our partnership with the Hilltown Community Resource Center helps us to do that.

In 2022 the Westerlo Library had new programs for Summer. We combined a messy play program (in the town park pavilion) where preschool age children could spread out and have fun making a mess with sidewalk chalk, paint, water, or slime. Immediately following we had an adult program (Coffee Connect) for caregivers, refreshments were served, and the children had the playground to burn off energy on.

Our library could not do what it does without the fantastic staff and board.

# Troy Public Library



I can't attest to its uniqueness, but in the Troy community, our library provides a place where people can gather to explore their interests, use technological resources, get assistance with accessing information, and connect with others without the expectation of spending money, or having to have everything figured out before they come in. People can gather and connect with others regardless of socioeconomic status. We create a space that removes typical barriers to success for some.

The most memorable experience of 2022 was the 125th Anniversary Celebration of the Hart Memorial Building which first opened its doors in 1897. This event allowed us to showcase the building, and invite the city to join us. At the event, we were able to highlight the importance of the past, the lessons learned, and the journey made by those before us. We emphasized the commitment the employees and supporters have to providing library services and materials to the city residents. It was key in showing how far we've fought to keep the library moving forward and how adaptable the employees have been to the needs of the people of Troy. We had a timeline of events and articles leading to announcing what we plan to do next. It also allowed us to show what values are upheld (programming, materials, meeting people where they are, inviting them to our space), and to show that our biggest strength is and always has been our employees. We had some fun with classic library icons like Ms. Frizzle and the Magic Library Bus as well as additional attractions such as crafts, fortune telling, sidewalk art, and music. We invited success stories from our past programs. We celebrated with our local politicians, and received several proclamations marking our event. We paired with community partners like the Trojan High Steppers. All this success is noted by the complete support from our employees, our board, our Friends, and supporters.

Our library couldn't do what we do without our talented, diverse, and dedicated staff.

# Valley Falls Free Library

Valley Falls and our surrounding area is a mix of a rural and small village vibe. That means there are not many local alternatives available, so our little library steps in! As all libraries do, we offer books, media, access to technology, and programming. The Valley Falls Free Library creates an environment for everyone where there is something for each person. Then the fun begins... we are a coffee house. We have coffee, tea, and snacks that patrons can come in and purchase (there is no local five and dime here), as well as a "Coffee House" evening with live music from great local performers. We are a community gathering place. We bring people of all ages together for the same interests, from a preschool story time where parents can meet and talk while kids are learning, or a place to build with Legos or work on a puzzle, or a place to create a barn quilt or just color and chill. We are also a business center where you can fax and copy, shred your documents, use the internet, or even apply for a passport! Our small but mighty library holds a place in the community offering multiple resources, creative programs and possibilities to impact every community member's life in some way.



***Most memorable moments?*** I put this question out to the staff and the trustees because I thought there would be a variety of answers, and I was correct. Here are some of the responses:

My most memorable program of 2022 was one where, over the span of a few weeks, we helped kids from a local summer camp write books about our very own neighborhood cat, Gracie.

The most memorable experience of 2022 was my second attendance at the table runner class. It feels like the most welcoming class/program. The way it's run feels more like a holiday get together than anything else. It's so fun, relaxed, and cheerful.

We had a strong Summer Reading Program with increased attendance over the last 2 summers. We offered a variety of programs for all ages and hosted the Pirate School performance by David Engle at the local school auditorium that 100 members of the community attended.

Memorial Day is always memorable, as we stand around the WWI and WWII monument located on the library lawn.

The new addition of an Art Matters Wall, where local artists display their absolutely stunning creations!

Our library couldn't do what we do without our community. They support us financially, but they also support us by showing up for programs, volunteering, and donating books. Our library couldn't do what we do without one another. VAFL is truly a community run operation. Especially because we are a small library, the impact of everyone is felt tenfold. Each staff member, patron and board member contributes to our library's life and success. Most of all, we couldn't do what we do without UHLS. The support and training we get from the staff at UHLS and the library directors in the system keep our library vibrant and growing. UHLS helps keep our eyes open to the opportunities and challenges that libraries of ALL sizes have.

