

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

DEFIANCE PUBLIC
LIBRARY SYSTEM



READ, CONNECT, GROW

PREPARED BY
DPLS ADMINISTRATION

DEFIANCE | SHERWOOD | HICKSVILLE

www.defiancelibrary.org

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Defiance Public Library System spent most of 2022 getting back in the swing of regular operations. COVID no longer impacted library programming and services, which was great news! That said, the library system retained some of the popular services initiated during COVID, such as circulating hotspots, distributing free COVID test kits and curbside pickup of library materials.

Notable work done in 2022 included completion of the DPLS Strategic Plan for 2022 - 2025, the return of Art in the Park after a two-year hiatus, and the November 2022 Public Library Levy Renewal, which passed with 73% of the vote.



Cara Potter
Director

Library accomplishments include:

- A dramatic increase in circulation, program attendance, and foot traffic in the library buildings.
- Began offering free notary service at each library building.
- Staff created a Wizard of Oz library float for the Defiance Lion's Halloween Parade that won second place.
- Progress was made researching the history and defining the perimeter of the abandoned Worthington Cemetery, the only known historic Black cemetery in Defiance County.
- The Defiance College McMaster School wrapped the Worthington Cemetery Project into its history curriculum for 2022, with students and faculty helping with research and participating in searching the site using dogs and ground-penetrating radar.
- Renewal of 50-year leases for the Sherwood Branch Library building, which is owned by the Village of Sherwood, and the Johnson Memorial Library, which is owned by the Friends of the Johnson Memorial Library.
- Wonderfully creative summer reading programs at each library building, designed by staff to meet the interests/needs of the communities they serve.
- Expansion of the homebound delivery service from the Defiance Public Library. Homebound services are available to residents on a short- or long-term basis.

The director stayed involved in the community by being part of the Defiance Rotary Club, the Stroede Center for the Arts Board, the Defiance Bicentennial Committee, the BroadbandOhio Defiance Incubator Team, and the Hicksville Historical Society. Professional involvement included being the past-president of the Northwest Regional Library District and a member of the Ohio Library Council.

The Defiance Public Library System Chief Fiscal Officer, Nancy Roehrig, served as Assistant Coordinator for OLC's 2022 Library Accounting Division Action Council. She also helped plan the two-day CPIM conference and a training session for new fiscal officers.

I want to acknowledge the work of the library staff, board, volunteers, and the Friends group for each library building within the Defiance Public Library System. They consistently supported efforts to improve library services for Defiance County residents.

ADULT, TEEN, & TECH SERVICES

Adult Services

For 2022, Adult Services staff worked on building our in-house programming. The 86 programs offered came from community partnerships, requests from informal patron surveys, and staff creativeness. The programs were a mix of in-person, virtual, and passive programming.

Throughout the first quarter of the year, we provided many different topics to reach a wide audience. In February, we hosted Stephen Quandt, feline behaviorist, virtually to answer questions about puzzling feline behaviors. With 27 of the 30 spaces filled, this program was well received. During both February and March, Mary Catherine Harper hosted a writer's workshop. These workshops were so well attended that the group had to be divided.



Renee Hopper
Adult, Teen, & Tech
Services Manager

Late spring and summer brought many opportunities for us to offer unique programming. In June, staff used Beanstack to create an online challenge called "**Get Outside, Defiance County**"; this challenge encouraged patrons to visit all the parks in Defiance County. We had 251 patrons register! Also in June, we started our True Crime series. During this 3-part event, we hosted criminal justice Professor Steve Sondergaard from Defiance College; podcaster Steve Holland, host and creator of the Great Lakes True Crime podcast; and podcaster Nic Edwards, co-host of the True Crime Garage podcast. Late July and early August were a blur due to the completion of our Summer Reading Challenge and Def Com 7. Both events were well attended: Summer Reading Challenge had 92 registered and Def Com had approximately 800 attendees.

Fall brought back many of our patrons' favorite events and introduced a few more. We hosted not only our annual **Riverside Cemetery** walk, but we also partnered with the Sherwood Branch Library to host a historical cemetery walk at **Farmer Cemetery**. In mid-September, Abe Lincoln made an appearance in our library to talk about his life. His talk was so well received that a letter to the editor appeared in the Crescent-News encouraging people to attend if we hosted Abe again.

