

**Community Library
of DeWitt & Jamesville**

2021

Annual Report



From the Desk of the Executive Director

At the Community Library of DeWitt & Jamesville, 2021 seems to have two sides. In January, the Library was still closed to the public. Our materials circulated through Patio Pick-Up (our version of contactless curbside) – very successfully. We had no vaccine available for COVID-19, and we all had some anxiety about what would take place in the coming months.

In the latter part of 2021, we reopened the building, welcoming the public to our space. We did so cautiously, requiring masks, and taking temperatures. We’d made the decision to have only virtual programming, mainly due to the large number of children who frequent our building and the lack of a vaccine for ages under 18 in the spring.

Even with our needed caution, circulation numbers rebounded as patrons entered the building and browsed for what they needed. Our virtual programming succeeded. Our “Grab-n-Go” kits and crafts were also quite popular.

And yet, at year’s end, the pandemic was still with us. Despite this circumstance, our staff has never flagged in their efforts to provide the best resources and materials to our community, and our community has responded with appreciation and loyalty.

What will 2022 bring us? Will we be closer to situations as they were prior to the pandemic? I’m not sure, but I do know one thing – the Library and its staff will still be pursuing our mission with determination, pride, and excellence: “...to provide quality library service for the residents of DeWitt, Jamesville, and surrounding areas.”

Again, I’d like to thank the Library Board of Trustees and the community for their ongoing support and dedication.

Charles Diede, Executive Director

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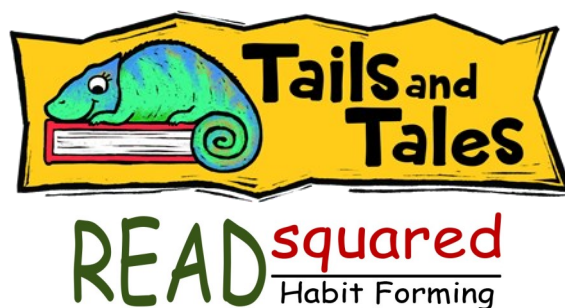
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2021 By the Numbers



Visits	44,671
New library cards	536
Total circulation	252,228
Digital downloads/streams	53,925
Items added	8,172
Reference questions	14,422
Programs/workshops	499
Total program attendance	10,757
Meeting room reservations	118
Computer sessions	2,191
Wi-Fi log ins	3,201
Social Media visits	37,234
Website hits	52,414

Summer Learning Program



In Year 2 of the pandemic, the Community Library continued to offer its annual Summer Learning Program. This year, the “Tails and Tales” **Summer Learning Program** (which ran from June 28 to August 21) was held **completely online** using READsquared, a reading program software. The Library hosted programs for Early Literacy (ages 0-4), Children (Grades K-5), Teens (Grades 6-12) and Adults.

Pre-K Registered: 68
Pre-K Participants: 40
Minutes Read: 32,458
Badges Earned: 463

Children Registered: 302
Children Participants: 226
Minutes Read: 209,142
Badges Earned: 2,486

We had an increase in Children registrations by **61%**
We had an increase in Pre-K registrations by **48%**
We had an increase in Children participation by **72%**
We had an increase in Pre-K participation by **62%**
We had an increase in minutes read by Pre-K & Children (combined) by **76%**

Teens Registered: 99
Teen Participants: 73 (73% Participation Rate)
Minutes Read: 165,170

Adults Registered: 63
Adult Participants: 38
Pages Read: 49,335
Badges Earned: 370

ONLINE Summer Entertainment Programs

As part of the Summer Reading Program, the CLD&J offered online programming focused on family and children. These programs were generously **sponsored by the Friends of the Community Library of DeWitt & Jamesville**. The virtual shows included: **Museums With Marisa: From Athena to Zeus: Let's Chat About Myths! (Percy Jackson Invited!)**, **The Great & Powerful Dave's LIVE Interactive Magic Show**, **All American Dinosaur Show**, **Virtual Animation Workshop**, and **Dragons and the Dino Detectives**.

All of these programs were geared for kids in grades K to 5.

2021 COVID-19 Challenges & Considerations

As stated earlier in this report, the global pandemic resulted in the shutdown of the Library to the public, not ending until March. Digital materials were available throughout 2021.

Contact-free pick up of materials, which the Library dubbed “Patio Pick-Up”, was a popular choice until patrons were free to re-enter the building. Also maintained throughout 2021, a portion of the building (the HIVE, our technology center) was open by appointment for patrons needing broadband internet access, scanners, printers, and photocopiers, as well as other technology.

Library meeting rooms were reopened cautiously with some restrictions, and were popular, although a surge of COVID infections at the end of the year prompted a temporary shutdown. The plan is to see those resources restored to use as soon as is practical and safe.

Onsite programs were not able to be restored during the year, except for some outside Children’s programs in the summer. The virtual programs substituted were quite popular however.

Budget impacts were felt, as the income from printing and copying services was reduced. Additionally, the greatly increased air circulation and outside air input implemented to help with COVID transmission reduction added a very high cost to heating and cooling of the building.

