

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2024



UPPER HUDSON  
LIBRARY SYSTEM

Together. For Better Libraries.





## The Upper Hudson Library System

# Annual Report 2024

## Building Connections, Empowering Communities

### WELCOME FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2024 Leadership  
Member Libraries  
Adult, Outreach & Digital Services  
Automation Services  
Youth & Family Services  
Member Library Reports  
Annual Awards

### BY THE NUMBERS

2024 Local Support  
2024 Operating Expenses  
2024 Circulation  
2024 Holdings  
2024 Library Use  
2024 Programs  
2024 Resource Sharing

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## WELCOME FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The common thread that runs through every successful public library is a clear and direct focus on community. Public libraries make a positive difference every day for the people in their community when they build and nurture the connections necessary to ensure that the library is meeting the current needs and interests of the community. And it is a fact that when the connections and the relationships between the library and all of the many different facets of the community are encouraged and supported, the community is in turn, empowered to do more, to grow stronger, and to be better for its residents.

As illustrated in this year's UHLS annual report, the member libraries of the Upper Hudson Library System fully embrace this fundamental key to successful public library service. Our libraries are always seeking to identify opportunities to build meaningful relationships with community groups and organizations. Whether they are informal groups, such as the local fabric arts club or the home schoolers meet-up that partner with the library for gatherings and events; or the more formal organizations in the community like the local schools, church and fraternal organizations, and the local business community, our libraries understand that building connections with the community, both inside and outside the library, is fundamental to their mission. And the results speak for themselves, with our public libraries playing a central role in a variety of community collaborations and activities all of which bring people together and really do empower the community. As you read this annual report, please enjoy seeing how this theme expresses itself throughout Albany and Rensselaer Counties with the member libraries of the Upper Hudson Library System.

In closing, this is the last annual report that I have the honor and privilege to present. I am very proud that the Upper Hudson Library System is a perfect example in microcosm, of this year's theme. During my tenure as Executive Director and with the full support of the UHLS Board of Trustees, the UHLS staff worked tirelessly to build strong and solid connections with all of the member libraries. We've done that by listening to the members and working with them in collaboration to improve services to the libraries and, by extension improve their service to the community. Together we've created a culture in UHLS that puts improvement of library service to the community as the first priority. That culture is what empowers our community of 29 public libraries to make a difference in their local communities every single day.



Tim Bruke, UHLS Executive Director



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Susan Keitel, *President*  
Marcy Savage, *Vice-President*  
Fred Wobrock, Jr., *Treasurer*  
Scott Wyner, *Secretary*

## TRUSTEES

Joe Burke  
Debbie Carr  
Corie Dugas  
Camille Engel  
Evelyn Greenstein  
Jackie Marino  
Tara Ricard  
Lisa Scoons  
Yvette Terplak

Sarah Clark, *Chair*  
Mindy Fowler, *Vice-Chair*  
Whitney Gitman, *Secretary*

Joe Burke  
*Board and Finance Committee*

Geoff Kirkpatrick  
*Administration Committee*

Sarah Clark  
*Services Committee*

# Upper Hudson Library System Board of Trustees

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024

## 2024 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*

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

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

**Robert Carle**, *Training Specialist*  
**Amy Jeansonne**, *System Support Associate*

**Alexandra Ostwald**, *Finance Specialist*  
**Anne Myers**, *System Support Associate*

## STAFF ON THE MOVE

Retired  
**Rawdon Cheng**  
*Almost 28 years of service!*

**Amy DuBrey**  
*Administrative Assistant at GUIL*



# UHLS Member Libraries

## **Albany Public Library**

Brigitte Pryor, Board President  
Andrea Nicolay, Director

## **Altamont Free Library**

Rachel Lane, 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  
Ray LeMay III, Director

## **East Greenbush Community Library**

Marianne Harris, Board President  
Jill Dugas Hughes, Director

## **Grafton Community Library**

Susan Brown, Board President  
Leanna Sweet, Director

## **Guilderland Public Library**

Corie Dugas, Board President  
Pete Petruski, Director

## **Menands Public Library**

Diana Praus, Board President  
Sarah Kerr-Mace, Director

## **Nassau Free Library**

Athena Batsios, Board President  
Tracey Clague, Director

## **North Greenbush Public Library**

Katie Myer, 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**

Debbie Carr, 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**

Mary Ann Witt, Board President  
Amy Powarzynski, Director

## **Troy Public Library**

Alex Hanse, Board President  
Tim Furgall, Director

## **Valley Falls Free Library**

Lynn Keyes, Board President  
Kelly Akin, Director

## **Voorheesville Public Library**

Belinda Heckler, Board President  
Sarah Clark, Director

## **Watervliet Public Library**

Tracy Wheatley, Board President  
Whitney Gitman, Director

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

Donna Cramer-Sharer, Board President  
Elissa Valente, Director

# ADULT, OUTREACH & DIGITAL SERVICES

In **Outreach** work, we expanded library access for homebound patrons through Books by Mail, which sent patrons large print books at no cost. In partnership with Albany Public Library and the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, we welcomed newly arrived refugees with information on how to access library services. To better serve New Americans, we launched Language Line translation services and broadened our digital cost-per-circ collections in multiple languages. Our collaboration with Inclusive Games enabled gaming programming for patrons of all abilities. We also continued serving the Albany and Rensselaer County Jails, offering books for leisure reading alongside resources on mental health and addiction.

**Adult Services** professional development focused on conflict resolution and de-escalation, while shared public facing programs tackled varied topics—from the conflict in Gaza to Menopause 101. The traveling exhibit Messages from Survivors brought powerful Holocaust survivor testimonies to our communities. We also hosted adult program swaps and other idea sharing opportunities. Adult Services capped off the year with the launch of a Central Library-funded New York Times all-access subscription—nearing 100,000 page views in its first two months.

In 2024, we hit a major **digital services** milestone: one million OverDrive checkouts. Our partnership with schools grew via OverDrive’s Public Libraries Connect, giving students seamless access to our digital collection using their school IDs. Meanwhile, we supported libraries navigating the rising costs of Hoopla by helping navigate cost-control strategies.



The **Equity** Committee launched the Equity Challenge, with 21 libraries signing on. The Committee is keeping libraries engaged with the Challenge through quarterly ‘Getting it Done’ meetings for participants, regular surveys and (hopefully!) inspirational emails.

## Interlibrary Loan (ILL)

UHLS continued managing ILL for 22 member libraries. Schenectady’s transition out of the Mohawk Valley Library System increased ILL demand and highlighted the need to update our WorldCat holdings.

## Delivery

Couriers moved an average 9,612 items a day in 2024. After a long stretch of dependable service, late 2024 brought challenges with our delivery contractor. Staffing turnover led to some delays and missed routes. We’re optimistic that 2025 will bring a return to the reliable service our libraries count on.

## Sustainable Funding & Library Data

By combining data from annual reports, levy votes, and the census, we developed customized presentations to help libraries pursue sustainable funding through 259 and 414 votes. It’s been inspiring to support libraries in securing their financial future.



# AUTOMATION SERVICES

**Keeping Things Running, Solving Problems, and Sometimes Even Sleeping** This year, the UHLS Automation Services team was busier than ever supporting our libraries and staff with everything from computer troubleshooting to major software updates.

**Tech Upgrades and System Tweaks** We upgraded Sierra and Encore (our library catalog systems) to the latest versions, which brought both helpful features and a few hiccups. We worked closely with our libraries to make loan rule changes (everything from museum passes to blood pressure monitors!) and cleaned up old records to keep the system easy for our patrons to use.

**Website Work: New Look, Same Great Service** The big project this year was launching a brand-new UHLS website. It took months of building, fixing, and wrestling with plug-ins, but we got there. We also continued to host and support 21 library websites. This included migrating their domains to a new domain registrar, tightening up security, and fending off attacks from spam bots and hackers. We even introduced geofencing to keep international bad actors away.

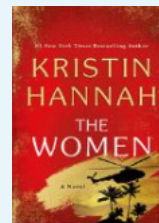
**Reports, Reports, Reports** Need a custom report? We probably ran it. We helped libraries analyze user trends, OverDrive stats, and patron activity, to weed their collections, and more. Some reports were brand-new, others were upgraded for easier use on the new website.

**People Power** This year saw some big transitions. Our legendary tech wizard Rawdon Cheng stepped back into a part-time role. Rob Carle continued his excellent efforts with training, cataloging, fixing things nobody else could, and handling whatever the Help Desk threw at him. Joe held it all together (barely) while juggling committee meetings, troubleshooting, and new program development.

**Odds & Ends** We sent out thousands of emails on behalf of our libraries and started exploring tools like AI and screen reader software to improve accessibility and user experience. In short: We kept the tech running, the websites alive, the data flowing, and the questions answered. Thanks to everyone who called, emailed, or just said thanks—it means a lot. It was another successful year of service, solutions, and maybe fewer bugs.



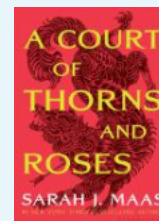
## TOP CIRCULATED ITEMS on Libby



Fiction



Non-Fiction



Young Adult



Youth

## YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

The Youth and Family Services Department strengthens our members in creating a better world for youth through libraries. Through our learning opportunities, tools, and growth-focused projects, UHLS libraries build connections and empower their communities in support of youth.