November was a month for community partnerships. The library partnered with Defiance College, the Defiance County Commissioners, Citizens in Action, and many other local agencies and residents to bring in cadaver dogs and GPR equipment to survey the area where the Worthington Cemetery is located. Sarah Marshall gives a brief overview of the progress on page 9.



Left: Tory leads a Murder Mystery in the Reading Room. Right: Volunteer Joy Hulse shares local history with attendees of the 2022 Riverside Cemetery Walk.

Teen Services

Teen services' goal in 2022 was to increase both material circulation and program attendance. Through displays and social media posts, **circulation of physical teen materials increased by 81% in 2022**. The popular young adult Lit Kits and the 100 Books Before Graduation program have also aided circulation.

We saw many new faces at our 2022 teen programs. Because of all the new attendees, our Teen Librarian, Pam, took the time to get to know them, so programming would be in line with their interests. Desired programs centered around DIY projects, with 2 of the most popular being marbled mugs and an axolotl plushie (pictured below). Three consistently popular events remained on the calendar and proved to be just as well liked as in years past – Teen Winter Craze, Tournament of Books, and Teentober. Also returning was our Teen Lock-In.



Teen & tween patrons had a blast making these axolotls!



The teen materials collection saw a 81% increase in circulation using these methods:



LitKit Program



Newsletters



Special Displays



Instagram Reels

Technical Services

Since Technical Services receives and processes almost all DPLS's new material, 2022 was a busy year. Staff processed 92% of the 9,431 items added to our catalog. The remaining 8% of processed items were leased material that branch staff cataloged when it arrived at their locations.

Although they are accounted for in the stats above, some items take a little more time and effort to catalog. Local history and Library of Things items often do not have records already in our Integrated Library System (ILS). When this happens, our Technical Services Specialist has to manually create each record. Each item can take the tech specialist up to 2 hours over a two-day span to enter the item's information into our ILS. We processed 50 such items last year.

The Technical Services staff are also responsible for repairing damaged and worn material. Ranging from dog-eared corners to broken spines, **the Technical Services assistant repaired 738 items throughout 2022.** Items are from all 3 of our locations.

THE MAKERSPACE

2022 was a year of patrons learning handicrafts and getting started at new hobbies. The MakerSpace continued to offer maker kits and virtual programming throughout the year. **Patrons systemwide picked up an average of 101 maker kits per month.** The MakerSpace also continued to be open via appointment and has begun to increase in use as more and more people find out about the space. One young patron was able to make use of the MakerSpace to ask questions about 3D printing to complete their 4H project.



Cara Bolley
Emerging Technology Librarian

Other uses of the MakerSpace included birthday party decorations, personalized gifts, and household item repairs.

Heading into summer, the MakerSpace switched to mostly in-person classes, joining in with Summer Reading programming. This allowed for more classes that were not suited to virtual formats, like fluid art, stained glass with Linda's Glass Gallery, and laser-etched ornaments. When possible, a virtual class was scheduled for patrons who couldn't make it during the other scheduled times or preferred to craft from home.

One of the classes offered this year was shuttle tatting, which is a form of lacemaking. Patrons had been asking whether anyone could teach them how to tat, so I took the time to learn the art of tatting and started teaching it virtually and at all three locations over a series of classes. Some participants in these classes mentioned they came from a distance and were impressed by what our library offered compared to the libraries in their area. It was very exciting to see a group of people learn and be able to create their own lace in this art form that has been becoming rarer.

THE MAKERSPACE (CONT.)

Through a partnership with Adult Services, a Craft and Crime night was offered where we made spooky skeleton wreaths and listened to true crime podcasts. This was a lot of fun, and this program style was repeated at the branch locations.

Another popular class was offered via the Korean Spirit and Culture Promotion Project with funding support from our Friends groups. All three locations were able to connect with KSCPP in New York via Zoom and learn about Korea's history and culture while making their own lotus lantern.

The MakerSpace once again served as the space where staff put together the Halloween Parade float. This year we got second place with our Wizard of Oz float. The Defiance Friends once again provided candies and copies of the book for us to hand out along the parade route.



Clockwise from top left: A spooky wreath creation, lantern-making with the Korean Spirit & Culture Promotion Project, & DPLS' Wizard of Oz-themed Lions' Club Halloween Parade float, which took the second-place prize!



