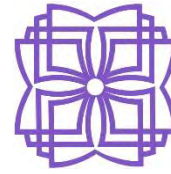




**Monroe County
Library System**
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**Rochester
Public Library**
More Than You Think

Joint MCLS & RPL Board of Trustees Meeting

Kusler-Cox Auditorium, Rundel Memorial Library Building

February 28, 2024, 9:00 a.m.

Agenda

- | | | |
|---|-------------------|--------------|
| I. PUBLIC COMMENTS | Corcoran/Benjamin | |
| II. MCLS ACTION ITEMS | | |
| 1. Minutes of Prior Meeting | Corcoran | page 3 |
| 2. Claims | Harrison | page 7 |
| III. JOINT ACTION ITEMS | | |
| 1. Proposed FY254 Central Library Budget | Harrison & Uttaro | page 19 & 49 |
| 2. County Historian Services Agreement and Extension | Uttaro | page 20 |
| IV. RPL ACTION ITEMS | | |
| 1. Minutes of Prior Meeting | Benjamin | page 9 |
| 2. Personnel Reports | Uttaro | page 13 |
| 3. Financial Reports | Harrison | page 15 |
| 4. Proposed FY25 Community Library Budget | Harrison & Lewis | page 20 & 53 |
| 5. Rundel First Floor Early Closing | Uttaro | page 21 |
| V. REPORT/DISCUSSION ITEMS | | |
| 1. Liaison & Committee Reports | | |
| a. MCLS Liaison to Rochester Public Library | Stockman | |
| b. RPL Liaison to Monroe County Library System Board | Uttaro | |
| c. MCLS Liaison to Rochester Regional Library Council | Knapp | |
| d. Friends & Foundation of RPL | Borgus | |
| 2. Staff Reports | | |
| a. Director's Report | Uttaro | page 21 |
| b. MCLS Services | Smathers | page 23 |
| c. Central Library Services | Clasper | page 29 |
| d. Community Libraries | Lewis | page 41 |

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

VII. ADJOURNMENT



**Meeting of the MCLS Board of Trustees
Board Room, Rundel Memorial Building
January 22, 2024
Minutes**

Trustees Present: Gary Brandt, Christopher Corcoran, Emily Hessney Lynch, Peter Knapp, Marjorie Shelly, Mack Smith, Jr., Suzanne Stockman (no quorum)

Trustees Excused: Kimberly Brown, Amy Moffitt,

Trustees Unexcused: Erick Stephens

Staff and Guests: County Executive Office Liaison, BJ Scanlon; County Law Dept. Liaison, Don Crumb; FFRPL Executive Director, Donna Borgus; staff members, Emily Clasper, Debi Mansour, Jennifer Smathers, Patty Uttaro

Call to Order

Mr. Corcoran called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m., welcomed trustees, staff, and guests, and confirmed a quorum was present.

Public Comments

There were no members of the public wanting to address the board in attendance.

Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the October 16 and November 20, 2023, meetings were APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

Claims

Ms. Uttaro reviewed the financial claims with the trustees and offered to answer questions. Mr. Brandt MADE A MOTION to approve the claims from October, November, and December 2023 as presented. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Rev. Smith Jr. joined the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

2024 Professional Services Agreement with CampbellNet Solutions

Ms. Smathers reviewed the item with trustees and offered to answer questions. Dr. Knapp MADE A MOTION to approve a professional services agreement with CampbellNet Solutions for an amount not to exceed \$5,000. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Professional Services Agreement with The Law Office of Stephanie Adams, PLCC

Ms. Smathers reviewed the item with trustees and offered to answer questions. In response to a question, she confirmed that this training will count towards the 2-hour training requirement for trustees. Mr. Brandt MADE A MOTION to approve an agreement with The Law Office of Stephanie Adams, PLCC, for an amount not to exceed \$2000. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Rochester Public Library (RPL) Liaison

Ms. Stockman reported that the RPL Board approved a vending agreement between the RPL and the Staff Association. Additionally, they recommended Donna Benjamin for reappointment and Karen Soanes for appointment to the Board. And finally, they elected officers.

Rochester Regional Library Council (RRLC) Liaison

Dr. Knapp reported that the RRLC approved five grants, three for digitizing by the Genesee Country Village and Museum, one for digitizing by the Livingston County Historians Office, and one for digitizing by the Perry Public Library. They also approved an Action and Innovation grant for Rochester City School to help provide books and maker spaces for blind and partially sighted students.

Friends and Foundation of RPL (FFRPL)

Ms. Borgus reported that the Roc the Day campaign raised \$15,354 for new tables and wallpaper repair in the Kate Gleason Auditorium.

She shared that FFRPL is looking for children and teen books for the upcoming book sale in conjunction with Take Your Child to the Library Day on February 3. The sale will run from February 3 through 9.

Lastly, she reminded everyone that Tuesday Topics would begin on February 6 and feature services and programs at the Branch Libraries.

Director's Report

Ms. Uttaro reported that she and Donna Borgus will attend a luncheon at the Chatterbox Club and will present on the innovations in libraries over the last 20 years.

She offered to answer questions about the written report.

Next, she reported that she and Ms. Clasper would be meeting with staff from the county Department of Human Services (DHS) to begin discussions about locating a satellite DHS office at the Central Library. She thanked Mr. Scanlon for facilitating this meeting.

She reported that some member library directors are discussing the use of the collection agency and if using them is still the right course of action given the many libraries going fine free. Ultimately, the MCLS Board will decide to continue or stop using a collection agency if the directors recommend that change.

Lastly, she reported that she is working with Mr. Scanlon to host new county legislators for some kind of tour, reception, or orientation to the Central Library in the spring.

MCLS Office

Ms. Smathers offered to answer questions about the written report. She reported that the recent MCLS Directors' Retreat was well attended and included discussions about the future of libraries and the attributes they would like to see in the next system director. She will create a report for the Board from that discussion.

She added that some directors are revisiting the option of auto-renewal in the circulation system. It is more attractive now with so many libraries going fine free.

Ms. Smathers has been invited to join the county-wide Eclipse Task Force and will provide regular updates to the board as we approach the date. At the Central Library, there will be programming before and after the eclipse. If it's not overcast that day, traffic is expected to be very heavy afterward.

Central Library

Ms. Clasper offered to answer questions about the written report. She reported that many staff have been out sick in the last several weeks. She and Ms. Smathers have been helping to staff public service desks and have enjoyed speaking directly with patrons.

In response to a question about COVID test kits, Ms. Smathers explained that the county continues to provide them and the MCLS Shipping Department distributes them throughout the system. Frontline staff also have access to masks for themselves or to give to patrons.

Other Business

None

Executive Session

At 5:34 p.m. Dr. Knapp MADE A MOTION to move into an executive session to discuss hiring the next MCLS Director. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

At 6:16 p.m. Dr. Knapp MADE A MOTION to move out of the executive session. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

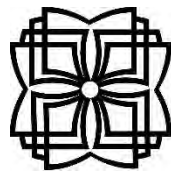
Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

