Statistic Highlights, up from 2020:

- # of New Patrons: 1,025, up 34%
- Circulation: 152,090, up 18%
- People visits: 62,095, up 22%
- Wireless visits: 31,542, up 42%

(we added lots of hubs for outdoor connectivity)

Meeting room usage: 632, up 77%

Director’s Message:

Last year I summed up the Library as resilient and community-driven. While the same goes for this year, I have to say that I would add “dogged” and “resigned”. Once again, I am so proud of the staff at the Library. They continue to be upbeat about our role in the community and work hard towards improving services every day. We are increasing our usage, slowly climbing back to pre-pandemic numbers. Knowing that we are in this forever-pandemic loop, the staff have figured out ways to continue to serve. Please see inside for some of the Library highlights of 2021.

Peace pole purchased using the funds donated from The Backlot Beer Garden during last April’s Beer for Books partnership.
• Knowing that our littlest patrons want to continue their quest toward reading, the library resolved to find continued funding for the Growing Readers Together program. The Library received two large grants, one from Hestia Women’s Giving Circle, another from the Library of Michigan. The library also secured continued support from the Friends of the Petoskey Library.

• Hearing that Emmet County Jail inmates are still not allowed visitors and have little access to free books, the library, in partnership with the Community Recovery Alliance and the Friends of the Petoskey Library, started Books Broaden the View, an Emmet County inmate book delivery program.

• Knowing that people may still not be comfortable coming into the library or cannot get to the library during regular hours or are homebound, the library now offers a 24/7 locker pickup option and, BiblioBag: a library home delivery service.

• Hearing patrons request for more ways to connect and discuss, the staff stepped up and now offer a Great Decisions Foreign Policy discussion group and Page Turners, the library’s book club.

• Knowing that there is need for tutoring and mentoring services for teens, we supported the Northmen Den tutoring and mentoring programs by providing space at the Carnegie Building. This space allowed them time to kick-off their program and look for a more permanent home downtown.

• Hearing our number one complaint of no parking for so many years, we completed the process of leasing the parking lot at the SE corner of Lake and Division for library patrons.

• Knowing our kids still want to connect, the children’s department hosted many programs either outside or virtually, including the virtual art series where kids learned sculpting, drawing, and painting with professionals, from the comfort of their homes.

• Hearing all the buzz about the James Webb Telescope excited our staff, which provides NASA@ My Library programming about the telescope, from launch to the first images NASA receives.

• Knowing our patrons enjoy home access to many of our services, the library secured remote access of Value Line as well as digitizing the Petoskey High School Yearbook collection.