YOUTH SERVICES

In 2022, the Children's Department concentrated on two main factors. Firstly, we saw another staff member leave early in the year, which meant the 2022 children's staff, apart from the manager, were all new with much to learn. Secondly, we strove to bring back more of the services that had been paused due to Covid and staffing shortages. On the first account, we are very pleased to report that the Children's Department was able to become fully staffed again just before the beginning of our Summer Reading Challenge. While it was difficult to train staff amid Summer Reading and other programming, the crew of newbies proved themselves to be competent, dedicated, and talented. We now have a strong, healthy, vibrant team moving into 2023.



Marja McGuire
DPL Youth Services Manager

The new team was quick to learn, enabling us to maintain a variety of programs and services which had been reestablished in 2021, such as Read, Rhyme & Romp and Storytime. In-house crafts and activities such as the "I Spy Window" also continued as popular services, with a total of over 2,500 participants throughout the year. Take-home activities remained as a new standard for us as well. We saw more than 2,300 crafts, STEAM kits, puzzle packs, and the like go home with children and their families.

Once the new team had a foundation underfoot, we were able to accomplish the second goal at hand: bringing back more of the services which had been paused due to Covid and staffing shortages. One highlight was providing a Summer Reading Challenge which was in full swing, absent of registration limits and other Covid restrictions. We were happy to see our participation numbers up by 10% from 2021. There was also a huge crowd of about 160 people for the Dinomobile event, which was brought back by popular demand as part of Summer Reading. Even completion rates were up by 17% over 2021. We also were able to bring back consistent school-age programming and scavenger hunts, a patron favorite. Outreach services too were reestablished. Beginning in autumn, we were able to visit 17 preschool, kindergarten, and elementary classes throughout the community. In addition, we revived our new parent, early childhood screening, and kindergarten screening informational bags, delivering a total of 865 countywide.

Remarkably, our in-person program total for the year was just shy of 200 events. But I would be remiss not to mention here some of the creative new developments also brought to the department in 2022 by the new team. One idea came with the Waldorf Playhouse addition to the Children's space. The team has become adept at setting up engaging activities that encourage children to use their imaginations within the playhouse. They also developed a new passive program called Littles Highlight Activities, to be held concurrent with the school-age events. Its purpose is to keep young ones busy while their older siblings attend the school-age programs. (Cont.)

YOUTH SERVICES (CONT.)

Most notably, the team's decorating creativity has become unparalleled. They were very excited to decorate for our Summer Reading Challenge. This was quite apparent to anyone visiting the library during the months of June and July, due to the elaborate and abundant ocean scenes and displays. The many compliments given had the team realize they had set the decorating bar quite high. Since then, they have not disappointed patrons. They continue to mesmerize those visiting with extravagant decorations.

Thanks to a very skilled and dedicated Children's Department, we saw our 2022 goals realized. Even so, there is much to be done in 2023, including still a handful of pre-Covid services we endeavor to bring back. It's exciting to anticipate the great things to come with such a strong, enthusiastic team.



Clockwise from top left: Sydni visits with a class at Good Samaritan School; State Rep. Craig Riedel congratulates a young graduate of the 1000 Books before Kindergarten program; a large crowd gathers at the Fort Grounds to watch "The Magic Fish" puppet show; Defiance County Soil & Water demonstrates the Sea Level Lab; young visitors play water games with Marja on the lawn during the 2022 'Oceans of Possibilities' Summer Reading Challenge.



CIRCULATION

During 2022, much time was spent training new staff for the 20-hour positions in the Circulation Department (filling one of the two open positions), along with training a substitute for the Children's Department.

Staff went through yet another cargo delivery service transition. The transition began April 18 and concluded in mid-July. This transition went much more smoothly than the past transition experience. The parking lot dropbox arrived and was installed in February. Patron hold lockers were installed in mid-April. The locker system consists of 10 lockers for patrons to request as a pickup location (by selecting DPL24) for picking up their requested materials.

The Homebound Program continues to be a needed service in our community. Defiance Public Library delivered to approximately 45 homebound patrons, both individuals and those residing in nursing facilities. Staff delivered 4,349 items, including books, magazines, and audiovisual materials. These patrons also enjoyed receiving various activity pages per their interests, such as coloring pages, word puzzles, and mind games. A total of 104 activity pages were delivered to our homebound patrons.



Tabitha Sullivan
Circulation Manager

THE WORTHINGTON CEMETERY PROJECT

We had two separate and very different searches at the Worthington Cemetery location in 2022. The KYK9 Search Dogs team, along with community volunteers, executed a search on November 1. Both dogs marked many spots where they identified the scent of human decomposition. The handlers felt confident that there are human remains in the location based on the behavior of their highly trained dogs.