Patricia Uttaro, Secretary

**MONROE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
FINANCIAL CLAIMS 2023-2024**

MONTH	DAY	CLAIM NO	VENDOR	DESCRIPTION	EXPENDED	REMARKS
12	31	2000605151	11105432-Brighton Memorial Library		\$ 1,103.00	LLSA 10%
12	31	2000605391	11103615-Brockport Seymour Library		\$ 598.00	LLSA 10%
12	31	2000605074	11102058-Chili Public Library		\$ 865.00	LLSA 10%
12	31	2000605406	11105288-East Rochester Public Library		\$ 278.00	LLSA 10%
12	31	2000605380	11101928-Fairport Public Library		\$ 1,220.00	LLSA 10%
12	31	2000605396	11104404-Greece Public Library		\$ 2,878.00	LLSA 10%
12	31	2000605377	11101777-Hamlin Public Library		\$ 273.00	LLSA 10%
12	31	2000605403	11105162-Henrietta Public Library		\$ 1,399.00	LLSA 10%
12	31	2000605413	11105989-Irondequoit Public Library		\$ 1,593.00	LLSA 10%
12	31	2000605408	11105398-Mendon Public Library		\$ 270.00	LLSA 10%
12	31	2000605379	11101918-Ogden Farmer's Library		\$ 602.00	LLSA 10%
12	31	2000605427	11106907-Parma Public Library		\$ 482.00	LLSA 10%
12	31	2000605393	11103746-Penfield Public Library		\$ 1,171.00	LLSA 10%
12	31	2000605390	11103572-Pittsford Community Library		\$ 909.00	LLSA 10%
12	31	2000605163	11106122-Newman Riga Library		\$ 166.00	LLSA 10%
12	31	2000605397	11104449-Rush Public Library		\$ 144.00	LLSA 10%
12	31	2000605414	11106034-Scottsville Free Library		\$ 172.00	LLSA 10%
12	31	2000605148	11105346-Webster Public Library		\$ 1,346.00	LLSA 10%
12	31	2000604172	11105181-Rochester Public Library		\$ 10,152.00	LLSA 10%
12	31	2000604172	11105181-Rochester Public Library		\$ 1,527,174.50	SYSTEM SERVICES JULY-DEC 2023
1	2	2000604165	11104672- American Library Association	2024 MEMBERSHIP	\$ 1,125.00	Jan-Dec 2024
1	9	2000604172	11105181-Rochester Public Library		\$ 642,908.36	SYSTEM SERVICES JULY-DEC 23
1	9	2000604172	11105181-Rochester Public Library		\$ 510,840.59	AUTOMATION 2023
1	9	2000604172	11105181-Rochester Public Library		\$ 373,425.55	SHIPPING & DELIVERY
1	11	2000566280	11106297- CARL CORPORATION	2024 CARL X. EQPT SVCS & SOFTWARE	\$ 152,644.90	
1	11	2000604025	11120635-CROWN CASTLE	2024 DIGITAL TRANSMISSION	\$ 16,886.56	JAN 2024
1	11	2000600497	11120635-CROWN CASTLE	2024 INTERNET	\$ 2,075.00	JAN 2024
1	29	2000604887	11127344-KNACK	2024 HELP DEST PLATFORM SUBSCRIPTION	\$ 590.00	JAN 16 2024-2025
1	30	2000604843	11113398-PULISDO	2024 MEMBERSHIP	\$ 400.00	2024 Membership
					\$ 3,253,691.46	



**Rochester
Public Library**

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**Meeting of the RPL Board of Trustees
Central Library, Rundel Memorial Building
January 31, 2024
Minutes**

RPL Trustees Present: Katherine Baynes, Donna Benjamin, Ellen Brenner, Alinda Drury, Glenn Gardner, Daniel Karin, James Kraus, Karen Soanes, Suzanne Stockman Jeffrey Tucker (quorum present)

RPL Trustees Excused: Sharon Salluzzo (online)

Staff and Guests: Friends & Foundation of RPL Liaison, Donna Borgus; staff members, Emily Clasper, Brie Harrison, Melanie Lewis, Debi Mansour, Jennifer Smathers, Ana Suro, Patty Uttaro (online)

Call to Order

Ms. Benjamin called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., welcomed trustees, staff, and guests, and confirmed a quorum was present.

Public Comments

No members of the public were present who wished to address the board.

Meeting Minutes

Ms. Drury MADE A MOTION to approve the minutes of the November 29, 2023, meeting. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Personnel Changes

Ms. Suro called attention to the personnel changes and staffing levels for November 13, 2023—January 5, 2024, and offered to answer questions.

Katie Baynes joined the meeting at 9:02 a.m.

Mr. Gardner MADE A MOTION to approve the personnel changes. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Financial Reports

Ms. Harrison reviewed the financial reports with the trustees and offered to answer questions. Mr. Gardner MADE A MOTION to approve the monthly financial reports as presented and approved by the RPL Finance Committee. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Accept Grant-In-Aid from Senator Brouk

Ms. Uttaro reviewed the item with the trustees and offered to answer questions. Ms. Baynes MADE A MOTION to accept the \$20,000 grant-in-aid from Senator Brouk to fund an appearance by author Rebecca Walker. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Professional Services Agreement with FFRPL

Ms. Uttaro reviewed the item with the trustees and offered to answer questions. Mr. Kraus MADE A MOTION to approve a professional services agreement with FFRPL of \$20,000. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Tummonds Report

Ms. Uttaro reviewed the item with the trustees and offered to answer questions. Ms. Drury MADE A MOTION to approve the 2023 Tummonds Fund report. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

RPL FY23 Audit

Ms. Harrison reviewed the item with the trustees and offered to answer questions. Ms. Brenner MADE A MOTION to accept EFPR’s audit of the 2022-23 fiscal year. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agreement, Outreach Van Design and Buildout

Ms. Lewis reviewed the item with the trustees and offered to answer questions. Ms. Benjamin MADE A MOTION to authorize an Agreement with Creative Library Concepts, Inc. for the terms and amount described. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Term Services Agreement, Family Crisis Support

Ms. Uttaro reviewed the item with the trustees and offered to answer questions. The staff and trustees discussed the significant need for social services in libraries. Ms. Baynes MADE A MOTION to authorize an Agreement with Father Tracy Advocacy Center for the terms and not-to-exceed amount described. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ATM Rochester Agreement Extension

Ms. Harrison reviewed the item with the trustees and offered to answer questions. Ms. Drury MADE A MOTION to approve an Agreement Amendment with ATM Rochester LLC for the term through December 31, 2026. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agreement, Expanded Library Resource and Service Outreach

Ms. Harrison reviewed the item with the trustees and offered to answer questions. Ms. Benjamin MADE A MOTION to Authorize an agreement with Person Centered Housing Options, Inc. for the terms and not-to-exceed amount described. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Liaison to the Monroe County Library System Board

Ms. Stockman and Ms. Uttaro reported the RPL Board approved two items, an agreement with CampbellNet and an agreement with Stephanie Adams, Esq. for upcoming trustee education.

Friends and Foundation of Rochester Public Library (FFRPL)

Ms. Borgus reported that the Roc the Day campaign raised \$15,354 for new tables and wallpaper repair in the Kate Gleason Auditorium. The matching challenge grant from the four boards was the largest to date at \$7000.

She shared that FFRPL will run a “Love Your Library” book sale from February 3 through 9 in conjunction with Take Your Child to the Library Day on February 3. There will be plenty of children's and young adult books for sale.

She reminded everyone that Tuesday Topics would begin on February 6 and feature services and programs at the Branch Libraries.

Lastly, she asked that everyone review the FFRPL Annual Report she distributed to attendees.

Director's Report

Ms. Uttaro offered to answer questions about the written report. In response to a question, Ms. Smathers explained that eclipse planning is happening across all divisions, and she is the primary person coordinating activities. She is on several planning committees including a City Committee and a County Committee.

Ms. Uttaro shared that Katy Hasselwander has been hired as the new Finance Manager allowing Ms. Harrison to move full-time into her new role as Capital Projects Manager. Ms. Hasselwander comes from the Budget Office at City Hall and will start with the library on February 26.

Next, she reported that she and Ms. Clasper are in preliminary discussions with staff at the County to bring a satellite Department of Human Services (DHS) office to the Central Library.

Lastly, she reported that she is requesting access to some of the County's Broadband funds to support the MiFi's in the libraries. The current funding came from the Rochester City Council and will end in June 2024.

Central Library

Ms. Clasper offered to answer questions about the written report. She reported that she has convened a team to implement a new interpreter service. She is hoping to have the new service up and running within the next few weeks but will depend on how quickly staff can be trained on its use.

She then reported that the Clarissa Uprooted exhibit has been slightly delayed but has a new opening reception date of Wednesday, February 21, 4:00–7:00 p.m.

