

2020 Annual Report

Onondaga Free Library



Greetings from Onondaga Free Library

Despite the significant challenges of 2020, the library staff along with our community partners held 340 programs attended by 8,270 people. Wireless and public Internet use was accessed by over 16,000 visitors. Prior to the pandemic shutdown, the newly renovated Teen Space was revealed to the delight of our young adult patrons and their families.

Remarkably, the library building was open 34 weeks during 2020 for in person access. Online and phone reference support continued throughout the entire year, and the website was updated to reflect library community needs. We adjusted the collections budget to meet the increased demand for digital resources; created a pandemic plan as per state guidelines; and followed the NY Forward mandated plan for in person building capacity.

Throughout the pandemic, the library staff continued to offer existing and new services: began curbside service for contact free holds pickup; email reference and phone support while the building was closed; and continued to offer Wi-Fi. New ways of offering program kits and resources to take home were also implemented. As soon as we were able to reopen for in person visits, we did so by following the state guidelines and our safety plan.

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.

On behalf of the staff, Board of Trustees, and Friends, we will continue to provide a level of excellence that you can expect and we look forward to seeing you at the library.

Susan Morgan, Library Director

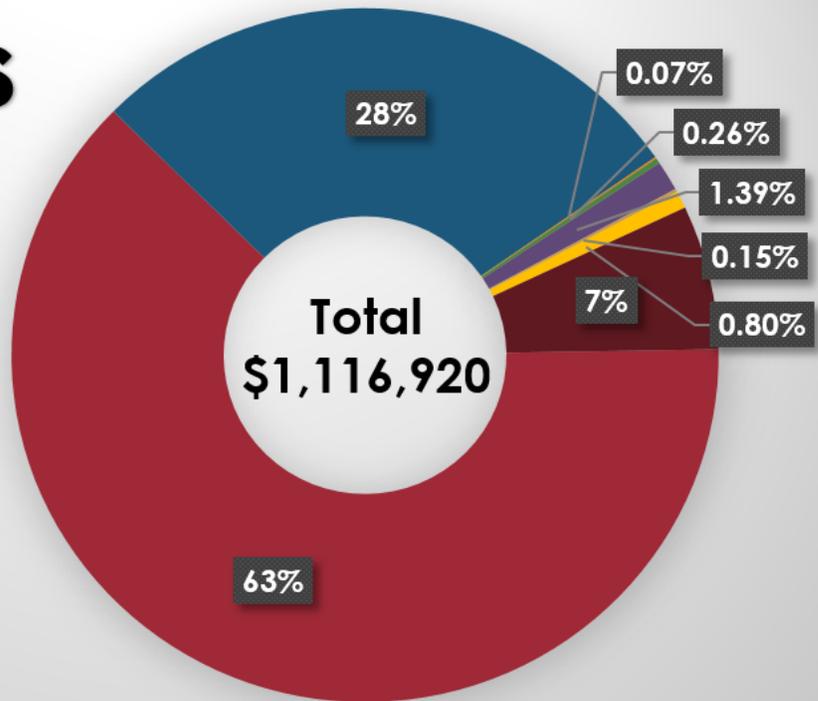
Building Improvements

- ⇒ *Parking lot drainage improvements were completed in June 2020. The project was funded by a NYS Library Construction Grant.*
- ⇒ *The new Teen Space was unveiled in February 2020 with technology upgrades fully funded by the Friends of OFL.*
- ⇒ *Health and safety upgrades: installed UV equipment in all HVAC units, plexiglas barriers at service desks, restroom sensor lighting and faucets, upgraded wireless technology to support increased demand.*

2020 Financial Summary

Revenues

- Town of Onondaga (\$700,000)
- School Funds (\$312,000)¹
- State Aid (\$830)
- Grants (\$2,850)
- Gifts & Fundraising (\$15,559)²
- Interest (\$7,860)
- Library Charges (\$22,793)
- Fund Balance (\$75,000)³

