



Inspiring Ideas, Strengthening Community, Enriching Lives

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Our COVID-19 Comeback Story

Programs and services added to meet community needs

Many of our programs and services were adapted into digital and online formats to accommodate the rapid changes posed by the pandemic. During our shut-down, staff employed their ingenuity and technical skills to become video production experts, creating and delivering amazing content virtually that engaged over 2,000 community members to watch, share, and comment (see our [video library](#)). We received overwhelming feedback from the community letting us know how thrilled they were with these variations, many of which we'll continue to provide in 2022.

Monday Night Book Chat – Tell us “what you’ve been reading lately?” Chat every Monday Night at 7 pm on our Facebook channel to talk about books with our librarians and their 30+ loyal followers.

Take & Make Craft Kits for Kids (ages 3+) – Launched in July 2020, our Youth Services Librarians created more than 300 themed craft kits weekly and made available at our drive-thru while supplies lasted.

Storytime Craft Kits – Themed packets of literacy materials were provided to accompany each Virtual Storytime program (launched October 2020).

Personalized Reading Recommendation Services – Complete an online form with your reading preferences and our librarians will curate a selection of 4-5 books that match them and place the items on hold for drive-thru pickup. This program is available for all age groups (see [Kids Book Bundles for Kids](#), tweens/teens and [Readers’ Advisory Questionnaire for Adults](#)).

Drive-Thru Circulation Services – In June of 2020 we offered holds pickup at the window for contactless curbside convenience while the building was closed. We expanded to full-service lending when the library reopened to the public in July 2020. In April 2021, the drive-thru officially became our second full-service circulation location.

Check It Out with Charlie (Kid’s Blog) – Charlie, our new library mascot, created a blog packed with reading recommendations and activities for kids. [Read Charlie's Story](#) and about all of his adventures since then in his [kid's blog!](#)

New ways to stay connected

In addition to staff making wellness calls to over 170 seniors in isolation during our shut-down, we swiftly created new communication methods to stay connected including updating our website to provide patrons with easy access to our resources as well as time-sensitive library news and service updates.

e-newsletters

We created a weekly email newsletter (April 2020) to provide library news, service updates and programming information to 2,500+ subscribers (see current and past issues: <https://eglibrary.org/newsletter/>).



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Our Adult Services librarians created a monthly edition with curated content just for adults

Print newsletters

In the Fall of 2020, we increased the frequency of our print newsletter from quarterly to bi-monthly. Here's a summary of the contents in each issue.

- Fall 2020 (1st Edition): Library budget vote and trustee election edition, popular virtual and on-demand programs (Storytime, Crafts with Ariana) and Virtual (live) Trivia Night, supporting local partners with book donations (EGCSD Grab 'n' Go Lunch program), Tech-Talk resource added providing patrons access to technology webinars and articles, digital collection expanded, personalized Readers' Advisory program launched
- January/February 2021: Monthly Grab 'N' Go Craft Kits for Adults becomes wildly popular with registrations filling up each month, Winter Reading Challenge begins, Project Linus Community Quilt project announced, library receives \$99K NYS Grant, Drive-thru lending sees over 8K transactions since library reopened in June '20, Book Bundles for Kids, Take & Make Crafts for Kids is a hit (approx. 300 kits distributed weekly)! Literacy program for pre-readers resumes (1000 Books Before Kindergarten)
- March/April 2021: Free Wi-Fi access extends into parking lot, virtual & on-demand programs announced (Storytime, Bingo, Hands-On Cooking with Cornell Cooperation Extension, Book Discussions & more), new resource added (at-home access to Ancestry Library Edition) and overview of Tech-Talk, Gale, and e-magazines
- May/June 2021: Summer Reading Challenge launched, drive-thru officially becomes our 2nd circulation services location, Farmers' Market opens for 2nd pandemic year, we welcomed Camie Engel as newest Library Trustee, 40+ local authors submit short stories for *Pen to Pandemic Contest*, inform community about our resources (Gale databases, e-magazines, kids "Big Books" collection)
- July/August 2021: Summer Reading Challenge prizes, installed new story on the StoryWalk™ (3rd story since the program started in the Fall 2020), library received Stewart's Holiday Match donation, celebrated *Pen to Pandemic Short Story Contest* winners, announced at-home access to Consumer Reports and our Cord Cutting 101 program
https://eglibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2021-July_Aug_ADACompliant.pdf