Community Libraries

Ms. Lewis offered to answer questions about the written report. She referred everyone to the anecdote for the Phillis Wheatley Library about Irving and Gloria Rosenstein's long-time support of the library. She added they are Councilmember Mitch Gruber's aunt and uncle.

Mr. Tucker left the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

Next, she shared that she and Amy Discenza remember the new literacy aid at Sully, Fikria Tahar, from when she was a young girl. Her family had come from Yemen and spoke little English. Her father was in a wheelchair and the Outreach Division would bring the library to them. Ms. Lewis reported that the Sully supervisor is thrilled with her work and the children love doing crafts with her.

Lastly, she shared a copy of *What's Your Story* by Rebecca Walker. This is the book being featured as part of the Author Series.

Other Business

Ms. Salluzzo congratulated Ms. Uttaro on her recent successful presentation at the Chatterbox Club. Ms. Clasper and Ms. Borgus gave a tour of Central Library to eighteen of the Chatterbox members a few days after Ms. Uttaro's presentation.

Executive Session

At 10:09 a.m. without objection, Ms. Benjamin moved the Board into an executive session to discuss hiring the next RPL Director.

Ms. Drury left the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

At 10:52 a.m. without objection, Ms. Benjamin moved the Board out of the executive session.

Other Business

Ms. Benjamin informed the group that the results of the survey to gauge availability for meeting at a later time showed there was no option to do so currently. This topic may be revisited later in the year.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

Dan Karin, Secretary

**ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY
PERSONNEL CHANGES
January 8, 2024 to February 9, 2024**

➤ **NEW HIRES**

Eccles, Sean	Building Maintenance Helper/PT/Winton Branch	01/10/2024
Johnson, Cheryl	Library Assistant/PT/Central/Children's Center	01/17/2024
Kantor, Alexis	Librarian I/PT/Central/Teen Center	02/05/2024
Ryan, Hayden	Library Page/PT/Charlotte Branch	01/13/2024

➤ **PROMOTIONS**

Carter, George	FROM: Youth Services Assistant/FT/Sully Branch	01/02/2024
	TO: Sr. Youth Services Assistant/FT/Sully Branch	
Cruz, Jose	FROM: Security Guard/FT/Central/Security	01/08/2024
	TO: Supervising Security Guard/FT/Central/Security	
Torres, Heriberto	FROM: Security Guard/PT/Central/Security	01/15/2024
	TO: Security Guard/FT/Central/Security	

➤ **RESIGNATIONS**

Chestnut, Michael	Library Page/PT/Charlotte Branch	01/17/2024
Gomez, Ceearra	Youth Services Assistant/PT/Maplewood Branch	01/21/2024
Stauffer, Kristyn	Clerk III/Typing/PT/Central/Circulation Department	01/09/2024
Washington, John	Principal Account Clerk/FT/Finance	02/09/2024
Williams, Victoria	Clerk Typist/PT/Maplewood Branch	02/09/2024

**STAFFING
January 8, 2024 to February 9, 2024**

Full-Time Positions	Central	Branches
Budgeted	78	26
Filled	74	25
Vacancies	4	1
Part-time Positions		
Budgeted	122	136
Filled	74	113
Vacancies	48	23

**Rochester Public Library
Financial Report Summary
February 2024**

Central Financial Report, January 2024

Salary & Benefits: Salaries, wages and overtime within budget. The annual retirement lump contribution was higher than budgeted - \$718K vs. \$682K, but retiree medical is under budget with benefits overall within budget.

Equipment & Supplies: Materials purchases and other expenses are projected within budget.

Services & Charges: Utilities charges posted for the quarter. Professional services includes OCLC lump-sum charges for the year.

Cash Capital: Funds are reserved for planned expenses (HVAC) and unknown needs with upcoming construction projects.

Community Financial Report, January 2024

Salary & Benefits: Salaries, wages and overtime are within budget – little use of overtime as almost no “Cool Sweep” heat support hours.

Equipment & Supplies: Materials purchases and supplies are within budget.

Services & Charges: Utility charges are partially posted. Facility maintenance includes cleaning and other supply orders for the year. Professional fees includes first System Services billing for MCLS.

Cash Capital: Funds are reserved for planned expenses including some exterior painting and site work.

Central Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2023-24

January

Category	Description	January			Expenses FISCAL YTD	Remaining Balance	% of Budget
		Original Budget	Revised Budget	Excess Budget			
Salary & Benefits	Full-Time Salaries	4,765,600	4,765,600	2,485,354	2,280,246	52.2%	
	Part-Time/Temp Salaries	1,518,200	1,518,200	687,176	831,024	45.3%	
	Overtime	15,000	15,000	7,889	7,111	52.6%	
	Employee Benefits	3,201,300	3,201,300	1,961,521	1,239,779	61.3%	
	Employee Development	21,000	21,713	12,185	9,529	56.1%	
	Other	118,400	118,400	36,090	82,310	30.5%	
	Sub Total	9,639,500	9,640,213	5,190,215	4,449,999	53.8%	
	Equipment & Supplies	Materials Budget	504,800	656,935	342,387	314,548	52.1%
		Other Furnishings & Equipment	8,500	8,631	2,432	6,199	28.2%
		Office Supplies	52,100	62,386	36,383	26,003	58.3%
Other Materials & Supplies		50,500	54,050	18,198	35,851	33.7%	
Sub Total		615,900	782,001	399,400	382,601	51.1%	
Services & Charges	Utilities	464,600	583,964	211,348	372,616	36.2%	
	Facility Maintenance	121,900	173,528	61,782	111,746	35.6%	
	Professional Services/Fees	266,000	288,928	207,792	81,137	71.9%	
	Chargebacks	80,100	85,340	17,380	67,960	20.4%	
	Service Charges - Other Gov't	51,400	51,400	44,168	7,232	85.9%	
	Telecommunications	16,700	17,444	5,220	12,224	29.9%	
	Other Expenses	210,200	223,883	50,667	173,217	22.6%	
	Sub Total	1,210,900	1,424,488	598,355	826,132	42.0%	
	TOTAL EXPENSED	11,466,300	11,846,702	6,187,970	5,658,732	54.0%	
	Central Cash Capital		92,000	139,890	17,840	122,050	12.8%

REVENUE RECEIPTS	11,466,300	11,466,300	4,404,762	7,061,538
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Original Budget Revised Budget Outstanding Revenue

Community Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2023-24
January

Category	Description	Expenses FISCAL			Remaining Balance	% of Budget
		Original Budget	Revised Budget	YTD		
Salary & Benefits						
	Full-Time Salaries	1,095,500	902,568	448,611	453,957	49.7%
	Part-Time/Temp Salaries	2,296,600	2,102,855	1,091,761	1,011,095	51.9%
	Overtime	1,170,900	1,093,905	565,053	528,852	51.7%
	Employee Development	22,900	35,679	4,097	31,582	11.5%
	Other	68,900	68,900	15,796	53,104	22.9%
	Sub Total	4,654,800	4,203,907	2,125,317	2,025,485	50.6%
Equipment & Supplies						
	Materials Budget	109,700	543,041	248,854	294,187	45.8%
	Office Supplies	37,700	44,444	22,829	21,615	51.4%
	Other Materials & Supplies	491,500	434,419	215,999	218,420	49.7%
	Sub Total	638,900	1,021,904	487,681	534,223	47.7%
Services & Charges						
	Utilities	222,000	225,433	105,895	119,537	47.0%
	Facility Maintenance	21,500	22,969	9,798	13,172	42.7%
	Professional Services/Fees	404,600	441,801	188,223	253,578	42.6%
	Chargebacks	36,900	46,667	7,489	39,178	16.0%
	Telecommunications	13,100	13,100	9,362	3,738	71.5%
	Other Expenses	47,300	68,547	6,548	61,999	9.6%
	Sub Total	745,400	818,516	327,314	491,202	40.0%
TOTAL EXPENSED		6,039,100	6,044,327	2,940,312	3,050,911	48.6%
Community Cash Capital	Computers & Equipment	10,000	77,672	1,024	76,648	1.3%
	Library Furnishings	22,000	44,000	0	44,000	0.0%
	Library Facilities	54,000	146,449	0	146,449	0.0%
	Library Capital Projects*	576,000				
	Cash Capital Total	662,000	268,121	1,024	267,097	0.4%
		390,461	390,461	194,398	196,063	

