

**Dear Friends and Neighbors,**

“A library is a house of hope. It’s a place where we all, whatever our situation, can feed our ideas and develop our dreams.”

– Doug Wilhelm



At **Cambridge Public Library** it is our mission to stimulate the connections between people and ideas, to encourage literacy, and promote free exchange of information and resources for cultural, educational, and economic development while fostering a sense of community in an environment that is welcoming for all. To accomplish this mission, our library continues to curate a collection of materials filled with relevant, interesting, and diverse topics. In 2024 **Cambridge Public Library** loaned 19,893 items to our community members. These items consisted of books, in print, audio, and electronic formats, DVDs, Museum Passes, STEM kits, laptops and more. In addition, the library continued to offer Public WiFi, accessible 24/7, which was accessed 14,343 times, as well as, printing, faxing, and copy services provided at the low cost of \$0.25 per page.

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 1,482 community members and distributed 5,440 pounds of fresh produce sourced from local farms, easing food insecurities and reducing food waste. Our Seed Library provided free seeds and gardening education for individuals who wish to grow their own food as well. In addition, the library began a partnership with Alliance for Positive Health, offering Harm Reduction services and education to our community members free of charge. This partnership has already shown positive results with multiple individuals enrolling in programs to begin their road to recovery from Substance Abuse Disorder. **Cambridge Public Library** hosted a total of 186 program sessions with 2,180 individuals in attendance. On top of regular weekly programs such as StoryHour, Mahjong, and Knitters and Quilters, the library hosted Senior Pop Up Lunches, Community Health Workshops, Financial Wellness Workshops, Take & Make Kits, Crafting Classes, Author Visits, and much more. The library continued to strengthen ties to the community with Summer Reading programs that encouraged community engagement. The library partnered with Battenkill Books, Cambridge Community Forest, Cambridge Central School and many others to offer Rock Painting, with 163 painted rocks found around the community, Trail Tales, which encouraged individuals to explore the Community Forest, and a Birthday Celebration for U.S.A., which included a live reading of the Declaration of Independence, music from members of the school band, cupcakes from King’s Bakery and roughly 150 individuals celebrating the independence of our great country. We are looking forward to expanding these services, events, and workshops in 2025!

Finally, the **Cambridge Public Library** was announced as recipients of two large grants in 2024; the New York Forward Grant and a NYS Public Library Construction Grant. The first construction project, a small addition to be used for studying, tutoring, small meetings, and other activities that require private or quiet space, was put out for Public Bid in December of 2024 and construction began in March of 2025. This first round of construction is set to be open for public use this Summer. Final planning for the next round of construction, funded by the New York Forward Grant is underway and progress has been steady. The need for this additional space is more evident now than ever as our Meeting Room is consistently filled with both library sponsored programs and community organizations that utilize the space for their meetings and events. **Cambridge Public Library** remains committed to not only offering quality materials for borrowing, engaging and informative programs, and free services, but, to also providing a community space that is truly for everyone. It is a great privilege to be part of such a wonderful community and we strive to offer services that contribute positively to the lives of all that we serve. Thank you for helping us help others!