



**Community Library
of DeWitt & Jamesville**

2024

Annual Report



From the Desk of the Executive Director

Did you know...?

- ◆ We had over 86,000 visitors in 2023, but over 92,000 walked in to our building this past year—more than 265 people a day! We support those patrons with 62 open hours weekly, starting at 9:00 am on weekdays, and offering service 7 days a week.
- ◆ More than 353,000 items were checked out by the end of last year - a new record after 60+ years! (that's more than 22 items per every person in our service area of 16,000)

Patron comments in 2024!

- ◆ **"This is the place to be in DeWitt!"**
- ◆ **"The most impressive library I've ever seen!"**
- ◆ **"Tell your Reference Librarian they did such a good job helping me with my research. I got home and opened the exact video I needed, I never could have found it without them!"**
- ◆ **"You have the best staff of any of the libraries. That's why I come over here."**
- ◆ **"Your printing system (from my cell phone) is so streamlined! It was very easy to use. This is a beautiful library!"**
- ◆ **"This is the nicest library in Onondaga County!"**

Were you one of the more than 90,000 visitors to the library in 2024? Have you or your family members checked out one or more of the 340,000+ books, DVDs, magazines, audiobooks, or eBooks we circulated in 2024? Whether you are a regular patron or just a caring community member, we thank you for your patronage!

I'm proud of our Library—we offer interesting and compelling library programs for all age groups, we purchase materials to educate and entertain; we take the Library outside our walls into the DeWitt/Jamesville community at places such as the Clark Reservation, multiple Senior Living Centers, the Klim Center for Learning, and multiple Town/Hamlet events. And most of all I'm proud of the amazing staff of folks who contribute constantly to all of our accomplishments. Every year we move forward in new and exciting ways!

As always, I'd like to thank the Library Board of Trustees, and the community, for their dedication and ongoing support.

Charles Diede, Executive Director

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2024 By the Numbers



Visits	92,483*
New library cards	749*
Total circulation	353,375* <i>[new all-time record!]</i>
Digital downloads/streams	67,908*
Items added	6,621*
Reference questions	9,564
Programs/workshops	660*
Total program attendance	17,365*
Meeting room reservations	2,934*
Computer sessions	4,481
Wi-Fi log ins	9,382*
Social Media visits	79,654*
Website hits	45,661

*increase from last year

Summer Learning Program



The “Adventure Begins at Your Library” **Summer Learning Program** (which ran from July 1 to August 11) was very successful, and summer reading was tracked using READsquared, a reading program software. The Library ran reading programs for Early Literacy/Pre-K (ages 0-5), Children (Age 6-11), Teens (ages 12-18) and Adults.

Children Participants: 337
Minutes Read: 203,320

Pre-K Participants: 48
Minutes read or read to: 11,507

Teen Participants: 71
Minutes Read: 82,497

Adults Registered: 127
Books Read: 528

LIVE Onsite Summer Learning Presentations

As part of the Summer Learning Program, the CLD&J offered many special programs focused on family and children. These programs were generously **sponsored by the *Friends of the Community Library of DeWitt & Jamesville***. The shows and presentations were very successful and highly attended.

Among the special events: **Dinosaur Adventure Show (including a real T-Rex skull); The Great & Powerful Dave; Dusty and Dott!**; and the **Robert Rogers Puppet Show**. We also had 142 people attend our Summer Learning Kickoff Party! All of these programs were geared for kids in grades K to 5, and these programs—out of all our great summer programs—brought hundreds of kids and their parents to the Library.

2024 Library Service

School Supply Exchange

The School Supply Exchange, now located in the children's room, continues to go strong! 2024 completed the third year of the Exchange, and we have received hundreds of item donations. Those donations are going out regularly to students in need.



Home Delivery Service

This service is a free, monthly, and contactless delivery of library materials to residents of the Library's Jamesville & DeWitt service area who are unable to visit the library due to a temporary or permanent illness, disability, or compromised immune system. It's also available to mothers of newborns.

