

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Broome County Public Library

The Broome County Public Library

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<b>A Letter from the Library</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>The Board of Trustees</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Pandemic Timeline</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Library Visits</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Circulation &amp; Collections</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Library Staff</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Programs &amp; Partnerships</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Financials</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Support the Library</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Map</b>	<b>12</b>

## A LETTER FROM THE LIBRARY



Dear BCPL community,

This was a year of unprecedented challenges for all of us. For me, this included moving across the country to assume leadership of the Broome County Public Library at a time when every day brought a new crisis. For our library staff, it included working as contact tracers and daycare workers, figuring out how to quarantine library materials, and explaining our ever-shifting hours and procedures to the community. For our friends and neighbors, it meant managing the financial crisis, the tsunami of confusing and contradictory information, and the risk of infection, all at the same time.

Looking through this report, it's clear that the pandemic had a huge impact on the Library's 2020 operations. However, the myriad ways in which our staff stepped up and served the community are less clear from the numbers alone. From developing new service models such as curbside pickup and grab-and-go craft projects to expanding our ebook collection and offering remote programming, the entire BCPL team went above and beyond this year. We also made significant contributions to Broome County's COVID-fighting efforts with Library staff working as full-time contact tracers when cases spiked and caring for the children of essential workers during the shutdown. I am proud of all the good work that we were able to do, and even more proud of our staff for the resilience, flexibility, and empathy that they exhibited throughout the year. I particularly want to thank Sherry Kowalski—our Head of Information Services—for her steadfast leadership as Acting Director during the worst of the pandemic.

As I write this, Spring has arrived, and brought with it some hope of moving past the COVID crisis. We have the opportunity to begin restoring the Library programs and services that we have all missed, but also to build on some of the new services that we developed during 2020. Looking to the future raises some important questions for the entire BCPL community. What do you want the Library to look like when this crisis has passed? How will we shape our future? How can we engage the community more directly, and serve our friends and neighbors as they put the pieces back together again? How can we broaden our financial and political support? I've been overwhelmed by the warm welcome that I've received during the midst of the COVID crisis. I can't wait to see how the community shines when we are able to fully share each other's company again, in person and with our faces visible.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Josias Bartram', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Josias Bartram, Library Director



## FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Library: a place in which literary, musical, artistic, or reference materials are kept for use but not for sale.

What library books did you get lost in this past year that helped you make it through like the rest of us avid readers? Did it begin with “It was the worst of times, it was the best of times”, or did it take you wandering through the Hundred Acre wood with Christopher Robin and Pooh? Perhaps it helped you wrap yourself in an invisibility cloak, tap your wand on the Marauder’s Map and repeat the words “I solemnly swear I am up to no good” in order to run through the tunnel to Hogsmeade, or did you find yourself standing next to the Scarlet Pimpernel as he began to recite “they seek him here, they seek him there...”?

How fortunate we are as Broome County residents to have such a beautiful library filled with so many books to get lost in. As the newly elected President of the Board of Trustees for the Broome County Public Library, my mission is to share this good fortune with as many of our neighbors as possible. To this end, we had planned to host a 20th anniversary celebration for our Jeffrey P. Kraham building in 2020, but like so much else this was disrupted by the pandemic. Stay tuned for 20 ¾ celebration sometime this summer!

On September 21, 2020, Broome County hired Josias Bartram as our new Library Director. Josias and I have had many conversations regarding the future of our library, many times while holding a cup of coffee and walking on Court Street in Downtown Binghamton. Josias is energetic, creative, and easy to get along with and keeps our Board busy while we build a vision and get down to the actual job of getting things done. If you haven’t already visited in the last few months, please stop in to see all the changes that are being made to make your library the one you will be able to brag about to your family and friends.



