

2021

TOWN OF ULSTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

From the Board President

To our neighbors:

This year brought many changes to your Town of Ulster Library. Director Tracy Priest retired and all of us were sorry. She brought our library through seven action-packed years with wisdom and grace. New director Mary Collins arrived and we are happy to welcome her and appreciate her sharing this transition with calm and steady warmth.

The Turning Outward program, sponsored by the Mid-Hudson Library System, enabled our team, Mary and several trustees and staff, to host conversations about our community aspirations with Town of Ulster residents. The information from the conversations and from an ongoing survey is shaping our Long-Range Plan, hopefully finished by the end of this year. Our goal as a library board is to enable our library to provide the best possible service to the community, and that includes regular up-dating of our plan of service with input from our community! The Reading Room, Phase 1 of our renovation plan, is now available for use by patrons and, by appointment, for community use. Sound and lighting improvements, Phase 2 of our renovation plan, are underway but slowed by distribution hold-ups. These renovations are funded through state grants and donations from people like you, thank you!

In September we elected four trustees, two of them brand new board members. We now have eight trustees out of the nine permitted by our charter and are so pleased with our community's interest in serving the library.

After months of having operations affected by Covid, all of us, director, staff and trustees, are delighted to be open again! Speaking of our staff, they are pointed out in every survey response we have received as our greatest asset. Each member of the staff brings different gifts and talents to the team, while all of them bring a warm and welcoming spirit to everyone who comes in to use the library resources.

Best wishes to all of you!

Anne Davis, President

TOWNOFULSTERLIBRARY.ORG
860 ULSTER AVENUE
KINGSTON NY 12401
845-338-7881

The Town of Ulster Public Library collection contains **43,642** items, including books, museum passes, ukuleles, and fishing poles. Patrons have access to another **2,000,000** items through the Mid-Hudson Library System.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Anne Davis, President
Rita Joyce, Vice-President
Bruce Engholm, Secretary
Susan Hayes
Jason Kovacs
Gene Nettle
Allison Organtini
Nicole Vicari

DIRECTOR

Mary Collins

director@townofulsterlibrary.org

From the Director

To the Town of Ulster Library community:

Thank you for the kind welcome and for giving me the opportunity to lead this important public institution. I look forward to continuing the Library's tradition of excellent service, as embodied by its outstanding staff. Please let us know if there are materials you would like added to the collection or programs you want to attend, or anything else that will make the library work better for you.

At the beginning of the year, with the pandemic unchecked, innovations like curbside book pickup, email reference service, and Zoom Board meetings allowed the Library to remain in operation and connected to the community. As mitigation efforts increased, the Library gradually expanded hours and services, reaching full operation on June 1.

With an improvised outdoor space, the Library moved from virtual programming to hybrid and in-person events, with the return of the book club, craft night, Reading With Zoey, our favorite poodle, and more. As in previous years, the Library offered a full Summer Reading program, with story hours, crafts, and special events, including a visit from Brian Robinson and his animals. We were so happy to see you all again!

The Library's new Reading Room opened, providing a space for both quiet study and community gathering. The collections continue to expand too, with new books added every month, and audiobooks, e-books, and movies and TV shows easier to access through multiple digital services. A new collection of books is growing in the children's area thanks to a generous donation from the family and friends of former trustee Tena Nippert. We thank them, and you, for supporting the Town of Ulster Public Library, and wish us all the best in the new year.

Mary Collins, Director

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday 10am - 4pm

Tuesday 12 - 7 pm

Wednesday 10am - 3pm

Thursday 12 - 7pm

Friday 10am - 3pm

Saturday 10am - 3pm

2021 in Numbers

17,549

books checked out

3,940

e-books checked out

1,747

large print books
checked out



25,997

total items circulated

8,544

holds filled

300+

programs offered



913

books read during Summer
Reading



2,266

connections to the
library wireless network

1,353

public computer sessions

25 %

of Town residents have a library card.
Come in and get yours today!



“

As a father of two young readers,
I'm so grateful for the public library!"

