

# WATERFORD TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY

Director's Report - October 2021

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Waterford Area Chamber of Commerce - I attended the monthly Perking Up networking event held at Central United Methodist Church. The Library hosted a Member Orientation Luncheon, the first since 2019. Both events were very well attended.

Friends of the Library held a successful Used Book Sale, the second since 2019.

Library Garden Club in addition tending to maintenance on the gardens at the Library's entrance as well as the 4 new trees planted in the parking lot islands, members returned to create and install a couple of scarecrows to serve as winter features until the 2022 growing season begins.

At present we have interviewed applicants for vacancies on the Circulation Staff and the Page Staff. We hope to have these filled by the end of November. We have also started the process to fill an anticipated vacancy on the Outreach Services staff in early December.

The public hearing on our Budget Request for FY 2022 included providing information to the Township Board on eliminating overdue fines on library materials. The Library Advisory Committee began looking into going "fine free" in 2019 as an increasing number of public libraries across the country and in our library cooperative were adopting this policy change. The rationale for this is overdue fines are a holdover from the past. Experience has taught us the following about overdue fines.

- Revenues from fines have been steadily declining over the past 5 years. As of 2019 they were approximately .26% of total revenues (\$6,660).
  - Most fines occur when borrowers forget to renew items they need extra time to enjoy. In October 2020 our circulation system was reconfigured to automatically renew items on their due date for the maximum number of renewals, as long as no other borrowers are waiting for them, which further reduces these revenues.
  - Another factor in this decline is the increase of eContent in the makeup of library collections, where items borrowed electronically never become overdue but simply disappear from the borrower's e-reading device on the due date.
- They are not an incentive for the timely return of items borrowed.
- They can be a dis-incentive for residents on tight household budgets, often with school-aged children, to make full use of the library's collection as overdue fines are unanticipated expenses.

Finally, lending materials from the library collection is one of the tax supported services offered to our community and overdue fines increase its cost for residents who actually use it. Over the course of the pandemic we have been able to use the service restrictions caused

by it as a “pilot project” for this concept. Overdue fines have been suspended since March 2020 with no negative impact on lending services. Rather the opposite, it has removed a stressor for both borrowers and staff.

## SERVICE UPDATES

*The following Service Updates are highlights by our department heads of activities their staff have been involved in this month.*

### *Adults, Outreach, & Teens Services*

#### *Submitted by J. Hansen, Head of Adults’ & Outreach Services*

We had a fantastic display of Barbie dolls in our two display cases from a Waterford resident and her friend who are members of Great Lakes Doll Collectors Club during October. People just loved it.

Our Kettering H.S. yearbooks came back from being scanned.

Liz, having finished weeding the 600s is now weeding the 100s.

Outreach circulation detail		Home or Mini-Branch Visits with Materials	
Materials delivered to homes	156	Homebound Visits	35
Materials used at mini-branches NOTE: No count from Whispering Woods this month because they had some water leakage/damage in the area where the library is located.	150	Senior sites: Fox Manor and Inn at Cass Lake	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>37</b>

### *Children's Services*

#### *Submitted by C. Walker, Head of Children’s Services*

In October, we continued handing out fall craft kits. We gave away about 129 kits this month. One kit had two Halloween projects, and one kit had two fall leaf projects. We rotate the kits about every two weeks.

We also continued to have our Fall Family Outdoor Storytimes although a few sessions were rained out. We rescheduled when we could and did 7 out of the originally scheduled 8

sessions. We know our days are numbered with cooler weather coming in. On days that were rained out, we posted a Ready Reads Storytime on Facebook.

### *Circulation Services*

#### *Submitted by J. Deahl. Circulation Services Coordinator & Page Supervisor*

In early October, Library Page Palmer Exelby tendered his resignation. His last day was Thursday, October 28. We interviewed applicants for the open Page positions and extended job offers to two. Jillian Willett, started on Saturday, October 30 and we expect Ann McElgunn to start in late November. We hope to fill the final open Page position soon.

We interviewed two applicants for the Part-Time Library Clerk position. Both applicants have been asked back for an observation follow up to take place in early November.

