

OPENING BOOKS, DOORS AND MINDS.
EST. 1957
PETERS TOWNSHIP
PUBLIC LIBRARY



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Peters Township Public Library • 616 East McMurray Road, McMurray, PA 15317
724-941-9430 • www.ptlibrary.org

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



2021 was a year full of changes for the Peters Township Public Library. In January and February, the library was closed to the public and only offered curbside pickup service. We spent much of the spring, summer, and fall slowly lifting restrictions and determining how to bring back in-person programming and other services safely. Unfortunately, we were forced to limit large in-person programs again in December due to the Omicron variant surge. We went through many transitional phases this year, and the entire library staff put in a lot of hard work to facilitate these changes and safely welcome back patrons.

In the midst of changing services, we were also experiencing a changing staff. In 2021, we welcomed a new Assistant Director, IT/Reference Librarian, Youth Services Technician, and Library Assistant. We also promoted two part-time employees to newly created full-time roles — Program & Outreach Coordinator and Patron Services Coordinator. All of our new staff members have seamlessly joined the library team. I look forward to working with them to continue serving the Peters Township community in new and innovative ways.

We also experienced many changes to our building and facilities this year. The Public Works Department gave the entire interior of the library a fresh coat of paint this winter. In May, our HVAC system was replaced with a more energy-efficient system. We also upgraded our circulation desk and Youth Services desk to better serve the needs of staff and patrons.

Thank you to everyone who used the library this year and supported us through our many changes! Over the next few months, we will be conducting a strategic planning process to determine the direction of the library over the next several years. We can't wait to see what the future will bring.

Lacey Love
Library Director



ABOUT THE LIBRARY

Library Staff

Lacey Love, Library Director
Illyanna Logan, Assistant Library Director
Katie Marchand, Library Secretary
Carrie Weaver, PR Coordinator
Brandon Priddy, IT/Reference Librarian
Sydney Krawiec, Program & Outreach Coordinator
Margaret Deitzer, Local History Librarian
Stephanie Shultz, Reference Department
Shannon Pauley, Head of Youth Services
Linda Esposito, Children's Librarian
Patty Hartenbach, Children's Assistant
Beth May, 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
Anne-Marie Shaw, Library Assistant
Noreen Balach, Facilities Maintenance
Lily Marchand, Page
Julianne May, Page
Jonelle Stambaugh, page

Board of Directors

Richard Easton, Jr., Chairperson
Scott Beinhauer, Vice Chairperson
Ian Parker, Treasurer
Beth Markocic, Secretary
Margaret Verlato

In August 2021, we emailed a survey to our newsletter subscribers about the library's services, collections, and programs in order to gain valuable insight about how best to serve our community. Thank you to everyone who responded! Throughout the Annual Report, we have included kind words and feedback from patrons like you.

“

The library is to be commended for its friendly staff - always ready and able to help. It is one of the great libraries and a great joy to visit.

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“

I am thrilled to have such a fantastic community resource as our public library.

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THE GREAT OUTDOORS



To ease the transition back to in-person programs in 2021, we decided to create a new programming space in a previously unutilized outdoor area. Thank you to our community partners who helped make this possible: the Peters Township Public Works Department for mulching and weeding the area, The Peters Township Library Foundation for purchasing new picnic tables and renting a canopy tent, and Meghashyam Krishnasamy, a local Eagle Scout, for building a sturdy storytime bench. This space was an excellent way to safely host programming while there were still restrictions on indoor events. We are looking forward to utilizing the space well into the future.

We held 31 outdoor programs in 2021 with more than 850 participants, including our summer reading kick-off, a family tie-dye event, weekly backyard storytimes, movie nights, a root beer float social, and biweekly teen and tween DIY programs.



The outdoor programming space also allowed us to build on and continue our established community partnerships. We were able to bring back the annual Animal Fair for the first time since September 2019 as a fully outdoor event. We hosted representatives from eight local animal organizations, including Angel Ridge, Animal Friends, and the Washington Area Humane Society. Each organization had a table to display information so that attendees could learn all about various animal groups in the area. This program allowed us to expand our partnership with Animal Friends, as they now help us place dogs to visit the library each month as part of our Paws for Reading program.



THE PETERS TOWNSHIP LIBRARY FOUNDATION

The Peters Township Library Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization whose mission is to build financial and volunteer support for the Peters Township Public Library. The Foundation fundraises for special projects beyond the library's expected operating expenditures. Thank you to all of the individuals and organizations who made gifts to the Foundation in 2021 through the annual mailer, honor & memorial gifts, Novel November ads & sponsorships, or WCCF Day of Giving. Below are some projects and events that the Foundation generously funded over the past year.



