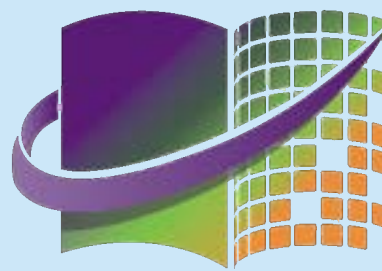
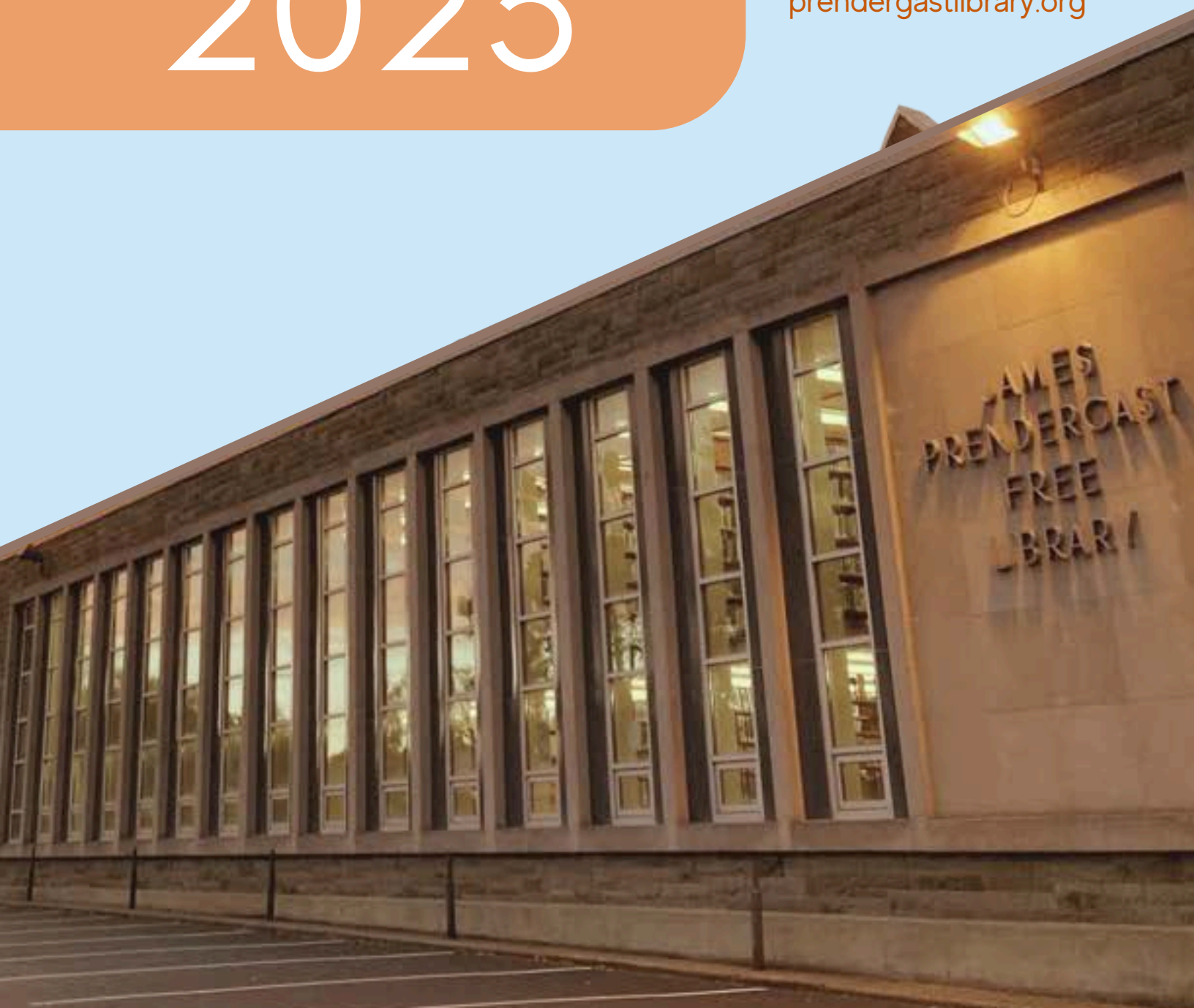