Original Budget Revised Budget Receipts FISCAL YTD Revenue Outstanding

* Projects administered by City DES

Trust Funds Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2023-24

Fiscal YTD (through January 31, 2023)

	Allocation	Carry-forward	TOTAL	YTD Expenses	% of Total
Reynolds Fund - RPL	\$143,734	\$968	\$144,702	\$41,849	28.9%
Fenevessy (Central + Branch bal)	\$30,006	\$8,448	\$38,454	\$0	0.0%
Kenyon-Jeffries Fund	\$19,863	\$6,633	\$26,496	\$0	0.0%
Purton Fund	\$16,714	\$0	\$16,714	\$10,749	64.3%
Gleason Fund	\$15,590				
Gleason Fund (FFRPL)	\$12,144	\$28,125	\$55,859	\$11,538	20.7%
Gervickas Fund	\$5,942	\$6,391	\$12,333	\$1,623	13.2%
Taylor Fund	\$3,548	\$3,351	\$6,899	\$1,804	26.1%
Boland Fund	\$1,514	\$443	\$1,957	\$0	0.0%
Carnahan Fund	\$1,529	\$799	\$2,328	\$1,613	69.3%
Poletto Fund	\$1,529	\$2,233	\$3,762	\$0	0.0%
Beeney Fund (FFRPL)	\$4,839	\$60	\$4,899	\$393	8.0%
Craig Fund (FFRPL)	\$2,708	\$738	\$3,446	\$125	3.6%
Holtzman Fund (FFRPL)	\$1,551	\$474	\$2,025	\$359	17.7%
Lee Fund (FFRPL)	\$1,477	\$1,694	\$3,171	\$200	6.3%
Vietnam Veterans Fund (FFRPL)	\$698	\$1,390	\$2,088	\$42	2.0%
Tummonds Fund (FFRPL)	\$35,562	\$20,956	\$56,518	\$24,060	42.6%
TOTAL	\$298,948	\$82,704	\$381,652	\$94,354	24.7%

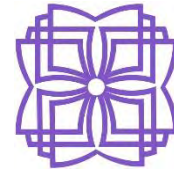
Gift Fund Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2023-24

Fiscal YTD (through January 31, 2023)

Fund	Allocation	Transfer In	TOTAL	YTD Expenses	% of Total
Gift Fund	\$10,252	\$525	\$10,777	\$6,108	56.7%



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Public Library**
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115 South Avenue | Rochester | New York | 14604
Patricia Uttaro, Director | 585-428-8046 | Patricia.Uttaro@libraryweb.org

TO: MCLS & RPL Boards of Trustees
FROM: Patricia Uttaro, Director
DATE: February 28, 2024
SUBJECT: Joint Monthly Report–February 2024

Joint Action Items

Proposed FY25 Central Library Budget (Harrison & Uttaro)

For the FY2024-25 fiscal year the Central Library faced an approximate \$325,000 gap from increased benefits costs, contracted salary and wage increases, and carry forward revenue loss (-\$50,000) from the fine elimination program. The gap was closed through a 1.5% inflationary increase to be requested from Monroe County for Central Library support (\$111,500) and minor increases in system service revenues that reflect wage/salary cost increases. State aid is budgeted based on a 2.5% Governor’s proposed budget increase (a nominal \$11,600 total increase in revenues if adopted).

There are several position title changes, and minor moves but none that impact operations. Including mid-year vacancies from retirement, the budget is less 1.5 full-time positions.

Based on 2023 MCLS expenses under budgeted allocations, the projected MCLS fund balance is approximately \$1.5 million, pending the final County year-end close. This is also the available balance, as no current funds are encumbered or projected for use in operations or capital at this time. The minimum fund balance required by the MCLS fund balance policy is \$69,652, based on 1.5% of the MCLS 2024 budget.

The Joint Board Finance Committee reviewed the proposed budget on February 15; the recommendation, on a 3-0 vote, was to submit the budget as reviewed and accepted by the committee.

We are continuing to revise the Central Library Program Aid budget, based on outcomes of the state budget and evaluation of FY24 expenditures. A proposed FY25 budget for Central Aid use will be submitted for Board approval in the spring.

Board Action Requested: Approve the proposed 2024-25 Central Library Budget.

County Historian Services Agreement and Extension (Uttaro)

Under the first year of the Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) between the City and County for Historical Services, the Library relocated the County's historical archives from St. John Fisher to the Rundel Building and engaged a consultant to assess and evaluate the County Historian's responsibilities and collections.

Continuing work includes digitization of priority County documents to improve public availability, updating website information on the County Historian's office, and incorporating and promoting the various publications (Rochester History Journal, Local History ROCs) and websites (Rochester Voices) maintained by the Local History Division to regional stakeholders. Long-term planning for second-floor Local History and County/City Historian spaces is still in development, as is long-range planning for historical records and/or municipal archives.

The IMA will be extended through December 2024; the process for remaining renewals shall be incorporated as part of the annual Library budget process. The library is also recommending the permanent appointment of Michelle Finn, Ph.D., as County Historian, which will be referred to the County Administration. Dr. Finn is currently the Senior Historical Researcher for Local History. To accommodate County Historian work, some duties will be rearranged within the Division, and a part-time staff member will be made full-time with the utilization of the County funding.

Board Actions Requested: Endorse the County Historian IMA extension and recommendation of Dr. Michelle Finn as County Historian.

MCLS Action Items

None

RPL Action Items

Proposed FY25 Community Library Budget (Harrison & Lewis)

Each year, the City Office of Management and Budget establishes a Base Level Allocation (BLA) amount to be met with each department's budget proposal. This year, no reduction was requested. However, anticipated revenue reductions for Raising a Reader and Safe to be Smart support required expense reductions met with a shared position between Central and Community, minor reductions in service lines, and a PT vacancy elimination. Two part-time Security Guard vacant positions are converted to one full-time position at Arnett for improved retention. Details are provided in the Board attachments.

The RPL will advocate for an additional part-time to full-time conversion of the Security Guard at Lincoln, and a full-time Maintenance Worker to support facility needs at the Branches. The proposed budget was reviewed on February 15 and endorsed 2-0 by the RPL Finance Committee.

Board Action Required: Approve the proposed 2024-25 Community Library Budget.

Rundel First Floor Early Closing (Uttaro)

Hacker Hall will serve as a venue for the Greentopia Annual Gala on Thursday, August 1, 2024. The request is to close the first floor of the Rundel Memorial Building at 3:00 p.m. (3 hours early) to facilitate set-up for the event. The Local History and Genealogy Division will remain open for normal operating hours.

Board Action Requested: Approve closing the first floor of the Rundel Memorial Building at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 1, 2024, to accommodate the set-up for the Greentopia Annual Gala.

Report Items

MCLS & RPL Director Patricia Uttaro reporting

Recommended Reading

- Handling Business (American Libraries) <https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop/handling-business/>
- Libraries Are on the Frontlines of America's Problems - <https://www.axios.com/2024/02/18/libraries-ebooks-hoopla-libby-book-ban-censorship>

Digital Equity – Director Uttaro hosted a press conference where Senator Gillibrand announced her efforts to extend the Affordable Connectivity Act, which provides assistance to qualifying individuals to secure internet access. Uttaro spoke about the role of public libraries in providing digital access assistance through MiFi loans and one-on-one assistance for people struggling to navigate the digital world. The same week, Monroe County released an RFP for proposals related to Digital Equity and Inclusion. Associate Directors Clasper and Smathers will prepare a response for MCLS, which is due March 22. We continue to search for sustainable funding to support the MiFi loan program and have had requests from member libraries to expand it to include towns. Funding through the County broadband program could help us achieve that goal.

