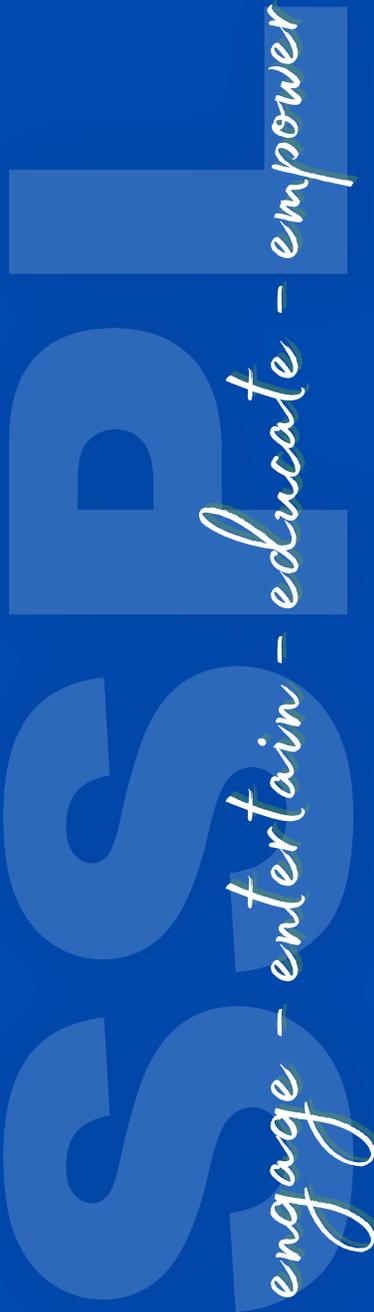




ANNUAL REPORT 2023



LIBRARY BUDGET VOTE

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2024 | 9AM-9PM
SARATOGA SPRINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY
H. DUTCHER COMMUNITY ROOM

A LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTOR

What do *People* magazine, djembe drums, the autobiography of Prince Harry, 17 “Elephant and Piggie” easy readers by Mo Willems, the e-book version of *I’m Glad my Mom is Dead* by Jenette McCurdy, season one of *Yellowstone* on DVD, and a pass to the Children’s Museum at Saratoga have in common? They are all ways of sharing stories and experiences, and they all broke the top 100 most-borrowed items list from among the nearly half million items checked out from Saratoga Springs Public Library in 2023.

Looking at the most-borrowed list is always an interesting exercise. Some patterns are unsurprising: our community has always been one of readers. Print materials have always out-circulated audio and video materials at Saratoga Springs Public Library, even when movies surged ahead of books in many other libraries across the country. What’s particularly striking this year is that only three of the top 100 items in 2023 were DVDs.

And those drums? And museum passes? For as long as I’ve been working in libraries (well into my third decade, now, egads!), the profession has been changing, and evolving, to meet the tastes and needs of our consumers, but always with a foundation of delivering information and stories. Watch for our Library of Things to continue to grow over the next year, beginning with our Seed Library debuting this April.

Regarding plans for our physical plant? In my first year as Director of SSPL, in 2008, we set out on a multi-year project to transform the interior space of the library. Over the next decade and a half, we created the Treehouse Room, reimaged public service points at the Circulation, Information, and Reference desks, doubled the space of the public computing area, then re-envisioned and doubled the size of the Teen Room, enlarged and relocated the Friends Book Shop, and relocated, opened (then, thanks to Covid, reopened) the Coffee Shop. We also completely upgraded the HVAC system. While accomplishing all of this, we also became one of the first certified sustainable libraries in the state of New York.

Now, that work continues. Our elevator has reached the end of its useful life and needs replacing, our meeting rooms require upgrades, and the precious archival resources of our Saratoga Room deserve thoughtful protection. The proposed FY 2024-25 budget, which includes a 1.5% increase in library-dedicated property taxes over FY 2023-24, will begin to address these infrastructure priorities.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A. Issac Pulver".

A. Issac "Ike" Pulver, Library Director



HOW DID YOUR LIBRARY SERVE THE COMMUNITY IN 2023?

- Library users borrowed 492,379 items.
- Cardholders downloaded or viewed 81,752 e-books, e-audios, and streaming movies.
- Library staff prepared, presented, and hosted more than 2,333 program sessions for 21,123 participants of all ages, including 923 one-on-one sessions devoted to adult basic education, digital literacy, and English Language Learning.
- 1,538 people attended English Language Learning classes and tutoring sessions with library staff and volunteers.
- Library staff made 339 visits to individual homebound residents, senior housing sites, and school classrooms, reaching and serving 5,162 people in locations outside of the library.
- 253,112 people visited the library in 2023.
- Users logged nearly 50,000 sessions on library computer and wireless services.
- In 2023, library meeting rooms were booked by non-profit community organizations or used on a walk-in basis 982 times.



The Great Give Back



Drumming Circle



Senior Give Back Day in the Teen Room

SARATOGA SPRINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FY2024-2025

	FY2023-2024	FY2024-2025
Books	\$200,000	\$180,000
Magazines & Microfilm	\$25,000	\$30,000
Electronic Resources	\$140,000	\$160,000
Computer Software	\$10,000	\$10,000
Audio & Visual Materials	\$60,000	\$50,000
Supplies	\$47,000	\$47,000
Postage	\$10,000	\$10,000
Miscellaneous & Bank Charges	\$21,000	\$21,000
Insurance	\$80,000	\$75,000
Heat	\$10,000	\$12,000
Electricity	\$100,000	\$100,000
Phone & Internet	\$20,000	\$20,000
Sewer Tax	\$12,000	\$10,000
Repairs & Maintenance	\$95,000	\$100,000
Equipment	\$42,500	\$60,000
Conferences & Training	\$25,000	\$30,000
Professional Services	\$65,000	\$80,000
Printing	\$10,000	\$10,000
Program Expenses	\$60,000	\$65,000
Automation	\$115,000	\$115,000
Capital Projects	\$200,000	\$800,000
Retirement	\$376,760	\$350,000
Social Security	\$270,000	\$270,000
Health Insurance	\$665,000	\$793,500
Disability Insurance	\$5,000	\$5,000
Salaries	\$3,393,600	\$3,433,608
TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET	\$6,057,860	\$6,862,108
Income Other Than School District Levy	\$774,103	\$1,499,095
Required from School District Levy	\$5,283,757	\$5,363,013



Staff Development Day