ANNUAL REPORT 2023



509 Cherry Street
Jamestown, NY 14701
716-484-7135
prendergastlibrary.org



To Our Community

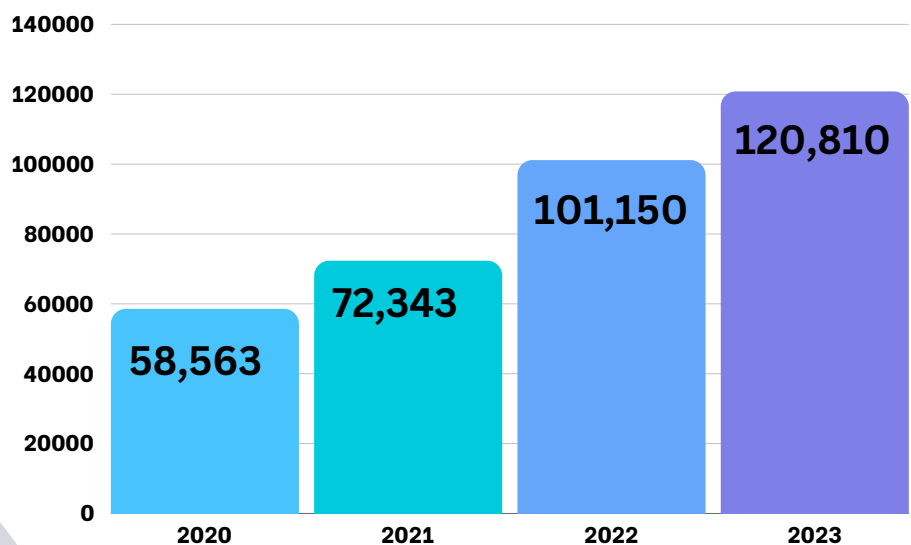
We are thrilled that library visits have increased yearly since 2020.

After the pandemic, we dedicated time and funding to develop and initiate new programs and services for the community. We invested in the library building and grounds, and focused on collection development and community outreach.

The support from our patrons inspires us every day. If you haven't been to the library in a while, we encourage you to visit, check out our new materials and programs, and discover the many opportunities for lifelong learning!

If you are a regular user or only visit a few times a month or year, keep coming back; we look forward to seeing you.

YEARLY LIBRARY VISITS



Sincerely,
Anne Greene
Executive Director

PATIO DEDICATION & COMMUNITY BLOCK PARTY



On June 24, 2023, we hosted the second annual Community Block Party on our new patio. During the event, we dedicated the new patio in memory of library supporter and community advocate, Jim Roselle. Jim's family was present for the dedication, and over 1,000 people attended the Block Party. Thank you to the nonprofit organizations that participated, the food truck vendors, and all of our volunteers!

HAUNTED LIBRARY



On October 22, 2023, 500 people attended our second Haunted Library tour. Guests toured the library to meet characters from classic storybooks, including Maleficent, Sherlock Holmes, the Queen of Hearts, the Headless Horseman, and a grumpy, hungry troll. We sold out of tickets and can't wait for 2024.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2024

Focus, Goals, Investments

A Focused Mission

Develop a new program plan that meets community needs, reaches new audiences, and brings the collection to life.

Create a collection management team to ensure the collection meets the community's needs.

Invest in new technology and equipment that enhances library services for our community.

Implement organized approaches to staff development to deliver service effectively.

Community Engagement

Improve community connections by collaborating with local organizations and developing a volunteer program.

Utilize all media platforms to communicate library services, and celebrate its history and continuing role in our community.

Sustainability

Improve the library's natural and physical space to enhance use and ensure inclusiveness of services.

Develop a fundraising plan that speaks to the community about their library's value and contributes to its ongoing financial sustainability.

Values

Equity

We are an inclusive and equitable organization that promotes equity of access in our community and serves the diverse needs and requirements of our users.

Community

We align our services and programs with the needs of the community.

Creativity

We embrace a culture of exploration, experimentation and reflection to improve services, anticipate needs, and manage change.

Sustainability

We invest in economic feasibility, environmental stewardship, and social justice, inspire investment and build support for the future.

Collaboration

We build partnerships to achieve shared goals and increase the impact of our mission.

Strategic Plan Progress Report

Highlights

Collaborated with Jamestown Public Schools to provide weekly storytimes at their Innovation Center.

Introduced new adult Summer Reading Bingo, which significantly increased adult participation in the summer reading program.

Provided phone chargers and bike locks for use on library property.