Update on Director Search – Director Uttaro worked with a small group of MCLS and RPL trustees to develop an RFP for consultant services to conduct the search for a new director. The group provided excellent feedback on what to include in the RFP, which was released by Debi Mansour on February 15. Responses are due February 28. The group of trustees, led by RPL President Donna Benjamin, will review the responses, conduct interviews and reference checks, and will award the contract by March 22. It is expected that work will commence immediately upon the award of the contract. This group includes Suzanne Stockman, Marjorie Shelly, and Chris Corcoran from MCLS; Donna Benjamin, Ellen Brenner, and Dr. Karen Soanes represent RPL.

New Manager of Library Finance – We are delighted to welcome Mary-Kate Hasselwander to the role of Manager of Library Finance. Katy comes to us from her work as Deputy Chief of Staff for Rochester City Council, where she has served for several years. Katy joined the City of Rochester as an Americorps volunteer and was eventually hired permanently. She also served as the RPL budget analyst so brings with her a knowledge of the

complex funding for RPL and MCLS. Katy begins her work with the library on February 26 and will attend the February 28 joint board meeting to meet everyone.

Social Media

January 2024	RPL X (Twitter)	MCLS X (Twitter)	Facebook	Facebook Groups	Instagram	YouTube
Profile/ Page Visits	-	-	2,464	-	168	-
New Followers/ Page Likes	14 (2,158)	4 (2,253)	73 (6,300)	13	60 (2,703)	6 (592)
Engagements			1,660	10	537	29
Check-In/ Mentions	-	-	5	-	8	
Post Reach			239,853	-	5,242	11,307
Video/Story Views	-	-	622	-	198	847

Constant Contact Newsletter

Central/RPL Newsletter (1 Sent)

- Subscribers who opened newsletter – 4,340
- Click through – 85
- New subscribers – 6

OverDrive

- Total Checkouts- 96,157
- Lucky Day Checkouts- 781
- Simultaneous Use Checkouts- 11,520
- SORA Checkouts- 866
- Great Courses- 154

MCLS Member Libraries

Jennifer Smathers reporting

Collaborative Programs hosted by multiple member libraries:

The Amerks Reading Power Play came to a successful conclusion in January. Ten member libraries hosted storytimes at 9 library locations over the course of the program that started in November 2023, with these results:

- 670 program attendees got to interact with professional hockey players at their library.
- 1,168 reading power play entries were submitted.
- 3,504 books were read by participants.

The Amerks and Wendy's provided a suite for our winners at the February 19th Kids' game. This year the grand prize winners were from Mendon and Fairport.

Brighton Memorial Library

Covid tests were very popular in January, with repeated re-stocks needed to meet demand. A water main break caused a temporary closure of the library. Thankfully our patrons can find creative ways to get to the library, even arriving via sled.

Chili Public Library

We had a blast reading with the Amerks Moose and Hockey player Linus Weissback for the Reading Power Play where the Rochester Americans and the Monroe County Library System partner up to encourage reading! One patron commented, "Those are some happy kiddos! Looks like a great time!"

East Rochester Public Library

We recently observed in our children's room a small patron who decided to hang out with the books on a shelf. Sometimes, little kids love the library SO much, that they become a book! Think like a book, act like a book, be the book!



Fairport Public Library

Libraries can transport you anywhere with our collections. A newly added Kids Corner Airport is at the library for all your pretend travel needs.

Watch a flyby here: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1611931329341734>

Gates Public Library

During the month of January, the Gates Public Library accepted donations of winter/outdoor clothing and accessories. Donations benefited Matthew's Closet, an organization dedicated to assisting those in need in the Rochester area.

Greece Public Library

Our Facebook community was so excited about one of our newest card holders that we received over 30 notes of congratulations and stories of their first card experiences. The messages included, "Your wings will take you everywhere, dear child!" and "It's a passport to adventure and awareness."



Henrietta Public Library

Longtime HPLFF Book Shoppe volunteer Oressa Brown is our first-ever Henrietta Public Library Volunteer of the Year. Oressa has worked in the Book Shoppe, organized used book sales, and taken on multiple leadership positions in her over 25 years of service, and she has personally been responsible for raising thousands of dollars that have supported countless library events, classes, workshops, and other initiatives. She received multiple nominations, and the folks who nominated her cited her dedication, intelligence, energy, good humor, and the kind way she supports, encourages, and teaches newer volunteers.



Irondequoit Public Library

The Hunger Games came to Irondequoit for a couple of hours on Saturday the 13th. Pre-registered teens were assigned teams that were then supplied with Nerf blasters, safety glasses, and pizza. Training and interviews with tributes were conducted before they were turned loose in the library arena until only one team remained.

Mendon Public Library

The Cozy Little Art Show 2.0 features 5x7 canvas created by local folks of all ages. They were lauded at a Community Art Reception on Martin Luther King Jr. Day with music and refreshments sponsored by the Friends of the Mendon Public Library and the Honeoye Falls-Lima, Mendon Kiwanis. The show will remain up through February.



Newman Riga Library

Snow didn't stop papa from bringing his granddaughter to the library to pick out a book. His old-timey sled was made out of a crate from the Buffalo Bolt Company located in the North Tonawanda area in the early 1900's. Upon reading our Facebook post about the sled-assisted visit, one person said, "I love this so much!!! Every time I pick up [my child] from daycare, if the lights are on, he demands we stop and go in!"



Ogden Farmers' Library

The 2024 Reading Challenge launched in January. Challenges range from reading different genres to creating a craft from a craft book or to read a book published in 1924. 12 completed challenges will enter the reader into an end-of-year raffle for a \$50 gift card. Those who complete all 24 possible challenges will get a second entry into the raffle.

Parma Public Library – Parma welcomed new Director Grace Engelbrecht, who replaces former Director Amy Hogue. Engelbrecht was the adult services librarian at Parma and stepped into the Director's position upon return from maternity leave in January. Engelbrecht started her library career at the Gates Library.

Penfield Public Library

January was a month of painting makeovers. Various areas were temporarily closed to accommodate the painters. Open playtimes were offered in the Braman room when the children's room was closed to the public for two days. The walls are looking good!

Pittsford Community Library

Our PCL Author Series event with Oren Kessler was fantastic. Many thanks to the Pittsford native and all of our wonderful patrons who listened to the lecture in person or via Zoom. Kessler is the author of *Palestine 1936*, a gripping, profoundly human, and even-handed narrative of the origins of the Middle East conflict with enduring resonance and relevance for our time. The book was named one of the 10 Best Books of 2023 by The Wall Street Journal.



Rush Public Library

The Force was with patrons of all ages who attended our Star Wars trivia night. Light sabres and Droid companions were encouraged. Bragging rights and prizes were awarded to the biggest fans.

Seymour Library

A big thank you to everyone who made our first Winter Open House and Homeschool Information Session possible! We had a great time engaging with Board Members, Seymour Library Foundation members, Friends of the Seymour Library, and most importantly, our community! Additional thanks to our BHS Key Club Volunteers, Lyre Lyre Harp Duo (who were phenomenal) and Jojo's Bake Shop. One patron commented via Facebook, "How exciting! This library helped shape our homeschool journey years ago. 📖🎒 Excited to see this return! 👍"



Webster Public Library

Out with the old, in with the new! A huge thank you to the students and teacher's of Webster Schroeder's Geometry in Construction class for our beautiful, custom-made new shelving in our lobby book store!



MCLS Office Updates

Jennifer Smathers reporting

Smathers met with LAS staff to outline the forthcoming project to implement acquisitions within Carl. Pamela Principé will help project manage the implementation working closely with Technical Services staff. Principé will provide TLC/Carl with application parameters and information to Smathers for further analysis of Carl's capabilities. Principé's top recommendation for how MCLS could improve its use of Carl is to institute Auto-Renewal, a concept that will be discussed at the Directors' Council meeting in February.