### Learning opportunities this year:

- Two virtual Summer Reading Program trainings – one children-focused and one teen-focused - presented by UHLS and 13 other systems. Reaching hundreds of staff, these lively idea sessions also give member library colleagues who are accepted as presenters a chance to shine.
- A virtual, collaborative Summer Reading Program (SRP) basics workshop with a robust planning tool simplifying the many decisions in staging a SRP.
- Our annual collaborative G.O.A.T. (Greatest of All Time - tongue-in-cheek, teen-like hyperbole!) Teen Services Meetup. We open this in-person event to nearby states, attracting a diverse audience that affords teen services colleagues a rare opportunity to learn from counterparts.
- The annual hands-on, in-person Storytime Bootcamp for new presenters fills a perennial training need and elevates local storytimes to a research-based fun learning experience for children.
- Our Youth Network of Two States (YNOT) joint meetings with a Wisconsin sister system fostered broad program idea sharing. Our seven Youth Services Advisory Council meetings all included training and collaboration.
- Involvement in intellectual freedom, professional skills, and trustee training ensures that youth are considered in larger arenas.



### Tools:

- Twenty-six new StoryWalks® were created this year, and used ones refurbished for borrowing. This project continues to foster partnership and community engagement.
- Our 34 loanable programming supports help libraries offer accessible, creative programs for all ages.
- Through our relationships with youth publishers, we procured 375 review books for staff to examine, discuss, and ultimately receive for their collections.
- Our “Welcoming Library” units - 30 picture books on new arrival and new American families - continue to rotate among libraries.

### Projects:

- We initiated the project Sex, Accurate Information for Youth, and Libraries (SAIYL). It focuses on helping libraries strengthen service to at-risk youth in the area of sexual and reproductive health information. Components include training, downloadable finding aids, money for materials and programs, collection assessment and feedback, staff skill development, and bridges to partnerships.
- The Read It Forward (RIF) project underscores the relationship-building at the heart of teen services. RIF motivates teens to read a featured high-interest title and pass the book to their peers who continue the cycle of reading and sharing.
- Supporting Summer Reading Program includes training, marketing materials and supplies, digital registration program setup aid, volunteer help, and ready consultation.

Instrumental in all our work is the Youth and Family Services Support Associate. This year we bid fond farewell to Amy DuBrey and welcomed Amy Jeansonne, a valued addition to our work and the UHLS team.

# Albany Public Library

The APL team accomplished so much in 2024, including a 15% increase in participation in our Growing Readers early literacy initiative—but the big story is our Public Safety team coming together in a whole new way. Having a sense of safety and wellbeing at the library is foundational to building connections and empowering our community. Yet in the years following the pandemic, that sense of safety was challenged as we struggled with an increased volume of incidents. We worked with the leadership team at the library, our Board, and City Civil Service to gain approval for a new title, Head of Public Safety, and we hired our first-ever Head of Public Safety, Matt Leibowitz, in October 2024. He went about getting to know our team of Public Safety Specialists, and our patrons and staff. Matt also developed and rolled out library-specific de-escalation training for all staff. As a result, our incredible team of Public Safety Specialists, who work across APL, is stronger than ever—and through surveys and feedback, we know there is a greater sense of safety and wellbeing among staff. When our workplace feels safe and positive for our team, the natural outcome is an improved user experience of our 500,000 annual visitors.

In 2024, APL collaborated with social services, UAlbany, and with cultural institutions to strengthen library services. We worked with the Homeless and Travelers Aid Society, Joseph's House, and the entire CARES of NY team to bring regular weekly outreach visits to our Washington Avenue and Howe branches. We recruited amazing students from UAlbany for our Digital Navigators one-on-one computer assistance program, and we developed plans for reciprocal borrowing for UAlbany students and APL card-holders, enhancing access to each of our collections. Another highlight of 2024 was establishing two new passes for our pass program: one with the Albany Symphony Orchestra, and the other with The Egg for their “The Egg Presents” series. Our community partners are essential—with them, we achieve our mission to educate, entertain, and empower the community.

Our biggest challenge in 2024 was also our biggest opportunity for growth. As stated above, we were seeing too many incidents of verbal harassment, medical emergencies, and even physical violence in our library spaces. The training we were providing to staff was inadequate. Morale suffered, and turnover was high. Investing in our Safety team, and providing staff with more rigorous in-person training, proved to be the right response to this challenge. Our library is a safer, more welcoming place as a result—and we look forward to seeing the upward trends in visitor numbers and program attendance continue throughout 2025.





## Altamont Free Library

On the Sunday before Thanksgiving, AFL partnered with St. John's Lutheran Church and Altamont Reformed Church, Altamont Community Tradition, the elementary school PTA and our local Masons to put on the inaugural Charlie Brown Friendsgiving Foodraiser. The idea was that before folks had their family Thanksgiving, we would invite everyone to participate in a community Thanksgiving dinner modeled on the Charlie Brown Thanksgiving dinner of jelly beans, pretzels, toast and popcorn in order to share our gratitude for the blessings of neighborliness and community. The larger objective was to have participants donate non-perishable food for the Guilderland Food Pantry at a time of the year that it was needed the most. It was phenomenal. We listened to an excellent band play melancholy piano jazz. We shared a meal that ultimately turns out to be not very satisfying as a meal, we made crafts, and collected nearly 300 pounds of food for the Guilderland Food Pantry. We will definitely do it again next year and everyone here is invited.



In 2021, AFL initiated the groundbreaking Summer Reading Buddies program, which pairs first-graders who struggle with reading skills with Guilderland High School students who we train as literacy coaches for weekly tutoring sessions that have been shown to improve reading scores for kids that need help the most. Two years ago, we broadened our focus from the Village of Altamont to the entire Town of Guilderland. We increased our number of tutors from 6 to 24, and our pool of students from 10 to 40 students from every elementary school in the district. This partnership between the libraries and the school district has borne fruit in increased teen engagement with our libraries, improved literacy skills for our young participants, and a lighter lift for our school's reading specialists. This multifaceted partnership has resulted in demonstrably higher reading scores for participants. Summer Reading Buddies is a useful model for the types of partnerships that we hope to see more of in years to come.



Space. We don't have enough room for all of the collections, meetings and gathering spaces we would like to offer. We do our best by using our outdoor areas for programs and our adjacent Village park for big events but mostly we just take comfort in the fact that our small space is a beautiful and inviting one.

# Arvilla E. Diver Memorial Library

2024 was an awesome year at Diver!

Our building relocation project took a big step forward thanks to a Special Legislative Grant from Assemblyman Scott Bendett. With the Assemblyman's support we were able to demolish the ramshackle barn next door, one of two structures that need to be removed to make way for us to complete our critical "Save the Library" initiative.

After the barn came down we took a moment (aka: a couple months) to paint a massive mural on the other long-vacant building next door—a vibrant reminder of things to come. Local artist Almy Bartis designed a beautiful paint-by-numbers piece that over 60 members of our community were generous enough to help us complete. From a class of third graders to a battery of pizza fueled teens. We kept the brushes at the ready all fall, and a surprising number of patrons who'd just intended to pick up or drop off an item when they'd arrived at the library ended up with a brush in their hand. We started from the ground up (with the shortest of our volunteers) and eventually covered an 8' x 32' stretch of sad, weathered siding with a happy scene that folks constantly remark on with appreciation.

Our Summer Reading Program was a classic! Working alongside our best-library-buddies at the Valley Falls Free Library, we went on weekly mini-adventures. We went camping, explored the surface of Mars, hunted for treasure on a pirate ship, and climbed inside a whale! Also, with our friends at Valley Falls and HV schools, we organized a huge solar eclipse viewing party at the school ball-fields.

Partial eclipse—totality of fun!

We recorded our 7th record of original music as part of our Let's Make a Song program! Thanks to the support of the Arts Center of the Capital Region, Stewarts Shops, and the Wentorf Foundation—not to mention all of the talented folks in Schaghticoke that always share their big hearts and brilliantly creative minds with us. After 18 more songs this year, we are closing on the 150 mark since the program began (all available for free @ [diverlibrary.bandcamp.com](https://diverlibrary.bandcamp.com))!

This year we collaborated for the first time with the Albany Musicians Association to bring a fantastic Jazz quartet to the library—free of charge. We had fancy snacks. We got all gussied up. And our piano never sounded so good! It was a great event, and we're grateful to our new friends that helped make it happen.

Really, we're grateful to all of our friends, new and old, that made 2024 another fun and fantastic year at Diver!





# Berne Public Library

The Berne Public Library has offered a variety of quality programs for 2024. One incredible program was initiated through the collaboration of the Upper Hudson Library System and our library supporter, Assemblyman Chris Tague. The historical Holocaust display titled, "Messages From Survivors," was on view for 7 weeks in September and October. This 6-foot-tall exhibit consisted of 6 panels that tell the stories of survivors through a timeline with additional digital links to interviews with survivors and their families. To continue the experience beyond the visit, take-home cards were provided to keep these stories alive for a later time. One Berne Knox Westerlo school teacher walked his students across the street to the library to supplement his history lesson on the Holocaust. This exhibit made it possible for our community to experience a museum quality display without having to drive to the New York State Museum.

The library continues to have a positive relationship with a large group of homeschool families. The library has fostered a strong collaboration by offering pre-opening hours, to access the library without patron distractions. The homeschoolers have experienced STEM activities including coding and role playing games. These games not only align with curriculum objectives but also provide opportunities for social interaction and hands-on learning. Families also benefited by using computers and high-speed internet, which facilitated research and online learning. This partnership is a shining example of how libraries can adapt to and support the diverse needs of their community.