JoAnne Hanrahan  
President, BCPL Board of Trustees

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**JoAnne Hanrahan**  
*President*

**Peter DeWind**  
*Vice President*

**Kate Miller-Corcoran**  
*Treasurer*

**Jeffrey Boisvert**  
*Secretary*

**Margaret Shiel**  
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**Kathleen Jablonowski**  
*Board Member*

**Sara Tarricone**  
*Board Member*

**Emily Backus**  
*Board Member*

**Jennifer Embree**  
*Board Member*

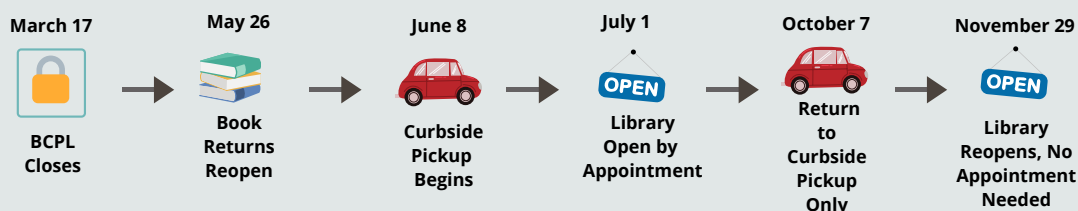
**Katie Bowers**  
*Board Member*

**Jill Kissick-Castro**  
*Board Member*

## IT'S BEEN A STRANGE JOURNEY

### Pandemic Timeline

During 2020, as COVID-19 upended everyday life, the Library took steps to balance health and services. The chart below shows the COVID-19 event timeline, and the numbers on the following pages reflect the impact of those closures and openings.

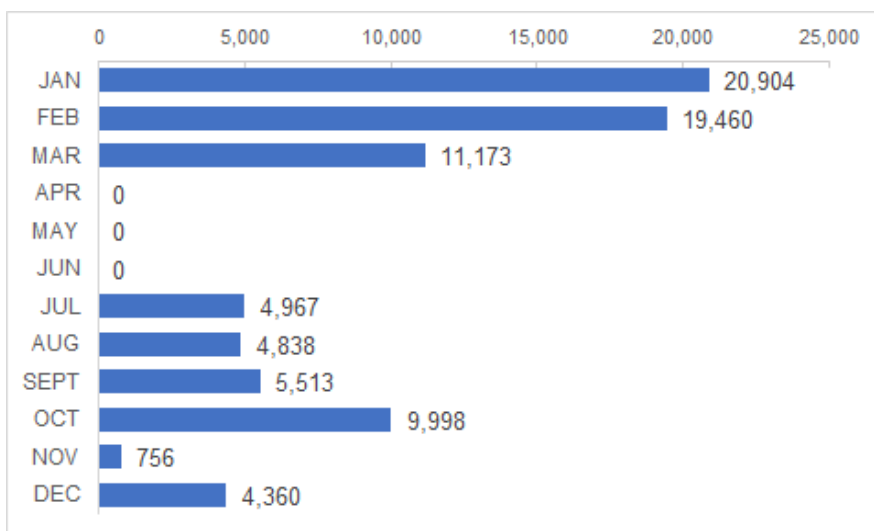


## LIBRARY VISITS

### Total Library Visits

**81,969**

As with public libraries everywhere, the pandemic significantly impacted our ability to serve our patrons and the community in the way we would like during 2020. After being completely closed for three months, we were very happy to offer the option of Curbside Pickup during the second half of the year, and the number of Library Visits shown below also includes those statistics.



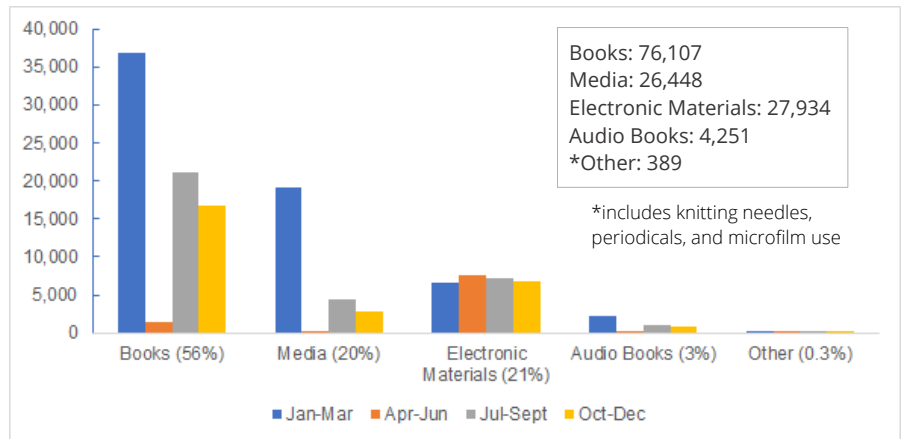
**32,834**  
Registered Resident  
Borrowers

