



FINNEY COUNTY  
PUBLIC LIBRARY



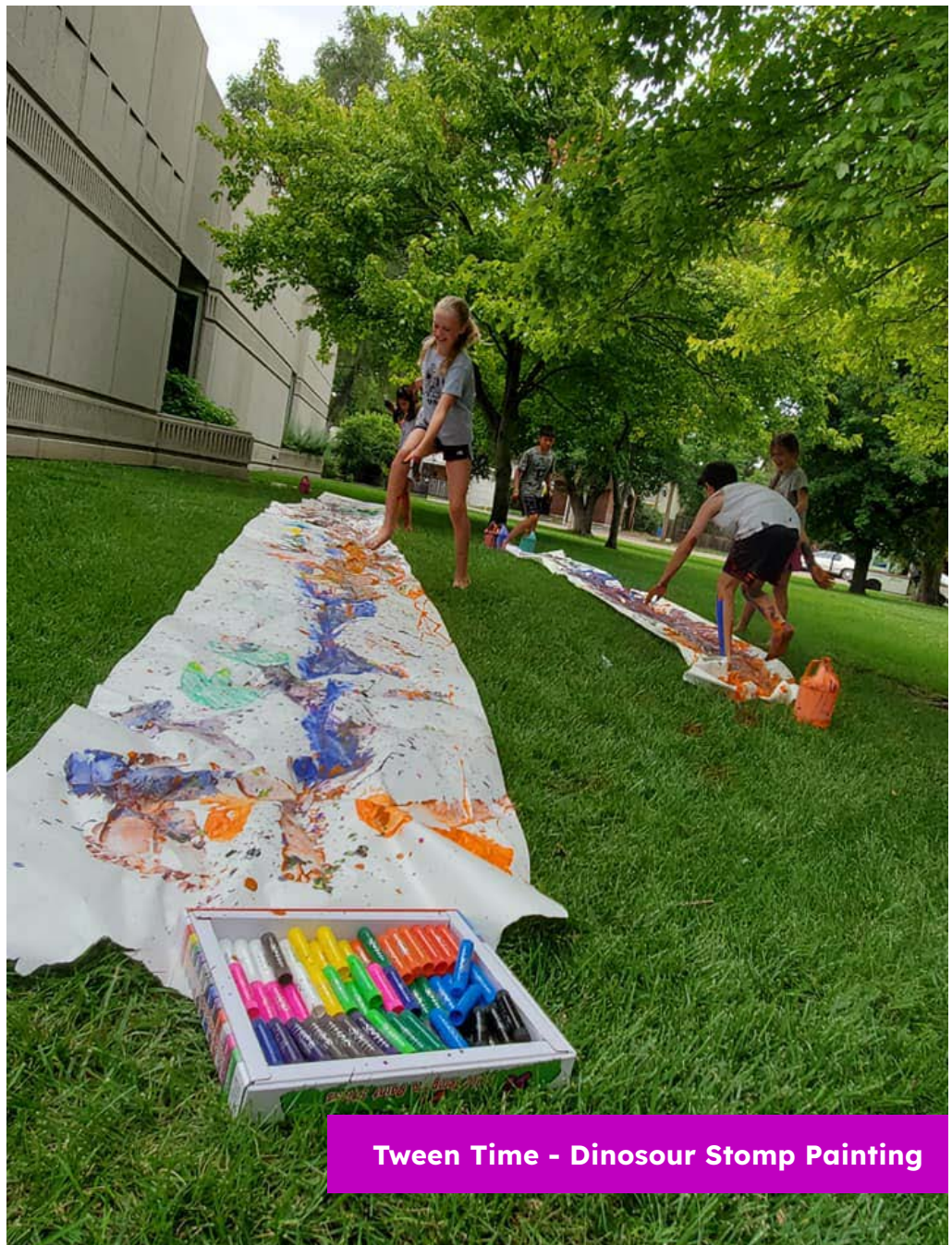
# ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2021

[finneylibrary.org](http://finneylibrary.org)

# CONTENTS

Letter from Library Director.....	3
Navigating 2021.....	4
Events and Activities.....	6
Strategic Plan Implementation.....	12
Library Statistics.....	16
Support.....	17



**Tween Time - Dinosaur Stomp Painting**

# LETTER FROM LIBRARY DIRECTOR

In the face of unprecedented challenges during the past two years, the Finney County Public Library (FCPL) was able to step up and fulfill its unique role as a trusted resource for everyone in the community. While limiting patron and staff exposure to the COVID-19 pandemic was a top priority, the Library pivoted to provide much-needed access to information, entertainment and life enrichment.