What was the biggest challenge your library faced in 2024, and how did you overcome it? One of the biggest challenges we face, like many libraries encounter: attracting new patrons to utilize our diverse services. To reach out to those who might not yet know what we provide the library implemented the following steps. Our first step was to expand our programming. We introduced a variety of educational workshops, family-friendly events, and collaborative projects aimed at different age groups and interests. From STEM programs for children, a variety of book clubs and to adult crafting classes. We sought to create opportunities that would resonate with our community members.

Second, we update our website regularly and connect with tech support on ways to improve access. Understanding that a user-friendly online presence is crucial in today's digital age, and ensured that information about our services, events, and resources was easily accessible.

Finally, we reached out to local organizations, schools, and community groups to promote our services and encourage collaboration. By fostering relationships with homeschool families, our school districts, and civic organizations, we aimed to raise awareness of the library's role as a vital resource.

The feedback from our community has been encouraging, reaffirming our commitment to providing a welcoming and inclusive environment for all.

The Berne Public Library is more than just a place to borrow books; it's a community hub where lifelong learning and entertainment thrive. We look forward to continuing to serve our community and evolving alongside it, ensuring that every resident feels welcomed and empowered to take advantage of everything we have to offer.

# Bethlehem Public Library

In spring of 2024, Bethlehem Public Library launched an online reservation system for museum passes, allowing cardholders to make online reservations and print the passes on demand. The collection started with about a dozen museums participating, including the Albany Institute of History & Art, Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, Hancock Shaker Village, MASS MoCA, Olana, Thomas Cole National Historic Site and The Wild Center. The service quickly grew through the hard work of circulation staff to get more museums to adopt the online system. Although we ended up losing our original vendor, staff was able to pivot quickly to a new system that has proven to be even more user friendly.

The digital museum passes offer a lot of flexibility to our patrons as they can be booked up to 30 days in advance and automatically expire after the allotted timeframe, so there's no need to return them and they don't incur any late fees. Currently, all but eight of our passes are available to borrow online.

The Thursdays in the Park concert series with the Town of Bethlehem Parks and Recreation has been a particularly successful collaboration as it allows us to sponsor events that can cater to large audiences that wouldn't fit in the library's program spaces. This popular summer series is geared to an all-ages audience, extending its reach further.

Bethlehem Public Library has also partnered with the Bethlehem Historical Association to present the speaker series designed to stimulate an appreciation of Bethlehem's deep historic heritage by bringing distinguished local speakers into the library.

Our annual "prom" for seniors is held at Bethlehem Town Hall in collaboration with the town's senior services and offers our older residents an opportunity to socialize and celebrate together.



The biggest challenge of 2024, by far, was the planning, preparation and execution of the building project referendum held in December. Trustees spent the first part of the year finalizing the design, but in order to get it to vote, a number of things had to fall into place, requiring collaboration with the town and school district to combine the library parcels and complete a SEQR review. A lot of time and effort went into gathering community feedback, creating informational materials and publicizing the referendum. This, along with hosting the vote and managing the crowds, required a tremendous amount of work.

Although the referendum did not pass, the whole process was a valuable learning experience and left our board and staff with a greater understanding of the process and better prepared for future discussions about building needs. One of the biggest takeaways post-election was the addition of regular trustee office hours, which allow the public to speak one-on-one with board members.



## Brunswick Community Library

The Brunswick Community Library prides itself on bringing people together through rich multigenerational programs that build genuine connections. We have seen friendships blossom in our gardening clubs, grow stitch by stitch in our craft groups, and build themselves up block by block in our youth programs.



In 2024 we started to collaborate with the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York and the Empire Justice Center to host a variety of legal aid programs at our branch, including, but not limited to, the first Name Change Clinics at libraries in our area after requests from patrons. While this brought out a few program complaints to our area, we were able to reach and serve over 80 people in need of this important service and reestablish that libraries are here for all of our patrons, not just a select few. We were honored by the LASNNY with their Community Partner Award for our work with them on Name Change Clinics at our location and watched in awe as donations poured in from supporters for this important work.



The board, staff, and volunteers at Brunswick are deeply committed to bringing our community the best possible experience and we can't wait to try more new things together this year. Be it Bake-Off competitions, blanket fort parties, history seminars, or more beloved clothing swaps, we are excited to experience it together. Thank you for joining us on this journey and thank you for being our neighbors.

# Castleton Public Library

Expanding the library's hours to be open on Sundays has had a tremendous effect on our community! We have heard a lot of positive comments about this change, which began in January 2024. Parents in particular have let us know how much they appreciate having an additional weekend day to be able to visit the library with their children. Holding Sunday hours not only allows patrons more opportunities to browse and check out materials -- it also gives our staff another day each week to hold events at which people in our community can explore their creativity, learn, and connect with others. CPL held family-oriented events on over half of the Sundays in 2024, including pumpkin painting, tie dye, making bird feeders, creating puzzles, and playing outdoor games.

CPL expanded our collaborations with many of our community partners in 2024. Building on our long-running monthly book delivery service at Castle Hill senior housing, we added regular drop-in tech help sessions to assist homebound seniors. This has proven to be a very popular outreach program, so much so that we increased the frequency of these sessions to keep up with the need for them! We partnered with the Schodack Central School District to organize field trips to the library to get elementary school age children library cards and encourage them to read over the summer. Our Special Visitor Storytime series brought many local organizations to the library in 2024, including M&M Auto, Castleton Volunteer Ambulance Service, and Schodack Island State Park. In 2024, we also worked with many community volunteers who donated their time to lead public programs at the library, including Bridge Club, Open Mic Night, an Improv Workshop, and more! We could not do what we do without our community partners, both organizational and individual.

The biggest continual challenge for our library is maintaining a balance of providing people with the familiar services and events they know and love, while also keeping up with the changing needs of our community, keeping our events fresh, and attracting new participants. For example, we saw that participation in our 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Program was dropping. In 2024 we revamped the program with a new theme, a relaunch party, and an eye-catching display at our front desk that shows the progress of our participants. As a result, we saw renewed interest in this important early literacy initiative.



# Cheney Library

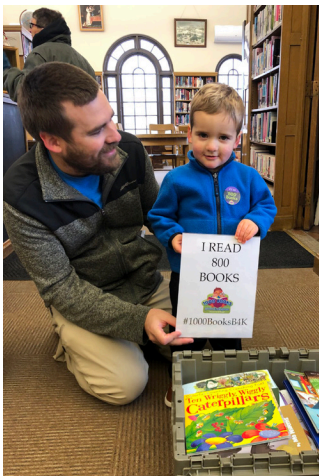
Using Storytime as a springboard, the library began the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program. This nationwide initiative challenges little ones to read (you guessed it) 1000 books before they start kindergarten. Every time a participant reaches a reading benchmark, they receive a prize book... and a featured post on our library Facebook page! The program became so popular that we began a 500 Books Before Middle School program so that participants in the 1000 Books program can “graduate” to the next level.

These programs have created so much positive visibility for our library. Every time we post about a participant’s reading achievement, the community responds with incredible warmth and enthusiasm. It has been so heartwarming to watch this program grow, and to know that we are successfully cultivating a love of reading in our youngest patrons.

2024 marked Cheney Library’s first annual Touch-a-Truck event! We had nine trucks in all - a boom truck from Bacon Companies, a fire engine from the Hoosick Falls Fire Department, a tow truck from Barber and Fricke, a delivery truck from Curtis Lumber, a fire rescue truck from the North Hoosick Fire Department, a propane delivery truck from Blue Flame Gas Company, an ambulance from the Town of Hoosick Rescue Squad, a fire tanker from the West Hoosick Fire Department, and a police cruiser from the Hoosick Falls Police Department. We also had ice cream donated by Stewart’s Shops! Yum! And we had so much fun!

This was also the first year Cheney Library partnered with the Town of Hoosick Summer Camp. Because of this collaboration, engagement with the Summer Reading Program increased significantly. In 2024, participants enjoyed a summer of adventure! Summer Reading events at Cheney Library included crafts, a scavenger hunt, giant board games on the lawn, and even an interactive encounter with live reptiles! We cannot wait to work with the T.O.H. Summer Camp again.

With so many folks participating in our 1000 Books program, we found ourselves running out of prize books. Cheney Library would like to extend a special thank you to Battenkill Books for donating books so that we can continue to offer—and expand—our program. We could not have launched “500 Books Before Middle School” without the help of such a generous local partner!



# Cohoes Public Library

One of our goals in 2024 was to actively invite audiences back into the library space that we had been seeing less of since moving into our temporary location at the Cohoes Senior Center (July 2021). To achieve this, we held a wide variety of programming to bring the public into our space.

Our Summer Reading Program was a wild success, with hundreds coming out for our Kickoff in the Park and Finale event, as well as packed events each Saturday between. This helped us get many families into the practice of visiting the library regularly.

We also wanted to celebrate and support the creativity of our community. We held an amazing Comic Con in July featuring local artists and creators, cosplay and student art contests, discussion panels, and tabletop gaming. In November, we held Upstate Writes! a Book Festival, at which over 60 local authors shared their books with the community. We are so happy with how well these events went, and how they helped to get the community excited about the library.

We were pleased to be able to expand services to include a seed library, new museum passes, more wifi hotspots, and blood pressure monitors. We were also able to bring a mobile food pantry to the library twice a month in partnership with Unity House of Troy.

Throughout the year our library offered programming to allow those in our community with expert knowledge the opportunity to help educate and share the subjects they are passionate about. For example, Eddie's Aquarium brought a touch tank to teach children about sea life and maintaining aquariums; NYS Parks & Recreation taught us about nature in our backyards; and MiSci taught us about the night sky with a planetarium. Other organizations and individuals taught us about model railroading, how to become a magician, cooking with InstaPot, beekeeping, vermicomposting, and more.

