



Albany **Public** Library

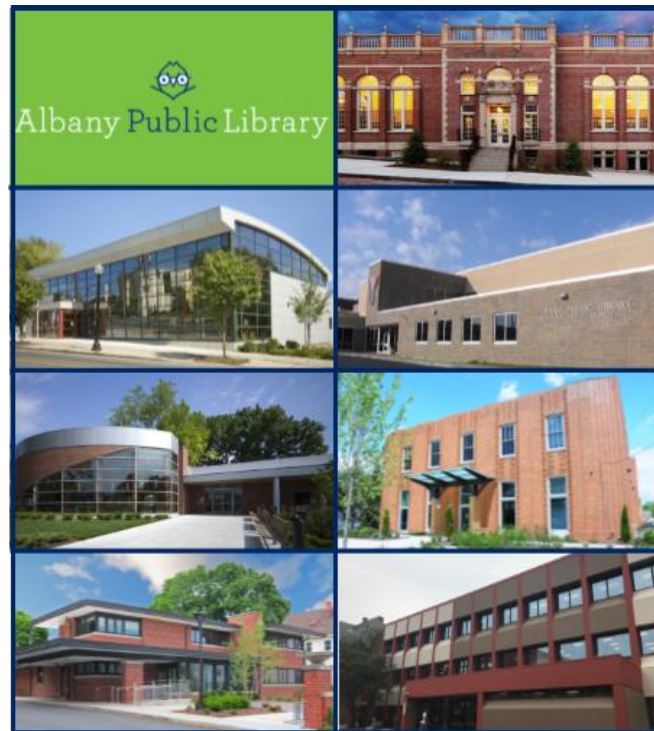
— **Community Report** —

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# Each Month, Our Branches:

- Loan out **57,800 books** and materials
- See **66,100 visitors** at our seven locations
- Provide **7,200 WiFi sessions** and **12,500 public computer** sessions
- Host **5,000 people** at APL programs, activities, and events
- Experience **34,600 website visits** and loan **5,400 digital books** and other eMedia
- Offer **730 meeting rooms** and study spaces



# 2017 Highlights

- **Raising a Reader early literacy program** expanded across the city providing caregivers with resources and encouragement to read 1,000 books to their children before kindergarten to give them a **solid foundation to become readers themselves**
- **Beat Bots hands-on learning STEM program** named Upper Hudson Library System **Youth Program of the Year**
- **Local History Room** and program honored for **distinguished service** by Capital Area Archivists
- The Albany Fund for Education **honored the library for the valuable services and extensive resources it offers to Albany students**, and the role it plays in providing opportunities for student success
- **Albany Made podcast named Best Local Podcast** by readers of The Alt newspaper
- Library Links **book delivery service for homebound seniors** expanded to the entire APL community



# Community Partners

- **APL Foundation** | Provides funding support for programs including Raising a Reader early literacy initiative and Library Links book delivery for homebound seniors
- **CDTA** | Sale of Navigator passes at branches generates revenue
- **Albany Community Action Partnership** | Rents space in Washington Ave. building for Head Start class
- **Albany Promise** | Helps us study impact of Summer Reading Program on school-age children
- **CDPHP CYCLE!** | Rents space for its storage and maintenance operation in Washington Ave. building
- **Senior Services of Albany** | Pop-up libraries and book delivery services



# Albany's Libraries Add Value

- **68% of APL staff live in the city of Albany** | We are your neighbors!
- Our branches **enhance the sense of community and reduce reliance on cars** | All are walkable, bikeable, and on CDTA bus lines
- The library is a **destination for people who have retired in Albany** | They visit for fellowship, books, lectures, fitness classes, and more
- **Small business owners use the branches** as offices | They use fax machines, printers, computers, WiFi, meeting spaces, and other technology tools
- Received a clean audit report from the NYS Office of the Comptroller, demonstrating library's **commitment to fiscal responsibility and financial management practices**
- Careful and prudent stewardship of library finances resulted in **excellent Aa1 credit rating** assigned by Moody's Investors Services



# Strategic Plan Guides Decisions

- In 2017, library leaders worked with a consultant to devise a strategic plan that will **guide decision making over the next three years**
- We **gathered information** from library patrons and staff, members of the Friends and Foundation, and the general public **through surveys, focus groups, and interviews**
- We also **visited model libraries** and analyzed libraries that are similar to APL
- The plan outlines the library's commitment to Albany by: **meeting community needs**, providing a **community learning platform**, **cultivating leadership**, and **ensuring long-term sustainability**
- The **strategic plan is driving decisions** that the board and administration are making about library programs, services, collections, staffing, facilities, and budget to **best meet the needs of our patrons and community**



# Proposed 2019 Budget

- The 2019 library budget includes a **2% increase in the tax levy**
- This budget **increases funding for staffing to open branches for additional morning and evening hours**
- The spending plan **adds funding for eBooks** to meet growing demand
- The budget **increases programming** to meet needs of our patrons, including early literacy initiatives for our city's infants and toddlers
- The plan **makes more rooms available for meetings** during evening hours
- The budget **includes funding to continue service to the North Albany neighborhood**, as the board continues discussions with staff & public about how to best serve this community
- The library board approved the **\$7,153,022 operating budget** at its March 13 meeting
- This plan would **increase taxes on a home assessed at \$150,000 by \$4.89** in 2019



# Budget Vote is May 15

- Voters go to the polls on **Tuesday, May 15**
- The library vote is the **same day as the school district vote**
- But the **library is an independent organization**, so our budget is completely separate from the school
- There are **no library trustee seats up for election** this year
- The complete library budget is available at [www.albanypubliclibrary.org](http://www.albanypubliclibrary.org)
- Polling locations will be available from the school district at [www.albanyschools.org](http://www.albanyschools.org)







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