


OPENING BOOKS, DOORS AND MINDS.

EST. 1957



PETERS TOWNSHIP
PUBLIC LIBRARY



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I was excited to join the Peters Township Public Library team in October as Library Director. As a Washington County native, it's been a goal of mine for several years to move back to the Pittsburgh area and be closer to my family, so I'm thrilled to be here.

I have heard so much already about the library being one of the most valuable assets in the Peters Township community. Although these are unusual times, the library team has done an amazing job at providing modified services and virtual programs to the public. I am looking forward to working with the staff, board, and township to build on what the library already has in place, and continue moving the Peters Township Public Library into the future.

For this annual report, we are highlighting the Peters Township Public Library as an essential part of the community, in a year like no other. Using the framework of the four E's—education, engagement, exploration, and e-learning—we will showcase the programs, resources, and services the library offered in 2020. Even with the building closed to the public, the dedicated staff found ways to fulfill the library mission of “enriching and empowering every patron.”

Lacey Love
Library Director

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

One of the most positive changes of the past, difficult year was Ms. Lacey Love's accepting the role as new Director of our prize-winning library. She has a complete understanding of the demands of advancing a complicated, successful library like ours into the future because of her education, past experience, and vision.

Throughout 2020, the entire library staff has done an excellent job of developing engaging programs during the Covid-19 crisis. Our four-time national award-winning library is now known internationally because of its online programs. And please note, the library provides engaging programs for patrons of all ages. PTPL is supplying educational programs and fun for not only children and teens, but young, middle-aged, and senior adults as well. The library's e-resources are increasingly used, providing research tools, news, movies, magazines, music, and more for everyone in the community.

In the coming months, the library will be the necessary community center it has always been. It will continue to provide education in computer skills, support for people seeking jobs, and lectures and programming to bring understanding of our evolving country and world. When residents were recently queried in a survey about the most important asset of Peters Township, the answer was the library. It will continue to be.

Richard Easton, Jr.
Board Chair



ABOUT THE LIBRARY

Library Staff

Lacey Love, Library Director
Sue Miller, Assistant Library Director
Katie Marchand, Library Secretary
Margaret Deitzer, Head of Reference
Carrie Weaver, PR Coordinator
Stephanie Schultz, Reference Department
Shannon Pauley, Head of Youth Services
Linda Esposito, Children's Librarian
Patty Hartenbach, Children's Assistant
Sydney Krawiec, Children's Assistant
Mary Kipling, Head of Cataloging
Nancy Lojek, Cataloging Assistant
Dianne Finnegan, Patron Services Coordinator
Sue Andrewson, Library Assistant
Carol Johnson, Library Assistant
Jamie Mack, Library Assistant
Roz Rider, Library Assistant
John Masilunas, Library Assistant
Debbie Starr, Library Assistant
Darla Grant, Library Assistant
Noreen Balach, Facilities Maintenance
Lily Marchand, Page
Caitlin Grabowski, Page



Board of Directors

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Scott Beinhauer, Vice Chairperson
Frank Danyo, Treasurer
Ian Parker, Secretary
Carol Adler
Beth Markocic (2021)
Kathleen McEvoy (2020)
Margaret Verlato

What's Inside

The E's of PTPL	4-5
Youth Services	6-7
Adult Services	8-9
Library Statistics	10
Financial Overview	11



LIBRARIES ARE ESSENTIAL

EDUCATION

Education was the focus of many PTPL programs this year. In April, the Youth Services staff began offering a Calendar Time program to supplement children who were displaced from school. These videos focused on the day of the week, the weather, counting, and letter recognition. Youth Services was also able to provide a kindergarten readiness program called "Cruise Into K." Caregivers and children learned important concepts based on PA Learning Standards to help prepare them for kindergarten. For adults, the library offered a series of technology classes, including Excel, Word, Devices & Apps, PowerPoint, Publisher, Google Docs, and Google Drive. Almost 200 people participated in these classes, picking up valuable knowledge that will help them in their day-to-day lives.