# Voorheesville Public Library

We host multiple book discussion groups for people of all ages. Although that sounds pretty traditional for a public library, our programs are unique because our Friends of the Library provides brand new copies of the books to our participant readers. Kids' and YA books are always free, and adults can choose to pay \$5.00 for their copy. Often, these are hardcover bestsellers worth much more than that. Of course, borrowing a library copy is always allowed and encouraged. We added a new graphic novel discussion group in 2022, and attendance is growing each month.

Last summer, one of our Friends of the Library volunteers asked if we could post a flyer for another charity, Sleep in Heavenly Peace. After learning from her that SHP provides beds and bedding to children and teens in need, we decided they would be a great charity to support during the Great Give Back. Since the idea came from an FoL member, we asked for their help promoting a bedding drive at their Fall Book Sale. Over the course of a month, we collected 15 pillows, 4 blankets, 17 sheets sets, 1 mattress cover, 6 comforters, 14 complete bedding sets, plus nine homemade blankets from a tenth-grade class. We also received a cash donation to cover the cost of two complete beds from Karie Jean's Closet. When we visited Karie Jean's, a used clothing store, whose profits all go to charity, to thank them, we learned about some of the other projects they support throughout the year. We will be partnering with them for the Great Give Back 2023. We know we live in a supportive community (we're a food drive drop-off location year-round, and have an ongoing service program for teens) but the level of generosity seen during the GGB22 was remarkable.



Our library couldn't do what we do without our part-time frontline staff. Since re-opening after the pandemic, we've been trying to maintain 2019 service levels without having a full staff. Multiple times our part-time clerks, librarians, and even student pages have offered to come in early, stay late, and sub for each other in order for us to stay open through the evolving challenges of COVID and other unexpected emergencies. Their commitment, hard work, and willingness to cover odd hours is the reason we haven't had to close the library since we reopened in June 2020.



## Watervliet Public Library

The Watervliet Public Library gets to interact with our patrons on a personal level. We strive to go above and beyond when it comes to taking care of the people in our community. We've become a place for community members to go when they don't know who else can help them. It's more than just helping patrons find books. Our staff members will sit down with patrons and help them write resumes, apply for jobs, learn how to use the Internet, and so much more. We've even had a staff member walk a patron to the nearby doctor's office so her family could become patients after having recently moved to the United States. We're more than a library. We're a community resource.

The most memorable accomplishment of 2022 is how we brought back Storytime! The pandemic put a damper on our programming and it was hard to bring even our staple programs back. But in 2022 we brought back Storytime and got a wonderful response. We've gained the patronage of several families who visit us every week where they may not have otherwise. It also helps to build lifelong relationships with the children who come. Bringing back one program was also a catalyst in starting up other programs for children and adults alike!

Our library couldn't do what we do without the support of our community. We have come to rely so much on the generosity of our patrons. Every week it seems that someone has something they want to donate to us, whether it be yarn, crafting supplies, toys and games, books, or simply their time. There are several lovely volunteers that come every week. Every day our staff is always blown away by the number of patrons who give small monetary donations. It's a joy knowing the community we serve is on our side.

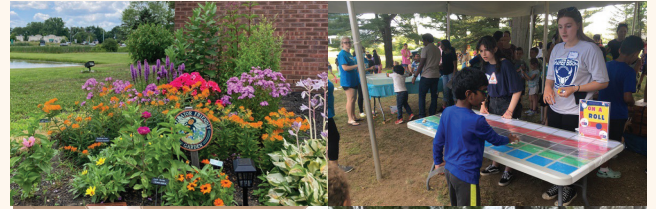
# William K. Sanford Town Library

2022 was a great year at the William K. Sanford Town Library. It was wonderful to get back to our normal numbers with 163,342 visits and 552,172 items circulated. We had the honor of winning the Time's Union Best of and we completed the final phase of our renovation project with an HVAC System improvement project.

