

Director's Report

On February 22nd, the Re-Opening Committee met to discuss masks. They decided to remove any remaining mask requirements for patrons or staff.

The annual report to the state was distributed to the trustees on February 22nd, submitted to the state on February 24th, and then revised and resubmitted on March 1st. In the report, we promise that the trustees will approve the report at our March board meeting.

For as long as we have had a video game collection, we have only made the games available for checkout at our library, and have not permitted patrons to request our games at other libraries. I think this is an idea worth revisiting, especially now that usage has become so concentrated on one platform.

The museum passes to the American Museum of Natural History have arrived. The board expressed interest in adding additional museum passes this year. Based on pass usage at other libraries, there are three options worth considering. The Guggenheim Museum in Manhattan is the second most popular museum pass among local libraries, but costs double the price of the most popular (the aforementioned AMNH). Next most popular is the Everwonder Museum in Newtown, CT, but their library pass program offers 50% off instead of free admission. Finally, there is the Destroyer Escort Historical Museum in Albany, reasonably priced but located in the opposite direction from where Pawling patrons tend to head for museums.

Both of the upcoming building projects will involve removing some of our existing shelving. In order to make it easier to relocate items while we have less shelving available, I am planning on weeding items more aggressively than we normally would. We will likely also need to put items into temporary storage until the new Kids Corner is complete.

Traditionally, we mail out the annual report to the community a few weeks prior to the book sale, so that we can advertise the event. This year uncertainty over the timing of our construction projects will make it especially difficult to plan our summer programs far in advance. When we decide on the mailing timeline this year, we should discuss how to weigh these competing factors.

I plan to take vacation April 4th-8th.

Programming

Donald Partelow, Adult Program Coordinator

Highlight of the Month: Retaining the Qualities of Childhood: The Creativity of Albert Einstein & Implications for Our Lives

William Crain, professor emeritus of psychology at The City College of New York, presented an online lecture for the Pawling Library on the evening of February 15th. His program was entitled Retaining the Qualities of Childhood: The Creativity of Albert Einstein & Implications for Our Lives. This program was based on Professor Crain's newly published book, *Forever Young*:

How Six Great Individuals Have Drawn upon the Powers of Childhood and How We Can Follow Their Lead.

Throughout his talk Professor Crain provided a great deal of information about the life of Albert Einstein, and suggested that Einstein's capacity for childhood wonder is available to us all.

Einstein was a genius. But what made him so brilliant? Einstein said that he had no special gift and was only passionately curious, and this curiosity came from the fact that he had retained one specific childlike quality: his sense of wonder.

He had been a slow developing child who was also somewhat solitary. In most of the schools Einstein attended, he felt the instruction was a mechanized approach to learning, and did not do well in this environment. He dropped out of one school, and was expelled from another. Albert Einstein was told by a teacher, "You're never going to go anywhere in life. You're hopeless."

He would flourish in a different setting, a small school located in rural Switzerland that believed learning should be enjoyable.

"He survived a lot of setbacks," said our presenter. He then asked the audience, "Could someone like that make it through the world today?" "There are a lot of people like Einstein who are written off, and it's really just that their minds need more and they're frustrated from not getting what they need from their schools. Let them be who they are," responded one participant.

In closing, Professor Crain said that if people understood that these creative geniuses were childlike and tried to recapture and hold on to a child's perceptions, they would appreciate children better and give children more time to be children. Teachers must recognize that there is something very valuable here, more valuable than a high test score: the sense of wonder and playfulness.

Our presenter thanked the audience for their insights and contributions. "Thank you," said one of our guests "This was really wonderful. I can't wait to read your book."

Professor William Crain will return as our guest host on April 4th for COME TOGETHER PAWLING: Why Bees Are Disappearing, and lead a Q & A.

Maureen Meltzer-McGrath, Young Adult Program Coordinator

Young Adult programming returned this month with our Valentine's Craft Party. Although we didn't have any in-person attendees, all of the take-away kits were claimed and I heard from a couple of the parents that the kids loved the Valentine Gnome kits. Scarlett is pictured below with her gnome that she gave to her grandmother.

The Lost Mummy Escape Game was scheduled for the end of the month with 10 registrants and 4 on the wait-list. Due to the snow/ice storm, the program has been postponed to March 11. The majority of the registrants have said they will be able to attend the new date.