We were happy to see the return of Novel November in 2021. This annual event brings a nationally known author to Peters Township to speak to our community. We enjoyed a sold-out event with New York Times bestselling author Taylor Jenkins Reid.

The Foundation also hosted an outdoor book sale in April 2021, raising almost \$3,000 to go towards library programs.

The Foundation generously funded and supported a wide variety of library projects in 2021, including:

- ◆ A consulting archivist for the PTPL Archives
- ◆ Two Zoom licenses and a Beanstack subscription for summer reading
- ◆ Canvas bags for book club kits
- ◆ Prize baskets for our Adult Summer Reading Challenge
- ◆ Picnic tables & a tent for the new outdoor space
- ◆ Start-up funds for a seed library



2021 Foundation Board

Maura Kelly, President Shar Campano, Vice-President Marji Dickson, Treasurer Diane Lioon, Secretary
Sue Freyder Kathleen Gallant Meghan Greenwood Kay McEvoy

YOUTH SERVICES

For the first half of the year, all Youth Services events remained virtual. Library staff created unique videos for the library's YouTube channel that children and families could watch at their leisure, including daily Calendar Time, thematic weekly storytimes, STEM Saturdays, and Book Babies. We also continued to utilize Zoom to offer live virtual programs. Some popular Zoom events included Hot Chocolate Bingo, a Hamilton sing-along, WQED events, and a Black History Month painting class.



Putting a new spin on traditional events so that families and children could safely participate in activities was an enjoyable challenge for the Youth Services Department in 2021. Pre-pandemic, one of the library's more popular spring events was the Easter Egg Hunt. This year, we created a Drive-Thru Reverse Egg Hunt. Instead of hunting for eggs, families could drive by the library, wave to the Easter Bunny, and receive a bag of Easter goodies. We asked that families bring a non-perishable item for the food bank in exchange for the treats. Our community was so generous that the food bank needed their truck to collect all of the donations.

In the fall of 2021, the library began to reintroduce indoor programming. All programs required pre-registration and had limited capacity to practice social distancing. Our book clubs for teens and tweens, craft events, Maker Monday, and Chess with a Champion were some of the first programs to be offered in-person. We also brought back several holiday programs, including a week of limited Halloween storytimes and costume parades. During the Christmas season, we saw the return of Elf on the Shelf storytime, Edible Holiday Treats, and Family Ornament Night.



“

The virtual and outdoor programs are a great substitute for the programs that were offered in the past. Keep up the great work!

”

The Summer Reading program is always one of the busiest times for any public library, and our “Tails and Tales” program this summer was no exception. Families visited the library for a weekly Backyard Storytime throughout the summer based on various animal and creature themes. Patrons could further explore the weekly theme by tuning into a pre-recorded storytime on YouTube. We used the Beanstack app to allow patrons to record their reading and log fun summer activities in order to earn points. We gave out 93 prize baskets at the end of the program.



TEEN SERVICES

We re-launched in-person programming for teens and tweens over the summer with a series of outdoor “Explore and Make” sessions, including events featuring slime-making, owl pellet dissection, and steampunk journals. In September, we added even more programs for this age group, including new writing groups for teens and tweens who enjoy creative writing. The demand for both has grown, and we have added sessions, so each age group now meets twice a month. Both writing groups took part in National Novel Writing Month this year.

Over the past few months, registration has quickly filled for our new TweenMade and TeenMade crafting programs. Classes included polymer clay sushi, needle-felted acorns, and winter wonderland book nooks.



From WWII England watching for German spies in *The War that Saved My Life* to solving a mystery while attending the Olympics in *Mystery of the Masked Medalist*, our tween book club members have been around the world this year. Book club was held virtually via Zoom for the first half of the year, and members could pick up their books and take-home activities at the library. We are happy to finally be back in-person! The library is also launching a new Teen Choice Book Club in 2022.



ADULT SERVICES

In April 2021, we added two new members to the Adult Programming team. Sydney Krawiec, Program & Outreach Coordinator, and Brandon Priddy, IT/Reference Librarian, really hit the ground running and offered 234 adult programs this year! We continued to offer virtual programs via Zoom, and provided an in-person viewing location at the library for individuals who cannot access Zoom from home. This year, our most popular Zoom program was a presentation by the Army War College, which almost 350 people viewed. The event marked the 15th consecutive year the library has partnered with the college, with officers discussing global topics and answering questions from the audience.



The library conducted an extensive programming survey this fall. The results of this survey helped our Adult Services team plan and implement programming based on the needs of the community.

November saw the return of a much loved all-ages event – Mini Golf – and the beginning of new traditions – Family Photo Day. We have a lot to look forward to in 2022, including a brand new Bingo for Adults monthly program and a seed library coming in the spring.