One-on-One Tech Appointments

Ongoing since even before the pandemic, the Library offered tech appointments for patrons needing digital assistance and training. These one-hour appointments are held in The HIVE Makerspace with Tech team staff, and are very popular, with usually every slot reserved.

Outdoor Activities

A **Sidewalk Obstacle Course** created by our Children's Librarians (a few years ago), encouraged playful learning activities in colorful chalk. Children and their parents were frequently seen engaging in the physical activities depicted on the sidewalk.

Outreach in the Community

Book Club for Seniors

In its fourth year of 2024, the book club at the Nottingham Retirement Community has continued to be popular, with a steady attendance growing to as many as 40 participants. The book club meets monthly and is hosted by Outreach Services.



The Bird Watching program held in April for children and families.

Hygiene Pockets

Individuals are often in need of items like toothbrushes and paste, wet wipes, feminine hygiene products, deodorants and soap or hand sanitizers. Such items are now available in our restrooms for the taking. Donations appreciated!

Color Printing in the Library

Color printing as an option was added to our wireless printing network in 2022. Usage continues to grow annually, and patrons have commented to us on the ease of use.

Art in the Library

The Library's Art Committee had many successful showings in the Wendy Scott Art Gallery, including our now annual group show. The Friends of the Library hosted multiple artist receptions.



Library Staff Highlights

Bringing Programs & Services to Patrons

The Library is more than the programs within our wonderful facility alone; we also work outside our walls to serve DeWitt & Jamesville.

Some highlights included:

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

Briana Galea continued as the Head of the Children's Department, and Jeanie Nguyen as Children's Librarian (previously our Children's Services Specialist).

Meghan Wilson continued on the team as our Children's Paralibrarian, and we created more programs for Homeschool youth.

Some noteworthy highlights:

Toddler Tea Parties

Miss Jeanie hosts these VERY popular special times for our pre-K kids.



Children's Services Librarian Jeanie Nguyen leads the kids in a dance.

Homeschool Art & Science Club

Each month, the group met and focused on a science and/or art topic. There was exploration, examination, team work, and creativity, all while making learning together a fun and exciting endeavor. And yes, socialization.

TEEN PROGRAMMING

Paige Walsh served their 3rd year as Teen / YA Librarian, as well as serving on the Outreach Services team.

Some great teen events took place:

Super Smash Brothers Tournament

A tournament for this popular video game was successful enough that a sequel is planned.

Teen Dungeons & Dragons

A teen-led event! Our teen dungeon master led teen participants on an adventure in a fantasy world as part of this gaming event.

Middle School Art Display

The Library served as the host venue for the 2024 JDMS Art show, featuring the projects of art students at JDMS. The art was on display for a month and was showcased to friends, families and the public throughout the Library.

TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Cassidy Miller continued in her role of Assistant Director for Technology. The Hive Maker Space continued to showcase active maker programs, as well as passive self-directed projects.

3D Printing

Patrons were able to remotely order 3D printing as far back as 2021, but 2024 saw many patrons sign up for our training in 3D printing, after which they received certification.

ADULT PROGRAMMING

Anna began in 2024 as the new Assistant Director for Patron Services. New plans are afoot while we continue with great existing programs.

CLD&J Music Series

In 2024, we were pleased to continue the CLD&J Music Series. The series, held on Friday evenings, is hosted in the Library afterhours. This allows us to take advantage of the library's open space and offer a wonderful "auditorium" experience for both performers and attendees.

Food Based Adult Programs

Adults were invited to be educated while sampling/tasting various foods, such as exotic spices, herbal teas, and even specialty coffees! Experts from the community and business owners partnered for these "sold-out" events.



Buried Acorn Brewery brews up a tasting of their craft beers.

Mystery Book Club

Last year, the monthly club explored 3 themes: mysteries by Jewish authors, capers set in Florida, and finally, cozy mysteries in library or bookstore settings in New England.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Sara Jo Brandt continues in the role of Community Engagement Coordinator and Outreach Services Librarian. 2518 community members attended the 94 events we were a part of.