In 2022 the library had some unique partnerships. We partnered with NYS DEC to offer free tree seedlings as a Mother's Day event. With this partnership, children plant 50 new blue spruces throughout the community each year. We partnered with the SUNY Albany School of Social Welfare to provide intern-level social work services. Our Social Work Intern was able to compile an extensive resource list of services for all ages in Albany and Rensselaer County, provide one-on-one appointments to help with housing and government forms and table at the library to provide drop-in questions and answer services. We partnered with the Town of Colonie Senior Resources Department to have a presence at the library monthly to connect community members in need with the services that are available. These collaborative relationships along with the many staff led one-on one appointments go a long way in providing our 85,000 residents with the services they need.

2022's most memorable experience is also our most memorable program. The Summer Reading Club Kick off at the end of June had over 1000 patrons! More than ever before. The Kick off was an all age affair held on library grounds. Patrons enjoyed a story read by Supervisor Peter Crummey, pony rides, a petting zoo, face painting, balloon twisting, pizza & popcorn, dancing to a DJ and a slew of carnival games on a beautiful early summer evening.

Our library couldn't do what we do without the dedication of the staff and an incredible team of volunteers including our Friends of the Library, teens and community members. Our volunteers help run our programs, lead book discussions, manage our garden, build and manage little free libraries in the community and support us through large book sales and other fundraising events!



# Local Support

LIBRARY	POPULATION	2021 LOCAL SUPPORT	2022 LOCAL SUPPORT	CHANGE IN LOCAL SUPPORT	PER CAPITA SUPPORT	PER CAPITA RANKING
ALBANY	99,224	\$8,798,712	\$8,805,916	0%	\$88.75	7
ALTMONT	1,675	\$127,500	\$128,000	0%	\$76.42	8
ARVILLA E. DIVER	527	\$42,645	\$48,645	14%	\$92.31	6
BERLIN	1,808	\$10,850	\$12,850	18%	\$7.11	29
BERNE	2,689	\$59,925	\$63,477	6%	\$23.61	20
BETHEHEM	28,631	\$4,386,144	\$4,391,827	0%	\$153.39	1
BRUNSWICK	12,581	\$163,230	\$166,958	2%	\$13.27	25
CASTLETON	1,477	\$164,111	\$176,585	8%	\$119.56	4
CHENEY	6,711	\$99,940	\$99,940	0%	\$14.89	23
COHOES	18,147	\$197,739	\$198,355	0%	\$10.93	27
EAST GREENBUSH	16,748	\$2,034,017	\$2,092,525	3%	\$124.94	3
GRAFTON	2,051	\$46,850	\$49,350	5%	\$24.06	19
GUILDERLAND	37,989	\$3,974,122	\$3,964,541	0%	\$104.36	5
MENANDS	3,979	\$139,089	\$142,000	2%	\$35.69	12
NASSAU	4,545	\$113,870	\$118,870	4%	\$26.15	16
NORTH GREENBUSH	13,292	\$319,883	\$324,681	1%	\$24.43	18
PETERSBURGH	1,372	\$66,239	\$76,275	15%	\$55.59	9
POESTENKILL	4,322	\$75,900	\$75,400	-1%	\$17.45	22
RCS	14,093	\$599,953	\$602,119	0%	\$42.72	10
RENSSELAER	9,210	\$118,122	\$114,958	-3%	\$12.48	26
RENSSELAERVILLE	1,826	\$69,195	\$69,758	1%	\$38.20	11
SAND LAKE	8,348	\$145,057	\$148,387	2%	\$17.78	21
STEPHENTOWN	2,791	\$95,000	\$95,000	0%	\$34.04	14
TOWN OF WESTERLO	3,194	\$108,157	\$109,785	2%	\$34.37	13
TROY	51,401	\$1,187,874	\$1,263,008	6%	\$24.57	17
VALLEY FALLS	5,630	\$38,802	\$43,802	13%	\$7.78	28
VOORHEESVILLE	7,756	\$1,174,316	\$1,174,317	0%	\$151.41	2
WATERVLIET	10,375	\$150,421	\$150,779	0%	\$14.53	24
WILLIAM K. SANFORD	85,590	\$2,783,642	\$2,836,650	2%	\$33.14	15
<b>TOTALS</b>	457,982	27,291,305	27,544,758	--	<b>\$60.14 AVERAGE PER CAPITA</b>	