Changed board book shelving to forward facing to improve visibility and browsability.

Received a grant for new 3D printers for use in programming.

Provided new focused training for staff, including fire safety and technology training.

Security staff has prioritized community engagement and relationship building with patrons.

Recruited new volunteers for the library's annual Block Party and Haunted Library.

Attended the City of Jamestown Riverwalk Trick-or-Treat event and handed out over 500 books.

Installed a new outdoor patio, walkway and community gardens.

Created a ten-year Sustainability Plan to support library operations and future investments in building construction, planning and design.

Applied for a National Wildlife Federation "Garden for Wildlife" certificate.

Installed new library storage cabinets in the upstairs community room, Makerspace and hallway to improve organization.

Improved the library's Booksale profits by featuring a special Booksale table in the front of the library.

Created a donor campaign with a "Tribute Wall" where donors could honor a family member or friend.

Coming in 2024

Teaching Gardens

A new outdoor program and event space is coming - anticipated installation early June 2024.

Music Concerts

The library is partnering with Fredonia School of Music to offer free concerts throughout the spring and fall.

Memory Lab

Thanks to a grant from the Holmberg Foundation, the library purchased a VHS-to-Digital converter, a slide and negative scanner, and more.

Creative Crosswalk

Look for a new "book themed" crosswalk on Cherry St. at 6th Street --- inspired by other safe street initiatives, the crosswalk will stand out and contribute to community safety and accessibility.

Bathroom Updates

Grant funds will update and improve energy efficiency in the library building, paving the way for future sustainability initiatives.

Summer Reading 2023

Over One Million Minutes Read!



Our 2023 Summer Reading Celebration was a huge success. The library registered 661 children who read 1,167,272 minutes - our highest total yet! We also had 44 teens read 78 books and complete 52 activities - we love seeing teens enjoy Summer Reading at the library. In 2023, we revamped our Adult program by introducing a Bingo sheet. We had 77 adults participate, with 47 completing at least 1 Bingo. Both our Teen and Adult Summer Reading programs have seen increased participation.





LEAP into Reading with the Jamestown Public Schools!

In 2023, we continued our partnership with the Jamestown LEAP Camp. LEAP allows children to strengthen their math and reading skills in a fun and enriching summer camp environment. Library staff visited LEAP camps to get kids excited about Summer Reading, and we also welcomed campers to the library for STEAM programming.

Jamestown High School Classes

During the Spring and Fall semesters, 88 Jamestown High School students visited the library as part of their English and English elective classes. Students toured the library, registered for library cards, checked out books, and completed projects involving creativity, library knowledge, and teamwork!