Meanwhile, I have been actively doing outreach into the community. I had a great meeting with Jessica and Robyn of the Pawling Recreation Department and we will be partnering on a Teen Movie Series. The series begins in March and will be hosted by Recreation and we host the April

movie which will be a Centennial Teen Movie Night with a screening of *The Great Gatsby* (2013). They have been very helpful in promoting our programs to their contact list. I have also met with Clair Magnesio, the Pawling MS/HS librarian, and she is actively promoting Battle of the Books and other teen programming. She was able to give me some good insight into the teen community.



Neena McBaer, Children's Program Coordinator

Programming Overview: There were 4 weeks of programming in February, including in-person events, kits, pre-recorded videos, and live virtual sessions. Families continue to vary greatly in what type of programming they prefer. Kits remain our most popular offering.

Laurie Berkner Concert: This Valentine's Day, we were able to sponsor the participation of 58 children in kid's music superstar (and Hudson Valley local!) Laurie Berkner's interactive concert. This program was a HUGE success, with our highest virtual attendance yet for one children's program (104 attendees, including caregivers). Several families reached out to share how meaningful the event was for them. Here are some quotes:

"The kids had a great time last night for the Laurie Berkner Concert. It was so fun- the boys loved her music when they were little and even though they are bigger now they really got into it! The littles loved it too."

"Thank you so much for the tickets. She [the 2.5 year old daughter] is so shy. She didn't do the interactive stuff but afterwards, she talked about the show all night."

Our no-registration-required, take-and-make kits and toy installations continue to be popular offerings, reaching a different segment of our community than our other programs. More and more families are starting to again bring their kids to the library for play experiences, so I hope to devote more time to curating passive programming in the coming months.

We have been lucky enough to secure several grants this January/February. In addition to the Dutchess County Agency Partner grant for program funding, we also received a \$5,000 grant from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) to support mental health needs in our community. The funding will be used to provide mental health resources for

children and caregivers as well as programming to help kids develop these skills, which may have been delayed due to COVID-19 related closures and isolations. Lastly, with the help of Mary Ellen Ros we received a VERY generous donation of play materials from Community Playthings worth over \$6,000. It's an exciting time in the kid's department!

Outreach: This February, Neena visited Wish Upon a Star nursery for an outreach storytime. 11 kids and 3 grown-ups participated in the program. We have additional outreach events with other schools scheduled for the coming months.

Thank you to Andy Kershaw for volunteering his time to assemble our new picnic table and disassemble the old, rotting one!



Tom Clemmons, Circulation Manager / Homebound Delivery Services Coordinator

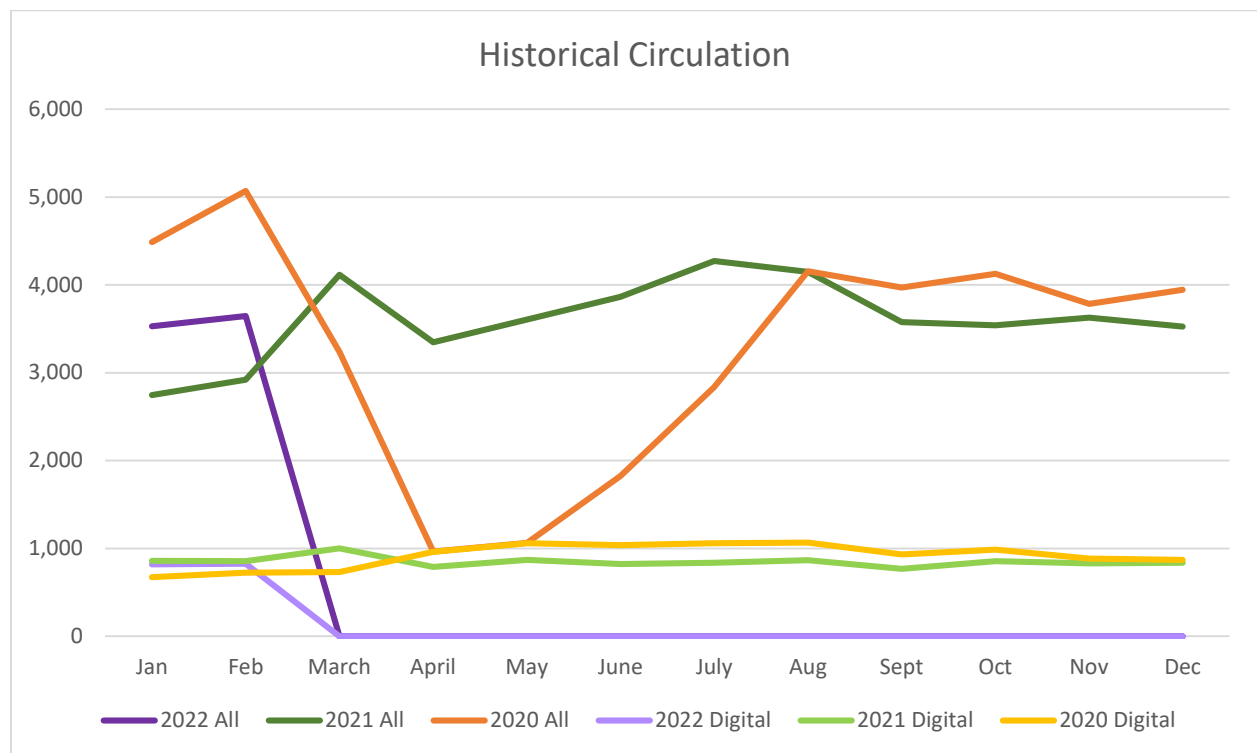
There are currently 10 active Homebound Services patrons. In February, I selected materials (books, magazines, or audio books) according to reading preferences and made 9 Homebound Service delivery/pickups – 1 trip to Deerfield Ponds, 1 trip to the King's Apartments, 1 trip to The Hamlet, and 6 trips to the Village.

