



CHENEY
LIBRARY

Cheney Library Long-Range Plan of Service

Approved by the Cheney Library Board of Trustees September 28, 2021

Introduction

Using results from a user survey distributed to the community, as well as a focus group facilitated by Upper Hudson Library System, the Cheney Library Board of Trustees formulated the following Long-Range Plan of Service. On July 27, 2021 the Board approved this Long-Range Plan for the years 2022-2025.

Mission Statement

Cheney Library of Hoosick Falls, New York, connects people, from pre-school through maturity with information, ideas and experiences which provide enjoyment, enrich lives and strengthen our community.

Library History

The Cheney Library was a gift to the people of Hoosick Falls from Charles Cheney who, in 1912, left \$50,000 in his estate for the construction and support of a library and historical rooms. Mr. Cheney was a long-standing student of history with a keen interest in libraries. In 1907, Mr. Cheney petitioned the New York State Education Department for a charter for a library for Hoosick Falls. The Hoosick Falls Free Public Library was opened in February of that year in the municipal building on Main Street. After Mr. Cheney's death in 1912, the funds he left for the Library were invested until they had increased enough for a suitable building. On October 22, 1922 the cornerstone of the Cheney Library was laid. The library opened on November 23, 1923 with 4,000 books in its collection and 400 patrons.

The Cheney Library currently has over 13,000 books, over 1,000 audio and visual materials, several different magazines and newspapers, and 2,400 patrons. We offer 6 public computers for Internet access, as well as programming and clubs for individuals of all ages. All of the historical material from the Library is now at the Louis. B. Miller Museum, and a Grandma

Moses painting is on loan to the Bennington Museum. Some items of interest that remain at the Library include an original 1860 map of the Village, the Hurlburt Chart (handwritten in 1872 and giving a history of the Village from 1832 on), and a Jose de Creeft painting. The Cheney Library is a member of the Upper Hudson Library System, a consortium of 29 libraries in Albany and Rensselaer Counties. Through the interlibrary loan service, Cheney Library borrowers have access to thousands of books, CDs, and DVDs throughout the system.

Goals, Objectives, and Action Steps

Goal Statement #1: Cheney Library will increase its visibility within the community.

- Objective 1: Increase library presence at community events.
 - Action Step #1: Attend community and municipal meetings and ask to be informed about upcoming events so that the library can plan its involvement.
 - Action Step #2: Become involved in the annual town-wide tag sale.
- Objective 2: Build a stronger partnership with the public school.
 - Action Step #1: Connect with the school's librarians to distribute program marketing materials and to get new ideas.
 - Action Step #2: Connect with the individual in charge of student community service and offer projects students can complete at the library.
 - Action Step #3: Develop the relationship between the library Board and the school Board.
- Objective 3: Develop partnerships with other nonprofit organizations.
 - Action Step #1: Participate in collaborations with the Historical Society to provide programming surrounding local history and genealogy.
 - Action Step #2: Reach out to local Scout troops and learn how the library can be a resource for these groups, as well as how these troops can contribute to the library.

Goal Statement #2: Cheney Library will diversify its outreach efforts.

- Objective 1: Connect with individuals who don't have time to use the library.
 - Action Step #1: Hold a "We Can Get It For You" campaign to promote usage of the UHLS interlibrary loan system and increase awareness of how easily we can get patrons what they need.
 - Action Step #2: Provide programs in a variety of formats (in person, virtual, etc.) which teach patrons how to use the UHLS catalog and/or OverDrive so that individuals can connect with the library at home.
- Objective 2: Use social media to reach a broader audience.
 - Action Step #1: Cross-post with other local organizations on social media.
 - Action Step #2: Post regularly in the "Hoosick Area Here & Now" Facebook group.
- Objective 3: Utilize the library's 100-year anniversary to market the library.

- Action Step #1: Build “mini libraries” celebrating the 100-year anniversary and set them up in town.
- Action Step #2: Create 100-year anniversary tote bags which can be purchased by patrons.
- Action Step #3: Explore the possibility of organizing community events celebrating the 100-year anniversary.

Goal Statement #3: Cheney Library will focus on acquiring data to solidify its post-pandemic role.

- Objective 1: Gather and analyze data about library usage.
 - Action Step #1: Record foot traffic data over the course of 1 year.
 - Action Step #2: Analyze data to assess the community’s needs regarding library open hours.
- Objective 2: Gather data about programming preferences.
 - Action Step #1: Distribute a library programming survey.
 - Action Step #2: Analyze data to assess the community’s preferences regarding programming, especially adult programs.
- Objective 3: Gather data about collection development needs
 - Action Step #1: Create an online “suggestion box” for materials to add to the collection.
 - Action Step #2: Promote community feedback in the library eNewsletter, as well as in other local media outlets.