

Demographics

Worcester Schenevus Library is located at 170 Main Street in Worcester, NY, in Otsego County. The library serves the residents of Worcester, Schenevus, Decatur, Maryland and Westford. As of 2019 the populations of these places was:
Worcester: 2109, Schenevus: 551, Decatur: 336, Maryland: 1812, Westford: 825

Library History

The Worcester Free Library was chartered in 1909. At first, the library was housed in one room at the Historical Society. In 1910, Hellen Wilder Wieting financed the construction of the Wieting Theater, which allocated a small room for the library. In 2013, the library purchased 170 Main Street, using an award from a New York State Construction grant. The building was renovated and it became the library's new home in 2019.

The Library Today

The library is governed by a seven member board. We receive funding from the Worcester and Schenevus school districts. The Friends of the Library hold a membership drive every year, and raise funds running a used bookshop, located next door at 168 Main Street, Worcester, NY. Currently the library has three part time employees, plus several active volunteers. The library is open 33 hours per week. It offers the public books, magazines, DVDs, and audiobooks. It also provides access to wireless internet and computers.

Collections / Circulation

Books 8880
Ebooks 9354
DVDs 1506
Audiobooks 339
Circulation of physical items in 2021 was 5779
Interlibrary loans in 2021 totalled 4337 .

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Worcester Free Library is to inspire lifelong learning, advance knowledge, and strengthen our communities. The Library's target population includes schools and families in the towns o of Worcester, Maryland, Decatur, and Westford.

Survey:

In the spring of 2022, the library conducted a survey in order to measure which potential programs would be best received by our patrons. Respondents indicated that they would like to see History Talks, Storytime, Paint and Sips, and Piano Lessons take place at the library in the future.

Goals

Each goal will be re-evaluated yearly and appropriately amended.

1. The Library will maintain and upgrade the facility when needed to provide functional and welcoming spaces for community meetings and individual study.
To meet this goal, the building will be assessed yearly and a list of critical projects will be determined. In addition, there will be a biennial audit of furniture, fixtures and equipment. Public and staff spaces will be redesigned in response to evolving needs.
A potential outcome is increased usage of the library as a workspace.
2. The Library will offer a range of programs that encourage creativity and foster community.
The library will produce programs that adhere to our mission and reflect the interests of our patrons, as expressed in the 2022 survey. In the near future, we intend to host an early literacy program that promotes vocabulary acquisition, phonological awareness and letter knowledge. We will also increase events with a wide variety of scope.
A possible outcome is increased program attendance.
3. The Library will curate dynamic collections in response to public demand.
To better understand our patrons' needs, usage reports were created. The reports showed that our patrons prefer fiction to non-fiction. They also take out a surprising number of DVDs. With regards to interlibrary loans, the majority of books borrowed were either current bestsellers or children's picture books. Based on usage, the library will purchase more fiction (especially bestsellers), DVDs and children's picture books.
A possible outcome is increased circulation and patron satisfaction.
4. The Library will renew and refine the outreach activities that promote the public's awareness of its services.
In an effort to attract new patrons and introduce new services to our long standing users, we will use traditional and social media, including Facebook, Instagram and Eventbrite. We hope to demonstrate our value and continued relevance to the community.
A possible outcome is increased usage by patrons from Schenevus, Maryland, and Westford.

Action Points

Facility

We intend to:

- take ownership of the church building next door
- renovate the church
- build a pavilion in the lot between the library and the former church
- install motion-sensitive parking lot lights

Programming

We hope to offer:

- healthy cooking classes
- High School Equivalency class

Collections

To maximize our budget, the library director will purchase items from discount book dealers like:

- Pangobooks
- Book Outlet
- Ollie's

Outreach

We will establish partnerships with:

- American Veterans Club in Schenevus
- Maryland Historical Society
- Worcester Historical Society