Volunteer Expo

The Library hosted this opportunity for various volunteer staffed groups to recruit much-needed assistance. It was held throughout the building and was very popular.

Virtual-Hybrid Book Clubs

We continued our successful monthly Page Turners book club which reads modern fiction and nonfiction. Additionally, we had a book club meet virtually with our sister Library in Ghana!

Special Collections

The Nest of Things Collection

As the popularity of our Hive Makerspace and its programming continued to expand in 2024, our team thought to let patrons “take home” the maker experiences with a group of items and tools that could be checked out.

Items include such diverse “things” such as jewelry repair kits, sewing tool kits, flower presses, button makers, bongo drums, and the ever popular Cricut Joy machine. (Cricut is a digital die-cutting machine that is able to cut many different materials for a crafter to use in a plethora of craft projects.)

Memory Care Collection

The CLD&J Memory Care Collection was created in 2022 to provide resources, activities, and entertainment for individuals with memory issues and their caregivers. Our goal is to provide access to materials that help facilitate discussion, connection, and comfort for both caregivers and those with Alzheimer’s or dementia.

The Collection contains four main areas:

1. Caregiving Resource Books
2. Activity and Picture Books
3. Games & Puzzles
4. Memory Care Kits which are themed kits with books, DVDs, and activities all based on specific interests. [16 different themes available to check out]



The Library draws attention to local non-profit organizations that serve as vital resources for our community.

The [CNY Diaper Bank](#), providing free diaper supplies to needy families, and the Syracuse Rescue Mission were organizations featured in our lobby, which served as a collection point for materials, as well as being featured in our newsletters and our social media.

The [American Red Cross](#) hosts blood drives in the library regularly.

The [Onondaga County Health Department](#) sends a van to our parking lot regularly to provide various services without even needing to enter the building!

Partnerships with DeWitt and Jamesville

The Library supported and participated in many community events, such as Halloween Trunk and Treat in DeWitt, and tree-lighting and holiday events in Jamesville and DeWitt. Additionally, the Library partners with five senior living communities, and visits at the DeWitt Food Pantry and the DeWitt Market.

Partnering with the Klim Learning Center

The Library partners at the Learning Center along with the City's Soule Branch.



2024 Financial Summary

2024 Operating Revenue

Tax Levy	1,612,518
Library Services & Miscellaneous	9,616
Grants	13,287
Book sales	3,784
Library system services aid	4,716
Donations/Annual Fundraising	19,514
Interest Income	27,435
Total 2024 Revenue	1,690,870

2024 Operating Expense

Expenditures	
Library Materials & Programming	
Books	64,036
Digital Content	36,447
Periodicals	7,519
Audio/Visual Media & Mixed Media	34,021
Public Programs	14,778
Total Library Materials	156,801
Operational Expenditures	
Mortgage (principal, interest, Covenant)	258,822
Payroll, taxes, related	955,458
OCPL System Charges	26,561
Utilities	50,114
Building Maintenance and Repairs	124,772
Technology Equipment & Servicing	32,686
Insurance	31,373
Miscellaneous Expenses	35,726
Total Operational Expenses	1,515,512
Total 2024 Net Revenue (set aside for upcoming fiscal year changeover)	18,557



The complete 2024 DeWitt Community Library Audit Report with the 2024 990 Form will be made available to the public on the Library web site at <http://cldandj.org/> after the report has been approved by the Library Board of Trustees. Audit figures may differ slightly from the above due to auditors' adjusting entries completed after publication of this report.

Thank You, Donors & Friends

The support of community residents, businesses, partners, Friends of the CLD&J and volunteers all helped us adapt to the ever-changing difficulties of providing programs and services during 2024. Thank you for your generosity and support!

2023-2024 Annual Fund Drive Donors (11/1/2023—3/31/2024)

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Special Thanks to:

The Friends of the Community Library of DeWitt & Jamesville for their ongoing support of our Summer Reading Program and other educational programming.

