

**Catskill Public Library and
Palenville Branch Library**

Report to the Community

**Approved by the Board of Trustees
05/17/2010**

**Open A Book
Open Your Mind**

www.catskillpubliclibrary.org



Our community has been making increasing use of its public library. This is consistent with the American Libraries Association's finding that, during the economic downturn, public libraries have seen an increase of 23% in usage. The Catskill Public Library and Palenville Branch Library have responded to this need with expanded services. The new downstairs room for children and teens at Catskill not only gives young people their own library space and librarian, but dedicates space upstairs for adult uses such as quiet reading space, increased display of media, and employment searches. These changes were made possible in part by a \$71,000 grant from New York State secured through the Mid Hudson Library System, and 16 computers were added with assistance from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Wherever we can, we try to offset increased costs due to the pressure on state funding by pursuing grants—locally, statewide and nationally—that provide valuable facilities and services at little or no cost to our taxpayers.

In addition to responding to this challenge, we have made library space more comfortable and more accessible. The interior and exterior restoration project has created a patio from bluestone saved from the repairs to the sidewalk, and we have plans to welcome public use of the patio in the summer months. An access ramp and restored bathroom and doors have taken steps toward improving physical access to the building easier, while we continue to offer access to library services at the Palenville Branch Library and in the Washington Irving Senior Center. The Palenville Branch Library has also seen improvements in facilities and parking, and we are continuing to work on this.

The Catskill library, a historic Carnegie library building dating from 1902, has in recent years received extensive repairs to the roof, chimney, and interior. In 2009, the ancient boiler needed complete replacement, and now this is complete we anticipate

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greater fuel efficiency in heating the building. The library has taken steps to protect the community's support for the Library by making it easier for future management and trustees to carry out such major repairs promptly and cost-effectively.

Our expanded library services include a new collection of nearly 600 music CDs (gigcat.midhudson.org/search~S23/X?*&l=&m=f&searchscope=23) that have already seen a high rate of loan to patrons. We continue to catalog historical artifacts, and have recently started work on an exciting collection of items from the Palenville library; these will be returned to Palenville as soon as they have been protected for future generations with archival care and by being recorded in the catalog.

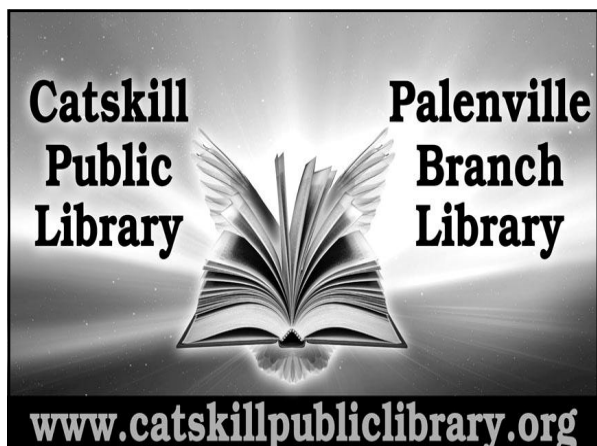
Lastly, the Catskill Public Library and Palenville Branch Library are using 21st century ways of serving our patrons, including free wireless internet service at both locations. Visit us on Facebook, where we provide frequent news of programs and of new library services:

www.facebook.com/pages/Catskill-NY/Catskill-Public-Library/51550639908

www.facebook.com/pages/Palenville-NY/Palenville-Library/113705522000537

INCOME	2010	2011	More (Less)	Change
Catskill Central School District Taxes	\$442,177.00	\$478,935.88	\$36,759	7.7%
Greene County Libraries Association	\$2,500.00	\$2,400.00	(\$100)	-4.2%
Mid-Hudson Library System	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0	0.0%
Other Income	\$65,397.00	\$68,122.00	\$2,725	4.0%
TOTAL INCOME	\$511,074.00	\$550,457.88	\$39,384	7.2%

EXPENDITURES	2010	2011	More (Less)	Change
Personnel	\$322,323.01	\$342,964.33	\$20,641	6.0%
Library Materials & Patron Services	\$93,603.22	\$109,999.86	\$16,397	14.9%
Library Administration	\$30,801.72	\$31,436.19	\$634	2.0%
Building	\$64,346.05	\$66,057.50	\$1,711	2.6%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$511,074.00	\$550,457.88	\$39,384	7.2%



Since 1896, the Catskill Public Library has been providing services to our community

One year ago, we stood here and asked for an increase in our operating budget.