Director's Council Retreat

The MCLS Director's Retreat started off with a fascinating review of the history of MCLS from Director Uttaro. She outlined several arcs of system development over the years. After her presentation, Uttaro left the group to allow for an unimpeded discussion about the upcoming search for a new system director. Facilitated by both Smathers and Clasper, directors brainstormed, discussed, and prioritized for the future of the system.

Top qualities for the next Director of MCLS, as identified by MCLS Directors at their retreat in January 2024, include:

- communication and negotiation skills
- library leadership and mentorship
- vision realization
- drive to complete goals

Secondary attributes desired for the next system director included:

- experience outside of libraries
- legal and policy-specific knowledge
- experience as a library director
- advocacy work
- legislative experience

Finally, the group indicated that it would appreciate a director who is committed to the region and community, preferring to have a candidate invested in the position for the long haul rather than using it as a stepping stone to a larger position elsewhere. The group felt this was the most important set of skills for a system director who is expected to lead MCLS into a future full of collaboration among members and even other library systems, system-driven policy language, invigorated advocacy paired with interaction with professional organizations such as NYLA, ongoing focus on both diversity and accessibility, as well as staff training opportunities.

Outreach Department, Maren Kyle reporting

New librarian joins the Outreach Dept.

This month, librarian Ron Freitag moved to Outreach from the Central Technology Center. This move has been a great fit for him as he has worked extensively with the public in the Tech Center and has also previously worked

in a home visiting program through Hillside Children's Center. He has very much enjoyed his first month in Outreach and looks forward to growing further in this new position.

In-Home Library Service

Outreach staff selected and distributed library materials to 21 in-home patrons:

- 18 patrons received a home delivery of library materials (258 items total)
- 3 patrons received a cartridge loaded with digital audiobooks from the NYS Talking Book and Braille library by mail (45 titles total)
- 2 reference packets mailed to in-home patrons.

Library Stations/Micro Collection Lending Service

- 11 library stations served.
- 722 items distributed.
- Special requests were filled for 7 sites.

Corrections and Reentry Support

- Outreach staff fulfilled 2 requests for physical "Making Moves" reentry resource packets.
- "Making Moves" webpage received 69 total pageviews.

Other Outreach

- Book Club Support: Provided copies of book club titles in multiple formats to support book club programming at senior living facilities:
 - Valley Manor: Olive Kittridge by Elizabeth Strout, 15 copies
 - Ashley Woods: Simply Lies by David Baldacci, 9 copies

Children's Center, Tonia Burton reporting

Programs

- Katie Powell resumed storytime in the secret room during the last two weeks of January. During this series, she is incorporating open-ended science and art projects into every session to expand on early literacy concepts. Children and caregivers have responded positively so far. Powell also met with groups of pediatric residents from the University of Rochester's Pediatric Links to the Community program. The residents consistently reported that they did not know how many resources libraries offer the community, and many decided to get a library card. The most recent group suggested that we partner with them to create "dot phrases" that can easily be inserted into paperwork at well-child visits, giving parents information on the library to take home. Powell has reached out to an administrator for the program to inquire about making this possible.
- More than 60 third-grade students visited the library from Citizenship and Science Academy Charter School. They were excited to get library cards and borrow books.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Chelsea Arnold began weekly storytimes at Generations Child Care at Clinton Square in support of Raising a Reader.
- Agape Haven of Abundance has begun bringing a group of children and teens to visit the library every Wednesday afternoon.

Raising A Reader

RAR staff shared the literacy bags with all sites. Each bag contained the book *Over and Under The Snow*, and an activity packet focusing on the literacy skills “expanding vocabulary” and “asking good questions.” Margarita Chaves continued with storytimes at Ibero and completing bag rotations. Chaves completed outreach at Ibero during their Three King’s Day celebration and at Generations Clinton Square by sharing the literacy bags along with a quick check-in on how the program was going at home. RAR staff has finally been able to add 2 sites to the storytime schedule with the support of new staff. The ABC Home Visiting group attended their socialization time at the library with some support from RAR staff. Chaves completed a short story time and families were able to engage with each other and RAR staff.

Central Library Updates

Emily Clasper reporting

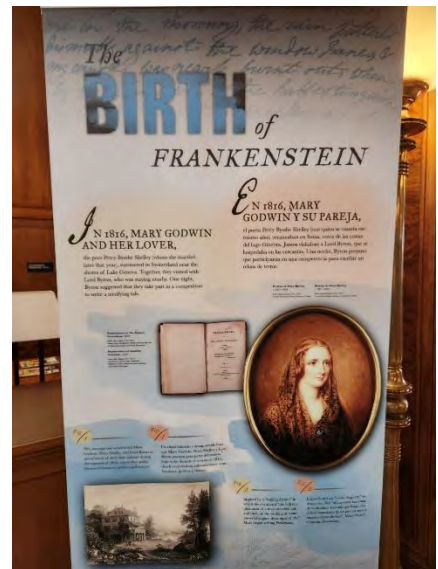
- FFRPL organized a visit with the Friendly Home Assisted Living facility in Pittsford, where Emily Clasper gave the talk, “What’s New at the Library?” Residents attending the session were extremely engaged and interested in the new services our local libraries are providing to the community. Many asked questions or told stories of their own library experiences. The highlight of the visit for Clasper was getting the opportunity to meet former RPL Director, Linda Bretz, who is a resident of Friendly Home. Bretz shared how happy she was to see RPL and MCLS connecting with the community and sharing what’s new. She also commented that it was nice to see that even with all of the new things happening, “some things never change.”
- *Our Nature*, a beautiful and fascinating exhibit In the Anthony Mascioli Gallery showcases the fine art and design work from a family of New Yorkers – Arthur Singer, Judy Singer, and their sons, Paul Singer and Alan Singer. The Singer family, whose artwork largely focuses on depictions of nature, helped produce more than fifty books over the past 70-plus years. An opening event on January 16 welcomed Paul, Alan, and author Rick Beye to speak about the artwork and Arthur Singer’s contributions to the World War II Ghost Army, a secret battalion dedicated to deception on the battlefield. This exhibit will run through May 18th.



Installation of this exhibit was no small feat, as additional temporary hardware needed to be installed to accommodate the displays. Thanks to our hard-working facilities staff, the job was done beautifully!



- Following a recent visit by Patty Uttaro to the Chatterbox Club, club members visited the Central Library for a tour. Clasper and Donna Borgus from FFRPL conducted the tour, showing the very engaged group all the Central Library has to offer. The group was lively and interested, asking many questions about the materials, services, exhibits, and programs. They were particularly interested in the kits on loan in the Children's Center, the technology in the ImagineYou space, and the current Hacker Hall art exhibit. The tour concluded with a visit to the Local History and Genealogy Division where Christine Ridarsky showed the group several collection items of particular interest to them. She even helped them confirm the rumor that Ingrid Bergman had once, briefly, lived in Rochester, and tracked down her former address.
- Hacker Hall is currently hosting the exhibit Frankenstein: Penetrating the Secrets of Nature. This exhibit explores the history and influence of the Frankenstein story. On January 31, a Zoom program called FRANKENSTEIN LIVES! The Continuing Relevance of Mary Shelley's Shocking Novel explored this topic in greater depth.
- Clasper met with Kevin Donahue, Membership Director of the Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce to give him a tour of the Central Library and discuss potential collaborations now that their offices are located in close proximity. Donahue was impressed by the breadth of offerings available at the Central Library and was especially interested in the library's work to connect job-seekers with the resources they need to find employment. Potential partnerships for connecting employers and job seekers in the future were discussed.



- The Central Library's Link currently displays the work of local Photographer Lee Sengbush. The photos on exhibit reflect scenes from Rochester, including several taken around Cobbs Hill. The exhibit will run through March.