Eric Hubbard and Christopher Lamack, both doctoral candidates at the University of Pennsylvania in the Department of Anthropology, completed a GPR survey of the cemetery location.

GPR equipment was provided by CAAM, the Center for Analysis of Archaeological Materials, in conjunction with the Penn Museum's archaeology and teaching labs.

The GPR data is currently being analyzed with the CAAM software. The data from the two searches will be compared and combined for use in the application for an Ohio Historical Marker at the location of the cemetery.



Sarah Marshall
Adult Services
Associate

SHERWOOD BRANCH

January 2022 brought more foot traffic than January 2021. We were still distributing a lot of Covid tests, however, patrons gathered for programs and events. Classroom visits at Fairview continued through the school year, with visits to about 200 students monthly. The Fairview Elementary popcorn Friday fundraiser donated \$370.01 to the StoryWalk sidewalk project. The branch was gifted new blinds from brothers, Gary and Doug Hohenberger.

In February and March, we were in planning mode for the Summer Reading Challenge and summer food program. Storytime continued through March, and I visited the parenting class at Fairview to discuss the importance of reading to babies and toddlers and help plan storytimes for their playschool. Marty Gitlin presented on the Cleveland Indians. Adult programming was well attended.



Kathy Holtsberry
Branch Manager

April began with a visit from the local preschool. We partnered with the main to hold a virtual program: Dogs of Chernobyl. During Fairview's spring break, we offered a different activity each day. Volunteers and I helped the Farmer American Legion with their donut fundraiser. They also donated to our StoryWalk sidewalk.

In May, we read books to guinea pig visitors, and family storytime resumed. The Friends of Sherwood Branch Library held a Spring Fling on May 21. We presented a Summer Reading skit to elementary students, inviting them to participate. As always, the big news in June and July were the Summer Reading and lunch programs. We offered a different program after lunch on most days. Thanks to our Friends group, we were able to provide many great programs. Our first-ever couple's painting event was a hit. The tween Titanic lock-in was well attended, and participation in the Summer Reading Challenge increased.

August was a quiet month. We held a barnyard storytime with 4-H Queen Kaitlyn Zeedyk, as well as Water Day. I handed out STEAM and craft kits in the multipurpose building for kids' day at the fair, and attended Fairview Elementary's open house.

School visits and storytime started in September. **We held our first cemetery walk at Farmer Cemetery.** We had 27 participants, and many asked that we have another program at a new location next year. Staff development day was also held in September: Renee, Angela, and I traveled to Midwest Tape in Holland, Ohio, to tour the facilities.

In October, we handed out paper pumpkin coloring contest sheets. The 4th grade classes from Fairview came to the library to learn about our resources. Adult craft classes were well attended. November brought a close to storytime for the year. The Korean lantern program, couples painting, and thumbprint Christmas cards were a few of the month's offerings. Emily, our part-time associate, left us for full time employment.

What a fun month December was! Mini Christmas tree farms and Christmas ornaments with Cara were well attended. Cookies with Mrs. Claus saw attendance resembling pre-Covid figures. I also held 8 storytime sessions for the 'Wrestling with the Grinch' party. About 80 children attended. I finished up the year with school visits. I look forward to many new connections in 2023, and to strengthening our ties to the Sherwood community.

JOHNSON MEMORIAL

In February 2022, Johnson Memorial Library seemed to come alive after a winter lull. A new group of kids and teachers from Hicksville Elementary School, the 21st Century Program, visited every Tuesday for a month and a half for after-school fun. They returned later in the year too. Valentine's BINGO and 'Bring Your Child to the Library Day' were hits.

In March, we started Storytime and Lego Club, two programs that remained popular through the year and into 2023. For adults, we had 'Crafts and Crime' night, making Black Dahlia wreaths while listening to a true-crime podcast. This program was offered again in October; we made haunted-house shadowboxes. Both were cohosted with MakerSpace Cara!



Angela Powell
Branch Manager

In March we also got our first **Lit Picks** patrons. We continue to provide this service monthly, giving adult signees two book suggestions. Programming was similar in April, but we added a "spray them yourself" chia seed growth station that became a favorite for all ages. Cookies and Canvas with Hicksville art teacher Mr. Gaghan was popular enough to need a waitlist, and we got to paint with him again in November!