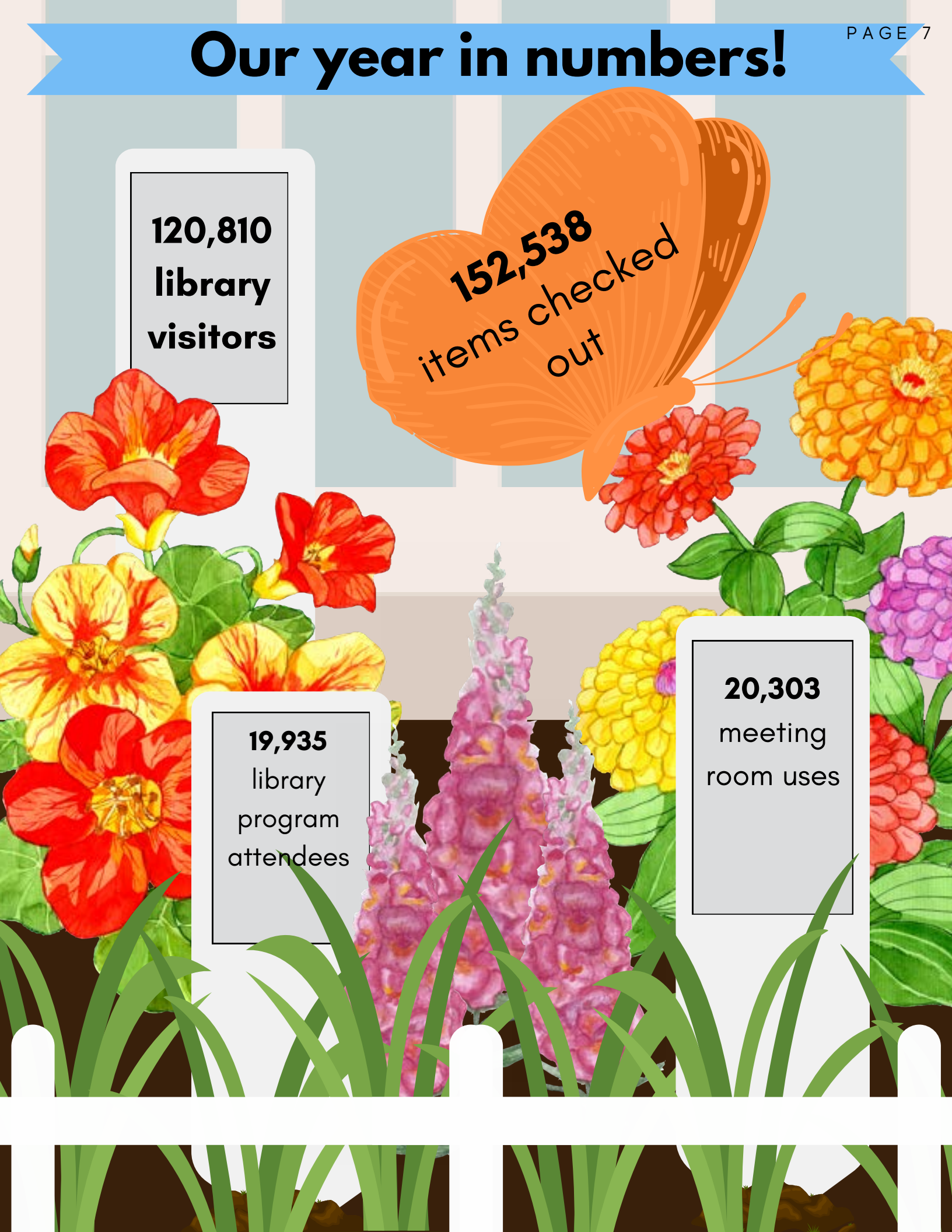
Our year in numbers!

120,810
library
visitors

152,538
items checked
out

19,935
library
program
attendees

20,303
meeting
room uses



121,914
reference
questions

112,994
Website
visits

14,669
Wireless sessions

6,752
total social
media
followers

16,478
Computer uses



Native Plant Community Gardens

Thanks to a grant from the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, the library has installed new gardens in front of Cherry Street's entrance doors.

The gardens, comprised of native plants and herbs, are the first phase of a three-year project to reintroduce native plants to the library's grounds.

We are excited to create a space celebrating biodiversity, historic preservation, and community well-being.



Murray L. Bob Education Initiative

The Bob Education Initiative brings community organizations to the library to conduct classes and run programs. This initiative honors former director of the Prendergast Library and the Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library System, Murray L. Bob.



Children's Music Studio

Children and caregivers got musical with an 8-week Music Exploration class led by Children's Music Studio, a program of the Community Music Project.

Participants could sing, dance, and try out basic instruments in a community setting.



Jamestown Public Market

The Market held two educational programs at the library as part of the Bob series - "Transforming Food Waste" and "Cooking Fun with Fresh Herbs." Attendees learned new recipes, gained insight into local food systems, and sampled fresh, locally sourced food!

This program was supported in part by the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation.



Infinity Visual and Performing Arts

Over the summer, Infinity offered seven all-ages drumming workshops at the library!

Kids and adults alike had a wonderful time learning rhythms and getting loud.



Pearl City Clay House

Pearl City Clay House, a program of Infinity, offered several workshops, including cell phone photography, eco-dyeing, paper making, bookbinding, and visible mending.

Attendees at these programs could express their creativity, try something new, and take home their finished products!

Teen Programs

In 2023, the library continued its successful teen programs - and made several additions!

In January of 2023, we began our Teen Dungeons & Dragons Night. Throughout the year, 75 attendees created characters, completed quests, and built connections at this monthly program.

Our Tuesday night Teen Crafting program continued to be popular, with 327 attendees participating in crafts such as acrylic pour painting, needle felting, and painting portraits of adoptable animals housed at the Chautauqua County Humane Society!