In return, we promised to...

- Increase accessibility to our Franklin Street building;
- Create a space for you;
- Create a space for your children; and
- Add staff and services to meet your needs.

And we did just that...

We scraped and painted

Reconfigured our side entrance

Added a side ramp & railing

We received \$6,500 from the Bill & Melinda Gates Opportunity Grant...

...which helped to fund our dedicated computer area for adults, with Wi-Fi internet access to 8 desktops and for patrons who bring their laptops into our building.

We received \$71,000 from the NYS Library Construction Grant to help build our Children's Room

A separate zone for toddlers & elementary aged children...

A second zone for middle-school aged children...

With 4 dedicated computers

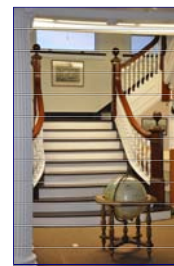
DVD's, Books on CD's, a homework project table & of course, books!

A third zone contains an ADA accessible desk, with internet access to our card catalog & website. Staff are always available to bring materials from one floor to the other.



The final zone is the teen area. Here is where you'll find the latest in graphic novels, young adult materials and 4 computers for this age group.

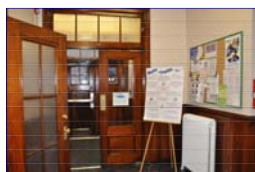
By reclaiming the ground floor we were able to begin to design the main floor to better serve our patrons.
We also:



- Began a music collection (600 CDs and growing, with more than 40 more operas on their way);
- Moved the large print collection to an easier to reach area; and
- Expanded the DVD collection

...and we...

- Created a meeting space and space for community postings;
- Cleaned the wood, polished the brass;
- Re-tiled and re-carpeted floors;
- Remodeled the restroom by enlarging it to accommodate a chair and installing a changing table for our youngest patrons;
- Installed a new boiler;
- Restored the exterior soffits and fascia;
- Restored the exterior columns;
- Created a front patio from the original bluestone sidewalk (plants, bike rack and furniture to come soon!).



The Palenville Branch Library continues to provide services as well

- Expanded DVD collection
- The latest in best sellers
- Classic Fiction and Non Fiction
- Dedicated Children's Room
- Computer & Reference Area
- Local History Collection



- Plus programming in the gallery
- Movie Night
 - Historical Programs
 - Children Story Time
 - Yoga
 - Art Shows
 - Knitting Class
 - Photography Club
 - Cancer Support Group
 - Book Club



Your Library Card is Free

- Movies
 - One "Movie Night" in Palenville will save a family of 4 no less than \$30.00—free movie, free popcorn.
 - One "Movie Night" at home will save your family an average of \$20.00, the cost of the DVD.
- Magazines and Newspapers
 - Read newspapers and magazines in the library
 - Borrow magazines to take home.
 - Read more than 2,500 newspapers and magazines online—from AARP Magazine to Ziff Davis Smart Business.
- Books and Audio CDs
 - Borrowing one item per month saves over \$120.00 per year.
- Computers
 - Job searching
 - Wi-Fi access
- Out and About
 - Library service at the Washington Irving Senior Center
 - Free tours of the Thomas Cole National Historic Site

- We ask the district voters for their continuing support in 2011.
- In return, the Trustees and Staff will strive to exceed the goals set in our 2010 and 2011 budget. We will:
 - Continue with our renovations on Franklin Street, to include energy efficient windows;
 - Continue with our remodeling in Palenville, fresh paint, weeding and restocking of new materials; and
 - Continue education for library staff, to enable them to offer the highest standard of service to you.