Spring and summer brought the return of outdoor programs for adults, including DIY craft programs in Peterswood Park and Monday Movie Nights in the library parking lot. Library-sponsored clubs like Stamp Club, Roots Genealogy, and Lensshooters returned in August, along with other in-person programming.

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The library is an awesome resource in our community, and we are so thankful for the way the library has evolved to meet the needs of its patrons, especially over the past year.

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ADULT SERVICES



In April 2021, our virtual programming lineup expanded to include training on digital library services, Microsoft Office, 3D printing, and CreativeBug craft classes. In September 2021, the library resumed in-person computer and Makerspace group classes. We offered over 60 free technology classes this year. We resumed our in-person *Book a Librarian* service in April and conducted over 30 one-on-one technology training sessions.



The Library acquired mobile hotspots, which are free to borrow and allow users to have mobile Internet access wherever they travel. We also added a Cricut cutting machine and mug press to the Makerspace to broaden our maker program offerings.

The PTPL Archives continued to thrive in 2021 under the leadership of Margaret Deitzer and consulting archivist Carolyn Friedrich. Our new series, “Stories from the Archives,” launched this summer with a program about the history of the Peters Township Farm Fair. In 2021, the focus for the Archives was reaching out to the community—through programs, displays within the library, a series of notecards featuring photos from historic Peters Township, and partnerships with other local organizations.

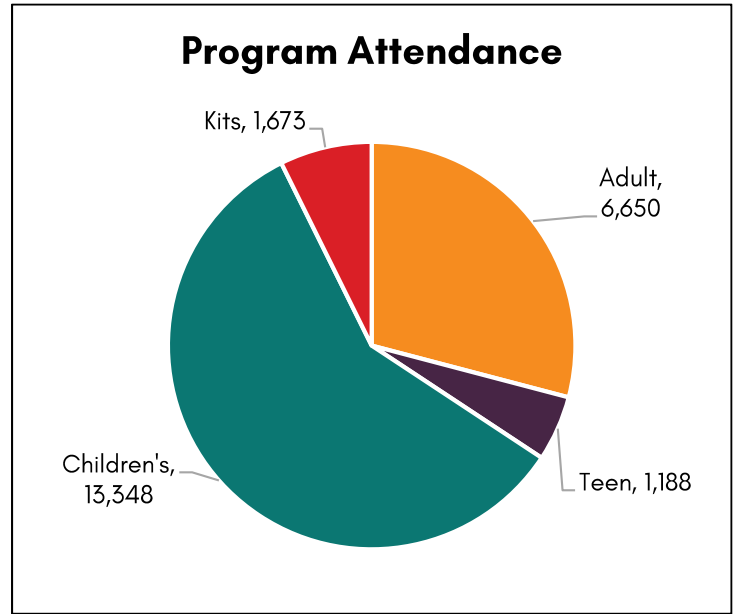
The highlight for the Archives this year was receiving a grant for \$3,450 from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to create a digitization station to scan and provide online access to bound materials that are oversized or fragile. We look forward to adding even more of the library’s extensive collection to PA Photos and Documents.