# Operating Expenses

LIBRARY	2021 TOTAL EXPENSES	2022 TOTAL EXPENSES	% CHANGE TOTAL EXPENSES	2022 MATERIALS EXPENSES	% MATERIALS OF TOTAL EXPENSES	% STAFF OF TOTAL EXPENSES	PER CAPITA MATERIALS EXPENSES	PER CAPITA RANKING
ALBANY	\$9,492,855	\$10,189,358	7%	\$695,675	7%	58%	\$7.01	8
ALTAMONT	\$159,816	\$154,918	-3%	\$11,160	7%	60%	\$6.66	9
ARVILLA E. DIVER	\$60,808	\$165,984	173%	\$3,766	2%	24%	\$7.15	7
BERLIN	\$55,433	\$49,766	-10%	\$2,102	4%	60%	\$1.16	27
BERNE	\$65,146	\$66,451	2%	\$8,092	12%	70%	\$3.01	19
BETHLEHEM	\$4,068,968	\$4,027,242	-1%	\$482,503	12%	75%	\$16.85	1
BRUNSWICK	\$182,378	\$185,680	2%	\$13,556	7%	73%	\$1.08	28
CASTLETON	\$162,621	\$193,500	19%	\$20,585	11%	77%	\$13.94	3
CHENEY	\$113,739	\$121,210	7%	\$4,903	4%	60%	\$0.73	29
COHOES	\$206,671	\$204,001	-1%	\$38,363	19%	61%	\$2.11	22
EAST GREENBUSH	\$2,031,477	\$1,857,263	-9%	\$148,839	8%	77%	\$8.89	5
GRAFTON	\$81,981	\$83,536	2%	\$5,424	6%	56%	\$2.64	20
GUILDERLAND	\$3,606,544	\$3,718,090	3%	\$376,593	10%	68%	\$9.91	4
MENANDS	\$127,869	\$157,738	23%	\$29,515	19%	48%	\$7.42	6
NASSAU	\$135,657	\$203,622	50%	\$10,503	5%	44%	\$2.31	21
NORTH GREENBUSH	\$244,127	\$280,434	15%	\$67,152	24%	60%	\$5.05	11
PETERSBURGH	\$77,466	\$85,558	10%	\$2,533	3%	64%	\$1.85	24
POESTENKILL	\$88,374	\$99,068	12%	\$16,951	17%	61%	\$3.92	13
RCS	\$599,299	\$586,832	-2%	\$43,092	7%	72%	\$3.06	17
RENSSELAER	\$122,207	\$119,789	-2%	\$14,718	12%	80%	\$1.60	25
RENSSELAERVILLE	\$123,694	\$176,623	43%	\$11,497	7%	46%	\$6.30	10
SAND LAKE	\$136,958	\$159,824	17%	\$39,121	24%	65%	\$4.69	12
STEPHENTOWN	\$107,660	\$133,731	24%	\$8,763	7%	47%	\$3.14	15
TOWN OF WESTERLO	\$89,886	\$88,386	-2%	\$10,756	12%	71%	\$3.37	14
TROY	\$1,839,704	\$1,876,501	2%	\$103,581	6%	50%	\$2.02	23
VALLEY FALLS	\$63,421	\$67,554	7%	\$6,821	10%	57%	\$1.21	26
VOORHEESVILLE	\$1,045,034	\$1,111,781	6%	\$111,437	10%	75%	\$14.37	2
WATERVLIT	\$121,160	\$155,257	28%	\$32,138	21%	60%	\$3.10	16
WILLIAM K. SANFORD	\$2,959,829	\$2,900,229	-2%	\$260,050	9%	75%	\$3.04	18
<b>AVERAGES</b>	\$971,406	\$1,007,584	4%	\$88,972	9%	65%	\$5.09	