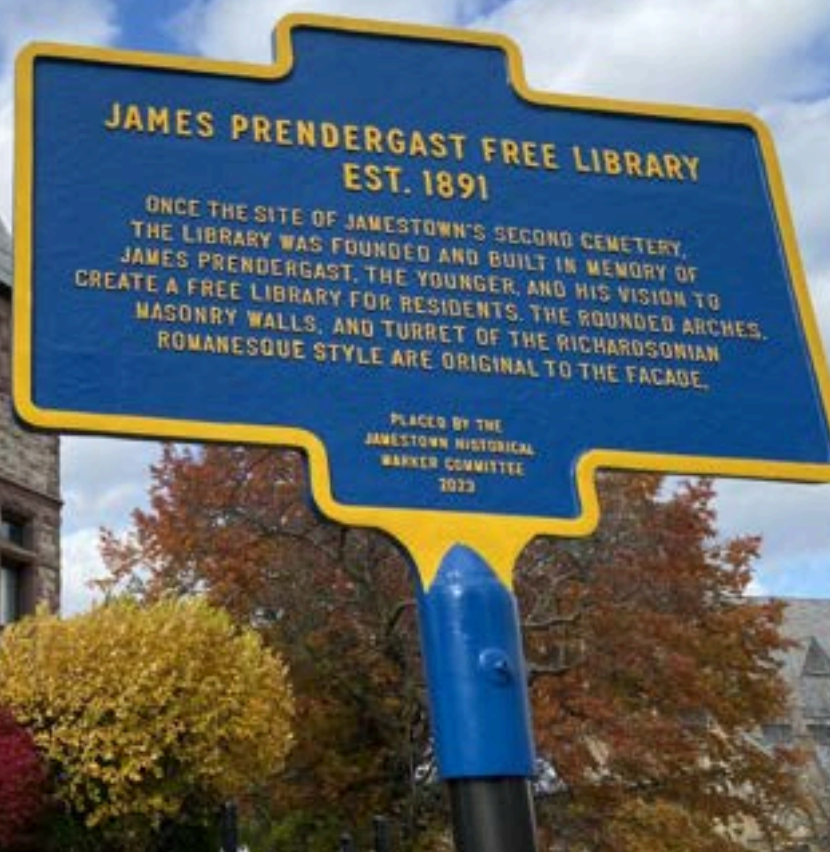


Other special programs included:

- Animanga Nights
- Teen Resume/First Job Workshop
- Edible Haunted House Program
- Makerspace Teen Takeover
- Escape Room
- UV Resin Design

Historical Marker

In 2023, the Jamestown Historical Marker Committee selected the Prendergast Library for commemoration. The committee and city officials dedicated the new marker on October 27, 2023. The historic marker celebrates the library's history, the Prendergast family, and the importance of public libraries.



Community Partner Spotlight



Literacy Volunteers of Chautauqua County

The Literacy Volunteers partner with the library and use the library's Literacy Center for tutoring and programs. They help with GED test prep and learning to read, write, or speak English. Students of all skill levels are welcome. In 2023, seven tutors came to the library weekly to work with students.

Volunteer Spotlight

Meredith and Steve volunteer at the library each week, helping to shelve returned materials and improve labeling in the library's collection. They are a big help and always a friendly presence in the library's workroom. We so appreciate both Meredith and Steve's volunteer work at the library!



Murray L. Bob Lecture

Presented by the Robert H. Jackson Center's Executive Director

The 2023 lecture was presented by Robert H. Jackson Center president Kristan McMahon.



McMahon gave an excellent talk on the historical context of the Nuremberg Trial and how it has evolved into the International Criminal Court.

Grants



\$4,000

CRCF – General

CRCF provided funding for the library's native plant gardens - located outside of the main doors on Cherry Street.

\$500

Chautauqua Cattaraugus Library System

CCLS provided funding for the 2023 Summer Reading prizes for adults, children, and teens.

\$17,000

Jesse Smith Darrah Fund

The Jesse Smith Darrah Fund provided support for our eBook collection.



\$20,170

Lenna Foundation

Lenna Foundation provided funding for security updates, including new cameras for outside the library.

\$18,000

Holmberg Foundation

A grant from the Holmberg Foundation provided funding for adult Makerspace supplies, such as new 3-D printers and scanners and STEM activities for all ages.

\$27,750

Carnhan – Jackson

A grant from the Carnahan-Jackson Foundation funded energy updates to the public restrooms, including new faucets, toilet sensors, and hand dryers.



Cummins

Funding from Cummins supported our 2023 Summer Reading Program and year-round distribution of free children's books to local community organizations. In 2023, the library distributed 5,850 books!