- A team of library staff from across several departments assembled this month to take stock of the signage in the public areas of the Central Library. After consulting with staff in each Division, talking to Security, Facilities, and Graphics staff, and taking an extremely in-depth tour of the buildings, the team has compiled an extensive list of signage that needs to be updated, replaced, removed, or added. The group is currently working to prioritize items on the list and group them so that this work may be divided into manageable pieces and updates can begin to take place gradually. Already some of the “easy fixes” have happened, including removing outdated signage and making sure that fire extinguishers and exit signs are up to date. The group was surprised to see how long the “to-do” list was but is excited to start making progress on this much-needed project.



Arts/Literature, Melissa Manczuk reporting

Division Head Nanci Nugent remains on leave. In the meantime, the Division has been making do with limited staff and finding creative ways to keep services and programs running.

Programs

- Rachel Ortiz taught a painting class on how to use art to de-stress. Ortiz supplies canvas, paint, markers and other embellishments for students to use in creating their personalized art piece. Ortiz also guided the students on what art means to them and how it can be used to create a positive mental attitude.



Business Insight Center (BIC), Jennifer Byrnes, reporting

Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Byrnes presented at the RocGrowth coffee hour. RocGrowth aims to identify, support, and build a community for the new generation of leaders as Rochester regains its rightful place among prominent progressive and prosperous cities.
- Byrnes was a guest lecturer for Rochester Institute of Technology's Exploring Innovation class.
- Byrnes and Emily Clasper attended the REDCO executive breakfast with other leaders from entrepreneur support organizations.

Anecdotes

- The Business Insight Center will be featured in an article in American Libraries about the cannabis industry (both print and online).

Consulting

- Hours of in-depth market research/prior art searching: 46
- The Carlson Center for Intellectual Property assisted:
 - In person: 2
 - Email: 18
 - Mail: 0
 - Phone: 0
 - Zoom: 4

Database Usage Statistics

- Frost & Sullivan: Page views: 6 Value: \$21,700
- IBISWorld: Page views: 41 Value: \$11,580
- InnovationQ: Logins: 18 Searches: 117
- Mintel: Sessions: 4 Page views: 4 Downloads: 0
- PitchBook: Logins: 25
- Statista: Page views: 15 Downloads: 4

Circulation/Information, Chad Cunningham reporting

Anecdotes

- A patron came in on her second visit to the library. She was very concerned about the overdue books she was returning. She was happy to hear that there were no overdue fines and asked many questions about renewing items and finding more manga titles for her son. She told Cunningham that she is in the area all the time and has never stopped in before, but now she is so happy to be coming to the library.
- An Out-of-County cardholder from Wisconsin was very happy when she got her new Monroe County Library System card. She wrote
"Thank you and the library for offering non-resident cards for your electronic catalogue. We live in a really rural area and our local libraries are great, but offer smaller catalogs, so we are grateful we can supplement them. We love to support our local libraries and now are so happy be able to support you all as well!"

Local History & Genealogy, Christine L. Ridarsky reporting

Exhibitions

Hope Christansen created a table display in the Local History & Genealogy Division on "Trains, Trolleys, and a Subway." It features books, photographs, postcards and other ephemera, a bibliographic handout, and information about the different phases of Rochester's railway history. Sheila Pietrowski assisted in setting up the display.



Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Christine Ridarsky co-taught a session of the Rochester Community University's City of Rochester 101 class with Commissioner of Neighborhood and Business Development Dana Miller. The session, entitled "From Blocks to Bricks: Urban Time Travel," provided a brief introduction to Rochester's history from pre-European contact through the late 20th century for the 44 City residents who were enrolled.
- Several staff members were interviewed by media outlets this month.
 - Ridarsky took WROC News 8's Adam Chodak on a tour of three Black history sites; the story was released on January 31 for Black History Month in February <https://www.rochesterfirst.com/hidden-history/black-history-month/black-history-month-rochesters-lasting-impact/>
 - Ridarsky was also featured in a WHEC News 10 story about the 1925 solar eclipse <https://www.whec.com/top-news/did-the-pont-de-rennes-bridge-really-crack-during-the-last-eclipse/>
 - Spectrum News interviewed Antoine McDonald for a feature story on his work as the only male Black librarian at the Rochester Public Library (aired February 1) <https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/rochester/black-history-month-2024/2024/02/01/rochester-librarian-working-to-preserve-the-city-s-history-while-also-making-history>



- Emily Morry was interviewed by German journalist Steve Przybilla of Riff Reporter about the history of the Inner Loop for a story that will run later. <https://www.riffreporter.de/de>
- Morry gave a virtual version of the historical walking tour she developed on social justice activism in Rochester, “Douglass, Anthony, and Beyond: Activism and Social Justice in Rochester, NY.” The presentation was designed for a group of SUNY Geneseo students participating in a workshop through the school’s Office of Diversity and Equity. The goal was not only to introduce the students to the history of activism in Rochester but also to increase their connection to and understanding of the city that neighbors their academic community. Following the presentation, Morry led the group on a tour of the library.
- Ridarsky served as a guest instructor for two sessions of a St. John Fisher University course on Mapping Urban Renewal. For the first session, she lectured on the history of Rochester’s urban renewal program in the classroom. For the second session, she led a guided research session for half of the class at the City’s Municipal Archives & Records Center. The rest of the class will visit in early February.
- Antoine McDonald continues to serve as a team leader for the City of Rochester’s Pillars of Hope program. McDonald is working with a fifth-grade class at School #23. This month, the on-site classroom visit included a discussion with the students on how individuals can accentuate their positive qualities and improve on their less desirable attitudes and behaviors. McDonald also led the students, teachers, and parents involved in the program on a tour of the library. Participants learned about the different departments within the library and the important work that we all do to maintain the resources they use to learn. The students were engaged throughout the tour and seemed impressed by all the library has to offer, particularly enjoying the opportunity to look at their parents’ yearbooks in the Local History & Genealogy Division.

Special Collections

- Contract archivist Stephanie Ball accessioned 82 of the library’s approximate 535 unaccessioned collections in January as part of the division’s New York State Documentary Heritage Program Implementation Grant project.
- Intern Ronald Martin-Dent began working in the division this month. Martin-Dent is a graduate student at the University of Washington iSchool and is working on a capstone project that involves developing a preservation plan for the library’s map collection, as well as some hands-on preservation and conservation work on maps in this collection.
- January marked the conclusion of the Documenting, Preserving & Improving Access to Local Black History Collections project, funded by a grant from the Rochester Area Community Foundation and led by Antoine McDonald. The project resulted in mission and vision statements and a strategic plan for the proposed Archive of Black History & Culture. McDonald will submit a final report to the community foundation and boards in February.

Digital Projects

- In January, the division celebrated the completion of a multi-year, multi-grant-funded project to make all the library-controlled digital content from Rochester Images available on New York Heritage. Adding the collections to New York Heritage makes them discoverable and accessible beyond the siloed environment of the library’s public catalog. Moreover, the project produced metadata for all of the digital objects within these collections in the Dublin Core standard, which will be a critical element for any future digital access and/or preservation projects around these collections. This metadata work was shepherded to completion by Brandon Fess and consultant Lisa Buda, hired under a Rochester Regional Library Council Collections and Access grant. <https://nyheritage.org/organizations/rochester-public-library>

- The division continues to contribute digitized content to a handful of online platforms, increasing discoverability and access to these materials. In January, the library's Rochester Voices website (<http://www.rochestervoices.org/>) received 1,421 page views. There were 10,498 page views of library content on New York Heritage (<https://nyheritage.org/>) in December (this number was not available in time for the division's December report). At the time of this report, January statistics were not yet posted for New York Heritage or New York State Historic Newspapers (<https://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/>).
- The FamilySearch scanning team continued operations in January, scanning a total of 150 yearbooks this month. See below for details. Digital products from this project are available through the FamilySearch site (https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/records/?search=&sort=_score&perpage=10&page=1&fulltext=1&page=1&refine%5B%5B%5D%5B%5D=Rochester%20Public%20Library).