E-LEARNING

E-Learning was one of the most important things public libraries could provide in 2020. After the library building closed to the public in March, we saw a 33% increase in eBook and eAudio circulation, with 383 new OverDrive users since March 14. Overall in 2020, the library offered 588 virtual programs, with 56,716 people tuning in! One of those programs was a partnership with the Huntington Learning Center to offer a virtual book club that focused on the high school's required summer reading list. This book club provided students with an opportunity to discuss the books with their peers and help them to complete their assignments in a timely fashion.



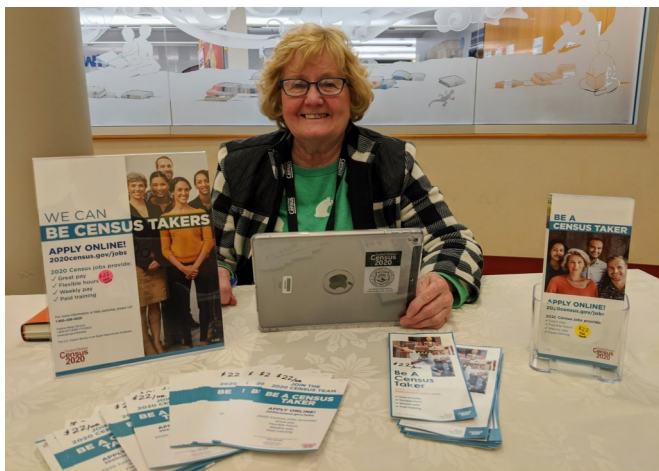
EXPLORATION

In addition to educational programming, the library offered plenty of chances to explore our creative side! Youth Services shifted their annual LEGO Nights and 30 Day Drawing Challenge so children and teens could complete the tasks at home and send in pictures of their creations. We also hosted the annual High School photography gallery, so the community could admire the creativity of our local students. The library held many programs for adults to explore the world around them, including a Pysanky egg decorating class, virtual craft tutorials, a murder mystery night, and programs on local history, gargoyles, and organizing your home, just to name a few! We also offer patrons the chance to explore a variety of local historical sites and museums through our "Museum Experience Kits." Each kit offers complimentary admission for up to four people. Get more information at www.ptlibrary.org.



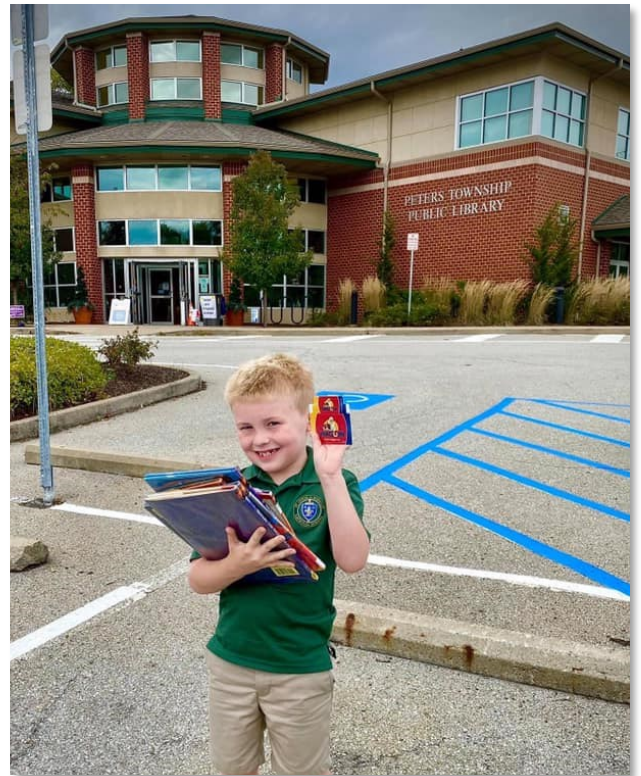
ENGAGEMENT

The library's community and civic engagement looked very different for most of 2020. Early in the year, we were still able to hold Preschool-A-Palooza, to help local families make decisions about the right schools for them, and the Best Books for Babies Book Shower, to provide expecting and new parents with the best books for their little ones! The library also participated in the community's Trunk or Treat and Santa Express events. These were held in lieu of our annual Trick-or-Treat Trail and Christmas Tree Lighting. These programs were altered to eliminate crowds and close interactions. The library hosted a Census Field Rep to answer questions about the 2020 census and recruit census takers, as well as a blood drive in November that yielded 45 donations.



