

Report to the Community:

Marlboro Free Library Board of Trustees Presidents Report, 2023

The Marlboro Free Library staff and trustees are happy to report that the Library's services continue to be enjoyed by our community. Balancing safety with the needs of the community continues as a focus, but we also are keeping a hopeful eye on the future and plans to improve your Library.

Overall Library program attendance continues to increase. Close to 3,200 people attended the Library's 298 programs in 2022. Some highlights were the annual Shredder Truck event, Jester Jim, Legends and Lore of the Marlboro Mountains, and the annual Dark Side of Marlboro Walking Tour.

Tessa Debella was welcomed in the Spring of 2022 as a Youth Services Library Assistant. Her dynamic, fun, and engaging programs have quickly become beloved by the community, and children's programming is in more demand than ever before. This past fall, 929 people registered for our Children's Program Series. Program attendance continues to increase.

With the growth in Library activities and participation, the needs of these community programs and the size limitation of the library became more apparent than ever. So the Board drafted a Community Room Expansion plan document, and worked with architectural firm, Butler Rowland and Mays, to apply for a New York State Aid for Library Construction grant. The Library was awarded \$496,954, for an expansion and renovation of its community room and north side entrance. This grant was the largest awarded in the Hudson Valley for the 2021-2022 grant cycle.

The Library also received a donation in the amount of \$146,324.86 from the James and Elizabeth Manion Charitable Trust, and over \$50,000 from other benefactors and the Friends of the Library volunteers, for the completion of the James & Elizabeth Manion Community Room project.

Due to flooding and structural issues, the Pierce Library House was demolished. The site will contribute to the community room expansion project as a usable outdoor community green area.

Library users come not just for all the programs, but to use the large variety of materials and resources available. Physical item circulation increased to

42,866, returning circulation of print items to pre-pandemic levels. Our circulation and demand of e-materials continues to rapidly increase, with circulation of e-materials increasing 88% from 2021.

Thanks to Marlboro student Kaylee Keane, our 1000 book project was revamped in early 2022. These 1000 Book Project Bundles were checked out by families 569 times, which is a 239% increase from 2021.

With funding from an ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act of 2021) grant and in partnership with the Gomez Mill House, the Library launched a new tour on its Discover Marlboro App. Users are able to take a tour of the Gomez Mill House and learn more about the history of Marlborough. The Discover Marlboro app had 492 user sessions in 2022.

The Library received another ARPA grant in the amount of \$12,861, to fund new laptops, software, and provide technology programs. When not in use, these laptops can be loaned to patrons to use at home.

A few other highlights from 2022 include:

- notary (206) and passport (328) services rendered
- the addition of an accessibility toolbar (ReciteMe) to the Library website (funded through the Ulster County legislature)
- welcoming new staff members, Rachel and Amber, as Library Clerks
- the installation of new public seating, funded through a grant received in a previous year from Assemblymember Jonathan Jacobson
- growing the item lending collection with puzzles and children's STEM kits

These are just some examples of all the great things happening at our Library. With the planned Community Room expansion, we hope to remain a destination where all the people of Marlborough can come. Thanks to all of the people who work together to ensure our Library remains a great place—the community, the staff, the Friends, and the Board.