



Albany Public Library

— **Community Report** —

Spring 2022

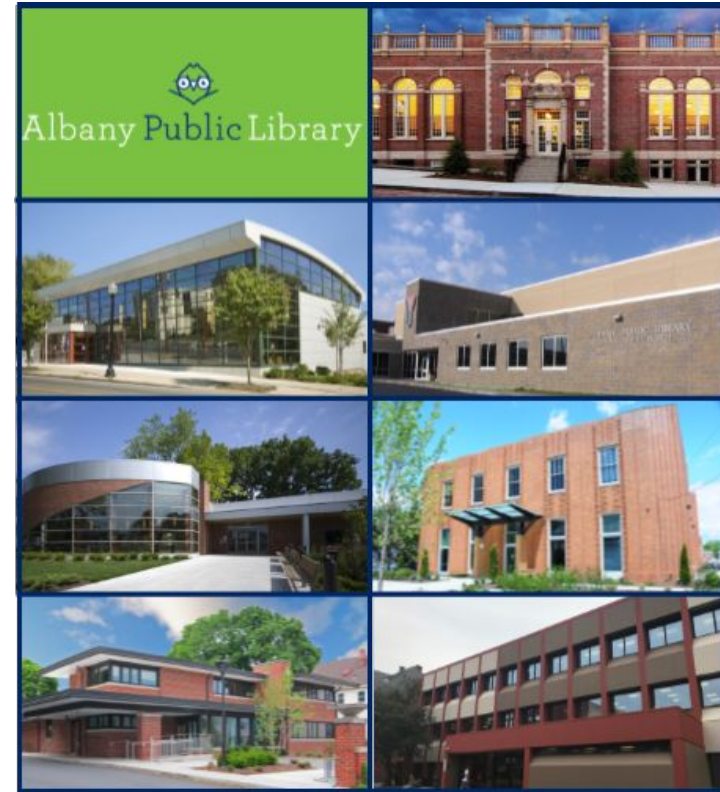
OPERATING IN A PANDEMIC

- **“Don’t waste a crisis”** | We took this advice to heart and **spent time refining our behind-the-scenes workflows and processes to improve service** to our patrons.
- While there were times when we had to reduce or change services to keep staff and patrons safe, we also **worked hard to provide alternatives**.
 - **Robust live virtual programs** on Zoom and YouTube and **recorded videos**.
 - **One-on-one assistance for patrons with social services needs**, including connecting them to rental, unemployment, health, and food assistance.
 - More **eMaterials for at-home enjoyment** including books, audiobooks, movies.
- The library was actively involved in **helping people sign up for COVID vaccinations and testing**. And, we continue to be a trusted source that connects people with the most up-to-date COVID and health information.



In 2021, Albany Public Library:

- Loaned out **352,393 books** and materials
- Saw **155,275 visitors** at our six open locations
- Provided **33,340 public computer and WiFi** sessions
- Hosted **28,762 people** at programs, activities, and events – mostly virtually, but also in person
- Had **16,100 views** of APL-created videos on our YouTube channel



2021 Highlights

- **INCREASED E-MATERIALS** | In response to people's lives continuing to be virtual in many aspects, we **added Hoopla for streaming content** including movies, tv shows, and books. We also **reallocated the materials budget to provide more funds for eBook, eAudiobook, and other eContent materials.**
- **WIFI IN THE COMMUNITY** | APL continues to bridge the digital divide by bringing **free WiFi to three Albany parks**, in partnership with the City of Albany, **and at four Albany Housing Authority locations.** We are discussing expansion to both programs.
- **MEETING PATRONS WHERE THEY ARE** | We continue to **offer programs in varied ways**, including virtual workshops, book clubs, and storytimes that you can participate in from anywhere. Expanded outdoor programs and take-and-make projects for at home use have also been popular.
- **CONTINUATION OF SERVICE** | We kept our doors open, with services, computers, books, and **programs available in the midst of changing regulations** and a surging/waning pandemic.



APL is Doing Great Things in 2022

- **RETURN OF IN-PERSON PROGRAMS & OPEN MEETING ROOMS** | We are thrilled to **bring back in-person programs and open our meeting rooms** at all of our open branches for use by the library and community groups.
- **IMPROVING PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE** | We are working to meet the changing needs of our patrons by **ensuring the buildings function for how they are used today.**
 - **Bach** | A **new study room and reconfigured computer area** for adults recently opened.
 - **Washington Ave.** | The **large auditorium being renovated to improve the audio/video setup, seating, and add the ability to livestream meetings and performances.** This is a grant-funded project.
 - **Delaware** | This branch will **soon host a CDTA DRIVE carshare electric vehicle**, which can be rented from the parking lot.
- **NORTH ALBANY BRANCH** | This satellite branch is part of the school district's renovation of the former YMCA building into a middle school. The library branch is **getting its own separate entrance, bathrooms dedicated to patrons and staff, a program room, and a study room.** We expect North Albany to be **open later this year.**



Proposed 2022-2023 Budget

- The library's Board of Trustees **unanimously approved the 2022-2023 budget.**
- The operating budget is \$7,372,420. This is an **increase of 2.5%** over the current year's total tax levy.
- This is **below the NYS tax cap** and marks the **first increase since 2018.**
- The library is dealing with **rising costs for just about every facet of our operation.**
- The modest budget increase plus more use of the fund balance would **enable APL to continue current services and operations.**
- If approved by voters, the **owner of a home assessed at \$150,000 would pay an additional \$5.98** in library taxes next year.



Budget Vote is May 17

- Albany voters will **weigh in on the library budget on Tuesday, May 17.**
 - Polls are open from 7 am until 9 pm that day.
- **This is the same day as the school district vote and polling locations are the same.**
- Information is being updated as needed and posted on the library's website at www.albanypubliclibrary.org/about/budget
- Polling locations are available from the school district at www.albanyschools.org



Trustee Election Also May 17

- There are **ten candidates for four library trustee seats up for election on Tuesday, May 17**. In ballot order, the candidates are:
 1. **Sarah Macinski** of Edgewood Ave.
 2. **Gene Damm** of Fairlawn Ave.
 3. **Kevin Whitehead** of Wood Terr.
 4. **Paige A. Barnum** of Lancaster St.
 5. **Lynnette D. Robinson** of Beverly Ave.
 6. **Ford P.R. McLain** of Elm St.
 7. **Kirsten Broschinsky** of Edgewood Ave.
 8. **Andrea C. West** of Edgecomb St.
 9. **Tabora D. Marcus** of 2nd St.
 10. **Carlos Velasquéz** of Jefferson St.
- Information about the candidates' background and reason for running is available on our website at albanypubliclibrary.org/about/budget/.
- And, a [video of the meet-the-candidate forum is on YouTube](#) @AlbanyNYLibrary.



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