

YEAR IN REVIEW

NEWTON PUBLIC LIBRARY 2022

New library project moves forward

In 2022, the Campaign Leadership Committee substantially exceeded its original fundraising goal, raising more than \$3.3 million.

The City of North Newton committed \$100,000 to the project. Two foundation gifts of \$300,000 each – one from the Sunderland Foundation and one from the Patterson Family Foundation – pushed the campaign across the finish line.

While fundraising progressed, the design phase for the new library also commenced, finalizing the features and amenities to be included in the new construction.

To close out the year, the City Commission voted Dec. 27 to award the construction bid to Dondlinger Construction of Wichita.

Construction began in early 2023 and is expected to be complete in mid-2024.

Continuing to rebound after COVID

As the COVID-19 pandemic lessened, the library continued to open services back up, add more in-person programs, and encourage people to revisit their library.

The toy corral in the children's department reopened in March; weekly story times resumed; and the library had a full slate of Summer Reading Program activities for all ages.

Teens were able to come to weekly Game-Zone, monthly book discussions, and special activities.

Adult programs returned to meeting in-person, and the audience for the programs broadened thanks to the addition of Zoom webinars, Facebook Live streams, and replays on the library's YouTube channel.

These changes, as well as the changing pandemic landscape, are reflected in 2022 usage statistics compared to 2021. Visits to the library increased by about 15 percent year-over-year, and checkouts were up more than 29 percent. Library computer usage was up almost 20 percent, and wi-fi usage increased more than 52 percent compared to 2021.

The most-circulated book of the year was the 2022 Big Read selection, *The House on Mango Street*, by Sandra Cisneros. The most circulated DVD was season 1 of *Yellowstone*.

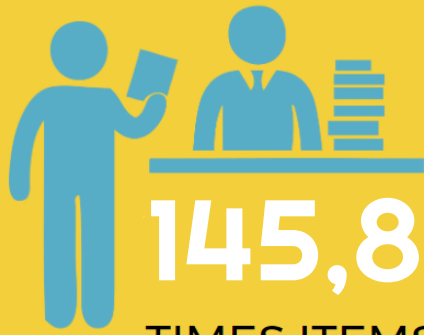
Connecting with the community

The children's department added an Early Reader Book Club, helping kids in grades K-2 engage with reading in new ways. The library partnered with the City of Newton and the Harvey County Historical Museum to host Untold Stories, a week-long after-school program for 4th-8th graders to celebrate Newton's sesquicentennial year.

In December, staff participated in the Lion's Club Parade of Lights, handing out free books to all children, funded by the Florence Bessmer Foundation.

The library officially went fine-free in 2022. Now, patrons are only charged for lost or damaged items. The move was positively received by the community. We continue to look for ways to reduce barriers to service.





145,845
TIMES ITEMS
WERE CHECKED OUT



434
PROGRAMS
OFFERED



8,328
TOTAL
PROGRAM
ATTENDANCE

38,362

LIBRARY VISITS

7,121

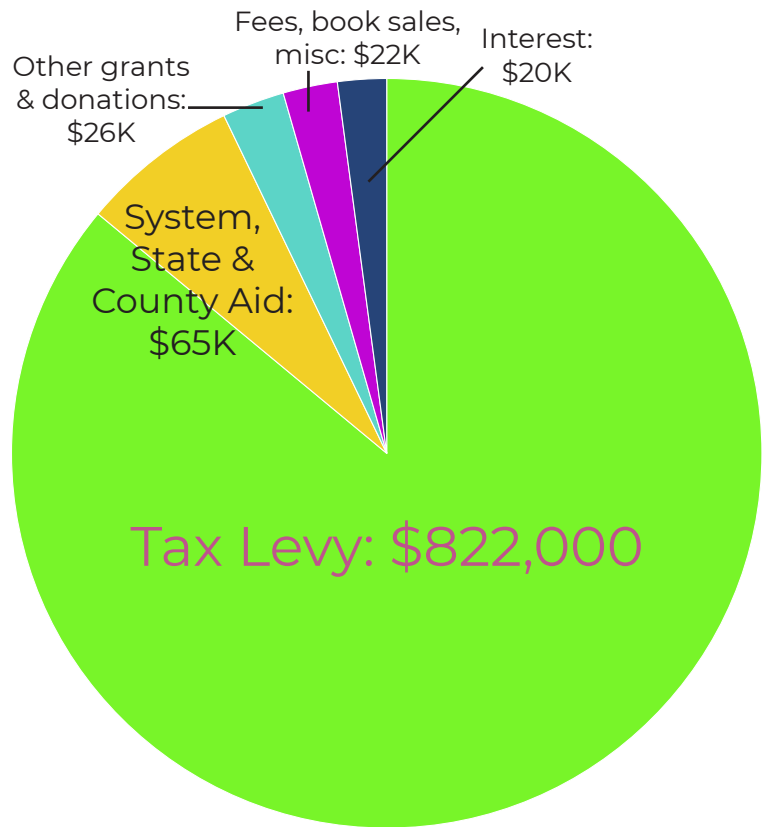
PUBLIC COMPUTER
& WIFI USERS



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Newton Community for Racial Justice • Humanities Kansas • Mojo's • Harvey County K-State Research and Extension • City of Newton • Newton Police Department • Salted Creamery • Harvey County Historical Museum • Newton Public Schools • Kauffman Museum • Kansas Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution • Big Read Wichita • Peace Connections Carriage Factory Art Gallery • Newton Mid-Kansas Symphony • Dyck Arboretum • Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum • Offender-Victim Ministries • NMC Health • Health Ministries Clinic • Norm's

2022 INCOME



2022 EXPENSES