# Circulation

LIBRARY	POPULATION	2021 CIRCULATION	2022 CIRCULATION	CHANGE IN CIRCULATION	PER CAPITA CIRCULATION
ALBANY	99,224	272,242	461,489	70%	4.7
ALTMONT	1,675	28,419	31,601	11%	18.9
ARVILLA E. DIVER	527	6,489	6,997	8%	13.3
BERLIN	1,808	5,915	7,424	26%	4.1
BERNE	2,689	17,045	22,142	30%	8.2
BETHLEHEM	28,631	535,372	641,383	20%	22.4
BRUNSWICK	12,581	55,396	66,905	21%	5.3
CASTLETON	1,477	25,144	30,642	22%	20.7
CHENEY	6,711	19,149	21,169	11%	3.2
COHOES	18,147	25,082	25,094	0%	1.4
EAST GREENBUSH	16,748	339,051	466,846	38%	27.9
GRAFTON	2,051	9,363	10,674	14%	5.2
GUILDERLAND	37,989	219,082	418,280	91%	11.0
MENANDS	3,979	17,837	20,412	14%	5.1
NASSAU	4,545	19,070	23,136	21%	5.1
NORTH GREENBUSH	13,292	61,863	83,814	35%	6.3
PETERSBURGH	1,372	11,412	12,878	13%	9.4
POESTENKILL	4,322	15,944	21,896	37%	5.1
RCS	14,093	58,157	70,334	21%	5.0
RENSSELAER	9,210	18,349	22,345	22%	2.4
RENSSELAERVILLE	1,826	13,231	14,475	9%	7.9
SAND LAKE	8,348	40,853	43,199	6%	5.2
STEPHENTOWN	2,791	6,489	15,527	139%	5.6
TOWN OF WESTERLO	3,194	13,211	14,996	14%	4.7
TROY	51,401	104,753	130,972	25%	2.5
VALLEY FALLS	5,630	13,472	13,631	1%	2.4
VOORHEESVILLE	7,756	64,972	90,879	40%	11.7
WATERVLIET	10,375	16,259	22,800	40%	2.2
WILLIAM K. SANFORD	85,590	530,572	554,000	4%	6.5
<b>AVERAGES</b>	15,792	88,420	116,067	28%	8.0

# Holdings

LIBRARY	POPULATION	2021 HOLDINGS	2022 HOLDINGS	CHANGE IN HOLDINGS	2022 PER CAPITA HOLDINGS
ALBANY	99,224	408,483	433,892	6%	4
ALTAMONT	1,675	152,261	133,457	-12%	80
ARVILLA E. DIVER	527	146,475	127,503	-13%	242
BERLIN	1,808	149,392	130,384	-13%	72
BERNE	2,689	156,401	138,175	-12%	51
BETHLEHEM	28,631	266,431	284,386	7%	10
BRUNSWICK	12,581	148,837	130,971	-12%	10
CASTLETON	1,477	148,405	129,457	-13%	88
CHENEY	6,711	153,236	139,005	-9%	21
COHOES	18,147	121,924	152,704	25%	8
EAST GREENBUSH	16,748	227,763	213,110	-6%	13
GRAFTON	2,051	148,169	129,197	-13%	63
GUILDERLAND	37,989	228,971	248,113	8%	7
MENANDS	3,979	116,367	120,502	4%	30
NASSAU	4,545	162,161	143,269	-12%	32
NORTH GREENBUSH	13,292	199,098	178,926	-10%	13
PETERSBURGH	1,372	118,157	152,086	29%	111
POESTENKILL	4,322	149,134	130,908	-12%	30
RCS	14,093	126,785	137,817	9%	10
RENSSELAER	9,210	164,157	145,327	-11%	16
RENSSELAERVILLE	1,826	156,093	146,269	-6%	80
SAND LAKE	8,348	167,900	150,493	-10%	18
STEPHENTOWN	2,791	155,585	137,119	-12%	49
TOWN OF WESTERLO	3,194	150,135	132,195	-12%	41
TROY	51,401	266,711	252,373	-5%	5
VALLEY FALLS	5,630	99,060	132,250	34%	23
VOORHEESVILLE	7,756	153,845	158,981	3%	20
WATERVLIT	10,375	152,137	132,861	-13%	13
WILLIAM K. SANFORD	85,590	234,369	265,712	13%	3
<b>AVERAGES</b>	15,792	173,395	169,222	-2%	40

