

# 2024 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



## Letter from Andrea Simmons M.L.S., Library Director



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It is with great excitement that I share the 2024 Annual Report for the Ballston Spa Public Library. This has been a landmark year for our library—one marked not only by growth in services and programs, but by the start of a building addition that has been years in the making.

Thanks to the unwavering support of our Library Trustees, Village Board of Trustees and Mayor, staff, Friends of the Ballston Spa Public Library, community members, generous donors and grant partners, we held groundbreaking ceremony in November 2024. The expansion includes the addition of a reading room/flex space and local history room. These new spaces, designed by Paul Mays of Butler, Rowland, Mays Architects, LLC, all designed to better meet the evolving needs of our patrons.

### Some highlights from this transformative year include:

- **Beginning of the Library Addition:** After years of planning, we officially broke ground on November 17, 2024. Community members of all ages and stages came together to celebrate this momentous occasion. Construction promptly began after the groundbreaking to beat the cold winter months.
- **Program Growth:** We added new diverse programs, including Introduction to Dungeons & Dragons and Reading Readiness Sessions with therapy dog, Georgie and more evening programs for adults. Once construction began, our popular story time sessions had to be moved off-site to our community partner, Ballston Area Community Center.
- **Reaching Everyone:** More people are using the library not just to borrow materials, but to connect, learn, and find a welcoming place to gather. In addition, there's been a rise in popularity of digital resources such as Libby and Hoopla. BSPL strove to aid anyone who might need a helping hand with the Blessings Box (food pantry) 4-H Mitten Tree (free cold weather gear) and school supplies giveaway. We also went Fine Free, alleviating the financial burden of overdue charges.

This has been a year of hard work, patience and shared achievement. I want to thank our dedicated staff, Library Board of Trustees, Village Board of Trustees, the Mayor, Friends of the Library, and every resident who contributed their time, talent, or support. We have always believed the library is the heart of our village, and now—with more room to grow in the future—it becomes more essential than ever.

As we move forward into 2025, we are excited to explore new opportunities, partnerships, and growth for both the library and all the patrons who stop by. Once the addition is complete, we invite everyone to stop by, attend a program, do research in our new local history room or simply enjoy a sunny afternoon in our reading room.

With Sincere Gratitude,

*Andrea H. Simmons*

### Ballston Spa Public Library: Statistics, Figures and Accomplishments



37,550  
VISITORS

Wifi  
1,696  
TIMES ACCESSED

eBook  
12,952  
DOWNLOADS

#### Highlights

- \* Dan Berggren Capital Campaign Benefit Concert on January 25th at Brookside Museum
- \* Collaborated with the Ballston Spa Committee on the Arts where the library hosted several art "experiences" classes over the summer
- \* Started the Paws 2 Read program where kids in kindergarten through 4th grade read to George the therapy dog once a month
- \* Awarded money from Assemblywoman MaryBeth Walsh for the library's Capital Campaign
- \* Received a DLD Library Construction grant to help fund phase 1A of the library's Master Plan.
- \* The library had a groundbreaking event on November 17th for phase 1A of the Master Plan: a 2-story addition ( upstairs Reading Room and lower-level Local History Room)

Card Holders  
4,140

#### Programs

96  
PROGRAMS  
2,005  
ATTENDANCE

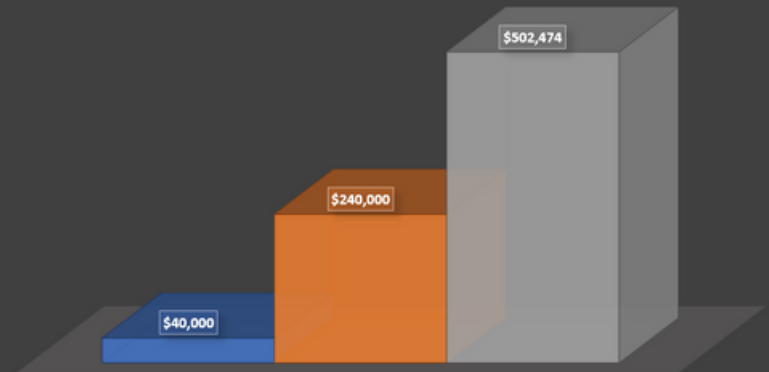
35,965

Items  
Borrowed

27,087  
Items in the Collection

### Capital Campaign Funds

■ Bullet Aid from Assemblywoman MaryBeth Walsh ■ Fundraising & Grants ■ NYS DLD Construction Grant



Capital Campaign Funds

Have questions or comments?  
Contact us!

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### Ballston Spa Public Library Funding Sources



● Real Property Taxes \$159,504 ● BSCSD Tax Levy \$64,505 ● Town of Milton \$41,000  
● Interfund Transfer \$9,000 ● SALS System Grant \$1,500 ● Library Fees \$1,400