\$10,000



\$74,365

Sheldon Foundaton

The Sheldon Foundation funded a comprehensive LIDAR scan of the library, which will be used in all future construction grants and facility updates.

THANK YOU, DONORS & SPONSORS!

2023 PROGRAM SPONSORS


Thank you for your support of the library.

COMMUNITY BLOCK PARTY

Price Abstract
Company, LLC

SPECTRUM
Eyecare

Lind FUNERAL HOME, INC.

 **UBS**

HAUNTED LIBRARY

RODGERS
LAND SURVEYING

Quick
SOLUTIONS
Everything in Print!

CRAFTING

 **BAHGAT & LAURITO-BAHGAT**
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS & ADVISORS
PROVIDING THE TOOLS FOR FINANCIAL SUCCESS

 *Dot's* Gift Boutique

SUMMER READING


Chautauqua Patrons
Insurance Company
Firmly Rooted Since 1877

Jamestown Area Community
Federal Credit Union



STORMER
Mechanical **INC.**

 Fessenden Laumer
& DeAngelo, PLLC
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

Raynor's Liquor Store

Morans FLOOR Store
and Furniture Showroom 

COLECRAFT
Commercial Furnishings

2023 ANNUAL FUND & MEMORIAL DONATIONS

MEMORIALS

Memorials given to the library are in memory of loved ones and contribute to the growth and diversity of the library's collection.

23 Memorials
Totaling **\$3,380**

In 2023, memorials were made to family and friends who loved the library and supported education, lifelong learning, and community development.



JHS Class of 1951 Donation

FUNDRAISING

347 donors & **17** sponsors
donated **\$79,355**
to our annual fund & programs

A total of **\$105,718**
was raised in combination with our
Annual Fund drive, booksale, and other
library fundraisers.

2023 BUDGET

REVENUE

30.2%	SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$350,000
33.1%	ENDOWMENT	\$383,391
7.5%	FUNDRAISING	\$87,000
9.2%	STATE	\$107,178
5.1%	CCLS REIMBURSEMENT	\$59,500
2.0%	LIBRARY FEES	\$23,000
0.3%	MEMORIALS	\$3,100
0.4%	LOCAL COLLEGE	\$5,000
0.9%	COUNTY	\$10,000
11.4%	GRANTS	\$131,681
TOTAL		\$1,159,850

EXPENSES

53.5%	SALARIES	\$620,520
17.5%	BENEFITS & RETIREMENT	\$202,654
8.2%	LIBRARY OPERATIONS	\$95,017
9.5%	MATERIALS	\$110,000
0.7%	PROGRAMMING	\$8,500
6.2%	BUILDING MAINTENANCE	\$71,539
2.1%	LEGAL / PROFESSIONAL FEES	\$24,150
0.6%	FUNDRAISING	\$7,000
1.4%	TECHNOLOGY	\$16,000
0.2%	TRAINING & CONTINUING ED.	\$2,471
0.2%	OUTREACH / PUBLICITY	\$2,000
TOTAL		\$1,159,850

About us

The James Prendergast Library opened in 1891. The library building and collection was a gift to the citizens of Jamestown from Alex and Mary Prendergast in honor of their son, James Prendergast. Over 130 years later, the James Prendergast Library is still serving the community.

Board of Directors

Dan Hickman - President

Ned Lindstrom - Vice President

Cassie Blakeslee - Secretary

Michael A. Corey - Treasurer

Jessica Carr

Frank Corapi

Cindy Johnson

Judy Long

Matt Mancuso

Mary Zdrojewski

In 2023, the library operated with a team of 20 people. The staff is cross-trained to quickly move from helping patrons in the Children's Room to assisting with a question at the Reference Desk.

On a typical day out in the library, our staff shelve returned materials, keep the library clean, and assist patrons who are checking out items, searching for new books, and using public computers.

Behind the scenes, staff plan programs and outreach events, coordinate with community organizations to bring library activities out and about in Jamestown, and order and process new materials.

Every day is a busy day at the Prendergast Library!

Photo: Postcard of the Library, c. 1900



James Prendergast Library

509 Cherry Street
Jamestown, NY 14701
716-484-7135



Hours

Monday - Friday
9:00 - 7:00

Saturday
10:00 - 4:00

prendergastlibrary.org

@prendergastlibrary   