

**Dear Friends and Neighbors,**



Just like the rest of the world, **Cambridge Public Library** spent 2021 on a Covid-19 rollercoaster. Thanks to the support of the **Cambridge Public Library** Board of Trustees, the Staff, and our entire community, the library was able to operate with little to no disruptions of our services. In fact, despite the surge of Covid-19 cases in our community due to new variants of the virus in 2021, the library was able to lift Covid-19 restrictions and open our space to gatherings once again.

**Cambridge Public Library** maintained a 30-hour service week throughout 2021. Although Covid-19 cases spiked in our area, the library did not have to endure any closures. Our dedicated Staff and volunteers worked hard to keep our doors open. In spite of starting the year with building occupancy limits the library had over 49,000 visits in 2021. The public Wi-Fi, which is available inside and outside the building 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, was accessed 18,200 times. In addition to books, the library offers DVDs, laptops, e-readers, STEM kits, museum passes and even a metal detector. Patrons of **Cambridge Public Library** borrowed 17,953 items in 2021.

The uncertainty of 2021 made planning for our usual programs very difficult. The library maintained a 10-person limit on gatherings inside the library building until the Fall of 2021. Even with these restrictions our programs and services were greatly utilized. In April of 2021 we began the Farm-2-Library program. Every week the **Cambridge Public Library** received a delivery of locally sourced produce and donated dry goods from Comfort Food Community. This program has a dual purpose of reducing food waste as well as meeting the many food insecurity needs of those in our community. The **Cambridge Public Library** community refrigerator was visited by 1,127 community members in 2021. The library continued the very popular Take & Make craft program. Every month our dedicated Staff put together 2 craft kits, with all the necessary materials. In 2021 we handed out 925 free craft kits to local families. The library offered virtual programs for the 2021 Summer Reading Program. 233 children and adults participated in Container Gardening, Learn to Draw Animal Portraits, Tie Dye Painting, and various STEM Themed programs. All participants of the Summer Reading Challenge received \$10 in Chamber Cash, redeemable at any local business that is a member of the Cambridge Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Finally, 2021 brought back the use of the **Cambridge Public Library** community meeting room. In addition to our Knitting and Quilting, Mahjong, and Alzheimer and Dementia Caregiver groups, many outside organizations utilize this space for monthly meetings. This year the library will no longer have limits on gatherings inside the building. On top of the programs that have already returned, **Cambridge Public Library** will be hosting weekly Story Hour, monthly Senior Pop-Up Luncheons, Alzheimer and Dementia Information Workshops, and many other In-Person programs which are set to begin in May of 2022. This year's Summer Reading Program, "Oceans of Possibilities", will be packed with In-Person programs and the Summer Reading Challenge will be open to children and adults in our community. The **Cambridge Public Library** Board of Trustees and Staff are thrilled to welcome all groups back to the library building and are more committed than ever to serving our community in every way possible.

*"The library is a doorway to freedom, to free thought. When you're being taught, "you can't, you can't, you can't" ... the library says, "you can, you can, you can." – Patricia McKissack*