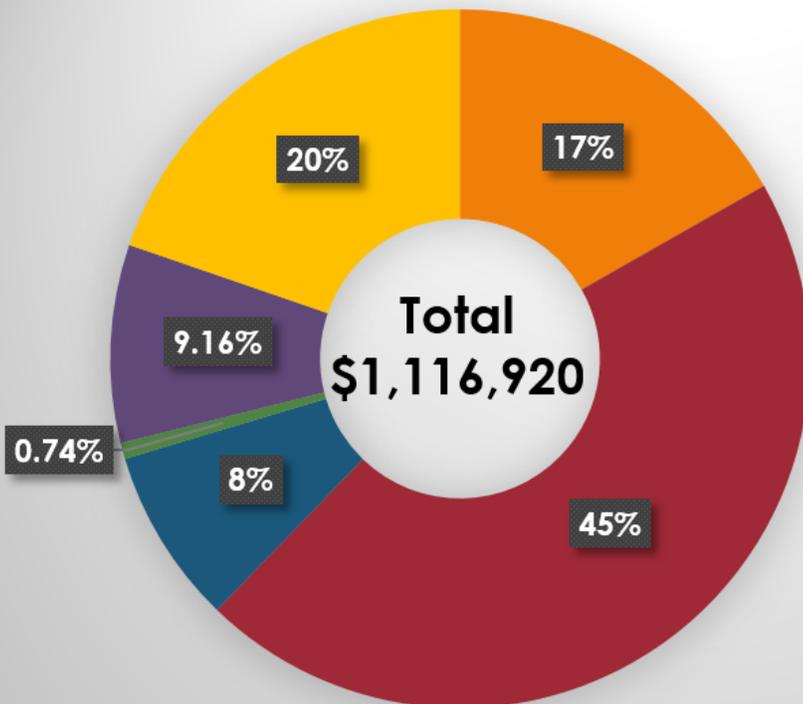


¹School Funds include Westhill, West Genesee and Onondaga Central School Districts.

²Gifts & Fundraising total includes \$14,250 from the Friends of Onondaga Free Library.

³Fund balance carryover includes construction grant funds of \$37,125 received in 2019.

Expenditures



- Debt Service (\$187,802)
- Staff Salaries, Wages, Benefits & Taxes (\$483,922)
- Collections (\$100,588)
- Programming (\$14,686)
- Capital Expenditures (\$30,741)¹
- Building Operation & Maintenance (\$177,937)

¹Includes \$43,850 for parking lot drainage project; \$24,469 for the teen space redesign; and \$27,712 for health, safety and technology improvements.



New Teen Space

Thank you Board and Friends of OFL for supporting the new Teen Space. The furniture installation, collection shift and technology upgrades were completed in February 2020. Notable features include new shelving to support the growing print and non-traditional collections, a generified Teen Fiction collection, gaming station, smart TV, Chromebook laptops for checkout and movable furniture. These wonderful new upgrades will accommodate our growing teen programs and services.

Reinventing Programming

Our librarians found innovative ways to continue our legacy programs, from storytimes and summer reading to adult book clubs, while the library was unable to host in-person gatherings this year due to the pandemic. Through a combination of virtual programs using Zoom, Facebook Live, Google Meet and Google Classroom and take-home activity kits, we stayed connected with community members by offering educational and engaging activities for all ages. The library staff was thrilled to continue working with community partners, strengthening relationships with local school districts and non-profit organizations as we helped lead and support virtual programming initiatives and after school enrichment programs. Thanks for participating in all our new and reimagined programming efforts and helping make them a success.



PROGRAMMING - Clockwise starting at top left:
 Weekly Storytime on Facebook Live; Virtual Maker Club in partnership with Onondaga Hill Middle School; Bop, Drop & Read presented by Teen Girl Scout Gold Award Recipient

COLLECTIONS - Below: Family Fun Night Unplugged Kits



New Collections

The Youth Services librarians added two new circulating collections that encourage families to play, grow and learn together.

1. **Family Fun Night Unplugged Kits:** This collection features OFL's popular board games and STEAM Station toys. Because families were unable to play with these toys during their visit due to pandemic restrictions, the library created a way for families to bring their favorite toys home! The library continues to purchase new games and brainteaser puzzles to add to this growing collection based on patron feedback and high demand.
2. **Storytime-to-Go Kits:** While the libraries are unable to offer in-person storytimes, librarians have put together great 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 children, and an activity to extend the storytime fun.