**245**  
Registered  
Non-Resident  
Borrowers

## CIRCULATION & COLLECTIONS

### Materials Circulated

# 135,129



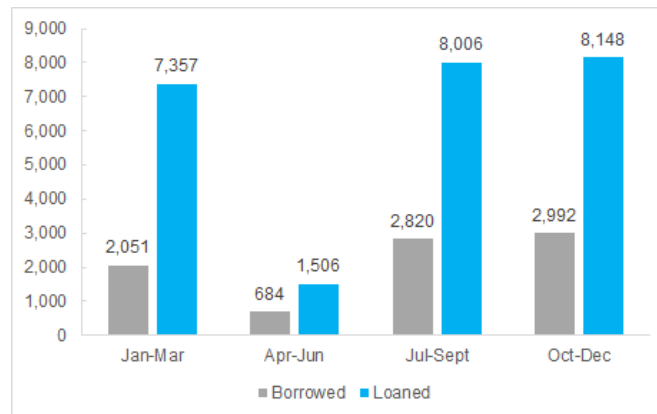
### Interlibrary Loan

Materials Loaned

# 25,017

Materials Borrowed

# 8,547

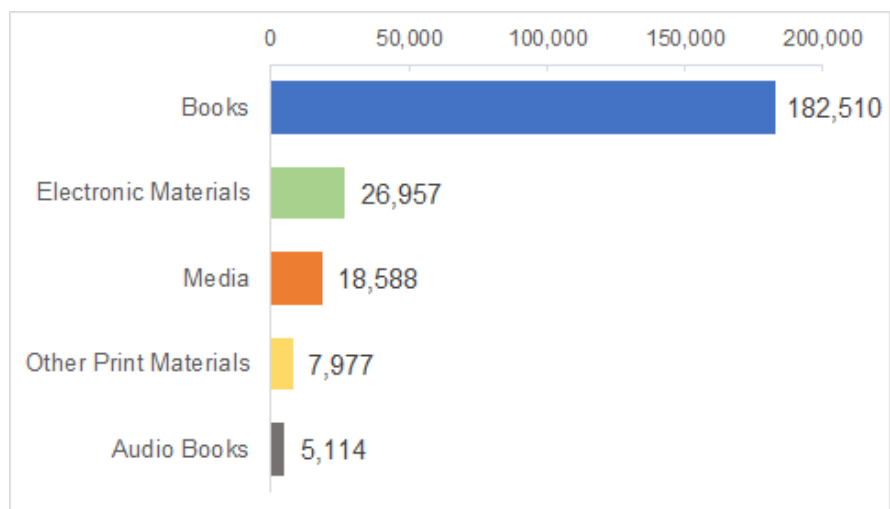


Because BCPL is the Cental Library for the Four County Library System and has a broader collection, we proudly loan thousands of materials to the 41 smaller libraries in the system. We are also able to acquire books for BCPL patrons from these libraries.

