During the past year, we were able to resume regular library operations, including in person programs and meeting room use for the public. Notably, the library was fully open for 47 weeks. As soon as we were able, in person programming started by following the current health protocols and our safety plan.

We strengthened partnerships with the Onondaga Central, West Genesee, and Westhill school districts, Strathmore Speakers, NAMI, InterFaith Works, and the SU iSchool and worked together to bring a wide variety of programming to our community. As a result, we offered 468 programs attended by 6,686 people.

It was a delight to win the 2021 Central New York Library Resources Council Library of the Year Award. This award was an outstanding peer recognition of our efforts to serve our community.

I am pleased to announce we established a new full time position of Circulation Supervisor to lead our circulation team as they continue to provide the level of excellent service you can expect.

We are embarking on an update to our next long range plan and will be seeking community input on shaping the next 5 years of collections, programs, services, and building improvements.

To our dedicated community that supports the library, we thank you for providing the financial resources to be able to offer collections, programs, and services that change lives for the better. Our library staff, Board of Trustees, Friends, and patrons have made it possible for us to thrive and adapt to the changing needs of our community. We look forward to seeing you at the library.

Susan Morgan, Director


2021 Financial Summary

Revenues

- Town of Onondaga ($700,000)
- School Funds ($321,360)\(^1\)
- State Aid ($15,363)
- Grants ($14,875)
- Gifts & Fundraising ($6,825)\(^2\)
- Interest ($464)
- Library Charges ($14,875)
- Fund Balance ($164,329)\(^3\)

\(^1\)School Funds include Westhill, West Genesee and Onondaga Central School Districts.
\(^2\)Gifts & Fundraising total includes $7,825 from the Friends of Onondaga Free Library.
\(^3\)Fund Balance includes employee retention funds of $65,884 and payroll protection loan of $96,942

Expenditures

- Debt Service ($161,851)\(^1\)
- Staff Salaries, Wages, Benefits & Taxes ($521,282)
- Collections ($96,694)
- Programming ($7,946)
- Capital Expenditures ($43,040)
- Building Operation & Maintenance ($189,946)

\(^1\)Debt Service includes bond refinance savings of $53,000.
Thank you Friends!

The Friends of Onondaga Free Library held successful fundraising and membership campaigns in 2021, including a June book sale and record-breaking Festival of Trees event! Proceeds from their fundraising efforts provided support for the library’s legacy programs and collections, including our Lucky Day books, eBooks, Empire Passes (NYS Park Passes) and Summer Reading. The Friends advocacy efforts, program support and staff appreciation help make our library an amazing community resource. Thank you for being champions of all we do at OFL and your on-going support!

Programming

In 2021, the on-going pandemic challenges made us reimagine how to provide educational and engaging programming, as our librarians transitioned from virtual events and take-home activity kits to in-person programming. As we considered the safest way to move forward, we transitioned from outdoor programming to hybrid events and small group meetings, all with one goal in mind – creating a welcoming and accessible space for lifelong learners in our community. Our librarians did an amazing job reworking legacy programs and developing new events to meet the needs of our community. We were thrilled to bring families back to their favorite programs, including storytimes, American Girl, Pokémon, S.T.E.A.M. activities, teen volunteers, technology classes and book clubs. And thanks to our strong partnerships with community organizations and school districts, we were able to offer new events for families – highlights include a Mars Rover event with a NASA engineer, Mindfulness Nature Walk at Clark Reservation State Park with Onondaga Hill Middle School and “The Constitution: America’s User’s Manual” series with Syracuse University.

Summer Reading

We loved seeing our amazing community of readers back this summer – from children to adults, our Summer Reading participation matched pre-pandemic levels:

⇒ Total Summer Reading Participants: 514 (compared to 398 in 2019)
⇒ Total Books Read: 7,839

Thank you Friends of Onondaga Free Library for supporting our entire Summer Reading program, providing $3,000 in funding for prizes and programming, including our Story Walk, take-home activity kits, program supplies and guest presenters. This summer we transitioned back to in-person programming, holding all activities outdoors for safety. Outdoor events were made possible thanks to our partnership with the Town of Onondaga Parks and Rec Dept. and CLRC’s 2021 Recovery Grant for the library garden tent. Thank you Gannon’s Isle Ice Cream and Fairmount Glen Mini-Golf for providing our prize incentives for children and teens. To all the happy families that visited the library this summer, thank you for enjoying our programs, collections and beautiful space.
In 2020, OFL’s children’s services librarians created a brand new collection of themed storytime kits for parents, grandparents, caregivers and daycare providers to checkout! Each themed bag has great read-aloud books, suggestions for ways to read, write, talk, play and sing with young child(ren), and an activity to extend the storytime fun.

In 2021, with funds from New York State Library’s Family Literacy Library Services Program, we have been able to double the number of Storytime-to-Go kits in our collection. Newly added kits have themes including Potty Training, Manners, Interactive Books, Dinosaurs (pictured above), Construction (pictured above), Unicorns and Bugs.