

Check Us Out

193 years! That's how long the Claverack Library has served our community. Yes, we have a new, repurposed building – completed without debt – and offerings of information and services that a librarian in 1829 could not have imagined. But we continue the library's critical mission, one we take to heart every day: to facilitate learning and create free programs and experiences to connect neighbors to one another and the world.

If you haven't yet explored the new space, come in. Last summer through our Turning Outward project, we heard that what our town needs most – and what our library can provide – are more opportunities to engage with each other. The community's unanimity on this point was striking.

A snapshot of a recent weekend tells the story. During our regular hours on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. there were the typical comings and goings of computer users, readers of all ages, and people checking out movies. An exhibition of original photographs drew dozens of jazz fans to the downstairs gallery. Later that day, 70 people attended a classical music concert in memory of Cyndy Hall, the Hudson City School District's beloved music teacher. The next day the library's community room hosted a collaborative fund-raising event with the Reformed Dutch Church of Claverack selling homemade soups and DVD's. The doors kept swinging and the seats barely cooled. All told, nearly 200 people came to the library that weekend. People seeking knowledge, entertainment, and the pleasure of one another's company.



Friends are the heart of the library.

During any given week, the library hosts teen study groups, toddlers rolling in for story hour and crafts, fiber artists, book clubs, yoga and tai chi practitioners, local history buffs, computer users, and the curious in general . . . to the tune of 300 visits per week. Library card holders or registered resident borrowers have increased and now number 1,700. In 2021 more than 335 programs were held and the library's community spaces now regularly host meetings of business groups, civic organizations, and clubs.

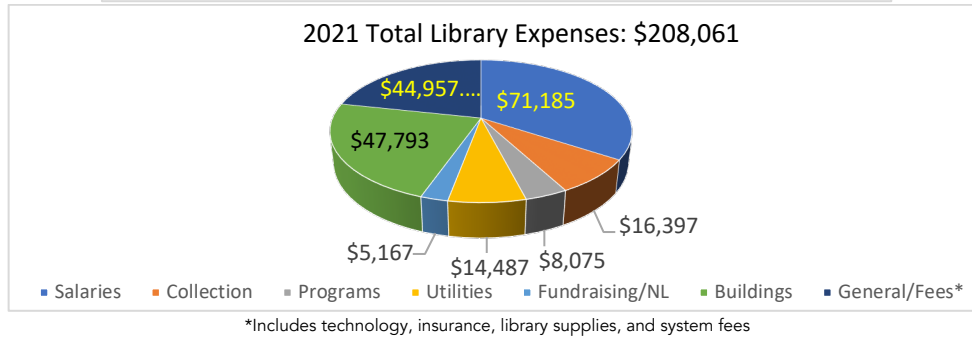
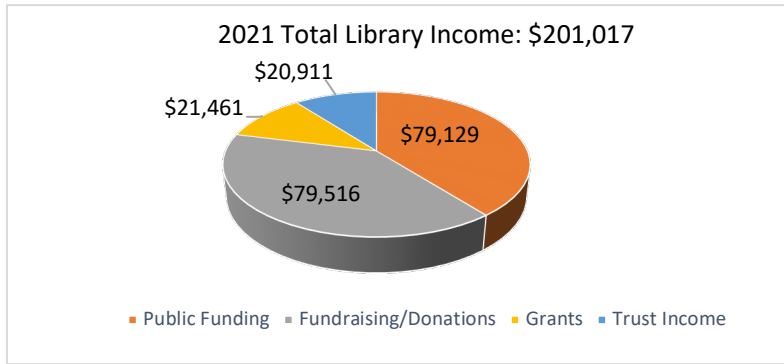
What might be unseen is that the library depends heavily upon a committed group of volunteers for essential functions, including building maintenance, grant-writing, financial reporting, data management and, of course, board leadership. The Friends of the Library help raise funds to support the operating budget. In turn, volunteers find that the library offers an opportunity to engage meaningfully in the life of Claverack and to make a difference in the lives of our neighbors. If you think you have skills the library could use, you're probably right. To learn more, contact director@claveracklibrary.org.



Come in and check us out. And know that you are welcome here.

The Fact\$ about Library Finance\$

The Claverack Library is an association library and, unlike a school district library, is only partially funded by local taxes. In fact, local government funding makes up less than half the library's 2022 annual operating budget of \$197,435. Library volunteers must raise the difference through individual donations, grants, and fundraising events. Two new part-time positions to support a busier library mean that personnel costs now make up nearly half of the annual operating budget. Additionally, like every local family and business, the library faces rising utility, materials, and maintenance costs.



In 2021, the library received \$73,500 from the town of Claverack, \$3,000 from Columbia County, \$1,250 from the state of New York, and \$1,000 from the town of Taghkanic. The library’s share of the town of Claverack’s 2022 adopted budget is 2.3 percent.

Per capita, the Claverack Library receives the fewest local tax dollars of all 11 county libraries and the second fewest in the entire 66-member Mid-Hudson Library System.

Columbia County Library Funding 2020

Library	Chartered Pop.	Local Funding Per Capita	Town/City/Special District**	Village	School District	County	Total Local Funding
North Chatham	997	\$68.20	\$ 65,000	\$0	\$0	\$ 3,000	\$ 68,000
New Lebanon	2,305	\$59.87	\$135,000	\$0	\$0	\$ 3,000	\$138,000
Germantown	1,954	\$46.06	\$ 90,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ 90,000
Kinderhook	6,486	\$43.76	\$280,830	\$0	\$0	\$ 3,000	\$283,830
Chatham*	9,459	\$39.62	\$0	\$0	\$374,738	\$0	\$374,738
Livingston	352	\$46.11	\$ 13,000	\$0	\$0	\$ 3,229	\$ 16,229
Philmont	1,379	\$36.62	\$ 31,500	\$16,000	\$0	\$ 3,000	\$ 50,500
Hudson	10,878	\$25.83	\$258,700	\$0	\$0	\$22,252	\$280,952
Valatie	4,344	\$19.11	\$ 70,850	\$0	\$0	\$ 3,000	\$ 83,000
Roe-Jan	7,115	\$17.12	\$105,500	\$0	\$0	\$ 5,815	\$121,816
Claverack	4,642	\$16.84	\$ 74,500	\$0	\$0	\$ 3,674	\$ 78,174
County Total	49,911	\$31.76	\$1,144,531	\$16,000	\$374,738	\$49,970	\$1,585,239

*School District Library **Town/City/Special District funding is determined by chartered service area Source: Mid-Hudson Library System

Any increase in town taxes for the library must be approved by Claverack’s registered voters. November’s general election ballot will include a referendum to add an additional \$1.62 per \$100,000 of assessed value for property owners. For most homeowners, that comes to less than the price of one movie ticket.

The bottom line is that the Claverack Library’s value to the community far exceeds its cost and it deserves to be adequately funded.