YOUTH SERVICES

Shortly after the library closed its doors to the public, Youth Services quickly pivoted to a virtual programming platform. We wanted to provide caregivers with educational resources to engage their children who were at home on a constant basis. Our youngest patrons and their families can now join us virtually for STEM Saturday, Book Babies, One Mindful Moment Mondays, Tiny Tunes Music, and Mother Goose Storytime. These are all pre-recorded videos that can be accessed on our Facebook page or YouTube channel. Over the summer and fall, we offered several outdoor storytimes at the library and the amphitheater at Peterswood Park, including two Backyard Storytimes where families could share camping stories and songs. Once the weather warms up, we are looking forward to hosting more in-person, outdoor programs!



To utilize resources on hand, we started offering Take and Make Mondays. Every Monday, families could come to the library to pick up a hands-on craft activity to complete at home. Now that we are back to curbside service, Take and Make Monday has expanded to every day of the week! Our daily Lunchbreak Storytime, where Youth Services staff take turns reading a story that follows a weekly theme, also includes take-home kits with activities highlighting the selected theme.





"Thank you for all of your hard work and creativity during the summer. You helped us to feel connected and involved even though we couldn't participate in person."

- PTPL Patron Jessica Brito

The library's "Imagine Your Story" summer reading program looked a little bit different this year. The daily Lunchbreak Storytime focused on classic fairy tales, with a different fairy tale selected each week. Themed kits were sent home to families that included crafts, activities, and handouts. The library subscribed to the ReaderZone app, funded by The Peters Township Library Foundation. This app was a convenient way for patrons of all ages to track their reading and win prizes. 6,983 books were logged, and 294,804 minutes read! We also handed out 321 goody bags containing small prizes to patrons from birth to age 18. Thanks for reading with us this summer!

TEEN SERVICES

The Peters Township Public Library went viral this spring, thanks to the Hogwarts Digital Escape Room created by staff member Sydney Krawiec. The Escape Room first launched on March 19. Since then, it has been translated into ten other languages and formats, and accessed by people in over 30 countries around the world. Over the last nine months, nearly 1.5 million people completed the escape room!



The library currently offers several virtual book clubs. Our Tween Book Club is for students ages 9 to 13 and is held on the fourth Thursday of the month at 4:30 p.m. All members receive a free copy of the book to keep. The Teen Book Club is for students ages 14 to 18 and is held on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. Contact the library for more information if you are interested in participating! Recruitment is ongoing for both the Tween and Teen Book Clubs. Local teens and tweens also took advantage of the variety of virtual DIY programs offered this summer. Teens could stop by the library to pick up a kit that included all of the necessary materials for the DIY project. The library also offered videos for projects that could be made using common household items.

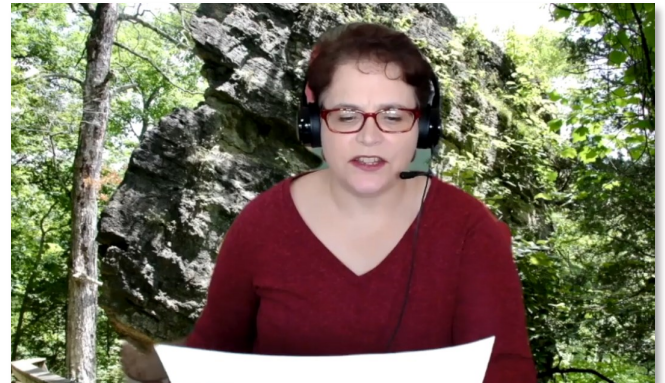
ADULT SERVICES

In February, the library welcomed officers from the United States Army War College for the 14th annual visit by the Eisenhower Program panelists. This event is hosted in partnership with the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh. The visiting officers addressed various national security issues and the role the military plays in response to these issues. More than 100 people attended this year's program, and we are so excited to host the College again in March 2021 for the 15th year!