The Friends of Cohoes Public Library have been revitalized with new bylaws, fundraising efforts, and enthusiastic volunteers. They have been a wonderful support to our library in funding our summer reading program and museum passes, and helping with special events throughout the year.

Our New Library Construction Advisory Committee was busy in 2024 envisioning what our new space at 75 Remsen Street will look like. As we await the construction completion there, we have begun moving materials into a temporary storage facility, a big project for us. We are determined to be alive and vibrant in providing the community with quality services and programming, even during our time of transition.



# East Greenbush Community Library

This year's theme of "Building Connections, Empowering Communities" was reflected in several impactful initiatives at the East Greenbush Community Library. The Book Lovers Adult Reading Challenge (BLARC) stood out for its reach and engagement. Launched in March, it drew 357 participants- many of whom had never joined a previous challenge. By year's end, 368 readers had logged a collective 4,424 books, demonstrating how strategic outreach and thoughtful programming can build lasting connections.

The library's first Local Author Fair in November far exceeded expectations, with 60 submissions and 32 authors selected. The event drew 81 attendees, facilitated networking, and even attracted interest from a publishing company—highlighting the library's role in supporting local voices and creative entrepreneurship.

Other standout initiatives included Solar Eclipse programming, which brought together patrons of all ages for STEM activities, crafting, and a group viewing. One attendee shared that it "just created community," reflecting the event's positive impact and broad appeal. The Teen Book Boxes, a personalized subscription-style service, saw such high demand over the summer that it quickly outpaced initial capacity—underscoring the library's success in connecting teens with books in engaging ways.

Summer reading was a major highlight, especially for younger patrons. The Baby Rave (ages 0–5), Glow Up (6–11), and Glowing Away (12+) finales drew enthusiastic participation. One preschooler and parent requested a repeat of the dance party and black lights, and another parent inquired about replicating it for a birthday. These joyful programs sparked excitement around reading while reinforcing the library's inclusive, welcoming atmosphere.

When a multi-day power outage affected the region, the library opened as a warming and charging station, meeting an urgent need and reinforcing its role as a trusted, responsive public space.

In 2024, the library expanded its reach through partnerships with local schools (kindergarten visits, bilingual recognition, summer reading promotion), the YMCA (storytimes and events), the Chamber of Commerce and SBDC (small business support), and RPI Engineering Ambassadors (hands-on STEM learning). The Inclusive initiative, developed in collaboration with The Arc of Rensselaer County, explored how structured gameplay can support individuals with disabilities and laid the groundwork for a volunteer-supported model.

The year's biggest challenge—maintaining engagement during a capital construction project—was met with clear communication, drive-thru service, off-site programs, and continued digital access.

Through it all, the library remained a place where connections were built and communities were empowered—living the theme not just in words, but in action.



# Grafton Community Library

In April 2024, the Grafton Community Library started its Seed Library Program using a much treasured old card catalogue saved from the Grafton Library's early days. The majority of the seed distributed by this program came from donations provided by Sow Right Seeds and members of the Grafton gardening community. This program had over thirty participants in the prime planting season (which for Grafton is very short) and gave away over 300 individual seed packets. Seed packet counts were updated weekly and available for gardeners to view at home through our library website, along with information on how to grow, harvest, and save seeds from the resulting plants. The hard copy of this information was also available on top of the card catalog. Recipes, gardening tips, and other information about the Seed Library were also distributed through the seed library's email list. Student participants in our after-school Lego & STEM program also contributed to the Seed Library by working together to save pumpkin seeds from the Grafton Youth Program's Trunk or Treat event in October. Big plans are already in the works for the 2025 seed library, including a kickoff event, a more robust plan for community donations, and a chili cookoff at the end of the growing season.

The Grafton Community Library partnered several times with the Grafton Youth Program, including to provide art education and bring the Summer Reading Program to children outside of the library's four walls. The library also collaborated with the youth program and Friends of Dyken Pond Center to bring wildlife educator Kelly Martin to children throughout the community. The 38th Annual Run for the Roses, a 5k and fun run fundraiser for the library, would not have been possible without the support of the Grafton Lakes State Park and the volunteers who help the library serve our community.



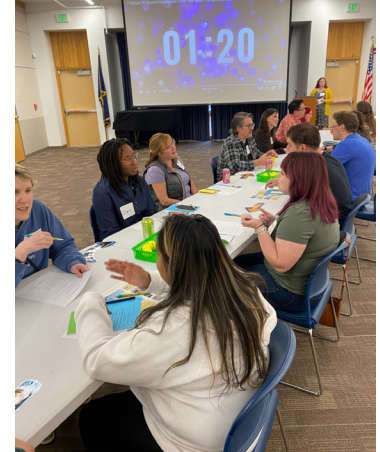
After attending the Greatest of all Time (GOAT) Teen Services Meetup in April 2024, the Grafton Community Library was inspired to start its own teen program after seeing all the outstanding work other UHLS libraries did in this area. It took a few tries to figure out what would work for our community, but we continued to “roll with it” and created a program that’s flourishing in 2025!



# Guilderland Public Library

Our lives are increasingly lived online and digitally. We buy our groceries online, read our books on our phones, and meet our future spouses on apps. GPL's Speed Friending program is a welcome return to IRL interactions. Speed Friending is like speed dating but platonic, as our librarians curated two sessions in 2024, encouraging patrons to meet new people and spend an evening in conversation. The program was picked up by reddit, a popular online social media site, and also by traditional Albany media outlets. 67% of attendees said they made a new friend, so our hope is they learned about us online and took the plunge to meet people in person.

In many ways, Guilderland is like Richard Scarry's Busytown, the platonic ideal of a small town, so we value bringing other traditional community services to our library. This includes our partnership with the local police, fire department, and emergency responders. In 2024, they joined us for Drug Takeback Day, Guilderland Night Out, Fire Prevention Day, and Read or Treat. We also love bringing local vendors in for our craft fairs and summer farmer's market, encouraging our community to support local businesses.



Change is never easy, and in 2024 we bid adieu to director Tim Wiles and welcomed new director Pete Petruski. Despite joining the library during an exciting time, the new director didn't rush into any decisions. He took his time and really got to know the community and the staff at the ground level. But before we knew it, he was doing everything from donning a dragon costume at storytimes and shoveling snow during winter storms to planning the library's first book sale since 2020 and redeveloping the library's long range plan. It's an important lesson for all of us in public service, that even when we need to make big strategic decisions, there is no substitute for hard work.



# Menands Public Library

I'm not entirely sure when Menands Public Library introduced our Thursday cooking classes, but 2024 is when they really took off as a program. The number of families that come to see Ms. Sherry every week has grown so much that we are running out of space. Seeing all the kids enjoying cooking and learning about other cultures while they do that is always a fun Thursday. It also helps show the kids and families the normalcy of blended cultures in every aspect of their lives.

In 2024, we could give back to our village and school in an unimaginable way. We could give hundreds of new, popular, or recently released books to The Schuyler Inn and the Menands Union Free School District's Library. The school was in dire need of books that were in a condition to be read, and to update the graphic novel and manga section with the books that students were dying to see and borrow. The Schuyler Inn, a shelter that allows families and a place of new beginnings, always needs help for children and adults to find some comforts that they once had and for the escapism that we all long for in a book. We could not ignore this plight with them right down the street, and since they are already partner with us in a monthly Storytime. By being able to do this with them, we gave everyone those feelings of comfort and happiness. Our partnerships with the MUFSD and The Schuyler Inn have only grown since then.

The library is housed in an ancient building that has been a church and even a barn in the past. The building requires a lot of TLC for upgrades and repairs. In the past, we have put in a lot of work to bring it up to ADA accessibility codes and, in general, make it more user-friendly. But we realized that not owning the building ourselves makes every step of the upgrades and repairs take longer, and as the needs get larger, possibly more urgent, that inconveniences the community who loves us. We have approached the MUFSD, which owns the building, about a change in ownership. They were amenable to that solution, and we are now waiting for the voters to have the final say in May.



## 2024 UHLS ANNUAL AWARDS



### **ADULT LIBRARY PROGRAM OF THE YEAR: LET'S DISH, Poestenkill Library**

Building on the gardening and farming practices of this rural community, the Let's Dish program series brought area farmers, businesses, and foodies to the Library for a lively learning exchange. Presenters shared the history, science, and nutrition of different foods - from garlic varieties to mushroom cultivation to elderberry farming. Demonstrations, samples, plant cuttings, resources for further learning, and a recipe swap rounded out this series highlighting food and local small businesses that has attracted both new patrons and new supporters. Let's Dish brings people together in a safe space of shared interest and shared learning - exactly what libraries do best.

### **LIBRARY TRUSTEE OF THE YEAR: ALIX DUGGAN, Brunswick Community Library**

Upper Hudson Library System salutes Alix Duggan for her exemplary service as trustee to Brunswick Community Library. As current board president, Alix Duggan always responds to the library call – whether for after-hours building HVAC problems or advocacy for a controversial program. But waiting to be called on isn't Alix's M.O. Her pro bono services as architect for the library's renovation plans, work to grow endowment funds, and skillful relationship-building with Town officials that reaped a budget increase are all evidence of her vision-focused work. Fellow trustees laud Alix's far-sightedness and commitment to the library, noting that "Alix is compelling in her ability to focus on the needs of the library in the present moment as well as envisioning a brighter, more secure future for our library."