Thanks to a second donation by the Friends of the Library, we were also able to continue a sponsored “Virtual Meeting Room” where community groups and others could book virtual meetings.



2021 Library Service

Library Board Ends Fines

After suspending fines for over a year due to the pandemic, the Board voted to have the Library go permanently fine free—no more late fines! Although lost and damaged materials must still be accounted for, taking away late fees is a major service highlight!



Home Delivery Service

This service was a free, monthly, and contactless delivery of library materials to residents of the Library's Jamesville & DeWitt service area who are unable to visit the library due to a temporary or permanent illness, disability, or compromised immune system.

Grab & Go Kits

Our Children's Librarians put together these special craft kits. Each kit is complete with detailed instructions and the necessary materials to complete a craft project at home. The kits were available throughout the year & more than 2,500 were given out to young patrons in 2021.

Self-Service Tech Appointments

Throughout 2021, the Library offered tech appointments for patrons needing digital access during the pandemic. These one-hour appointments were held in The HIVE Makerspace and adhered to Covid-19 protocols. Staff provided limited, distanced support via virtual video chat platforms.

Outreach in the Community

New Book Club for Seniors

In January 2021, a new book club was started at the Nottingham Retirement Community that has proven very popular, with a steady attendance of 15 to 20 participants. The book club meets monthly and is hosted by Outreach Services.



Outdoor Activities

The Library's **Summer StoryWalk™** featured three engaging picture books for children and their families to experience along the Library's sidewalk. A **Sidewalk Obstacle Course** created by our Children's Librarians, encouraged playful learning activities in colorful chalk. The Library also hosted a socially-distanced **Storytime on the Lawn** (above) and **Juggling for Beginners for Teens** as part of its Summer Reading Program activities.

Art StoryKits

Patrons were able to learn about art in a hands-on fashion with take-home art story kits, featuring African American artist Elizabeth Catlett. Art Story-Kits were in partnership with the Syracuse University Art Museum.

Art in the Library

After the COVID shutdown, the Library's Art Committee was able to successfully reopen the Wendy Scott Art Gallery in May 2021. The gallery featured four local artists, including retired JDHS art teacher



Joyce Day Homan, during the months of May-December. Paintings courtesy of Joyce Day Homan, CLD&J's featured artist in September & October 2021.



Virtual Library

Bringing Digital Programs & Services to Patrons

From Storytimes to Chapter a Day and virtual meetings, the Library continued our digital presence by offering unique programming opportunities online. Platforms like Zoom, Google Meet & Facebook Live helped us reach our patrons at home.

Some highlights included:

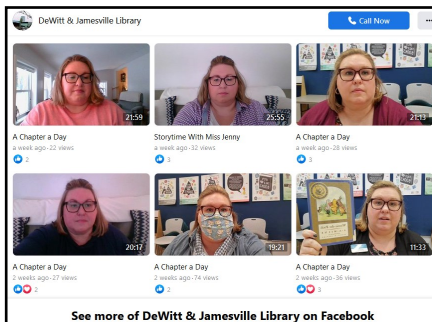
CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

A Chapter a Day

Mondays through Fridays our Children's Librarian Jenny Burke read a selection of children's books chapter by chapter on our Facebook page.

Virtual Storytimes

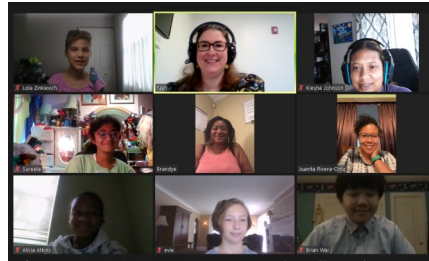
Wednesdays and Thursdays, our Children's Librarians Jenny Burke and Briana Galea hosted 30 minute interactive virtual storytimes.



TEEN PROGRAMMING

Youth Leadership Academy

Live Learn Lead Toastmasters Club hosted an 8-session class for students (ages 10-18 during the summer). These classes via Zoom enabled students to develop their communication and leadership skills through practical experience and prepare for the expectations of high school and beyond.



Teen Murder Mystery

Participants question each other to solve the mystery.



ADULT PROGRAMMING

Home Brewing Techniques from SkyTop Coffee

Participants discovered at-home coffee brewing techniques and best practices to make that perfect cup of coffee from the experts at SkyTop Coffee, a new local roaster in Manlius.

Don't Be Afraid to Be Lucky: Herm Card on Wild Life Photography

SU adjunct professor Herm Card shared techniques to enhance participants' photographic skills and help them to capture compelling and remarkable photographs of wild life, sports, and other action events.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Family Trivia Night

The Library hosted several trivia nights for families to test their knowledge of pop culture and more.

English Conversation Group

Outreach Librarian Kara Conley continued to host weekly English Conversation Classes via Zoom for those who wish to practice their English speaking and listening skills.

3D Printing on Demand

Patrons were able to remotely order 3D printing; this proved popular!

Virtual Book Clubs

Two new virtual book clubs were started and are ongoing: Everson Art Book Club (in partnership with the Everson Museum of Art) and the Science Book Club; we also continued our successful monthly Page Turners book club which reads modern fiction and nonfiction.



