

DIRECTOR'S 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Despite ever-changing community health statistics, continual revisions of guidance from County leaders, and evolving knowledge of the global COVID-19 virus pandemic and its effects on people's lives, Eden Library staff worked diligently to continue offering the excellent customer service it's known for throughout Erie County.

Throughout 2021, Eden Library welcomed **14,704** patrons through their doors who collectively checked out **31,711** items, used computers **1,152** times and accessed the library's WiFi network **2,092** times. **192** people attended **23** in-house programs during the year, with the majority of those events taking place after July 1. Facial coverings and social distancing remained a requirement for attendees, per County guidelines. Eden Library remained the only BECPL location fully open to the public (not just offering curbside service) during the County's "orange zone" COVID-19 microcluster designation, which ended January 27, 2021.

Community involvement/Partnerships/Outreach:

Eden Library's Code Club grant, made possible by Prenda and Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) continued through March 2021. Funding from Eden Library's share of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library's 2019 Year-End Appeal allowed the virtual program to remain available to patrons through the end of the year. An average of 16 students monthly participated in the online club, creating superhero avatars and learning to write computer code in various "languages" (SQL, HTML, CSS, etc.) at their own pace through online games and activities.

Eden Library welcomed musician Doug Yeomans in August for a lively afternoon of Erie Canal songs and tales. Yeomans appeared at Eden and a small, select number of other libraries through the courtesy of Young Audiences of Western New York, funded in part by Humanities New York with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Library Director Donna-Jo Webster visited Grover L. Priess Elementary School in October for their Reading Night promotion, sharing information about the library's services with 23 students and their families. Several attendees took applications for new library cards during the event.

Representatives from Mike Weber Greenhouses in West Seneca visited in December, presenting a fun program on using various herbs in cooking for three participants.

As an "added value" of library service, Director Webster assisted more than a dozen community members in registering online for COVID-19 vaccinations and booster immunizations at a local pharmacy late in the year.

Eden Garden Study Club and Up To Date Club utilized the library during 2021 for public meetings.

Donors/Contributors/Grants:

The library received numerous donations in 2021 in memory of longtime Trustee Phil Muck, who passed away in December 2020.

In April, Eden Library received a generous donation of \$471.11 from Eden resident Garrett Lorenzo through Home Depot's year-end charity payment.

In July, Eden Library received funding from the new BECPL Facilities Improvement Initiative in the amount of \$22,924 to replace the boilers and upgrade the controls of the recently installed air conditioners.

Equipment and Facilities:

Staff from the Town of Eden's Highway Department took over snowplowing of Library parking lots in the late fall of 2021.

Friends of Eden Library:

Annual collection of membership dues continued to be the group's main fundraiser. The group worked with the Library Board to present a drive-through Weidner's Chicken Barbecue in June and took charge of a drive-through pork rib dinner in September that sold out in an hour and a half. Beginning in June, the group sponsored a popular Take & Make craft each month for children, averaging of 31 participants monthly. The Friends met through a combination of virtual Zoom meetings in the early months of the 2021 and in-person meetings in May, July, September and October.

Library Personnel:

No library staff positions turned over in 2021. Senior Clerk Helga Antonou, Clerk Typists Cindy Bancroft, Cheryl Colvin, Patricia Nagle and Caretaker/Custodian Tony Sacilowski all continued in their respective roles.

Volunteers:

Eden Library utilized 11 volunteers with a combined 101.25 hours of service at two booksales and two drive-through dinners during 2021.

Yarn Club:

After 14 years of continuing service to the Eden community and beyond, Eden's Yarn Club surpassed a milestone at the end of 2021. Club members created and donated more than 7,870 knitted or crocheted items to charities.

In conclusion, the Eden Library continues to serve as an important asset and community hub to the citizens of Eden and beyond, a vital resource to all as we continue to navigate a global health pandemic together. Library users from all over Erie County enjoy ongoing programming (both at the library and virtually), numerous services, free access to books, magazines, newspapers, music, digital content and the Internet. Eden Library provides a clean, comfortable and inviting space for people to interact with others, explore the world around them and participate in life-long learning.

The library remains truly appreciative of its dedicated, hard-working staff, the guidance and leadership received from its Board of Trustees, and for its continued relationship with the Town of Eden. 2021 provided us with new challenges, but Eden Library always found a way to provide answers.

Donna-Jo Webster
Library Director