### DONATIONS THIS MONTH

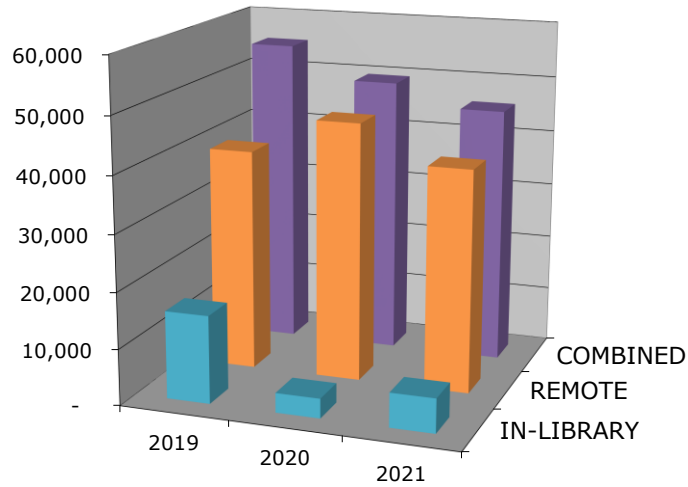
Total \$ 350

- Donations in memory of Margaret Chaney - \$350

PROGRAMS & FACEBOOK REACH

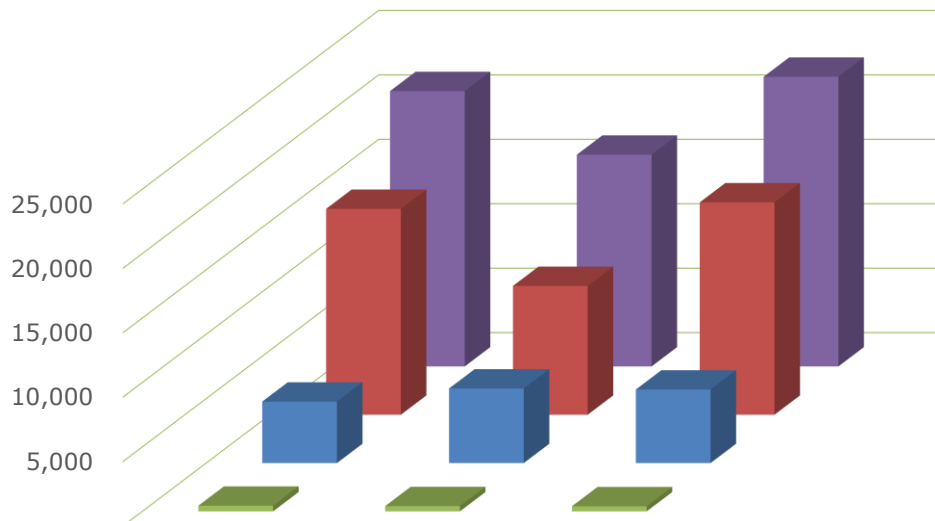
PROGRAM	PARTICIPANTS
<b>ADULTS</b>	
Waterford Genealogy Society - Afternoon meeting	21
Waterford Genealogy Society - Evening meeting via Zoom	7
Evening Book Discussion	5
Afternoon Book Discussion	13
Weekly Knitting Group (4 sessions)	41
Waterford Writers Workshop (2 sessions)	11
Poetry & Prose Open Mic Event	18
Take & Make Craft: Yarn Pumpkins	15
Presentation: Meteorites (Oakland Astronomy Club)	15
The Good Old Days ?	3
Library Garden Club	16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>165</b>
<b>TEEN</b>	
Hallow-Teen party	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>CHILDREN</b>	
Fall Family Story time - Outdoors (6 sessions)	147
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>147</b>
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM ATTENDANCE</b>	
	<b>314</b>
<b>FACEBOOK</b>	
<b>TOTAL REACH/DAY</b>	
People served any activity from our Page	<b>633</b>

### LIBRARY VISITS - October 2021



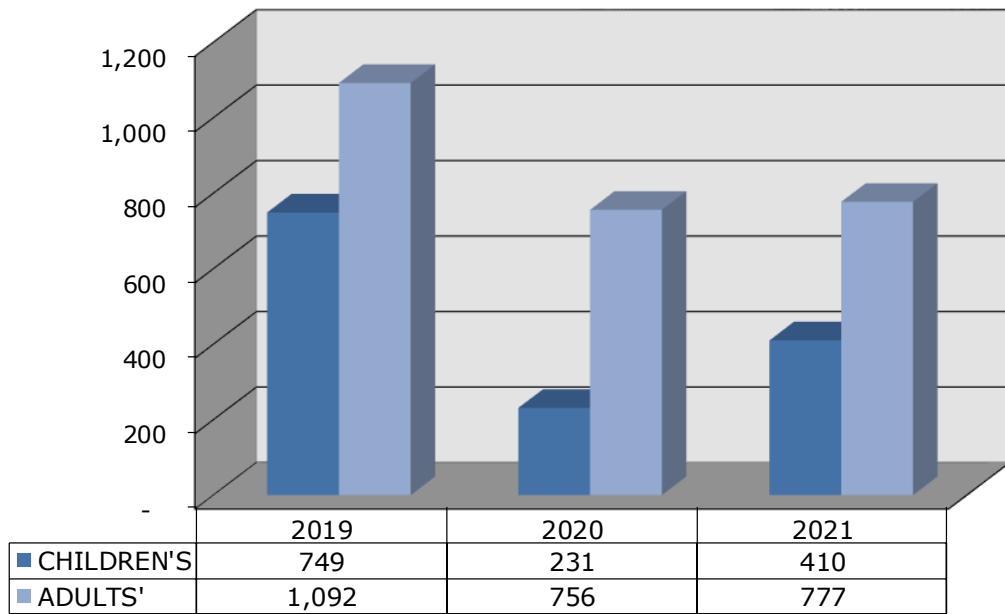
	2019	2020	2021
■ IN-LIBRARY	15,625	3,492	6,100
■ REMOTE	39,565	46,048	39,581
■ COMBINED	55,190	49,540	45,681

### CHECKOUTS - October 2021



	2019	2020	2021
■ OUTREACH	438	407	396
■ DOWNLOADS	4,769	5,785	5,705
■ MAIN	15,977	9,995	16,481
■ COMBINED	21,366	16,430	22,479

### REFERENCE - October 2021



### COLLECTION - October 2021