Library staff showed tenacity, adaptability and a can-do attitude to keep the community engaged with their Library. Barriers to access were removed, including easing checkout limits and fines, reviewing policies and implementing new ways to reach patrons.

Thank you for making this a year to remember. We are grateful for the unending support of and connection to Finney County. We are all excited about the coming year and look forward to continuing to provide a welcoming space and vital services to our community.

**Pamela Tuller** | Library Director



## New and enhanced services during the year included:



Curbside pick-up service for books and other materials



Curbside print, copy and Notary services



116 virtual and in-person storytime sessions with more than 1,000 attendees



Weekly grab & go programs for children, teens and adults featuring unique activities



Telephone reference and readers' advisory services while building was closed

# NAVIGATING 2021

## Creative Community Connections

The challenges of 2021 highlighted the Finney County Public Library's importance to the community. The Library continued to offer services begun during the 2020 pandemic-forced building closure. Wi-Fi reach was extended to provide access even when the building was closed and enhanced website services and curbside pick-up for items reserved online or by phone made access quick and easy. These popular front-door services continued through Summer 2021 after the Library building reopened.

Library staff showed great creativity and flexibility. A variety of pre-recorded programs were available on social media platforms for anytime patron access. Offerings ranged from the Library Director teaching literacy skills to staff members providing storytimes and guiding teen crafts and drawing tutorials.

When access to the physical collection was limited, the Library shifted significant resources to strengthening the digital collection, including adding more eBooks, eAudiobooks, movies, TV shows, music and comic books through Hoopla Digital. FCPL added CloudLibrary (eBooks and eAudiobooks) and Newsbank (newspapers and periodicals) to the collection. More than 1.2 million digital titles are now available to FCPL card holders.

Virtual programs and downloadable or streaming materials were not the only ways the Library expanded service. The Library added 22 Hotspot (Mobile Wi-Fi Internet) devices with unlimited data plans for patron access to Wi-Fi service at home. This was incredibly important for families with students in distance learning and those working from home.

# 22

## HOTSPOTS

with unlimited data plans for patron access to Wi-Fi service at home



cloudLibrary

## Return to Walk-In Services and Restoration of Full-Service Hours

Early in 2021, walk-in services were available by appointment only. Patrons were limited to one hour per day in the Library to allow as many people as possible to browse the collection and use the public computers and printer/copier/scanner and fax machine. The arctic weather Finney County experienced in February affected the heating system, forcing the Library to briefly close. During this time, staff pivoted yet again and moved some collections and computers and printers into the lobby and meeting rooms, which were warmed by space heaters.

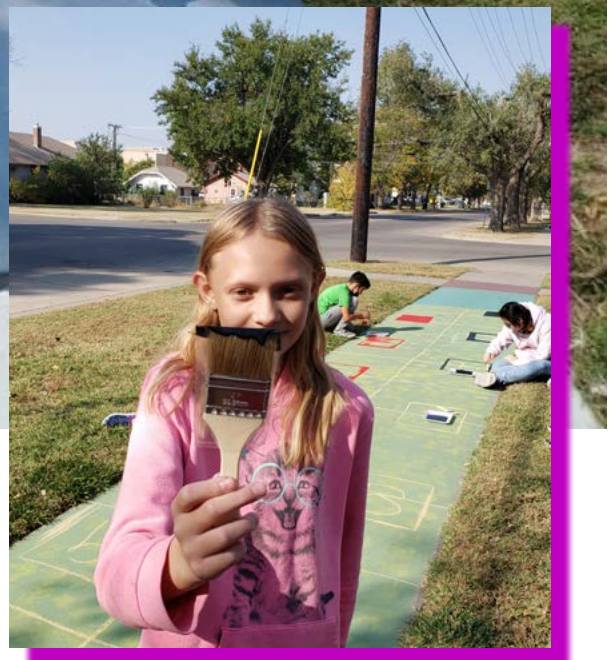
In May 2021 full hours of operation resumed and all public use furniture and computers were back in place. With these enhancements and return to pre-COVID-19 service levels, Library use increased.



# EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

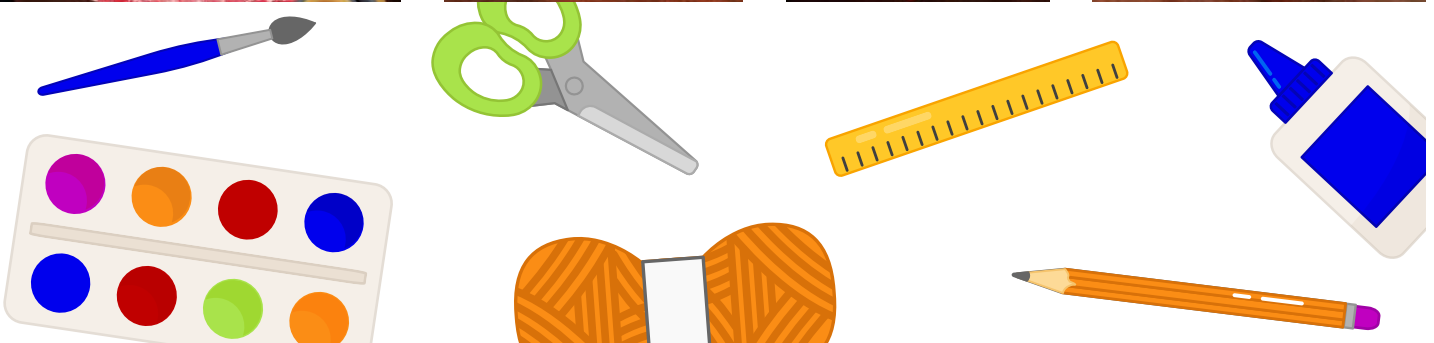
## Sidewalk Obstacle Course

FCPL partnered with Garden City Arts, Home Depot and Flourish Herbals to create a permanent sidewalk obstacle course. The Library sidewalk was transformed into an interactive obstacle course. Children, teens, and adults have been seen dancing across the rainbow, tiptoeing through the tulips, playing hopscotch on a Tetris board, and long jumping together in front of the Library. The project enhanced the Library role as a community gathering space.