# Library Use

LIBRARY	2022 RESIDENT BORROWERS	2022 UNIQUE BORROWERS	2022 NON-RESIDENT BORROWERS	INTERNET FILTERING	# PUBLIC COMPUTERS	# PUBLIC COMPUTER SESSIONS	ANNUAL HOURS OPEN	TOTAL ANNUAL ATTENDANCE
ALBANY	81,202	10,033	156	Y	86	28,432	13,605	299,542
ALTAMONT	2,226	588	54	N	3	1,326	2,499	11,246
ARVILLA E. DIVER	301	161	1	N	8	360	1,352	4,719
BERLIN	1,022	143	0	N	4	183	1,040	3,692
BERNE	2,521	498	61	N	6	226	2,080	9,136
BETHLEHEM	21,219	7,192	103	N	31	9,435	3,571	153,368
BRUNSWICK	4,443	1,072	7	N	7	1,509	2,288	26,973
CASTLETON	429	634	657	N	4	159	2,392	9,828
CHENEY	2,685	433	0	N	6	1,560	1,976	33,852
COHOES	1,535	684	21	N	7	488	2,080	5,181
EAST GREENBUSH	4,453	3,919	1,702	N	24	6,184	2,825	111,078
GRAFTON	943	193	2	Y	5	312	1,352	3,106
GUILDERLAND	16,525	6,094	243	N	20	3,400	3,400	91,392
MENANDS	1,582	275	4	N	2	666	1,460	8,272
NASSAU	2,539	559	345	N	4	278	1,872	6,243
NORTH GREENBUSH	2,258	1,372	4	N	2	1,248	2,548	15,850
PETERSBURGH	892	149	4	N	4	272	1,248	5,236
POESTENKILL	750	471	0	N	3	52	1,538	7,788
RCS	8,255	1,730	401	N	6	1,750	2,924	26,398
RENSSELAER	6,272	795	35	N	10	2,206	2,244	12,801
RENSSELAERVILLE	839	188	27	N	3	104	1,316	4,149
SAND LAKE	1,642	1,028	0	Y	2	394	2,230	10,026
STEPHENTOWN	752	342	14	N	5	650	1,661	5,981
TOWN OF WESTERLO	554	270	6	N	5	53	1,560	4,424
TROY	25,566	3,191	633	N	16	8,186	4,836	51,387
VALLEY FALLS	407	216	3	N	3	121	1,820	5,359
VOORHEESVILLE	2,733	1,818	24	N	3	807	2,960	25,774
WATERVLIET	1,264	583	10	N	8	1,917	1,900	9,188
WILLIAM K. SANFORD	38,074	8,341	146	N	15	10,332	3,040	163,342
<b>AVERAGES</b>	8,065	1,827	161		10	2,848	2,607	38,805

