

HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

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A patron practices reading with therapy dog Molly during our Reading with PAWS program

Program Highlights

What a year! We started 2020 off strong with Escape Rooms, Laser Tag in the Stacks, our After School program, and Reading with PAWS. After we shut down we kept busy by hosting virtual storytime and a live magic show! Our Events Coordinator, Diana Cassulis, worked harder than ever to bring interesting and entertaining programs to the library, against all odds. She even partnered with Brookfield, Madison, and Hamilton Public Schools to bring the Summer Reading Program to them!

Also in 2020, we once again secured a grant through the MidYork Library System along with the help of the Earlville Public Library, Sherburne-Earlville Public School, and the Town of Lebanon to deliver weekly crafts, books, and activities to the children of Lebanon all summer long!



At least the pumpkin family was able to enjoy our book truck shelf!

Funding

In addition to funds received from the Hamilton Central School District tax levy, the Library is funded through annual contributions from the Village of Hamilton, and the townships of Madison, Hamilton, Brookfield, and Lebanon. We also receive funding from Madison County and New York State, in addition to private donations from the Hamilton Community Chest. This year we received bullet aid from Senator May's office as well. Thank you to our local elected officials, taxpayers, and private contributors for your support!

Building and Grounds

The Friends of the Library have given time and resources to renovating our Children's Room space to allow for more storage, a better learning environment, and improved seating for programs. They also purchased 'busy board' end caps for the children's collection area and a book truck shelf! Unfortunately we are unable to open that room up to the community at this time, due to restrictions put in place as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The cab of the book truck has been roped off, and interactive busy boards (along with the rest of our toys) have also been put away to minimize touch points in the building.

Another recent update was our subscription to the Midyork Weekly and Utica Observer Dispatch online databases, which can be found on our website. Both are free for our patrons!

Take our
community
survey!

Located on our
website:

hamiltonlibrary.org

Local Digital Collections

Digitizing archival materials has been a recent focus of ours, and this year was certainly no exception.

Through grants provided by the Central New York Library Resources Council, we were able to secure funding to digitize Hamilton Central School's Yearbook, 'The Hamiltonian,' from 1950-1989. We also digitized Hamilton Central's student-run newspaper, The Emerald Press, from 1988-2009.

Thank you to former Emerald Press Advisor Nan Washburn for making her copies available to us for this purpose, and to the School District for granting us permission to complete these projects.



Fuller Marks His



Our new circulation desk shield keeps employees and patrons safe

Library Services During COVID-19

The year 2020 was a year of adaptation for all of us. In order to provide you with as many services as possible during this difficult time, we had to adjust many aspects of our workflow to ensure the safety of our patrons and staff. We shifted from in-person programs to take-home crafts, from in-house browsing to curbside pickup and delivery, and in doing so we have continued to carry out our mission to provide you information to educate and entertain.

To keep you safe, we installed hand sanitizer stations throughout the building, along with many safety protocols including daily disinfection through the use of an industrial fogger. All staff and patrons are required to wear masks at all times. While in-person programming was put on hold, we learned how to hold storytimes online and were able to share more programs from local and national organizations!

Throughout our 12-week closure, and in the slow months that followed, we were able to complete a full inventory of the 22,000-plus items in our collection. While we were at it, we weeded out more than 2,000 unused and/or obsolete materials from our shelves to make room for future growth. Next, we took this time to reorganize our adult shelves a bit by merging Fiction and Mystery books and moving Large Type into another area as it had outgrown its previous location! If anything, this year has proven that there's never a dull moment at the library!

Library Statistics 2020

New Patrons

280

Programs

253

Program Attendance

3,209

Physical Checkouts

39,865

Digital Checkouts

9,537

Public Computer Use

3,085

Wifi Logins

3,227

People Visiting the Library

18,499

Hamilton Public Library

13 Broad Street
Hamilton, NY 13346

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

Local Postal Customer

BUSINESS PARTNERS

American Red Cross
Arts at the Palace
BRIDGES
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Colgate Bookstore
Colgate Inn
Community Action Partnership
Earlville Free Library
Evergreen Gallery
Flour and Salt
FoJo Beans
Gilligan's Ice Cream
Hamilton Area Community Coalition
Hamilton Community Chest
Hamilton Eatery
Hamilton Movie Theater
Hamilton Rotary Club
Julie's Shear Perfection
Landmark Tavern
Maxwell's Chocolates & Ice Cream
Morrisville IcePlex
New York Pizzeria
Oliveri's Pizzeria
Rogers Environmental Center
Rye Berry Bakery and Café
Shol's Boutique
Thought Into Action
Upstate University Hospital

Hamilton Central School
Madison Central School
Brookfield Central School



A Letter from the Friends of HPL

BY DIANE FINCH

The Friends of the HPL are a group that volunteers to support the library in ways the Village budget allocations does not. This includes, but is not limited to, raising private funds through book sales, raffles, etc.; supporting children's, teen, and adult programs; promotion of literacy; sponsoring events; and providing refreshments.

Anyone can become a Friend! Maybe You'd like to bake for a bake sale or an event. Perhaps you would like to help with keeping the shelves in the Book Nook stocked. Serving refreshments at Library events is a great way to meet new people. These are only some of the things the Friends do! We plan to have an Open House once the library is open and hope to recruit new members. Hope to see you there!