### Library Collection

# 241,146

Print & Electronic Materials

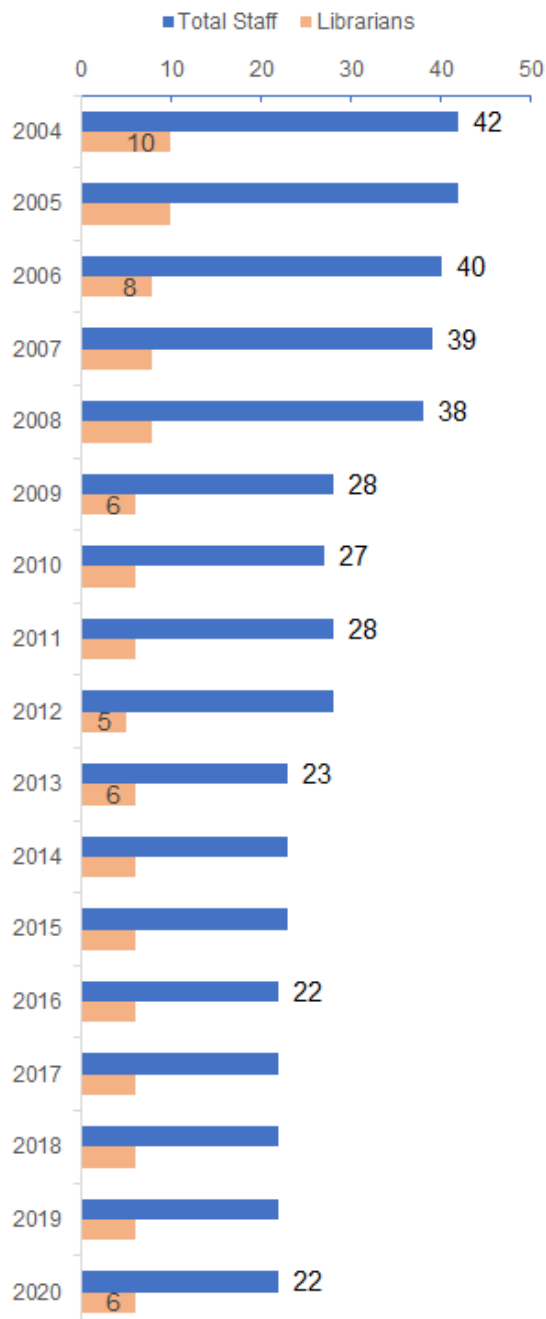


## LIBRARY STAFF

### Then ...

#### A Historical Look at BCPL Staffing Levels

Due to budget cuts, the total staff has been cut by almost 50% over the last 16 years, and the Library has lost four professional librarian positions.



### ... And Now



#### Library Staff in 2020

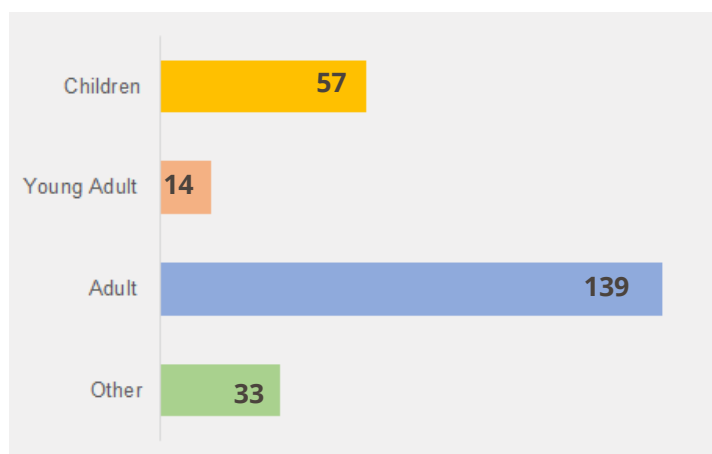
1	Library Director	These positions require a Masters in Library & Information Science from an American Library Association accredited college and a NYS Professional Librarian's Certificate
3	Adult Services Librarians	
2	Youth Services Librarians	
1	Library Assistant	
1	Account Clerk (PT)	
6	Circulation Clerks	
4	Circulation Clerks (PT)	
1	Library Page	
3	Custodians (PT)	



## LIBRARY PROGRAMS & PARTNERSHIPS

### Library Programs

The Broome County Public Library offers programming for all ages groups. 2020 was a unique year, and while we were not able to offer all of the programs we would during a normal year, we were grateful to be able to continue to support the community and look forward to a return to normal.