# Programs

LIBRARY	ADULT PROGRAMS	ADULT ATTENDANCE	YOUNG ADULT PROGRAMS	YOUNG ADULT ATTENDANCE	CHILDRENS PROGRAMS	CHILDRENS ATTENDANCE	OTHER PROGRAMS	OTHER ATTENDANCE
ALBANY	308	4,931	52	1,332	348	6,966	112	4,224
ALAMONT	42	396	3	28	95	1,417	5	875
ARVILLA E. DIVER	19	89	37	61	98	581	11	460
BERLIN	26	84	2	4	42	204	13	61
BERNE	54	474	4	10	72	452	15	854
BETHLEHEM	130	1,830	53	506	185	5,017	33	4,974
BRUNSWICK	134	1,553	5	70	159	4,589	18	1,613
CASTLETON	92	448	15	27	198	1,921	15	608
CHENEY	90	895	20	135	60	178	2	25
COHOES	40	461	1	10	22	252	9	560
EAST GREENBUSH	256	3,622	76	958	268	16,254	3	134
GRAFTON	30	454	7	38	25	363	7	225
GUILDERLAND	232	1,566	2	32	44	844	0	0
MENANDS	23	10	30	50	148	855	0	0
NASSAU	34	330	6	47	47	624	5	100
NORTH GREENBUSH	10	55	0	0	40	415	2	195
PETERSBURGH	60	209	1	5	32	279	13	190
POESTENKILL	27	70	14	39	92	710	13	590
RCS	98	570	6	23	269	4,540	4	118
RENSSELAER	19	128	6	15	42	957	0	0
RENSSELAERVILLE	19	98	0	0	34	242	3	92
SAND LAKE	56	242	4	11	48	244	6	107
STEPHENTOWN	119	800	49	300	57	591	15	635
TOWN OF WESTERLO	36	216	29	67	59	456	0	0
TROY	110	884	100	233	109	1,899	6	27
VALLEY FALLS	23	195	1	5	82	491	22	464
VOORHEESVILLE	106	778	82	931	112	2,607	18	1,287
WATERVLIET	147	1,164	2	15	6	118	4	82
WILLIAM K. SANFORD	198	2,207	227	3,225	296	8,260	30	2,122
<b>AVERAGES</b>	88	854	29	282	107	2,149	13	711

# Resource Sharing

LIBRARY	MATERIALS RECEIVED		MATERIALS LOANED	
	2021	2022	2021	2022
ALBANY	81,680	79,538	97,022	107,645
ALTAMONT	9,664	9,350	5,837	4,987
ARVILLA E. DIVER	992	1,168	1,105	763
BERLIN	2,036	2,123	4,301	3,398
BERNE	3,329	3,843	4,894	6,065
BETHLEHEM	91,964	77,607	62,906	52,068
BRUNSWICK	17,367	18,108	9,899	3,279
CASTLETON	7,225	9,915	4,685	4,193
CHENEY	8,991	8,682	3,780	3,037
COHOES	7,719	5,758	4,217	1,689
EAST GREENBUSH	54,905	50,107	34,495	38,195
GRAFTON	3,085	3,414	2,766	2,439
GUILDERLAND	55,286	33,763	68,181	56,912
MENANDS	4,124	5,221	7,582	5,759
NASSAU	4,518	5,240	11,511	12,415
NORTH GREENBUSH	11,127	12,827	19,033	16,029
PETERSBURGH	3,482	3,300	6,876	10,061
POESTENKILL	3,700	3,850	9,405	5,422
RCS	13,404	10,710	18,647	19,065
RENSSELAER	4,300	5,290	7,954	6,576
RENSSELAERVILLE	5,782	5,689	8,932	9,803
SAND LAKE	9,268	8,694	9,113	7,329
STEPHENTOWN	2,495	2,846	9,729	7,715
TOWN OF WESTERLO	4,610	3,790	6,130	10,731
TROY	21,887	25,627	25,941	22,244
VALLEY FALLS	4,107	3,690	2,446	3,554
VOORHEESVILLE	16,336	15,035	25,402	25,433
WATERVLIT	7,169	8,715	3,944	9,576
WILLIAM K. SANFORD	72,016	61,822	53,106	47,247
<b>AVERAGES</b>	18,364	16,749	18,270	17,367



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Designed by:

**Jona Favreau**