The library-sponsored Afternoon and Evening Book Clubs successfully made the transition to Zoom this spring, discussing a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction titles. Library staff provided info on how members could obtain book club selections through OverDrive and Libby while we were closed to the public. Thank you to all of the members who support the book clubs each month and volunteer to lead discussions!

The library celebrated National Poetry Month in April by hosting a Spring Poetry Salon. We recorded five local poets reading their original work, and posted the video on Facebook and YouTube. It was a great way to celebrate the arts, with more than 300 people watching.



We are currently working with a consulting archivist, funded by The Library Foundation, to preserve and provide access to the local history resources we have available at the library. This undertaking includes surveying materials in the Local History Room, establishing best practices for archival procedures, creating guides for easy reference, and digitizing the collection for submission to Pennsylvania's archival digital collection, PA Photos and Documents.

ADULT SERVICES

On March 13, the Office of Commonwealth Libraries closed all public libraries and schools in Pennsylvania. The last day that PTPL was open, we saw staggering circulation numbers as people scrambled to check out enough items to last them through the lockdown. 3,422 items were checked out in one day, which is more than triple what we usually see! In May, Washington County entered the Yellow Phase. After several weeks of careful planning and hard work, we began providing contactless curbside pickup. Our community was grateful to once again be able to borrow materials from the library. Through curbside service, we provided kits for virtual programs, book bundles for children, as well as all regular library materials. A few weeks later, we opened up our doors so patrons could browse the stacks. 8% of our circulation was completed through curbside service in 2020!



"I have taken advantage of your curbside pickup and online resources. They have been a huge help and a bright spot in these topsy-turvy, upside down times. I find the curbside pickup to be very efficient and so safe. Thank you for all you do!"

- PTPL Patron Jolene Hanig-Jones

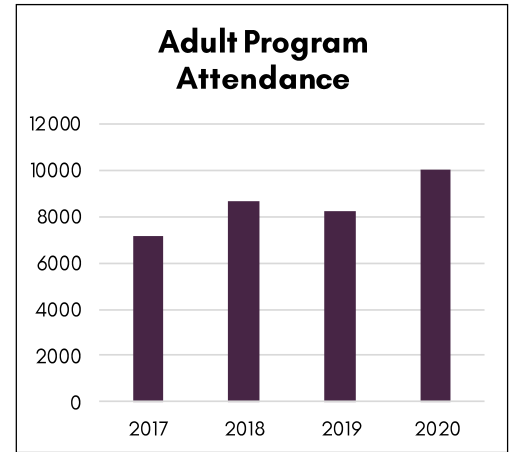
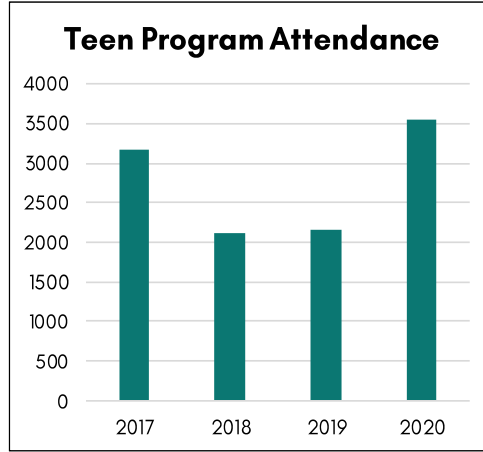
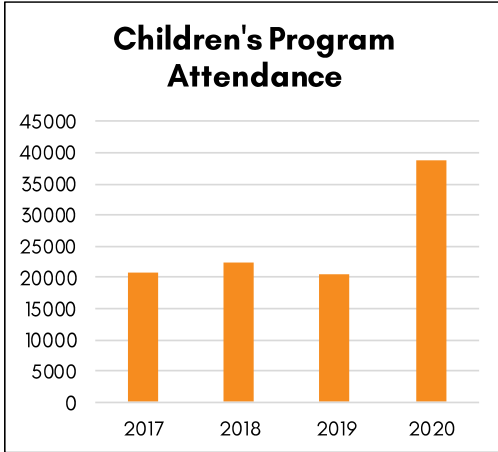


After five years as Library Director, Myra Oleynik retired in July. Throughout her tenure, Myra oversaw many library projects to update furnishings and freshen up the Youth Services space. Library programs were always a focus, and several events during her time had to be moved to a local school because of their high attendance and popularity. Myra always strived for more for the library—and the love from the community grew. She will be best known for her winning smile, her willingness to drop everything to help a library visitor, and her passion for providing excellent customer service. You'll be missed at the library, Myra!