## Grab and Go Crafts

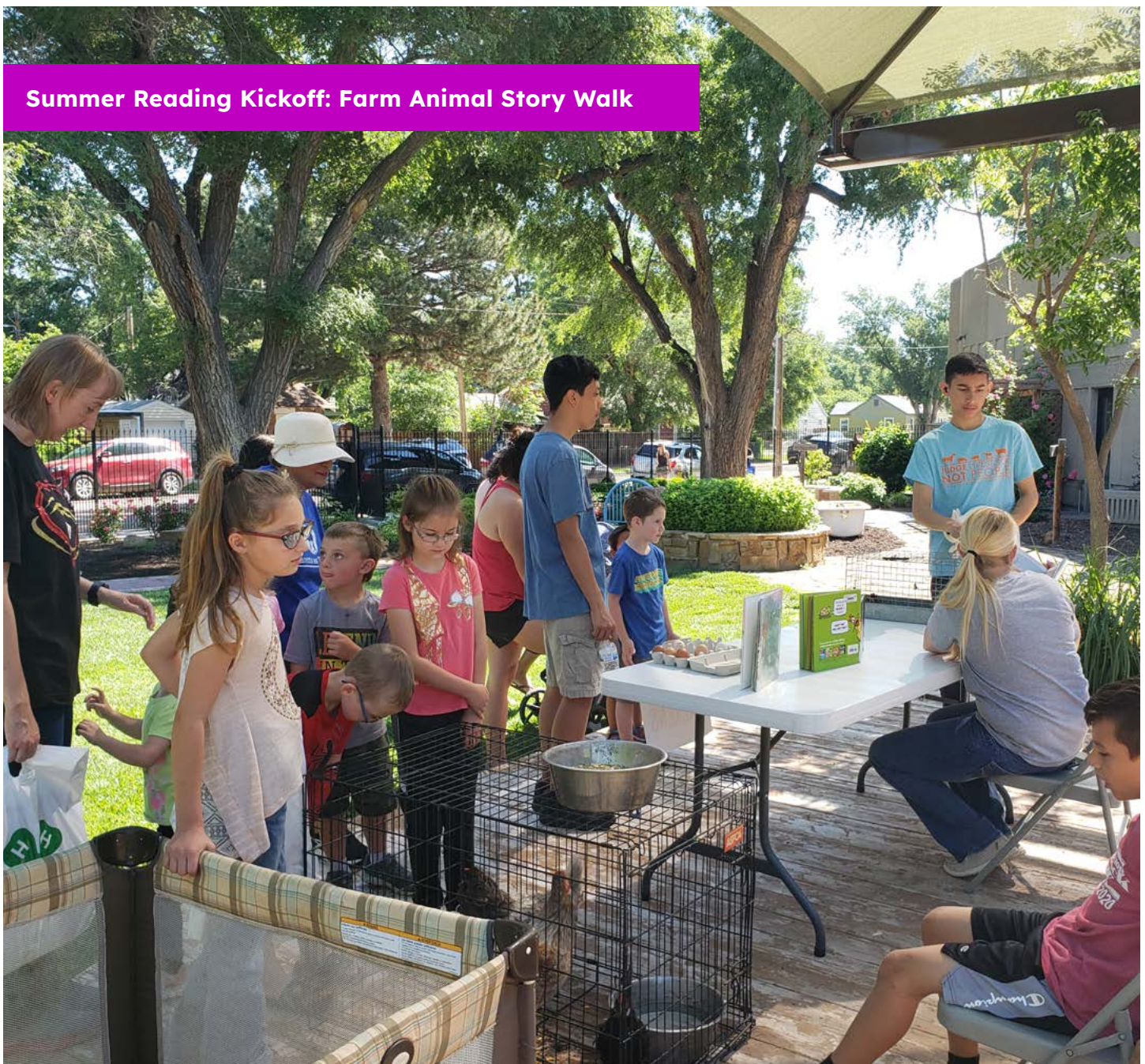
Grab & Go Crafts were extremely popular, with hundreds of patrons participating. The crafts were available curbside and at the Library entrance each week. New crafts were available from January through May 2021 with a specific craft tailored to children, teens and adults. Craft bags were also provided to after-school programs through a partnership with USD 457.



## Summer Activities

### Summer Reading Program – “Tails and Tales”

The Library’s Summer Reading Program, Tails and Tales, launched June 7 and continued through July 30. Participation increased from Summer 2020 among children, teens and adults; virtual signup made registration easy. Prizes were awarded throughout the program to incentivize reading time. A Summer Reading Kickoff event on June 4, “Farm Animal Story Walk,” was enthusiastically attended and enjoyed by more than 500 people. The Library block was transformed to a unique story walk where patrons could meet farm animals (pig, cow, goat, chicken, rabbit, horse, etc.) and hear animal stories. Summer Reading information was distributed to all.



Summer Reading Kickoff: Farm Animal Story Walk





## Little Sprouts Storytime

FCPL offered an outdoor storytime every summer Saturday at the Farmer's Market. Families loved the changing book themes and the kids loved the beanbags arranged just for them. This successful outreach brought library services beyond the building and out into the community.

## Summer Lunch

The local school district provided grab-and-go lunches at the Library on Fridays and Saturdays throughout the summer as part of the US Department of Agriculture's Summer Lunch program. Hundreds of families who might not otherwise have lunch food were served as the Library was the only site offering lunches on Fridays and Saturdays.

---

## Grants

FCPL received more than **\$10,000 in grant funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)** to purchase a new copier, video conferencing cameras and Wi-Fi hotspots for patron use.