## **VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: LYNNE CATEŁOTTI, East Greenbush Community Library**

Upper Hudson Library System recognizes Lynne Catełotti for her outstanding volunteer service to East Greenbush Community Library. Whether as President of the Friends, or in other community roles that she has leveraged to help the library, Lynne has fostered strong community partnerships to elevate the library as a welcoming community hub. Her collaborative leadership has brought beloved events to library grounds, among them Halloween parades, egg hunts, and community scavenger hunts. Through her vision, commitment, and sheer hard work, Lynne has helped shape the East Greenbush Community Library as a center of engagement, learning, and joy for the entire community.



## **YOUTH & FAMILY LIBRARY PROGRAM OF THE YEAR: SENSORY SPACE PLAY TIME, WK. Sanford Town Library**

By creating a “Snoezelen Space” for children with various disabilities, Colonie staff enabled these young patrons to enjoy the library and fully benefit from its services. What’s a Snoezelen Space? A specially designed area that uses light, sound, touch, and other sensory elements to create a calming and immersive environment. After careful research and purchasing, the Library opened the space, welcoming children with sensory processing issues who might feel inhibited in social environments or overwhelmed in a busy library. Families were thrilled with the experience. In acknowledging and meeting a need, WKS staff created strong connections with this community, increased inclusivity, and built life-long advocates for the library.



## **YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES PROGRAM OF THE YEAR: MID-SUMMER MAD DASH, Voorheesville Public Library**

The Mid-Summer Mad Dash offered teens entering grades 8-12 an adventurous challenge based on The Amazing Race. The library partnered with local businesses, each hosting a stop on the Mad Dash and running a work-related challenge for the teen teams. Challenges ranged from detailing cars to running a children’s program to dressing mannequins. Through their mad dashing, teens developed confidence in interacting with adult businesspeople, improved their teamwork skills, and learned about local places to shop, work, or volunteer. Businesses marketed their services, enjoyed positive interactions with teen potential customers and employees, and strengthened their connection to the library.



## Nassau Free Library

At the beginning of 2024, the Nassau Free Library added two extra service hours on Fridays, opening at 10 am. This opened up time for another morning program, perfect for children and families. We started the Tiny Tots Playtime on Friday mornings. This playtime is designed for babies, toddlers, parents, and caregivers to gather and play. It has been a great way to give more social time for families looking to learn through play for the children and conversation for the adults. Participants come regularly and have appreciated the additional morning hours provided.

In the spring of 2024, we opened our doors to our local elementary school library to host library visits. Colene Phoenix, our Assistant Director, designed the program to read a story to the children as well as promote the Summer Reading Program. After a story, there was a scavenger hunt in the library for all the children to participate in. Children were sent home with information about the program along with library pencils, stickers, and bookmarks. Our Teen Coordinator, Suzanne Cardinal, went to the elementary school to promote the Volunteer Program, which was very successful.

Our library needed a new roof after 45 years of age. The buildings and grounds committee put together a project proposal and gathered roof estimates. A NYS Library Construction Grant was applied for and accepted. The grant will provide 75% of the funding for the project. With the help and guidance of Tim Burke at UHLS, the challenge was overcome.

We introduced a new monthly program in 2024 called "Senior Movie Matinee". With a grant received from UHLS we were able to purchase a new 55" Television Screen to show the Senior Matinee movies every month. It has been a wonderful addition to our program offerings.





## North Greenbush Public Library

In 2024, North Greenbush Public Library introduced the Tween Graphic Novel Book Club for our younger patrons. Our tween (patrons between the ages of 9 and 12) book clubbers read a predetermined graphic novel and meet monthly to discuss it. These lively meetings include a librarian lead book discussion, a diamond art project and snacks. All of the participants really look forward to the meetings! They love the camaraderie of the group book discussion and diamond art project. They also really enjoy the snacks! It has been a wonderful way for the library to connect with younger patrons and encourage their love of reading.



North Greenbush Public Library collaborates with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rensselaer County every month for digital literacy drop in sessions. These one-to-one sessions are open to anyone with questions about their cell phones, laptops, email issuer or any other technology related questions. The Digital Literacy Educator from CCE of Rensselaer County works directly with our patrons to answer their questions and help them build confidence in their digital literacy skills. Our collaboration helps our patrons get the answers they need while allowing CCE of Rensselaer County to meet people where they are.



North Greenbush Public Library does not have a lot of extra space to spare. We work with the Town of North Greenbush to use extra space within town hall to host our popular storytime program. In 2024, the Town had several major maintenance issues that resulted in the temporary closure of the spaces we normally used. During this time, we had to host our storytime friends in our crowded children's room or cancel storytime and hand out take-home storytime crafts instead. The biggest challenge was communication between town officials and library staff as well as between our staff and our storytime friends. Over a period of several months, we were able to iron out some of the issues and have a flexible plan in place while the rooms were repaired. We were very thankful for the patience and flexibility of our storytime staff and participants. After several months of work and repair, we were very excited to return to our regular storytime routine in the beautifully repaired and renovated space.

# Petersburgh Public Library

When we scheduled a NY State Citizen Emergency Preparedness Program for the library, there was so much early community interest in it that we needed to collaborate with the town board and host it at the community center. Participants were very grateful, and we heard over and over how much they had wanted an event like this. The town hopes to put another one on the calendar soon because of the need and the value of this program.

Our growing Storytime brings many positive comments and smiles to the regular programming, and has strengthened the connections for the families in socializing, playgroups, field trips, and some homeschooling coursework. This has also increased local usage and interest in the library and brought in fresh new ideas for the upcoming SRP special events and activities. We also collaborate with a local church for additional book giveaways, and the town board for a holiday toy drive.

Baby Cafe is now hosted regularly twice a month, and has made “baby steps” in participation with the community, offering vital services to our young families. We are continually working to boost this program.

Friends of Petersburgh History have been regularly active in the library with weekly efforts to reach scanning and uploading goals. They have made a huge treasure trove of historic and genealogic material available through our website, and have worked with us on their special displays and organization.

The biggest challenge we faced last year was meeting budget constraints! With a now-full slate of board members we have brainstormed new ideas and enthusiasm for even more fundraising efforts which should prove fruitful.



## Poestenkill Library

In 2024, we introduced our Let's Dish program. This food education and recipe swap program brings local farmers, small business owners, and community members to the library for engaging conversations, learning opportunities, and resource sharing. Not only is it a fun way for patrons to explore new foods and expand their taste palettes, but they also learn important information about the featured food such as how it's grown and harvested, how best to prepare and consume it, and the potential health benefits. Local growers, producers, and small business owners are able to share their knowledge and expand their connections in the community.



As part of the Adventure Begins at Your Library Summer Reading Program, we partnered with Rensselaer Youth Outdoors (RYO). We were delighted by this partnership because we love science and the great outdoors almost as much as we love books and reading, but even more so because it inspired us to offer off-site programming for the first time ever! By taking the library to Poestenkill Community Forest, we were able to make access to the programs easier for community members in the outer reaches of our service area and they were excited for the opportunity.



With the use of several Schoolyard Naturalist Kits that we borrowed from RYO we were able to create and host 3 separate children's programs designed to get the kids outside, introduce them to the local community forest and trails, and learn about nature. With the provided supplies and lesson plans, we first went on an Insect Adventure where we hiked through the forest searching for bugs of all types, observed them, and identified them. Then we went on a Tree Science Adventure where children were able to use hand lenses, measuring tapes, and other tools to make observations, identify trees, and create their own tree themed artworks. Lastly, we went on a Backyard Birding Adventure in which children got to use binoculars and field guides to watch and identify birds in their natural habitats! All three were tons of fun and received great feedback from the children and parents alike.

One of the biggest challenges we face at Poestenkill Library is balancing our budget constraints with our desire to innovate. In 2024 we were able to lessen that divide through a successful 414 vote. On November 5th, Poestenkill residents voted to approve an increase of \$10,000 to our annual operating budget. \$10,000 may seem like a small amount, but it was an increase of 14% for our little library. We are incredibly grateful for the strong support of our community and, though we'll still be frugal, we're looking forward to implementing new programs and services in 2025.



# RCS Community Library

In 2024, we started a program series we called “Sustainable at the Library.” This was our general catch-all name for programs about gardening, health and wellness, mending, crafting, and general happy living. We received a lot of help from our excellent community partner, Cornell Cooperative Extension. They taught two ‘Dining with Diabetes’ sessions, a citizen science workshop, and helped people apply for heating assistance. Plus, one of their helpful master gardeners also started all the pumpkin seeds for our first Pumpkin Growing Contest! As part of this series, we also opened a Seed Library and hosted a craft supplies swapping event, both of which are very popular with our community.

While 2024 presented many challenges, one of the biggest was applying for and receiving a New York State (NYS) construction grant. This was my first construction grant. We applied for it very late in the cycle because one of my staff noticed some water stains on the ceiling. These turned out to be two significant leaks in our roof. Once contractors started investigating the issue, we learned that the roof had been improperly installed about 10 years prior and needed to be replaced immediately. Which, thanks to the grant, we were able to do.





## Rensselaer Public Library

In 2024 The Rensselaer Public Library collaborated with a city council member who is also a Master Gardener to hold garden-related talks, refreshing our gardening collection and starting a seed library for the community. This effort was part of a community garden project and led to a new program at the Library sponsored by Capital Roots called “Squash Hunger”, which started in January of 2025. Squash Hunger provides free vegetables and other food from local farms to those in need.



The Library Director is part of a community advisory group with the Rensselaer City School District for an ongoing mental health initiative for their students called Project Aware. The initiative’s goals are to improve mental health services to students both at school and at home. The Library has collaborated with providing mental health information for parents and caregivers.



