2018 was marked by two significant events for NOPL - a change in leadership and a new strategic direction. In late 2017, former NOPL Director Kate McCaffrey and staff began the process of creating a Strategic Plan for the Northern Onondaga Public Library (NOPL). Strategic planning is a management activity used to set priorities, focus energy and resources, strengthen operations and ensure that staff is working toward common goals. The process started with community questionnaires done by the staff, employee collaborative work, research about our special district, and community conversations.

The feedback and results provided aspirations for NOPL and the community we serve, with a focus on how libraries play an important role in creating change. It became clear during the strategic planning process that NOPL should continue to be a welcoming, inclusive, and safe place, while ensuring we meet the needs of the community we serve.

NOPL completed the strategic planning process at the end of 2018 under the leadership of NOPL’s new Director Amanda Travis. The Library’s goal is to play a central role in facilitating our community’s aspirations to be an informed and caring place. NOPL’s Strategic Plan has been formulated into four individual priorities to help our community meet these aspirations. The four priorities are Community, Learning, Collaboration and Sustainability. You can find more details on the goals based on our focuses at nopl.org/strategic-plan.

For the upcoming year NOPL leadership and staff have prepared activities to meet these four priorities and strengthen our community. We will devise new initiatives beyond 2018 to ensure we continue to meet new needs and leverage opportunities.

A new mission for the Library arose from the strategic planning process:

To engage our community, share resources, and connect people to information, ideas and each other.

As we begin to work on these new goals we want to acknowledge a few of former NOPL Director Kate McCaffrey’s accomplishments during her tenure:

- Creation of the LibraryFarm at NOPL Cicero
- Eliminating fines on children and teen materials
- Creation of the Preservation Studio at NOPL Brewerton
- Energy efficient upgrades at all the branches
- Creation of NOPL Pop-Up truck for outreach services

These projects and others have helped connect, enrich, and educate our community. Our ultimate goal is to provide the community with the very best library experience we can create. We look forward to setting our new mission into action while focusing on local values and priorities, and creating a better community and library for all in 2019 and beyond.
Library Visits .......................................................... 205,239
Website Visits .......................................................... 137,809
Total Collection Use .................................................... 668,237
Reference Questions .................................................... 10,550
Total Event Attendance .................................................. 19,115
One-on-One Program Attendance ................................. 6,518
Programs & Story Times ................................................. 1,738