FCPL also received **\$400 in Kansas Notable Books Grant** funding from the State Library of Kansas.



## Halloween Extravaganza

FCPL's annual Halloween Extravaganza provides a safe and welcoming space for Halloween fun.

Every year this event attracts community members who might not visit the Library and provides the opportunity to promote Library programs and events to a new audience.

In 2021, Halloween Extravaganza was held outside and spaced around the perimeter of the Library. Patrons had plenty of space to enjoy the event safely. Reading stations, Feed the Monster booths (feed the “monster” vegetables to get candy), a Trick or Treat walk, craft stations, a Build-a-Snack station, and fire trucks provided fun and learning.

Halloween Extravaganza 2021 was held in partnership with Head Start (part of the Kansas Children's Service League) and Community Congregational Church who provided a Trunk or Treat in their parking lot across the street from the Library.



# STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The Library continued to reach goals set in the 2020-2023 Strategic Plan.



**EDUCATE**

## FCPL is the center for lifelong learning in Finney County

- Created and implemented a Library Card for educators to increase partnership and support classroom learning.
- Updated and refreshed the books and materials collection to better meet community need.
- Established a baseline for continuous improvement of Summer Reading Program.

# STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION



## CONNECT

FCPL is the partner of choice for service agencies and community leaders

- Hosted, presented and participated in scores of community events and meetings.
- Partnered with community organizations to plan a region-wide culture fair.
- Partnered with organizations to increase value of Library Card through incentive programs.

# STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION



## ENGAGE

FCPL provides innovative services, with emphasis on underserved community

- Little Sprout Storytimes were held at 17 Farmer's Market events, connecting the Library with over 1,500 community members.
- Utilized online programming to reach those who could not visit the Library.

# STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION



FCPL provides an experience that surprises and delights

- Added attractive and bright signage throughout the Library.
- Added 22 hotspot devices to the Library's collection to provide connectivity for patrons without internet service.

# LIBRARY STATISTICS



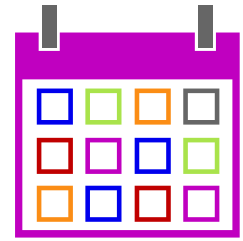
43,329

Visitors



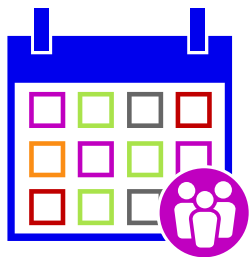
28,101

Wi-Fi Sessions



877

Total Programs  
(Live & Virtual)



12,734

Program  
Attendance



19,094

Take & Make  
Participants



316

Recorded  
Programs



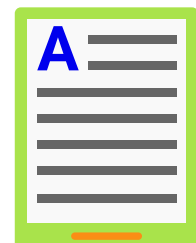
5,593

Views of Recorded  
Programs



51,352

Physical  
Circulation



14,684

Hoopla  
Circulation



# SUPPORT

## Ongoing Support from the Friends

The Friends of the Finney County Public Library bookstore moved to a larger space within the Library. The support of these dedicated volunteers never wavered through the pandemic and larger book sales and gatherings are planned as COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. In 2021, Friends' funding supported laminating equipment and all Library services. The Friends' generous support and volunteer hours are much appreciated and make a real difference in Finney County.



Please contact the Library at 620-272-3680 or email [finney.library@finneylibrary.org](mailto:finney.library@finneylibrary.org) if you are interested in volunteering with the Friends of the Finney County Public Library.

## Library Advisory Board

The Library Board is tireless in their support of the Finney County Public Library and spends countless hours advocating for the Library. The Library Board continued to support staff in a caring and energetic way throughout the challenges faced in 2021.

Thank you to this group, patrons, other partners and County leadership who supported the library this year!

## Board Members

**Christine Lightner** | Chairperson

**Robert Scrivner** | Vice Chairperson

**Claudia Ward** | Secretary

**Marsha Wright** | Treasurer

**Andrew Lee** | Member

**Larry Jones** | Ex-Oficio Member (Finney County Commissioner)