Thank you Friends!

The Friends of Onondaga Free Library held a very successful membership campaign in 2020. Proceeds from membership and other fundraising efforts provided significant support to the library during a challenging year. In addition to Lucky Day books, e-books, Fast Flicks, and Empire Passes, they fully funded the summer reading program for all ages and the technology equipment for the newly renovated teen space. The Friends also provided support for sensory toys at the circulation desk and a school librarian event held prior to the pandemic. We are honored to have the Friends of OFL as an excellent resource for library advocacy, program support, and staff appreciation.

MARCH 2021 FACES OF OFL:

Board of Trustees

Jennifer Frasier, President
Colleen Mahoney, Vice President
Gary Lucas, Treasurer
Beth Crump, Secretary
Stephanie Aldrich
Tom Bradley
Chris McCarthy
Rob Price
Laurie Smith

Full-Time Staff

Susan Morgan, Director
Alyssa Newton, Assistant Director
Maggie Gall-Maynard,
Youth Services Librarian
Scott Lipkowitz, Digital Services &
Technology Librarian
Chantal Rothermel, Marketing &
Outreach Coordinator

Part-Time Staff

Suzanne Allen, Clerk
Theresa Castilano, Clerk
Kori Gerbig, Youth Services Specialist
Ella Moran, Page
Megan Moriarty, Page
Nate Procopio, Page
Ellie Stultz, Clerk
Gail Thomas, Processing Clerk
Sue Thomas, Clerk
Tonette Young, Clerk
Debbie Zabel, Clerk
Brennan Zimmer,
Bookkeeper & Clerk

Substitute Staff

Pat Hagemann, Clerk
Goran Lucic, Clerk
Katie St. Laurent,
Librarian

Scott Lipkowitz, Digital Services & Technology Librarian

Technology and libraries go hand in hand—technology supports library programming, initiatives, and operations; libraries, in turn, are spaces in which the public can use, explore, and learn about technology. As OFL's Digital Services and Technology Librarian, I am proud to facilitate these interactions between the library and the community it serves.

Prior to joining OFL in June 2020, I worked as a technologist and front-end developer for the Hunter College Libraries in New York City. Before that, I spent 12 years in the New York City film industry as a camera technician. In addition to my MLIS, I hold a MA in History from CUNY Queens College and a BFA in Illustration from the School of Visual Arts. And, like most techies, I am a massive science fiction fan.

Assuming a new position in the middle of a pandemic is no easy lift. But, thanks to our wonderful staff and patrons, I've found an inviting home here at OFL. During my first 8 months, I oversaw a hardware and security upgrade to OFL's network, provided personalized, one-on-one tech support for patrons, adapted the library's public computer system to allow for remote assistance, and initiated a new programming partnership with the Strathmore Speaker Series. This association enabled the Speaker Series to return following a Covid-induced hiatus, and allows OFL to bring the Speaker Series' informative and inspiring content to our patrons.

Programming likewise affords an opportunity to substantially expand OFL's technology offerings. To that end, it has been my privilege to run adult workshops on social media, job searching in the digital age, Google Drive, and podcasting.

As we forge ahead into 2021, I am confident that OFL will continue to be a steadfast community resource for technology access, training, and support. On a personal note, I want to once again thank OFL's incredible staff, our amazing community, and our fantastic patrons for welcoming me into the fold. It is an honor to be able to serve you.



CLRC Crisis Technology Grant

In August, OFL was awarded a Central New York Library Resources Council Crisis Technology Grant in the amount of \$2050 to support the creation of a virtual meeting room service. Covid restrictions forced the library to close its popular meeting rooms in early March. Thanks to the generous support of CLRC, OFL was able to acquire the digital infrastructure necessary to replicate these meeting spaces in a virtual environment. That infrastructure includes a dedicated Zoom license with webinar capability; 2 webcams; and 3 hotspots, each equipped with a one-year, unlimited data plan. Both the webcams and hotspots are available for virtual meeting room users who lack a video capability, a stable broadband connection, or both.

Onondaga Free Library

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Connect with us:

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