One of the Library’s greatest challenges in 2024 was an increase in use by people in need, leading us to improve our referral information for services in housing, employment, technological help and more. The Library hopes to collaborate with the UAlbany School of Social Welfare to have an intern providing services in 2025.

# 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. One essential program that had a positive impact on our community was Family Storytime at our library branch in Medusa. Tara McCormick Hostash, founding member and the Artistic Director of R'ville Stage Creations, has been an extraordinary addition to our programming. Not only a gifted storyteller, who provides a welcoming and creative space for children, Tara has fostered and built a community of young people engaged with language and its possibilities. Or, more directly, Tara is a glorious conduit for nonsense.

Our local community organizations believe strongly in collaboration. With the Huyck Preserve and Biological Research Center, we offered Stargazing, StoryTime and children's book give-aways, backpacks and materials for young hikers, art classes at Lake Myosotis, books as part of the Preserve's Read + Hike program, as well as reviving the Rensselaerville Ramble Trail Run and Walk. With Hilltown Commons, we have offered documentaries and talks, as well as children's films. We work with the Medusa Fire Company to provide children's books at their pancake breakfasts, and with the Rensselaerville Fire Company on our Block Party. We collaborate with Conkling Hall on poetry and musical storytelling, and they hosted our annual Lawn Party. During the fall and winter, we house materials and host the Rensselaerville Historical Society members. We also provide space for the meetings of the Water-Sewer Committee.

Our library has an abundance of opportunities to collaborate with community organizations and anticipate further integration of programming across organizations throughout all the hamlets of Rensselaerville. Our library has strong community support, best exemplified in the commitment of the library's trustees. The Rensselaerville Library has a rich history, and with the extraordinary support of our community, local leaders, trustees and staff, the library will continue to adapt, improve and fulfill our mission to enrich the Town of Rensselaerville.



## Sand Lake Town Library

In 2024 Sand Lake Town Library worked with the Community Mural Team on a community-based mural for the outside of the library building. The concept is to involve the community in all phases of the mural creation starting with an idea board at the library, then an open community design workshop, and lastly the actual painting. The project involved community members of all ages and abilities. The project brought together school and community groups, and the Town of Sand Lake. It was an amazing process and the final artwork brings joy to all who see it. The mural has really brightened up the exterior of our building.



# Stephentown Memorial Library

At the Stepentown Library, we strive to welcome all of our community members. One way that we have of doing this is to invite new residents of the town to join us at a brunch hosted by the library. We invite all of the local nonprofit groups of Stepentown as well as any other community members who would like to welcome the new folks to town. These gatherings have helped new residents tremendously by making them feel welcome and introducing them to all that Stepentown has to offer.

The biggest challenge that we faced in 2024 was the loss of one of our beloved staff members to a heart attack. This was not a challenge to overcome but a time of grief. At the library, we had a place for people to write and draw memories of her which was put together into a special book for us to look back on and remember Vicki. Vicki's death also spurred the library to offer free CPR classes to all community members. We applied for and received a grant to buy a new AED for our library as well. As a library, we have always strived to help others in any way that we can. Vicki's loss made it that much more important that we should be able to help people in times of crisis in any way that we can.



# Town of Westerlo Public Library

2024 saw the continuation of projects and programs that were established in 2023. Some took a little while to get off the ground. Some were an instant hit.

New programs included a regular Introduction to Ancestry program with the Westerlo Town Historian. The library was able to purchase Ancestry for Libraries with the help of local businesses and the Town Historian helped patrons use it.

In 2024 the Library continued the Summer Backpack lunch program that distributed food to families during July and August, when children did not have access to school breakfast and lunch. The library acted as a distribution point for the Hilltown Community Resource Center and partnered with the Rensselaerville Library to expand the area covered for food distribution. The hope is to expand to include the Berne Library in 2025. Food distribution was the most effective and important program that the Westerlo Library had in 2024.

In 2024 there was a sharp decline in participation in the Storytime program. Most of our preschool aged children took off for Universal Pre-K. Rescheduling the Storytime did not look like a good option, and participation recovered.

The Board of Trustees did a lot of good work in 2024, documenting, streamlining and standardizing policies and procedures for the future of the Library.



## Troy Public Library

The Troy Public Library has a program in partnership with Project Linus to help create quilts and blankets for children in need. The library provides a sewing kit for a quilt square, the patrons create the square, and then volunteer stitch everything together to make one quilt from many squares. The quilts are temporarily displayed on the walls of the Lansingburgh Library until they are donated, giving the community time to appreciate the artistry.

The Troy Public Library worked with a number of community partners in 2024, but we are especially proud of our work with the Rensselaer County Reentry Task Force, who helped us organize a very successful school supply drive and backpack giveaway, and the Lansingburgh YMCA, which partnered with the library to host a Halloween program at the branch with over 300 parents and children in attendance.

The Troy Public Library struggled to pay for the damage to the Lansingburgh Branch Children's Room, caused by flooding in December 2023. Through the generous giving of the community, the hard work of staff to acquire grants, and several generous community donors, the library was able to secure enough money to pay for the remediation bills.

Additionally, the library's Executive Director of 36 years retired, along with multiple senior leaders with over 15+ years of experience. One-third of the position at the library were vacant. A new Executive Director began at the end of the year and has begun to hire new employees.

In 2024, the library closed 15 days in the summer due to excess heat in our over 130-year-old building. Thankfully, the library has begun work on the installation of a new HVAC system to help providing air conditioning to the community.

## Valley Falls Free Library

This year, our most impactful program was the Summer Block Party to kick off the Summer Reading Program (SRP). This event brought together families from across the community with music, games, food, and interactive reading activities. It created an energetic and inclusive atmosphere that not only boosted early SRP sign-ups but also strengthened community connections and enthusiasm for summer learning.

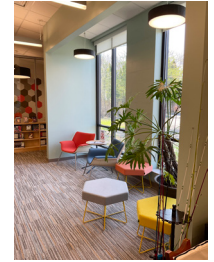
The Valley Falls Library partnered with the local VFW to provide museum passes to the Slater museum for the community and for local veterans, which enhanced our community presence, encouraged civic engagement and provided valuable educational opportunities for patrons of all ages. We are continuing to strengthen this relationship in 2025 with a collaboration for our Village Wide Garage Sale, which is the primary fund-raising event for the library. We also continued our relationship with Diver Library, specifically, collaborating on the planning and execution of shared events for the Summer Reading Program.

One of the biggest challenges our library faced in 2024 was a significant staffing shortage due to our Library Manager's pending retirement in February 2025, and a sudden departure of one of the other two staff positions, the person primarily responsible for programming. This placed a strain on our remaining team, significantly impacting programming and potentially impacting our hours of operation. However, we were able to hire two staff members quickly, and the Board worked to address the issue of the gap in programming by restructuring the role of Library Manager, to give the Manager more flexibility with that responsibility going forward. Additionally, the Board advocated for an improved salary structure for that role, which helped us recruit and (hopefully) retain a new Manager more effectively.



# Voorheesville Public Library

After completing an assessment grant with the Documentary Heritage Preservation Services for New York, it was clear our local history collection needed professional management. In 2024, we hired a part-time archivist to manage our unique local history collection. She has completed an inventory of the collection, determined its appropriate scope, and has created finding aids for boxes and boxes of maps, photos, and other Village of Voorheesville historical items. She will be working to showcase the collection through displays and programs in the coming year. Our patrons have valued their improved access to their history.



Over the summer, we tabled at the First United Methodist Church's Farmers Market. We rotated what collections, services, and programs we promoted, and provided crafts and games for visitors of all ages. Later in the fall, when our community room was used as storage for our collections during construction, the church provided us with space to use for children's and teen's programming. The New Scotland Senior Center similarly provided us space to screen our popular Thursday afternoon movies. We'll be continuing to build upon these relationships in the coming year by attending the Farmers Market again, and providing outreach services at the senior center.



Our biggest challenge of 2024 was figuring out how to provide services and access during our renovation. Our goal was to stay open during the entire process, and minimize the disruption to our circulating collections and programs. While the adult side of the library was recarpeted and renovated, most of the collection, minus large print and bestsellers, were moved onto rented carts and wheeled into the community room. We hoped we could page for requested items in storage, but quickly learned this was impossible. We relied on the UHLS courier service and collections of our fellow libraries to meet the needs of our patrons during this time. We repeated the same process on the children's side of the library, keeping only high demand items available. The collections were both returned around the holidays, and in total, we only had to close two half-days.

## Watervliet Public Library

In 2024, we started our Adult Coloring & Tea program. It was based on the idea of a paint and sip with the intent to bring people together for good company. We have found that so many of our patrons want to get out into the community. This program allows people to congregate over piping hot tea while doing some relaxing coloring in coloring books provided by the library. Much of the tea was donated to us by community members as were all of the coloring books! The program has brought people together, creating connections that wouldn't have otherwise happened.

Last year we did a lot of collaborations with the City of Watervliet. This allowed us to join in on the Memorial Day Parade, the Holiday Parade, and the Easter Bunny Breakfast all held in Watervliet. The Memorial Day Parade is our biggest opportunity to advertise the Summer Reading Program and make ourselves known to the public. Being able to be in the Holiday Parade and be present at the Easter Breakfast allows us to reach even more of the community to tell them about our services! We're thankful to have such a strong relationship with the City. It truly benefits our community.

