

What did we see in 2023?

The past year may have involved some inconveniences at the library but in the long run we were able to have many things accomplished.

-In July we closed off the front porch due to wear and tear on the deck. We felt it was safer to have patrons not use it since we would be having it replaced. In September Paul Richards and crew from PC Richards began replacing what was there with mahogany wood. Upon completion of replacing the floor it was discovered that the pillars would need replacing. We were able to reopen the front porch and plan to replace the pillars in spring of 2024.

- In October the work to replace our boiler system began. We received state money from a construction grant and after receiving various bids we hired Alex Woodhead from A&N Woodhead Services to replace our old system. He also replaced our hot water tank and our sump pump. We had some cold days but appreciate the heat that is available to us now.

- During that same time frame we had David Paone from Patient Painting and Contracting come and do some touch up paint work on the balustrades. This should insure that they are weatherproofed for years to come.

-Other accomplishments during the year include having the portrait of Caroline Dusenbury repaired and refurbished by Eileen Sullivan.

The library continues to be available for groups that would like a meeting place. The Portville Garden Club meets here monthly, Dungeon & Dragons meet weekly, and several people provide tutoring services here. The library was also used for a birthday party this year and a wedding. We sponsored the Pirates little league team and had a very successful summer reading program. Our Saturday morning movies were not well attended, but we will try again in 2024.

In 2024 we would like to see our front porch completely finished, another portrait refurbished, and the Dusenbury Room made more accessible to the public. We are also looking into having the wallpaper updated in the entryway and some work done in the children's department. We have also talked about what we can do as far as security is concerned and how we can improve safety. We would like some new programs that might be available and are trying to figure out ways to make them more well attended.

Overall 2023 was a good year with improved attendance and circulation.