**Total  
Programs**  
**243**

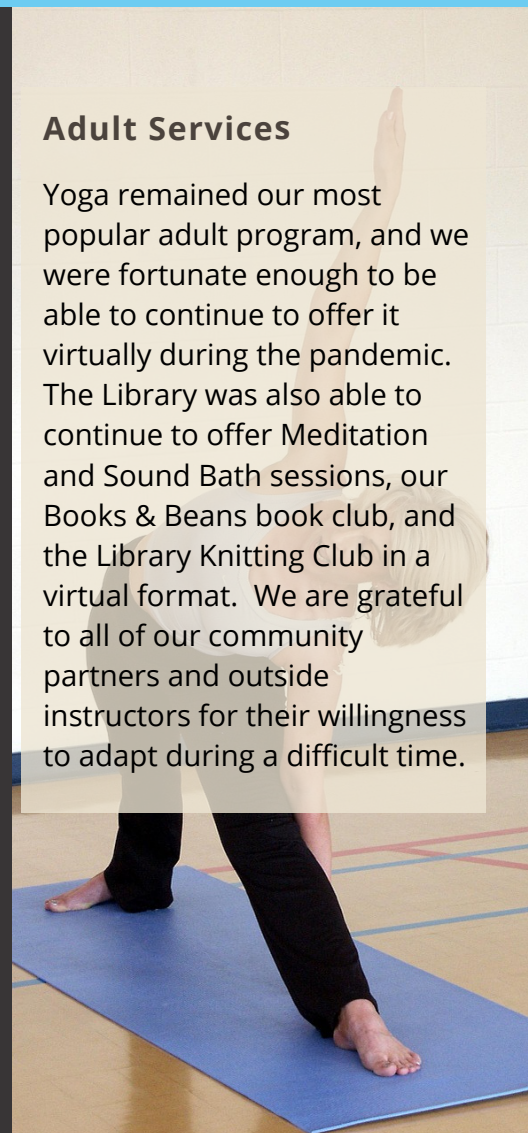
**Program  
Attendance**  
**3,829**

### Youth Services

Thanks to the generosity of the Friends of the Broome County Public Library, the Youth Services Department was able to begin offering the immensely popular Grab-N-Go bags to families in 2020 once the library could no longer provide programs in person. The Grab-N-Go bags included a craft and a STEM activity for children and teens to work on at home. Popular projects included catapults, fall leaf scratch art, string art, Frankenworms, fruit snack star constellations, and kazoo. Game Day, LEGO Club, Get STEAMed, Teen Cupcake Wars, Nursery Rhyme Time, STEAM Story Time, virtual story times, and online reading programs were among the other youth services programs offered in 2020.

### Adult Services

Yoga remained our most popular adult program, and we were fortunate enough to be able to continue to offer it virtually during the pandemic. The Library was also able to continue to offer Meditation and Sound Bath sessions, our Books & Beans book club, and the Library Knitting Club in a virtual format. We are grateful to all of our community partners and outside instructors for their willingness to adapt during a difficult time.



### DIY Dragon Egg





## LIBRARY PROGRAMS & PARTNERSHIPS

### The Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Broome County Public Library remain instrumental to the successful operation of the Library. Their efforts fund our programming and help us in a hundred different ways. We are grateful for not only their financial contributions, but also for the time and energy that they give the Library on a regular basis and their dedication in making the Broome County Public Library a great resource and a successful part of the Broome County community.

The very popular Friends of the Library book sales not only go a long way in funding library programs and initiatives, but are also events greatly anticipated throughout the community.

Along with the Board of Trustees and Officers listed here, the Friends of the Broome County Public Library is composed of 101 person membership, who support the library in multiple ways. Their contributions range from the financial to volunteered time helping with the sorting of books and setting up for the book sales, or working at those book sales, working in the Friends of the Library Bookshop (located in the Rotunda of the Library), or on special projects as needed throughout the year.

During 2020, they helped support our Covid-19 response, through help purchasing PPE and in keeping up the moral of the staff during a difficult time.

#### Friends of the Broome County Public Library Board of Trustees & Officers

President	JOANNE HANRAHAN
Executive Vice President	JOSIAS BARTRAM
Vice President	MARISA COLONNA-GARROW
Secretary	SALLY MILLER
Treasurer	KATHY GROOVER
Assistant Treasurer	CAROL OESTRICH
Director-at-Large	DIANE O'NEIL
Director-at-Large	SUSAN PITELY
Director-at-Large	FLORENCE PIECH

**Membership to the  
Friends of BCPL costs  
only \$15 a year!**

### Community Partnerships

During 2020, the Library continued to work with a number of community partners to expand the resources and services the Library is able to offer. We feel strongly about being a positive force within the community and these partnerships are vital to making that possible.

We want to thank the following organizations:

#### ***Literacy Volunteers of Broome & Tioga Counties***

The office for the Literacy Volunteers is in the Library, allowing both organizations to work closely to benefit our community.

#### ***AARP Tax Preparation***

Through this service, volunteers provide free basic income tax preparation through electronic filing, with a focus on those who are 50 or older or have low to moderate income.

#### ***Binghamton University***

By partnering with the resources and talent that BU can provide, we are able to bring a variety of different programming that would not otherwise be possible.