Jumping ahead to the Summer Reading Challenge, Johnson Memorial Library was covered in goldfish outside, and sharks and turtles inside. We had Messfest and Slime Fest, Mario Kart and Pokemon parties, the Dinomobile returned, and we had a scavenger hunt and a Guess the Fish contest. Beach BINGO and Snack Attack even had the parents enjoying themselves. Adults built a Marimo Moss aquarium, took a tour of Strait Gate, had a Cookbook club, and enjoyed a Gala hosted by the Friends of JML. We didn't slow down in August, adding in a water play day (with a homemade foam machine in the parking lot!) and a visit from Purple Dog Day Care.

October was just as busy, with **Storytime with Belle** (an emotional support beagle), our annual Fall Fest (we introduced our new cotton candy machine!), and a charcuterie class taught by the owner of Kora Brewhouse and Winebar in Bryan. The community room was filled with adults learning how to make pepperoni roses! We also passed out movie treat bags every weekend. Any kiddo who checked out a movie got a bag with a bottled water and bag of chips provided by the JML Friends!

Speaking of the Friends, in November they had a fundraiser to get a Charlie Cart for JML, offering to match the money donated by the community. The people of Hicksville are generous, and we raised the \$15,000! The Charlie Cart arrived in late December. Staff training starts in January, and the first class is scheduled for February 2023, so watch this space for next year's report!

COMMUNICATIONS



Taryn Lawson
Communications Coordinator

Communication 2022

(all locations)

Social Reach

776,000

Website users:

20,423

Follower Count (All accounts & platforms)

+ 34.4%

Press releases issued

64

In 2022, the communications coordinator created promotional artwork packages (flier, web, slideshow, and social graphics) for **136 events** and programs across the system's three locations, issued 64 press releases to the community, and sent out 12 monthly "**Shelf Life**" newsletters.

All past press releases and newsletters are available to view at defiancelibrary.org.

DPLS continued to have a lively presence on social media in 2022, with post reach across all networks increasing another 1.3% over 2021, to 776,000 total users. With 1%-5% being the generally accepted range for "good" engagement, DPLS ended 2022 with a very strong 4.18%. **Fan/follower count across all accounts increased by 34.4%**, from 5,445 to 7,319. The opted-in mailing list also grew significantly in 2022, growing by 916 new contacts. A total of 20,423 individual users accessed the DPLS website in 2022, with the largest percentage of referrals continuing to come from Facebook.

Additionally, the communications coordinator manages the **DPLS website/web calendar**, serves on the Halloween Parade & Safety committees, creates newspaper and radio promotions monthly, oversees public meeting postings, completes large print jobs as requested by staff, creates and distributes paper calendars, visits each branch location weekly, and provides service and guidance to those who reach out to the library via our website or social media pages, plus organizes the DPL flyer racks on average 17.4 times daily.

Other projects that received attention in 2022 included social media archiving for legal compliance, document design (e.g. strategic plan, annual report) website security, outreach at the PATH Center, designing and ordering special signage, communications related to the Worthington Cemetery Project, and marketing plus general support for DefCom 7.

defiancelibrary.org

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

OPERATING INCOME 2022	
Public Library Fund (State)	\$ 1,633,207
Library Levy (County)	\$ 651,126
Total Tax Revenue	\$ 2,284,333
Total State/Federal Grants Revenue	\$ 7,647
Other Operating Revenue (fines/fees, donations, investment earnings, etc)	\$ 53,186
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	\$ 2,345,166
OPERATING EXPENDITURES 2022	
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES 2022	\$ 53,710
TOTAL OVERALL EXPENDITURES	\$ 2,127,858



2022 BY THE NUMBERS

Circulation of all physical materials

173,180

+17% from 2021

Circulation of all digital materials

55,290

Books borrowed from another library

36,898

Patron visits to the libraries

71,760

Programs offered

768

Program attendance

9,373

UPDATES, REPAIRS, & RENOVATIONS AT DPL

- Lighting replaced in the community room, tech services room, & business office
- Exterior book lockers and outdoor book drop installed
- Exterior cleaning and masonry repairs
- Heat tape installation on the west ring roof



PROGRAMS SUPPORTED BY OUR FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

These are just a few of the many free community programs or services sponsored by the libraries' three friends groups in 2022.

