

## Dear Friends and Neighbors,

“Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve and contribute to improving our quality of life. Libraries change lives for the better.” – Sidney Sheldon



At **Cambridge Public Library** it is our mission to offer programs and services that not only entertain, but also educate and empower our community members. 2022 was an exciting year here at the library. Our 2,097 registered library patrons borrowed 24,468 items in 2022, an increase of 6,515 from the year before. Library materials available for circulation included both physical and electronic books, audiobooks, DVDs, Museum Passes, STEM Kits, a metal detector, laptops, e-readers and more. In addition, the public Wi-Fi, which is available inside and outside of the building 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, was accessed 8,748 times. These numbers are a wonderful reflection of just how important access to library materials really is.

With all Covid-19 restrictions finally lifted in 2022, **Cambridge Public Library** Staff and Board of Trustees were able to focus on rebuilding the many programs and services we offer to our community; continuing or reinstating some of our favorites and also introducing new ones. The **Cambridge Public Library** continued our partnership with Comfort Food Community, offering the Farm-2-Library program which provides fresh produce and dry goods to anyone who needs it. Our community refrigerator was visited by 1,382 community members in 2022. The library also continued the very popular Take & Make craft program. Every month our dedicated Staff put together craft kits for patrons to take and make at home, handing out 860 kits in total. We were absolutely thrilled to welcome back our Preschool StoryHour which meets every Tuesday at 10:00 AM and is being led by Mollie Bell. **Cambridge Public Library** hosted a total of 244 program sessions with 1,926 individuals in attendance. On top of regular weekly programs such as Quilt and Sew, and Mahjong, the library also hosted Senior Pop-Up Lunches, Tie-Dye Crafts, Air Terrarium Crafts, Alzheimer and Dementia Information Workshops, Science programs with MadScience of the Capital District and more. With support from the Library Board of Trustees, Friends of the Library, and our dedicated Staff and Volunteers **Cambridge Public Library** also began planning for new services and programs that launched early this year such as Financial Wellness Workshops with local financial advisor Marion Watkins, and our Seed Library which provides free seeds to the community thanks to donations from Bentley Seed Co. and many of our community's avid gardeners. We look forward to growing these new services and more in 2023.

Finally, 2022 began many exciting plans for the future of **Cambridge Public Library**. The library received a \$5,000 Construction Aid Grant which was used toward hiring the Architectural Firm Butler Rowland & Mays, who specialize in library design and renovations. Our library has also partnered with the Village of Cambridge and the Cambridge Community Partnership on plans for the Owlkill Commons. Governor Hochul announced early this year that the Owlkill Commons project was selected as the winner of a \$2.25 million dollar New York Forward Grant. The library will use grant funding to address handicap accessibility issues, create separation of quiet and noisy areas, space for children's programming and teen activities and make improvements to our Community Meeting room. As we look toward the future of the **Cambridge Public Library** there will be many community engagement workshops to help plan services and programs that will benefit everyone. None of what we do would be possible without our patron's support. We want to thank our community for helping us help others. Together we can change lives for the better.