The biggest challenge we faced in 2024 was getting our Friends of the Library group up and running! With resources compiled by UHLS and other library systems, we were able to get our group together. In no small way are the handful of Friends who wanted to start the group responsible for its inception. Without their constant dedication, it never would have happened. It is also thanks to all the dedicated Friends groups at libraries across the nation that are willing to share their resources and knowledge that the Friends of the Watervliet Public Library was able to get its wings.



# William K. Sanford Town Library

The Colonie Library launched a Sensory Space program to better serve children in our community with sensory or learning differences. Designed with various activity stations, the sensory space allows families to move at their own pace, encouraging children to learn through play—what they do best! Parents also have the opportunity to explore tools featuring special lighting, sounds, and equipment that may be beneficial for their children.

To support the development of this initiative, the library partnered with Bring on the Spectrum, a local community space that offers social, recreational, and lifestyle activities for both neurodiverse and neurotypical children, teens, and adults. This collaboration helped shape the program and expand its reach to include resources such as weighted vests, noise-canceling headphones, and other supportive tools for use in children's programming.

In response to community interest in more social activities, the library hosted its first-ever puzzle tournament—which was a resounding success! Participants of all ages joined in the fun, and we partnered with a local puzzle enthusiast who also runs our ongoing puzzle swaps. The event “pieced together” a great time for everyone involved, with the winning team completing their puzzle in just 47 minutes and 10 seconds!

The library also worked in close collaboration with both the North and South Colonie School Districts to integrate library card registration into Kindergarten enrollment. Starting next school year, both districts will participate in this initiative. Additionally, North Colonie will welcome library staff into all 6th-grade English classes to promote library cards, while at the high school level, members of the Colonie Library Teen Advisory Group will engage with all 9th-grade seminar students to highlight library services and programs. Another positive outcome from these partnerships is the formation of a new book club—Chilling Chapters Book Club—led by a Library Assistant from the South Colonie School District.

Amid these accomplishments, 2024 also brought unimaginable tragedy. In June, a plane crashed on library property, claiming the life of pilot Natalie Gillis. The library staff present that day showed extraordinary courage and composure as the library transformed into a command center for emergency services. Staff members quickly mobilized to provide water and assistance wherever needed. While counseling and debriefing services were offered, the event has left a lasting impact on all of us. A memorial has been created in honor of Natalie Gillis, who will forever remain in our hearts.



# BY THE NUMBERS

## LOCAL SUPPORT

Library	Population	2023 Local Support	2024 Local Support	Change in Local Support	Per Capita Support	Per Capita Ranking
Albany	99,224	\$9,026,064	\$9,365,923	4%	\$94.39	7
Altamont	1,675	\$138,000	\$139,000	1%	\$82.99	8
Arvilla E. Diver	527	\$49,515	\$57,515	16%	\$109.14	5
Berlin	1,808	\$14,850	\$15,350	3%	\$8.49	29
Berne	2,689	\$66,721	\$75,554	13%	\$28.10	19
Bethlehem	28,631	\$4,542,435	\$4,641,228	2%	\$162.10	2
Brunswick	12,581	\$170,708	\$194,030	14%	\$15.42	24
Castleton	1,477	\$352,325	\$260,325	-26%	\$176.25	1
Cheney	6,711	\$99,940	\$99,940	0%	\$14.89	25
Cohoes	18,147	\$143,023	\$198,326	39%	\$10.93	27
East Greenbush	16,748	\$2,216,657	\$2,262,126	2%	\$135.07	4
Grafton	2,051	\$55,850	\$57,350	3%	\$27.96	20
Guilderland	37,989	\$4,056,742	\$3,961,011	-2%	\$104.27	6
Menands	3,979	\$146,400	\$149,328	2%	\$37.53	13
Nassau	4,545	\$119,870	\$164,595	37%	\$36.21	14
North Greenbush	13,292	\$331,174	\$337,797	2%	\$25.41	21
Petersburgh	1,372	\$89,440	\$89,440	0%	\$65.19	9
Poestenkill	4,322	\$76,300	\$85,850	13%	\$19.86	23
RCS	14,093	\$627,879	\$637,297	1%	\$45.22	10
Rensselaer	9,210	\$120,574	\$136,384	13%	\$14.81	26
Rensselaerville	1,826	\$70,333	\$72,919	4%	\$39.93	12
Sand Lake	8,348	\$147,210	\$173,717	18%	\$20.81	22
Stephentown	2,791	\$95,000	\$95,000	0%	\$34.04	16
Town of Westerlo	3,194	\$125,228	\$129,505	3%	\$40.55	11
Troy	51,401	\$1,429,441	\$1,605,890	12%	\$31.24	17
Valley Falls	5,630	\$43,852	\$56,402	29%	\$10.02	28
Voorheesville	7,756	\$1,197,802	\$1,251,703	4%	\$161.39	3
Watervliet	10,375	\$153,175	\$305,482	99%	\$29.44	18
William K. Sanford	85,590	\$2,893,383	\$2,922,315	1%	\$34.14	15
<b>TOTALS</b>	457,982	28,599,891	29,541,302	--	64.50 Average Per Capita	

# OPERATING EXPENSES

Library	2023 Total Expenses	2024 Total Expenses	% Change Total Expenses	2024 Materials Expenses	% Materials of Total Expenses	% Staff of Total Expenses	Per Capita Materials Expenses	Per Capita Ranking
Albany	\$10,086,738	\$10,020,347	-1%	\$722,755	7%	62%	\$7.28	9
Altamont	\$188,378	\$194,397	3%	\$13,375	7%	57%	\$7.99	8
Arvilla E. Diver	\$126,114	\$71,089	-44%	\$5,017	7%	64%	\$9.52	5
Berlin	\$71,076	\$84,195	18%	\$2,848	3%	37%	\$1.58	23
Berne	\$78,730	\$85,006	8%	\$8,579	10%	68%	\$3.19	17
Bethlehem	\$4,155,259	\$4,572,634	10%	\$588,220	13%	72%	\$20.54	1
Brunswick	\$192,762	\$222,947	16%	\$17,189	8%	74%	\$1.37	24
Castleton	\$198,853	\$250,474	26%	\$17,358	7%	84%	\$11.75	3
Cheney	\$152,181	\$176,831	16%	\$6,163	3%	49%	\$0.92	28
Cohoes	\$222,429	\$186,989	-16%	\$23,628	13%	79%	\$1.30	26
East Greenbush	\$2,103,074	\$2,375,995	13%	\$155,649	7%	70%	\$9.29	6
Grafton	\$104,381	\$105,543	1%	\$6,532	6%	57%	\$3.18	18
Guilderland	\$4,108,005	\$4,520,759	10%	\$424,279	9%	73%	\$11.17	4
Menands	\$283,349	\$354,188	25%	\$36,822	10%	22%	\$9.25	7
Nassau	\$174,286	\$191,632	10%	\$14,481	8%	60%	\$3.19	17
North Greenbush	\$287,170	\$300,531	5%	\$59,011	20%	65%	\$4.44	11
Petersburgh	\$94,657	\$91,741	-3%	\$2,637	3%	73%	\$1.92	21
Poestenkill	\$106,699	\$112,107	5%	\$18,608	17%	62%	\$4.31	13
RCS	\$634,620	\$643,460	1%	\$47,183	7%	74%	\$3.35	16
Rensselaer	\$140,834	\$140,645	-0%	\$19,767	14%	78%	\$2.15	20
Rensselaerville	\$173,996	\$174,399	0%	\$11,266	6%	56%	\$6.17	10
Sand Lake	\$162,003	\$309,504	91%	\$36,192	12%	41%	\$4.34	12
Stephentown	\$141,336	\$133,808	-5%	\$11,655	9%	57%	\$4.18	14
Town of Westerlo	\$107,078	\$105,300	-2%	\$12,007	11%	74%	\$3.76	15
Troy	\$2,123,024	\$2,622,837	24%	\$97,490	4%	48%	\$1.90	22
Valley Falls	\$81,980	\$80,677	-2%	\$7,384	9%	57%	\$1.31	25
Voorheesville	\$1,099,649	\$1,142,737	4%	\$112,781	10%	74%	\$14.54	2
Watervliet	\$86,613	\$223,085	158%	\$12,308	6%	45%	\$1.19	27
William K. Sanford	\$2,995,171	\$2,881,756	-4%	\$269,015	9%	73%	\$3.14	19
<b>TOTALS</b>	\$30,480,445	\$32,375,613	--	\$2,760,199	9%	66%	\$5.46	--

# CIRCULATION

Library	Population	2023 Circulation	2024 Circulation	Change in Circulation	Per Capita Circulation
Albany	99,224	515,709	525,958	2%	5.3
Altamont	1,675	34,891	33,383	-4%	19.9
Arvilla E. Diver	527	7,860	7,946	1%	15.1
Berlin	1,808	8,240	8,421	2%	4.7
Berne	2,689	24,133	25,320	5%	9.4
Bethlehem	28,631	621,525	655,385	5%	22.9
Brunswick	12,581	69,318	72,279	4%	5.7
Castleton	1,477	32,227	32,372	0%	21.9
Cheney	6,711	23,881	26,691	12%	4.0
Cohoes	18,147	29,184	33,693	15%	1.9
East Greenbush	16,748	365,461	374,989	3%	22.4
Grafton	2,051	12,632	12,799	1%	6.2
Guilderland	37,989	513,105	483,904	-6%	12.7
Menands	3,979	17,536	18,743	7%	4.7
Nassau	4,545	22,185	23,734	7%	5.2
North Greenbush	13,292	96,786	93,046	-4%	7.0
Petersburgh	1,372	13,390	12,661	-5%	9.2
Poestenkill	4,322	23,099	24,807	7%	5.7
RCS	14,093	63,707	73,292	15%	5.2
Rensselaer	9,210	25,437	24,601	-3%	2.7
Rensselaerville	1,826	13,962	13,420	-4%	7.3
Sand Lake	8,348	48,911	53,257	9%	6.4
Stephentown	2,791	17,222	17,728	3%	6.4
Town of Westerlo	3,194	18,026	17,850	-1%	5.6
Troy	51,401	173,757	150,732	-13%	2.9
Valley Falls	5,630	13,240	13,676	3%	2.4
Voorheesville	7,756	101,279	107,067	6%	13.8
Watervliet	10,375	26,043	27,215	5%	2.6
William K. Sanford	85,590	580,732	592,967	2%	6.9
<b>TOTALS</b>	457,982	3,513,478	3,557,936	--	8.5