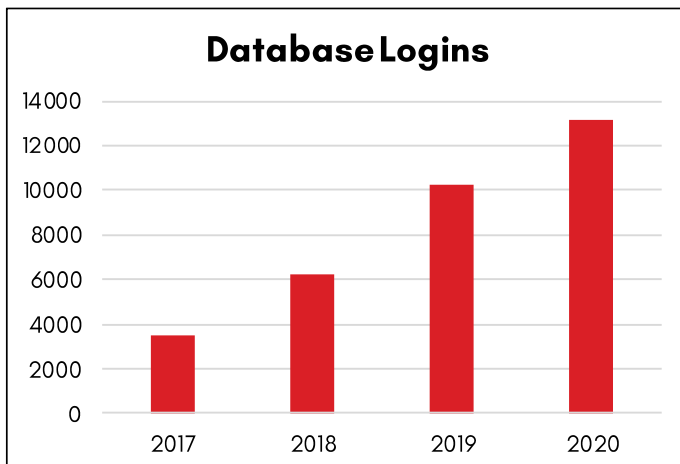
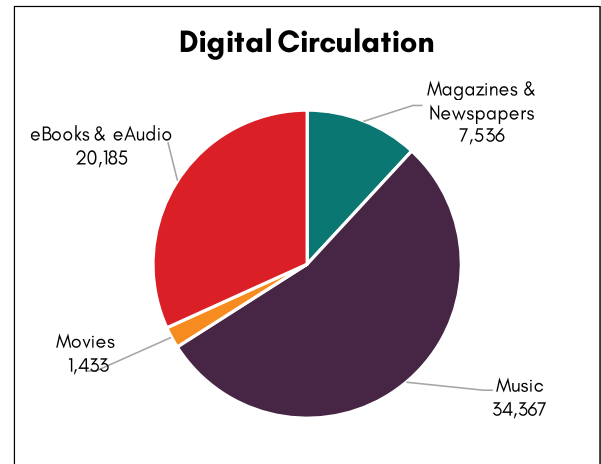
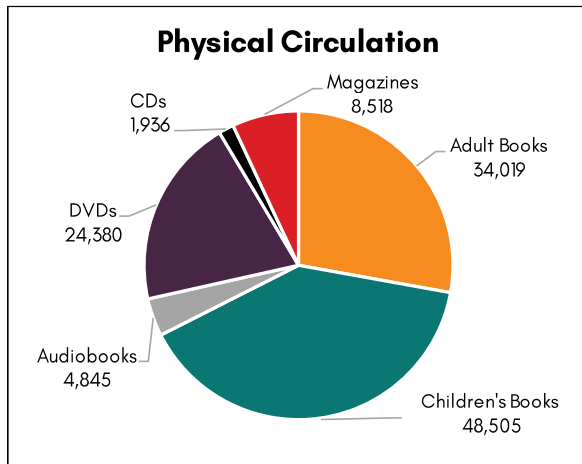


LIBRARY STATISTICS

Although the library building was closed to the public for a significant portion of 2020, we saw great success with our live and pre-recorded virtual programs, and plan to continue using the Zoom, Facebook, YouTube, and Beanstack platforms throughout 2021. The library's total programming attendance increased by 68% from last year, and that doesn't include the 1.5 million people who completed the escape room!



