



## **OLEAN PUBLIC LIBRARY**

### **2023 Annual Report to the Community**

2023 was a busy year at the Olean Public Library. We saw visits steadily increase over the year, and Library programs saw record demand! The Library's space challenges continued to demonstrate a need for creative solutions. In some cases, programs were offered more than once to allow more people to attend; in other cases, we had to limit attendance due to space and budgetary limitations. The Board is committed to developing a solution to better serve the community, and it is their hope to move forward with a plan in the next couple of years.



*Over 300 people attended a children's Easter program in April 2023!*



*Due to popular demand, 2 pumpkin carving programs with Eric Jones were offered in October. The nice weather allowed us to offer the programs outdoors.*



*The Friends of the Library "FeBREWary" fundraiser returned to the Library after a 2 year hiatus due to COVID. [photo credit: Olean Times Herald, 2/03/24]*



*An enthusiastic crowd came to hear Daniel Klaes, owner of the infamous Hinsdale House, speak on the history and happenings at one of our region's best-known haunted houses.*

Teens continued to show up in force in 2023, using the Teen Room after school, attending a large variety of program offerings, and volunteering for the Library's Teen Advisory Board!



Skylar Surra of Riot Games delivered a talk to teens about careers in the gaming industry.



Teen Hide and Seek, after hours at the Library!



Teen Room.

As always, children had loads of opportunities for learning and fun, including reading to therapy dogs and Percy the miniature horse, attending holiday programs, participating in arts and crafts, and the Promising Young Writers' Club.



Adults enjoyed plenty of opportunities to learn, create, and have fun too!



Over 5,000 questions were answered at the Information Desk in 2023!



A full craft class (making hand-made home address signs).



An Andorian came to speak at the Library's first-ever Star Trek Day!





OLEAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

# 2023

Annual Report  
to the Community

**91,036 Total Visitors**

**121,798 Items Checked Out**

**5,028 Reference Transactions**



**OPL's Collection Contains:**

**89,547 Adult Books**

**22,380 E-Books**

**26,489 Children's Books**

**8,609 DVD's and Videos**

**8,291 Wifi Sessions**

**7,801 Computer Use Sessions**

**119,721 Website Visits**



**8,907 Attendees at 468 Programs**

**1,547 Attendees at 90 Summer Programs**

**3,262 Attendees at 219 Children's Programs**

**903 Attendees at 98 Teen Programs**

**285 Meetings of Non-Profits**



## The Value of Your Library :



**Borrowing books from the library saved the Olean Community \$769,284 over the purchase of adult fiction and non-fiction.**

**Borrowing Children's books from the library provides an opportunity for socialization, builds a sense of community, improves literacy, and saved parents and taxpayers nearly \$460,615 last year.**



**Tired of paying higher prices for more commercials on your streaming services? Don't want to pay that auto renew for that one obscure show? Borrow that favorite Series or Movie from the Library!! Last year we provided the community with \$68,008 in value with our DVD collection at \$4 per rent or stream.**

**Our Meeting spaces saved area non-profit groups \$7,125 over the cost of renting, a value they are able to pass on to the community and improve outreach.**

# Major Gifts and Grants received in 2023



Over \$20,000 from the Friends of the Olean Public Library



Over \$9,000 from The Frances Bean O'Connell Endowment for the Arts



Over \$32,000 in New York State Construction Aid to update Outdoor Lighting and Security



The Barbara K. Chew Memorial Reading Nook donated by the League of Women Voters and Family of Barbara K. Chew



An \$8,000 Grant for Teen Room Programming and Supplies

With an average home price around \$80,000 most tax payers can expect to pay \$157 in library taxes in 2025, an increase of about \$4 from 2024.

Some other things that cost around \$157 a year...

- A year of Amazon Prime plus tax
- 1 sitdown meal for a family of four
- 10 fast food Meals
- 75 Large coffees from Tim Hortons
- ½ a year's gym membership