## HOLDINGS

Library	Population	2023 Holdings	2024 Holdings	Change in Holdings	2024 Per Capita Holdings
Albany	99,224	319,790	372,761	17%	3.8
Altamont	1,675	13,182	12,871	-2%	7.7
Arvilla E. Diver	527	8,083	7,989	-1%	15.2
Berlin	1,808	10,749	10,633	-1%	5.9
Berne	2,689	18,506	18,602	1%	6.9
Bethlehem	28,631	128,447	128,565	0%	4.5
Brunswick	12,581	10,792	10,998	2%	0.9
Castleton	1,477	9,558	9,309	-3%	6.3
Cheney	6,711	14,585	14,471	-1%	2.2
Cohoes	18,147	33,128	34,213	3%	1.9
East Greenbush	16,748	80,276	73,682	-8%	4.4
Grafton	2,051	9,851	9,956	1%	4.9
Guilderland	37,989	116,823	109,806	-6%	2.9
Menands	3,979	7,715	8,566	11%	2.2
Nassau	4,545	22,446	22,546	0%	5.0
North Greenbush	13,292	56,828	56,661	-0%	4.3
Petersburgh	1,372	27,756	27,751	-0%	20.2
Poestenkill	4,322	11,403	11,690	3%	2.7
RCS	14,093	25,833	25,629	-1%	1.8
Rensselaer	9,210	26,056	25,931	-0%	2.8
Rensselaerville	1,826	18,500	19,000	3%	10.4
Sand Lake	8,348	29,679	29,603	-0%	3.5
Stephentown	2,791	17,625	17,934	2%	6.4
Town of Westerlo	3,194	11,392	11,931	5%	3.7
Troy	51,401	127,610	124,452	-2%	2.4
Valley Falls	5,630	7,850	7,104	-10%	1.3
Voorheesville	7,756	46,106	44,764	-3%	5.8
Watervliet	10,375	11,901	11,865	-0%	1.1
William K. Sanford	85,590	132,460	130,752	-1%	1.5
<b>TOTALS</b>	457,982	1,354,930	1,390,035	3%	3.0

# LIBRARY USE

Library	2024 Resident Borrowers	2024 Non-Resident Borrowers	# Public Computers	# Public Computer Sessions	2024 Reference Transactions	Annual Hours Open	Total Annual Attendance
Albany	87,845	175	220	42,267	119,294	15,122	519,925
Altamont	2,471	67	3	1,683	1,683	2,479	10,496
Arvilla E. Diver	423	1	8	260	900	1,352	5,016
Berlin	1,050	2	2	468	208	1,144	3,031
Berne	2,644	66	5	201	925	2,080	11,464
Bethlehem	21,971	56	36	14,751	60,226	3,511	221,744
Brunswick	4,895	7	6	991	3,019	2,288	27,265
Castleton	464	802	4	231	2,816	2,600	11,063
Cheney	3,142	0	7	2,184	490	1,976	21,840
Cohoes	1,952	29	6	461	2,434	2,106	6,397
East Greenbush	5,434	1,983	11	18,590	38,578	3,276	131,953
Grafton	1,045	2	3	312	1,220	26	4,867
Guilderland	19,206	317	21	15,735	43,349	3,192	169,825
Menands	1,676	5	5	1,049	1,820	1,452	6,958
Nassau	2,756	371	4	487	1,451	2,080	8,913
North Greenbush	2,910	5	3	1,316	3,744	2,548	20,120
Petersburgh	936	4	4	285	1,612	1,248	5,432
Poestenkill	958	0	2	70	142	1,500	9,086
RCS	8,951	451	6	3,088	3,310	2,924	30,316
Rensselaer	6,845	10	10	2,434	4,923	2,244	16,023
Rensselaerville	923	27	3	123	677	1,392	5,767
Sand Lake	2,015	0	3	491	262	2,225	12,609
Stephentown	831	21	5	432	648	1,669	7,536
Town of Westerlo	517	20	5	53	456	1,560	6,397
Troy	28,363	730	14	11,672	7,156	4,836	47,736
Valley Falls	576	4	3	270	422	1,820	7,783
Voorheesville	3,232	26	3	1,905	5,945	2,960	40,267
Watervliet	1,947	16	8	2,304	1,249	1,900	13,404
William K. Sanford	40,820	91	16	15,724	33,766	3,040	200,978
<b>TOTALS</b>	256,798	5,288	426	139,837	342,725	76,550	1,584,211

## PROGRAMS

Library	Adult Programs	Adult Attendance	YA Programs	YA Attendance	Childrens Programs	Childrens Attendance	Other Programs	Other Attendance
Albany	822	8,202	275	1,902	934	14,852	1076	8,529
Altamont	34	448	2	23	101	1,394	109	2,060
Arvilla E. Diver	18	58	46	164	96	555	100	916
Berlin	60	271	3	13	42	204	104	197
Berne	42	342	5	19	65	1691	286	1173
Bethlehem	235	3,686	120	979	470	19,234	3261	20,496
Brunswick	161	1,951	4	60	184	5,117	119	2,048
Castleton	110	604	13	237	261	3,446	2041	2368
Cheney	87	769	10	150	287	2767	15	44
Cohoes	106	3,885	2	92	66	1231	282	2404
East Greenbush	327	5,147	77	1,007	261	16,527	3934	6,596
Grafton	8	95	4	35	80	560	219	1085
Guilderland	498	6,829	50	402	195	6415	333	3443
Menands	15	114	4	13	149	199	794	2274
Nassau	149	1,577	38	246	127	1361	342	555
North Greenbush	25	106	7	17	73	853	46	219
Petersburgh	117	437	6	45	62	680	12	98
Poestenkill	56	387	39	170	105	1568	6	324
RCS	148	1,236	8	61	327	6,542	57	570
Rensselaer	21	101	12	82	28	1085	328	328
Rensselaerville	32	137	0	0	45	294	31	165
Sand Lake	153	906	6	24	134	723	560	645
Stephentown	96	845	18	112	84	1334	25	718
Town of Westerlo	104	408	41	86	114	777	1118	1118
Troy	220	3,364	49	200	129	2,452	88	798
Valley Falls	28	242	37	254	61	981	59	1323
Voorheesville	176	2,329	75	2,214	177	5,843	44	2,520
Watervliet	123	985	7	32	7	124	36	114
William K. Sanford	529	5,833	140	2,850	353	14,323	2329	9,809
<b>TOTALS</b>	4,500	51,294	1,098	11,489	5,017	113,132	17,754	72,937

# RESOURCE SHARING

Library	MATERIALS RECEIVED		MATERIALS LOANED	
	2023	2024	2023	2024
Albany	82,099	51,389	117,192	101,740
Altamont	8,750	9,288	4,684	5,066
Arvilla E. Diver	1,430	1,612	974	1,015
Berlin	2,219	2,806	2,615	3,265
Berne	4,360	5,492	5,560	6,028
Bethlehem	73,725	72,475	53,319	55,610
Brunswick	16,989	17,939	3,746	3,722
Castleton	9,730	9,867	4,941	4,118
Cheney	9,344	9,747	3,670	3,547
Cohoes	6,524	7,179	2,304	2,672
East Greenbush	31,909	48,012	29,389	25,433
Grafton	4,510	5,003	2,703	2,763
Guilderland	53,792	52,162	106,092	105,286
Menands	4,193	4,401	5,300	4,650
Nassau	4,987	5,416	13,430	15,004
North Greenbush	15,557	15,199	15,901	17,085
Petersburgh	3,306	2,970	9,309	8,798
Poestenkill	4,287	3,835	5,386	5,806
RCS	10,588	12,562	18,767	18,222
Rensselaer	5,193	4,222	7,580	8,812
Rensselaerville	4,623	3,533	7,440	4,908
Sand Lake	9,577	10,559	7,805	7,885
Stephentown	3,406	3,950	8,055	8,474
Town of Westerlo	4,320	4,500	11,341	9,502
Troy	26,858	23,484	24,307	21,136
Valley Falls	3,068	3,086	4,789	5,232
Voorheesville	15,698	15,638	20,842	19,929
Watervliet	8,542	8,378	9,359	10,330
William K. Sanford	59,213	59,789	47,539	45,296
<b>TOTALS</b>	488,797	474,493	554,339	531,334

## TOP Print CIRCULATED ITEMS



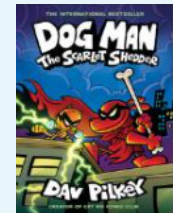
Fiction



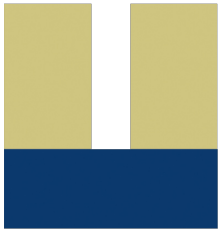
Non-Fiction



Young Adult



Youth



# STAY IN TOUCH

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Designed by  
**Jona Favreau**