FRIENDS OF DEFIANCE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Children's

- Dinomobile
- The Magic Fish Puppet Show by Roz Puppets
- Storytime ()
- The Summer Reading Challenge

Adult

- Stephen Quandt, feline behavioralist
- DefCom (KDog's Arcade)
- The Worthington Cemetery Project (initial K9 search)
- Supplies for The Lions Club Annual Halloween Parade

FRIENDS OF SHERWOOD BRANCH LIBRARY

- Marty Gitlin, sportswriter, pop culture author, & speaker
- Balloon Animal Art with Christopher Bercaw
- The Greater Cleveland Aquarium virtual program
- Stephen Quandt, feline behavioralist
- Tory Gabriel, Ohio Sea Grant and Stone Laboratory
- Dinomobile

FRIENDS OF JOHNSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

- "Charlie Cart" purchase
- Korean Spirit & Culture Promotion Project, paper lanterns
- Special World War II presentation
- Charcuterie Class
- Dinomobile
- Purchase of a new document scanner



THANK YOU TO OUR 2022 DONORS!

\$5 - \$99.99

Small Family Living Trust
Mutual Improvement Circle
Lincoln & Aryn Cohoon
Jeff Barber
Fred Coulter
Current Events Club
Karen S. Graf

\$100 - \$499.99

Louis & Rene Levy
Fairview Elementary School students
Defiance Health Partners LLC
Lori Moore-Heidrich
The Max Haver Family
Tena Pruitt
Hicksville School District
Meijer
Chief Supermarkets
Farmer American Legion
Jay & Barbara Budde

\$500 - \$999.99

Norman & Ann Wasson
Dan & Dawn Hasch

\$1,000 - \$4,999.99

Defiance Area Foundation
United Way, Women's Giving Circle
Defiance Rotary Foundation
Christine & Stephen Korhn

Over \$5,000

Gary Cheney
Quintin & Juliet C. Yao
Friends of Defiance Public Library
Friends of Sherwood Branch Library
Friends of Johnson Memorial Library



2022 BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Chris Korhn – President – (Jan. 1, 2022 – Dec. 31, 2025)

Laura Rath Connor – Vice President – (Jan. 1, 2020 – Dec. 31, 2023)

Susan Mack (Jan. 1, 2020 – Dec. 31, 2023)

Kenneth Boroff (Jan. 1, 2022 – Dec. 31, 2025)

Mary Elizabeth (Beth) Michel (Jan. 1, 2022 – Dec. 31, 2025)

Dennis Sobecki (July 28, 2021 – Dec. 31, 2023)

Rebecca Mansel-Pleydell (June 22, 2022 – Dec. 31, 2023)

A Note from the Past President

The Board of Trustees welcomed new member Rebecca Mansel-Pleydell of Ney to finish the term of former member Kenyotta Stantz in 2022. She joins Susan Mack of Hicksville; Laura Connor, Beth Michel, Dennis Sobecki, and myself of Defiance; as well as Ken Boroff of Sherwood to complete our hardworking board. Part of representing the library system is listening to community concerns, ideas, feedback, and suggestions. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any one of us with questions as they may arise.

I have served as president of the board since April 2020 and for two and a half years have overseen the upkeep of the building, the funds involved in all aspects of the library system, and numerous approvals of hires. I have enjoyed book clubs, the Worthington Project updates on the library's blog, programs such as the Abraham Lincoln impersonator, and Art in the Park. It is a privilege to serve the public in this role. One of the exciting projects which is soon to undergo installation was approved by the board in 2022. Defiance will soon have a Story Walk placed along the Bronson Park Walkway! This has been a joint effort of the library, Rotary, and Friends of the Library to reach our children & families. At all three DPLS locations there are offerings for all age levels. Join a book club, register for a program, or take a cooking class made possible in Hicksville by their very own Charlie Cart!

Each library has its own Friends group. Periodic book sales raise funds for crafts, programs, and summer reading activities for children. We would like to thank you for the loyalty of each community who run these sales and raise funds to supplement our tight budgets. Thanks to each and every community member who voted for the 5-year levy last fall. We will use the funds from the renewal prudently!

On a final note, Director Cara Potter begins each monthly meeting with a presentation by a different member of the staff explaining their role in the library system with firsthand anecdotal information about the departments for which they work. Our board has always found this portion of the meetings very useful and our respect for the staff and their work has been built month by month for their accomplishments and dedication to the jobs they perform. Though my term as president is over, I will still remain active on the board. Under the leadership of Laura Connor we will now head into 2023!

Chris Korhn

Past President, Defiance Public Library Board of Trustees