

**Liberty Library Annual Report 2021**

2021 was the Liberty Library’s second year of navigating the COVID-19 pandemic. The library is now open 5-days a week, Monday-Friday, with the assistance of library volunteers. We loaned a total of 7263 items to our patrons this year. Of these borrowed items, 1931 were books for adults, 3601 were books for children, and 1275 were DVDs. Folks have taken advantage of our interlibrary loan service with 957 items borrowed from other libraries around the state, and about an equal number of our materials were loaned to other libraries. Van delivery is on Thursdays!

Downloadable eBooks and audiobooks continue to be quite popular with about 900 downloads from CloudLibrary, the state program we participate in from Download Library. Comics Plus is a new service from Download Library that offers downloadable comics and graphic novels for young readers. We used ARPA funds in August to join hoopla© to provide more digital services. You can read, watch, and listen to more than 950,000 eBooks, audiobooks, comics, movies, music, or television titles. hoopla© allows simultaneous use so there is no waiting for items to become available. These services are free with your library membership. You can access them from your computer or from apps that are available for Apple or Android on your portable devices. Directions and information are posted at the Liberty Library website: liberty.lib.me.us > Help.

In May, TDRC (Information Technology Disaster Resource Center) provided WiFi hardware and installation through its projectConnect free of charge to update our system. NetworkMaine provided a new router and Consolidated Communications upgraded the existing circuit which resulted in internet speeds of about 1 gigabit per second. Around 1000 people this year accessed our WiFi from both inside the library and from the library parking lot 24-7. Computer use and printing of documents is available inside the library.

While the library offered few indoor events this year, everyone was grateful for the return of pie sales, plant sale, raffle, and ice cream social held outdoors. 268 people attended via Zoom the book discussions, bingo games, murder mysteries, and a variety of speakers throughout the year. In June, Chewonki presented "Animal Adaptations" at Lake St. George State Park, and children participated in online trips to investigate animal science through popular folktales throughout the summer. Those who returned their Summer Reading Record by logging their daily reading donated a bunch of pet food to the Waldo County Pet Food Pantry for their efforts. These were all part of our Summer Reading program “Tales for Tails.”

So it was a busy year despite the pandemic! In addition, volunteers knitted hats & mittens to be distributed to those in need. We had a new deeper sink installed and replaced the refrigerator in the kitchen. Maine State Park and Farnsworth passes were available to borrow. The Little Library out front was visited numerous times. 375 subscribe to our monthly newsletters brimming with announcements, events, and a spark of joy. My sincere hope is that these services that the library provided for the citizens of Liberty and Montville improved your quality of life this difficult year and made your days more enjoyable.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Rehmeyer Visit our website: **liberty.lib.me.us**

Library Director Subscribe to the newsletter and Facebook page