The year 2021 was yet another challenging one for the Clarence Public Library as we continued to grapple with the effects of the pandemic. Fortunately, we were able to reopen our doors on January 7, 2021. The building had been closed to the public for six weeks in late 2020 due to the Orange Zone designation in Erie County. We had offered curbside service to our patrons throughout this time. On February 1, 2021, we resumed our regular schedule at 55 hours per week for the first time in 11 months.

Starting in April 2021, we began offering some in-person programming options for patrons. By summer, we ran a story time (at the Town Park pavilion) and held Crafternoon in the Park, Kidding around Yoga, Paws for Love, and several family fun nights.

By fall, we were back to hosting Lego Club, in-person story times, author visits and presentations, a Study in Sherlock and more. The Friends of the Clarence Library also hosted a fall book sale, their first large scale book sale in over two years!

2021 Board of Trustees

Judith Hilburger     President
Joseph Zinni         Secretary
Marjorie Ebersole    Treasurer
Marlene Arno         Trustee
Stacey Jafarjan      Trustee
Susanne Powers       Trustee
Dawn Olczak          Trustee

Full Time Library Staff

Monica Mooney        Director
Sarah McLean-Plunkett Librarian
Justin Carpenter     Senior Clerk
Aaron Metzger        Caretaker

Friends of the Clarence Library

Beverly Eberz        President
Jackie Wargala       Vice President
Joan Schultz         Secretary
Judith Hillburger    Treasurer
2021 Statistics

- Population Chartered to Serve: 32,950
- Total number of visits 2021: 63,831
- Number of registered resident borrowers: 16,538
- Total number of items in the library: 87,872
- Total circulation: 146,326
- Reference transactions: 1,990
- Total Computer Sessions: 5,142
- WiFi Logins: 12,535
- Webpage visits: 20,873
- Total program attendance:
  - Virtual: 394
  - In-person: 2,819
- Weekly service hours: 55

Summer Reading
- Children registered for the 2021 Summer Reading Program: 99
- Young adults registered for the 2021 Summer Reading Program: 15
- Total summer program attendance (Children and Young Adult): 510

Early Literacy Programs
- Total early literacy programs (birth—school entry): 51
- Total attendance at early literacy programs: 754

Facility Improvement Initiative
In July 2021, The Clarence Public Library was awarded $112,500 from the Program Equipment & Facility Improvement Initiative through the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library System for carpet replacement. A local match of 25% of the total project cost was approved by the Clarence Town Board by resolution on June 9. After a formal competitive bidding process, the work for the project was estimated to begin in early 2022.

Programs of Note
- Monarch Butterfly Release—As part of our summer butterfly program series, monarch butterfly conservationist Dave O’Donnell presented on the monarch butterfly and assisted the library with a monarch butterfly release on July 28.
- Chinese Club of WNY Donation of more than 100 Chinese language and culture books for the public to borrow from the Library System. A ribbon-cutting event was held at the Clarence Library on October 16.

Story Time in the Park

Bike Raffle Winners