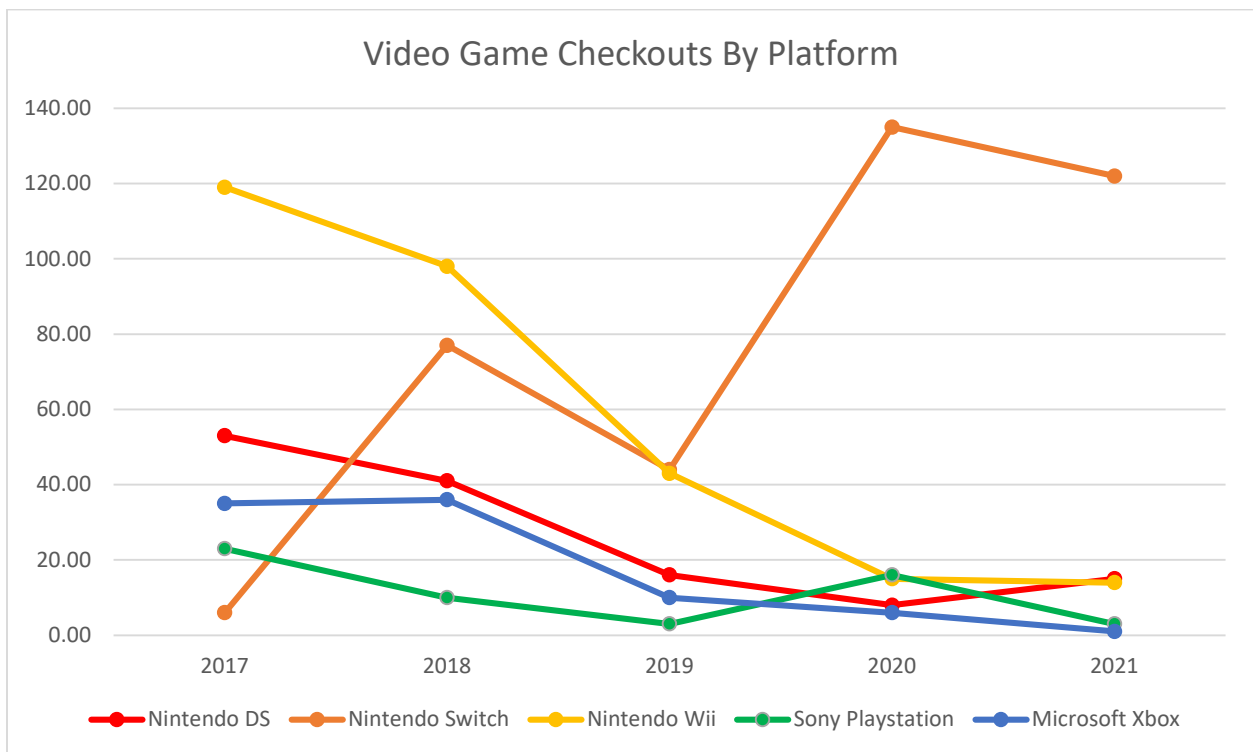
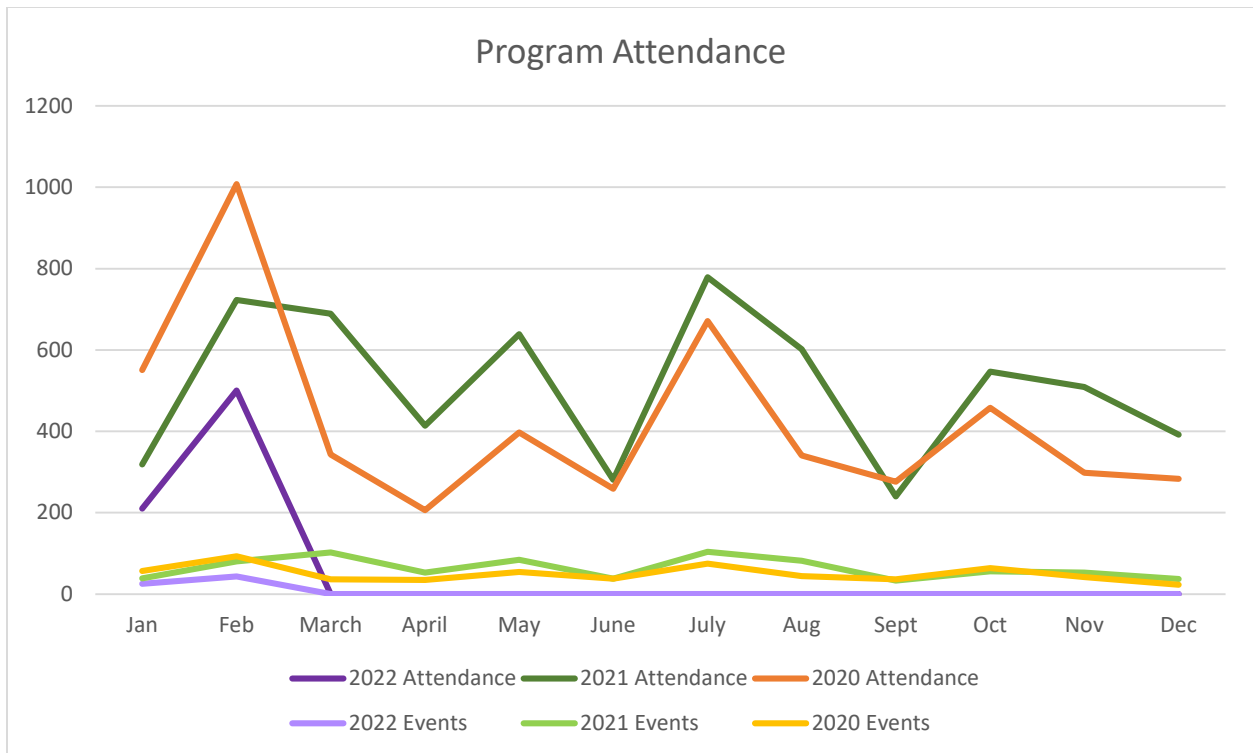
Buildings & Grounds




























Envirostar will come on March 10th to remove and replace the buried oil tank. Vinco will need to wait for approval from the Village planning board before they can begin work on the bathrooms. The next planning board meeting is scheduled for April 12th.

JPL Glass and Storefront repaired the Teenspace door.

Programming and Circ Stats





2021 Usage	Avg Checkouts	Avg Item Price	Cost Per Circ
Audiobook	 0.64	 33.81	 52.92
DVD	 0.87	 18.26	 20.88
Graphic Novel	 1.75	 14.87	 8.52
Kids Book w/ CD	 3.13	 25.48	 8.14
Large Print Book	 1.08	 29.68	 27.40
Miscellaneous	 0.32	 82.03	 253.55
Periodical	 0.14	 16.38	 116.81
Print Book	 0.73	 17.57	 24.18
Video Game	 0.92	 36.06	 39.08
AGGREGATE	0.78	18.89	24.33