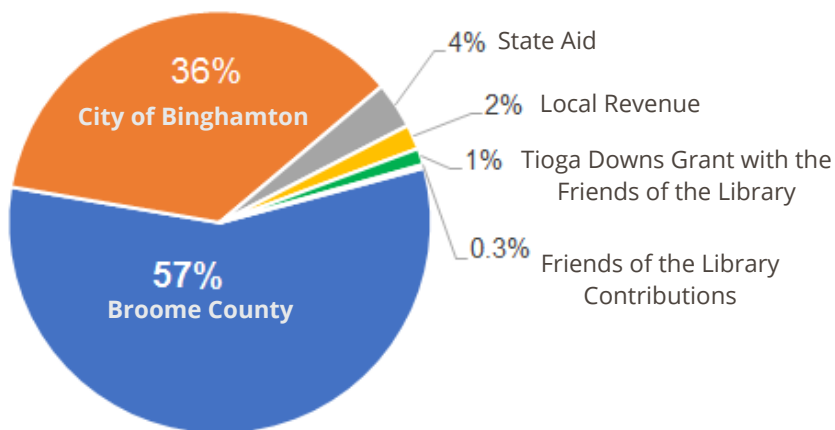
#### ***Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County***

Through the efforts of the Cornell Cooperative Extension, we were able to offer programs like Kitchen Fun, which teaches proper nutrition and basic cooking to both kids and adults.



# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

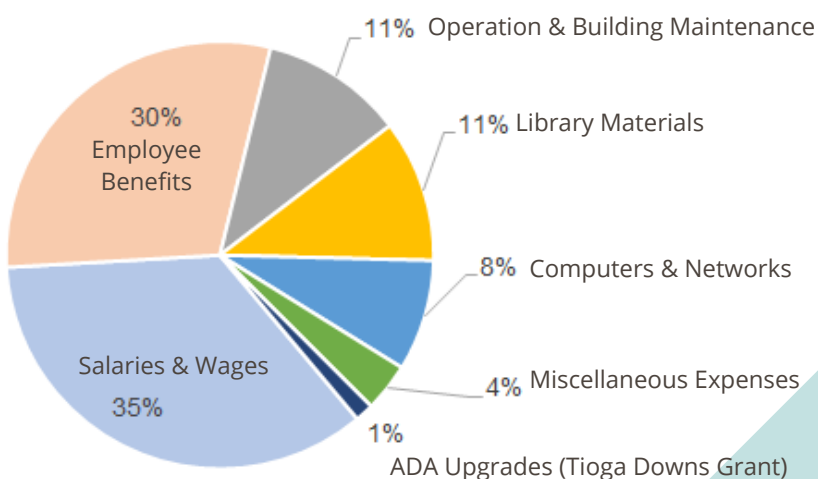
## Operating Revenue



## Economic Impact of Covid-19

Decreased State Aid	12,349
Decreased Fines & Fees Revenue	\$21,850
Covid-19 Related Expenditures	\$3,612
<b>Total Financial Impact</b>	<b>\$37,811</b>

## Operating Expenses



## GOVERNMENT FUNDING 2020

The Broome County Public Library is supported generously by elected officials at the city, county and state levels:

### Broome County

County Executive  
JASON T. GARNAR

Chairman of the Legislature  
(District 5)  
DANIEL J. REYNOLDS

Legislator, Majority Leader  
(District 10)  
CINDY L O'BRIEN

Legislator, Minority Leader  
(District 13)  
ROBERT WESLAR

Legislator (District 1)  
STEPHEN J. FLAGG

Legislator (District 2)  
SCOTT D. BAKER

Legislator (District 3)  
KELLY F. WILDONER

Legislator (District 4)  
KIM A. MYERS

Legislator (District 6)  
GREG W. BALDWIN

Legislator (District 7)  
MATTHEW J. PASQUALE

Legislator (District 8)  
JASON E. SHAW

Legislator (District 9)  
MATTHEW J. HILDERBRANT

Legislator (District 11)  
SUSAN V. RYAN

Legislator (District 12)  
KAREN M. BEEBE

Legislator (District 14)  
MARY A. KAMINSKY

Legislator (District 15)  
MARK R. WHALEN

### City of Binghamton

Mayor  
RICHARD C. DAVID

Deputy Mayor  
JARED KRAHAM

Council Member (1st District)  
GIOVANNI SCARINGI

Council Member (2nd District)  
SOPHIA RESCINITI

Council Member (3rd District)  
ANGELA RILEY

Council Member (4th District)  
AVIVA FRIEDMAN

Council Member (5th District)  
JOE BURNS

Council Member (6th District)  
PHILIP STRAWN

Council Member (7th District)  
THOMAS SCANLON

### State of New York

Governor  
ANDREW CUOMO

Lt. Governor  
KATHY HOCHUL

Senator (52nd Senate District)  
FRED AKSHAR

Assemblywoman (Assembly  
District 123)  
DONNA LUPARDO

## Access & Accessibility



L-R Jim Weed, Director of Marketing, Tioga Downs; JoAnne Hanharan, President of the Friends of the Broome County Public Library; Annie van der Wal and John Ellzey, AVRE

Thanks to the generosity of the Tioga Downs Regional Community Foundation, the Library was granted \$26,122 to create a more accessible experience for people with all abilities.

A much needed second automatic door was installed, allowing the inner doors of the Library to be opened easily from a wheelchair or other mobility aid.

BCPL was also able to purchase a number of sensory toys for the Children's Area. Several computer stations were designed with the help of the staff at AVRE to include adjustable height computer tables, extra-large, back-lit keyboards, text-to-speech high definition cameras that analyze text and read it back to the user, and software that allows a user to change the color contrast on the screen.

## SUPPORT THE BROOME COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Library needs your support because you, our friends and patrons, are our best advocates. So what can you do?

### Speak Up!

You know you love the Library and everything it offers, but there are people in the community that are not aware of all those activities and resources. Help them see what the Library can do for them; be a champion for the Library.

### We Need You to Advocate for Us

The Broome County Public Library is funded primarily through your tax dollars, and your advocacy for our continued funding is greatly appreciated. Please let your public officials know how much you appreciate their continued support of the Broome County Public Library. Contact us for more information.

### Join the Friends of the Library or contribute financially:

If you wish to support the Broome County Public Library through a donation to the Friends of the BCPL, please contact Joanne Hanrahan at : 607-778-6403 or [FriendsBCLibrary@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsBCLibrary@gmail.com)

If you wish to support the Broome County Public Library by becoming a member of the Friends of the Broome County Public Library, membership information is available at [bclibrary.info/membership](http://bclibrary.info/membership) or stop by and visit the Friends of the Library Bookshop, located in the Rotunda of the Library.

Broome County Public Library  
185 Court Street  
Binghamton, NY 13901

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To receive **In the Loop**, our monthly newsletter and Library update, go to [tinyurl.com/BCPLInTheLoop](http://tinyurl.com/BCPLInTheLoop)

### Visit us online at:



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[facebook.com/bcpubliibrary](https://facebook.com/bcpubliibrary)



[instagram.com/bcpubliibrary](https://instagram.com/bcpubliibrary)



[twitter.com/bcpubliibrary](https://twitter.com/bcpubliibrary)





# DISCOVER THE BROOME COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Broome County Public Library provides access to books, programs, and resources for patrons of all ages—all for free. Our patrons come from all over the Broome County community and the surrounding area. Don't be left out, check us out in person or visit us online.



**Broome County  
Public Library**

## Broome County Patrons

Barker	48
Binghamton (Town)	169
Binghamton (City)	23,191
Chenango Forks	231
Chenango	205
Colesville	108
Conklin	675
Endicott	1,504
Endwell	282
Fenton	517
Harpursville	266
Johnson City	1,856
Kirkwood	777
Lisle	50
Maine	35
Nanticoke	12
Nineveh	36
Port Dickinson	46
Sanford	2
Triangle	7
Union	164
Vestal	981
Whitney Point	150
Windsor	929



## Resident Borrowers Beyond Broome County

*The Broome County Public Library has also been designated as the Central Library for the Four County Library System by the State of New York. This means that we also serve the residents of Chenango, Delaware, and Otsego Counties. The list below reflects that responsibility:*

- Chenango County Patrons: 215
- Delaware County Patrons: 323
- Otsego County Patrons: 27

## Non-Resident Borrowers

BCPL also had a total of 245 non-resident borrowers from diverse locations, including Ithaca and other towns in Tompkins County, and various locations in Tioga County, Cortland County, Chemung County, Onondaga County, Schoharie County, Ulster County, and Pennsylvania.