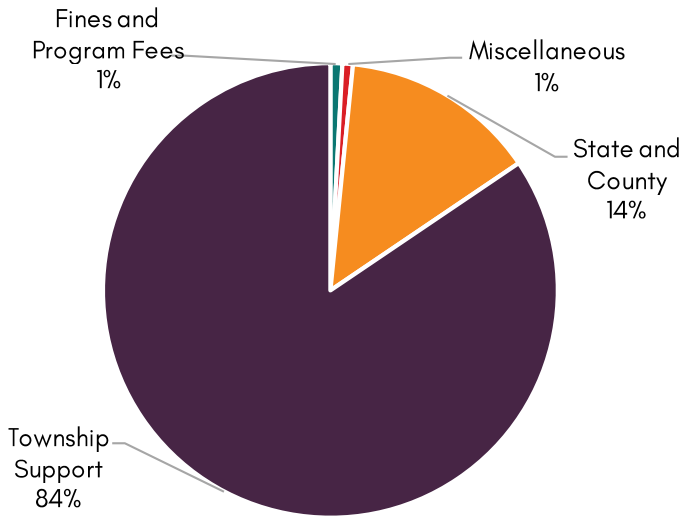
Not included: 1,545,371 Harry Potter escape room and escape room tutorial attendance



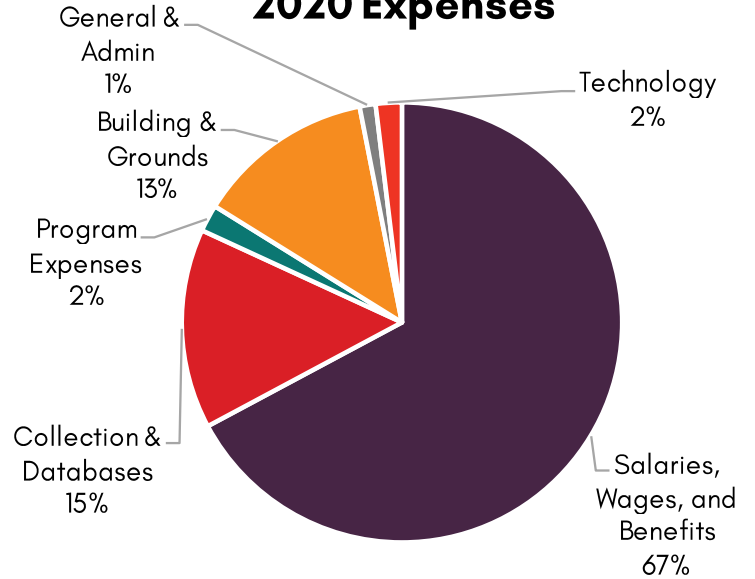
Thanks to many online resources offering free trials or offsite access during the pandemic, our database logins continued to increase in 2020. Visit the library website for a full list of digital resources, including Ancestry, Creative Bug, Consumer Reports, World Book Online, and Mango Languages.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

2020 Revenue



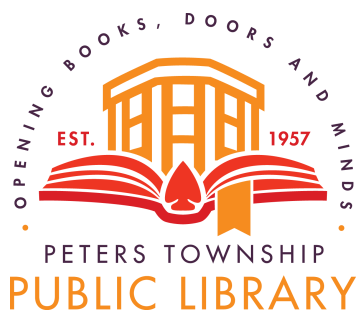
2020 Expenses



Due to the pandemic, the Peters Township Public Library went fine-free in 2020, so that patrons were not charged late fines while the library was closed. All libraries in the WAGGIN system (a consortium of 20 public libraries in Washington, Greene, and Fayette counties) have remained fine-free, even after many libraries reopened or returned to curbside service. We are currently in discussion with the Library Board and Township to evaluate the feasibility of staying fine-free on a more permanent basis. The Peters Township Public Library is incredibly lucky that so much of our revenue comes from government support, especially in a year when fines, program fees, and donations have decreased. Public libraries are a valuable community asset, so please make sure to advocate for adequately funding libraries at the local, county, and state level!



The Peters Township Library Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization whose mission is to build financial and volunteer support for the Peters Township Library. The Foundation fundraises to provide financial support for special projects, beyond the library's normal operating expenditures. Recent projects include the archival consultant in the Local History Room, our Beanstack summer reading software, and our Book Page subscription. The Foundation also hosts Novel November—an annual event that brings a nationally known author to Peters Township to speak to our community. Past authors include Anna Quindlen, Yaa Gyasi, and Tim O'Brien. Thank you to all of the donors who supported The Foundation this year!



616 E McMurray Road
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Return Service Requested



Mission Statement

*The library strives to enrich and empower every patron
by fostering a love of learning.*