VIRTUAL MEETING ROOM

The CLD&J continued offering a free Virtual Meeting Room for local community groups and nonprofits. The Virtual Meeting Room was available via the Library's Zoom Pro account thanks to the Friends of the Library.

New Collections

Binge Flicks

The Community Library added more **Binge Flicks** for checkout. Each Binge Flick contains 4 to 6 movies that share a theme such as Superheroes, 80s Imagination Movies, Award-Winning Female Directors, Family Movie Night, or feature a particular actor/actress. More than 85 titles are available, including Disney and Pixar film collections for kids and families!

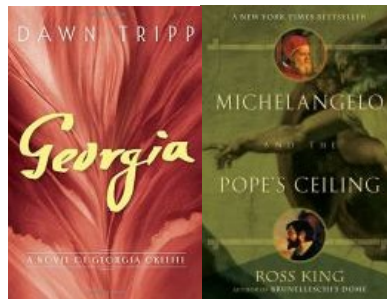


Bookpacks

Bookpacks combine printed popular fiction books and Playaway audiobooks together in an easy-to-use "pack". Especially beneficial for our ESOL & adult learners, the audio/visual components help build literacy skills and reading comprehension. This collection was made possible thanks to a generous donation from the Rotary Club of DeWitt & the Rotary Club of Eastwood.

The Everson Museum of Art

The Everson Museum of Art in Downtown Syracuse is a major Central New York museum focusing on American art. In partnership with the Library, our patrons can be introduced to art and the role it can play in enriching lives. Several of our initial cooperative programs, such as Art Story-Kits, have been wonderful and are highlighted elsewhere in this report.



Hoopla & Libby

Digital services continued to grow in popularity in 2021. Hoopla Digital introduced BingePass! This new offering provides users with 7 days of unlimited access to collections of streaming content. The Library has added more new titles each month to its Libby/OverDrive collection to give people more variety and options to choose from when browsing this col-



The Community Library of DeWitt & Jamesville's

Great Give Back

As part of our outreach initiatives, the CLD&J features local non-profit organizations that serve as vital resources and highlights the work they do in support of our shared community.

The Library draws attention to local non-profit organizations that serve as vital resources for our community. The CNY Diaper Bank, providing free diaper supplies to needy families, and the Syracuse Rescue Mission were organizations featured in our lobby, which served as a collection point for materials, as well as being featured in our newsletters and our social media.

lection. Total titles available throughout our system approach 100,000!

Teen Book Boxes

Since their introduction more than a decade ago, loot boxes and subscription crates have risen in popularity, offering subscribers a potpourri of products and services that appeal to a variety of interests. The Community Library adapted this model to offer themed boxes to teens in grades 5 to 12. Teen Book Boxes encourage reading while providing fun incentives.

Inaugural BioBlitz held

The Library, in partnership with **New York State Parks, Onondaga Earth Corps, and Baltimore Woods**, held our first BioBlitz in the summer. A BioBlitz is an intense period of biological surveying in an attempt to record all the living species within a designated area. Groups of scientists, naturalists and volunteers conduct an intensive field study over a continuous time period. Ours was held on the afternoon of July 30th at Clark Reservation State Park, a beautiful location that saw the participants log many flora and fauna.



2021 Financial Summary

2021 Operating Revenue

Tax Levy	1,489,406
Library Charges (fines, etc)	3,283
Grants - programs	4,069
Book sales	3,235
Library system services aid	5,209
Copier/printing	645
Interest	570
Misc.	752
Gifts/Fundraising	18,495
Total 2021 Revenue	1,525,664

2021 Operating Expense

Payroll/benefits	884,135
Mortgage	93,146
Mortgage interest	142,901
Building operations /	147,534
Insurance	25,877
Collections	127,122
Programs, workshops, events	11,380
Tech licenses	6,503
Library system charges	32,303
Supplies/postage	10,128
Continuing education	2,837
Equipment	2,866
PR/marketing	719
Telecommunications	7,003
Misc.	1,008
Audit	11,250
Consulting/professional	0
Fundraising Expense	1,970
Total 2021 Expenses	1,508,682



The complete 2021 DeWitt Community Library Audit Report with the 2021 990 Form will be made available to the public on the Library web site at <http://cldandj.org/> after the report has been approved by the Library Board of Trustees. Audit figures may differ slightly from the above due to auditors' adjusting entries completed after publication of this report.

Thank You, Donors & Friends

The support of community residents, businesses, partners, Friends of the CLD&J and volunteers all helped us adapt to the ever-changing difficulties of providing programs and services during 2021. Thank you for your generosity and support!

2021 Annual Fund Drive Donors (11/1/2021—1/31/2022)

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Thank You, Donors and Friends

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Carpenter Heating & Cooling, Inc.
Jamesville DeWitt High School Inter-Class
Activity Fund
The Marrone Law Firm, P.C.
The Nottingham Resident Forum

Special Thanks to:

**The Friends of the Community Library of
DeWitt & Jamesville** for their ongoing
support of our Summer Reading Program
and other educational programming.