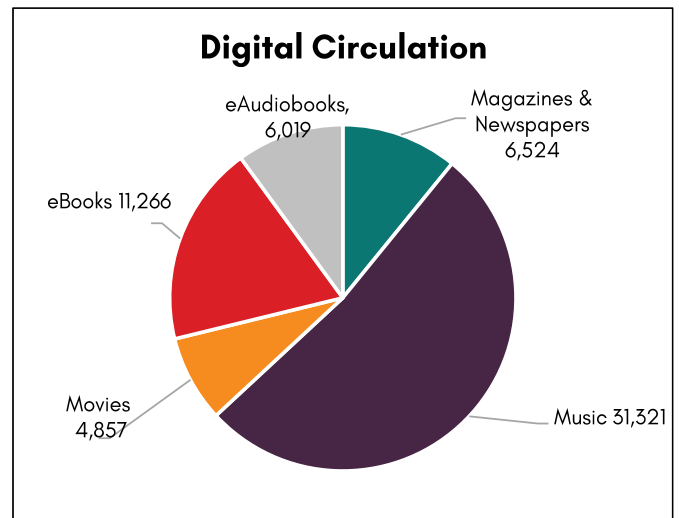
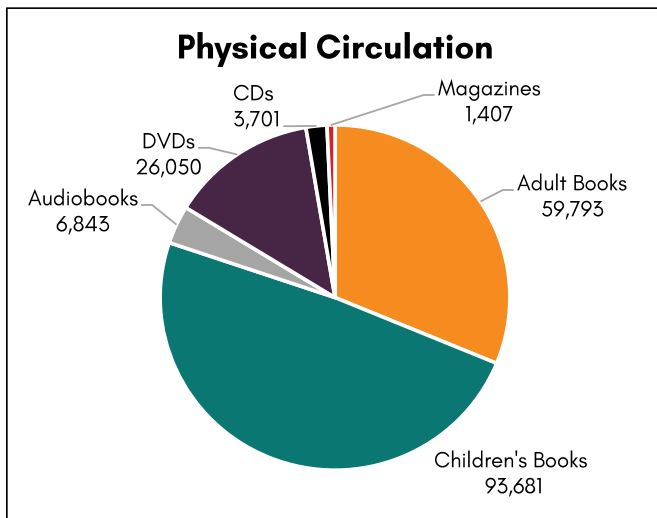
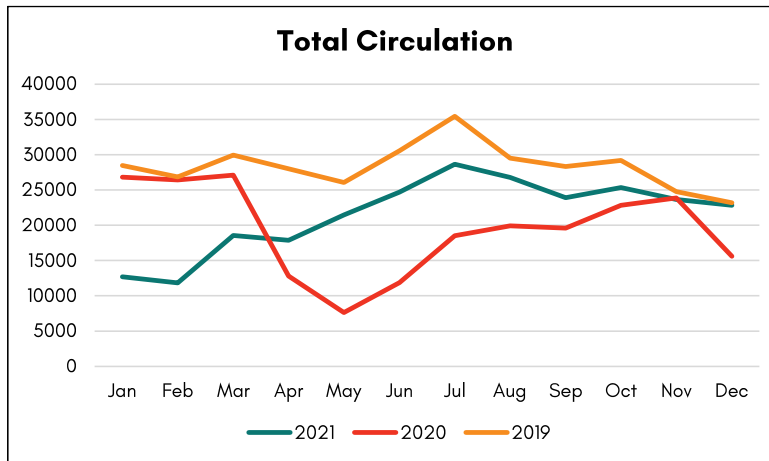
LIBRARY STATISTICS

Throughout all of the changes and transitions in services this year, it has been encouraging to see our 2021 statistics either remain steady from the prior year or begin improving. Our circulation statistics made a return to pre-pandemic numbers this fall and winter. Peters Township circulation is almost 40% of the total WAGGIN circulation, consistent with 2019.

We saw more than 20,000 community members attend library programs this year, virtually and in-person. We also provided 1,675 take-and-make kits to families. The Harry Potter escape room created by staff member Sydney Krawiec is still going strong, with more than 1.3 million people completing the challenge worldwide in 2021.



Not included: 1,312,883 Harry Potter escape room attendance



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

2021 Library Revenue



- Fines, Program Fees, & Contributions – 1.5%
- State and County Funding – 13.5%
- Township Support – 85%

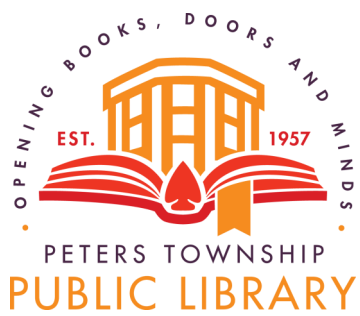
2021 Library Expenses



- General & Admin – 2%
- Building & Facilities – 13.6%
- Collection, Databases, & Programs – 19.6%
- Personnel – 64.8%

All libraries in the WAGGIN system (a consortium of 20 public libraries in Washington, Greene, and Fayette counties) have agreed to remain fine-free since the onset of the pandemic in March 2020. Under this agreement, each library still collects fees for lost and damaged books, but does not charge patrons for overdue fines. The Peters Township Public Library is fortunate that much of our revenue comes from government support, including \$750,000 from Peters Township. Public libraries are a valuable community asset, so please make sure to advocate for adequately funding libraries at the local, county, and state level!

Some notable financial highlights in 2021 include a \$1,500 donation towards our Wonderbooks collection from the Gisoni Family, \$983 in CARES Act funding, and \$400 donated by the Giant Oaks Garden Club. The Peters Township Library Foundation also received a \$20,000 donation in memory of Dirk and Ursula Visser that was earmarked for the purchase of a new circulation desk. The Youth Services Department received a Design, Create, Play kit grant through the Out of School Time Project, made possible by the institute of Museum & Library Services. We received STEM materials valued at almost \$3,000 to use for Maker Mondays and other Youth Services STEM programs, including an iPad, a Silhouette cutting machine, and two licenses for the online FabMaker Studio.



616 E McMurray Road
McMurray, PA 15317

Return Service Requested



Mission Statement

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