The most recent viewing report indicates there were 810 views of RPL content on the FamilySearch site in December and a total of 1,290 views in all of 2023.

Materials scanned by FamilySearch, January 2024

Creator	Title	Dates	Quantity
Webster High School	The Reveille	1927-1949	22
Webster High School	The Reveille	1985-2001 passim	8
Webster Central School	The Reveille	1950-1962	13
R L Thomas High School	The Reveille	1965-1984 passim	13
Schroeder High School	HW Schroeder High School	1975-1984	10
Webster Schroeder High School	Reveille	2002-2013 passim	11
Wheatland-Chili High School	Genoatk/Scottsmen/The Wildcat	1955-2009 passim	14
Webster Christian	Webster Christian School	2002-2013 passim	11
The Aquinas Institute	Arete	1927-2002 passim	48
TOTAL:			150

Social Media

- There were two new posts to the Local History ROCs! blog in January: "Celebrating Rochester's Trains, Trolleys, and Subway" by Hope Christansen and "Where Are You From? Rochester Street Names and the Places That Inspired Them" by Emily Morry. These posts received 121 total views in January. In addition, readers from 67 countries revisited 200 previously published posts for a total of 8,737 blog views in January. All blog posts can be read online at www.rochistory.wordpress.com.

Interns/Volunteers

- The division's work was supported by three volunteers and one intern in January for a total contribution of 92 unpaid hours.
 - Karen Sue Brown continued sorting and filing the backlog of newspaper clippings; she contributed 43.25 hours in January.
 - Noeme Liestman worked 4 hours processing the Whitelaw Roemer Photographic Collection, a large collection of documentary, experimental, and fine art photographic prints from a local amateur photographer. The Roemer collection is particularly valuable for its documentation of Front Street in the years before urban renewal.
 - A new volunteer, Owain Gray, began working with the division in January and assisted Liestman with the Roemer collection; he also began rehousing the Beechnut Family Album, which is actually a collection of photo albums. Gray contributed 8.75 hours this month.

- The division's new graduate intern, Martin-Dent, spent 36 hours on his project with the division's map collection.

Reynolds Media Center, Joseph Born reporting

Programs

- First Friday Film: *My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2*
- Brown Bag Book Discussion: *Trust* by Hernan Diaz
- A/V set ups for programs in Central Library: 25

RMC Circulation

RMC loaned 7 pieces of equipment and 445 Mi-Fi units in addition to the regular collection, for a total of 4,454 items.

- Total circulation of RMC materials, including those that occurred at other libraries was 10,076.



Science and History, Gabe Pellegrino reporting

Programs

- The coding programs previously held in Teen Central will continue every Wednesday, run by Faezeh Jahanshiri, who recently transferred to the Science Division. These programs, which are science-based, will now serve as joint programs between Science and Teen Central.
- The *Got Health?* online video series, presented by and in partnership with the Center for Community Health and Prevention at the University of Rochester Medical Center, presented its January program: *MobilEyes Vision Van Increases Access to Eye Care in Underserved Communities*. The Central Library promotes the program through its Facebook page, by creating an event for each month's presentation, and sharing the video once it has aired live.

Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Renee Kendrot had a visit from over 20 students from Honeoye Falls-Lima High School. These students participate every year in a National History Day contest. Kendrot pulled a truckload of primary source materials to aid them with their research and set up tables in the center of the Division so the students could work together with the materials nearby. These students have always been very-well behaved, and the turnout and results were very positive.
- LROC (Library Resource Outreach Center) visitors reached nearly 75 in January. During cold-weather months, we do see the number of visitors increase. In addition to these visits, private appointments are often taken at the library on non-LROC days from staff at Person-Centered Housing Options.

Anecdotes

- Coloring pages based on seasons and holidays continue to be popular in the Science Division.
- An *Animals of the World* puzzle was made available to patrons and staff, who enjoyed working toward completing the final image. Jahanshiri noted that there are two missing pieces and is recreating them for

future use of the puzzle. New puzzles will be put out, seasonal whenever possible. The Division is looking forward to having some space-themed puzzles during the time of the solar eclipse.



Technology Center, Jay Osborne Reporting

Programs

- Pedro Nunez's Tabletop Gaming Group continues to gain new members though there has been an occasional dip in attendance due to seasonal flu and weather issues. Despite this, participants have remained enthusiastic about the group and have offered many compliments regarding the program.
- Nunez and Cy Shropshire have been preparing for an afternoon-long conference on gaming with a focus on role-playing games. The potential panelists and speakers range from professional storytellers to professional illustrators and props creators. This should be a very interesting afternoon.
- The Technology Center's partnership with Digital Literacy continues to expand. Digital literacy volunteers are offering weekly classes in the Technology Center's Classroom. Like any program, this will take some time to build, but this will be a welcome addition to the class tutorials we provide to our patrons.
- During January, Ginger Brewer has continued to teach the Computer Tutor program at Central Library. The staff and Brewer continue to schedule one-on-ones with individuals needing extra assistance in understanding computer basics, cell phone apps, cell phone navigation, and printing from their email. The Tech team has made a continuous effort to help all patrons who have little to no skill use technology more efficiently. All team members continue offering teachable moments while showcasing patience and genuine interest in our patron's progress.

Anecdotes

- Tax season is upon us, which has brought more and more people to the Technology Center. During the month of January, the Tech Center staff have seen an increased number of patrons needing assistance printing their W2s, bank account information and routing number for tax purposes. The Tech team is very

knowledgeable as to how to navigate each patron's bank app and retrieve the needed information. Many patrons have called the Tech staff "Tech heroes" and are appreciative of the hard work and dedication that is shown to each of them individually.

- The dedication of the Tech Center staff occasionally makes a lasting impression. One of our patrons came in several times over three weeks early in the summer. He was enormously energetic and consumed every bit of help the staff could offer. Then he disappeared. Several staff remarked with a bit of anxiety on the abrupt end of his visits. 6 months later we received an email from him:

"Thanks for helping me this past June, when I came home from prison. I have a place to live, full time permanent employment at a great company.

My family loves and respect me. I have my son all the time, tight bond. And it's not easy, but I just want to say that all u guys downstairs helped me. I am forever grateful! God bless you brother! See you soon! I didn't even know how to activate a cellphone.. lol!

You did it for me on June 9th... I still have the same #

Upgraded my cell for that new Google pixel 8 pro Max 🍑

Now I'm way better with this cell stuff 😁

God bless! 🙏🙏

Hit me up anytime!"

Our friend has stopped in a few times and shared genuinely moving stories of his new life with his family. No matter how hard this job can be, it's the knowledge that we can have a real impact on the lives of some of our patrons that makes us all able to grind through the tougher days.



Teen Central, Shetora Banks and Jeff Bostic reporting

Programs

- The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park playground design workshop was hosted in Teen Central by Shawn Dunwoody and a group of landscape architects. A diverse representation of the community came to participate, including teens, elders, people with physical disabilities, and young children joining their parents. Participants used Legos to design upgrades that they envisioned upgrading the park; they also cut out pictures and paste them onto a map of the park symbolizing all accessible changes.



- ESPORTS – The 2nd Annual CLL vs RPD event took place this month. Two groups of teens faced off against the police in Fortnite, while other teens, including the summer Mortal Kombat champion Jah, faced off against the police in Mortal Kombat. News coverage of the event is available here: <https://13wham.com/news/local/rochester-police-connect-with-teens-through-friendly-gaming-face-off>



- Mr. Joel Wartz, local puzzle maker, graced Teen Central with his vast knowledge of wood puzzle sculpting. The device he likes to use to make paper jigsaw puzzles is called the Gemini II Die Cutting and Embossing Machine. We watched a couple of YouTube videos so Teens could see how the machine operated and gauged if there was any interest them creating their own puzzles. The afternoon ended with a friendly competition to see who was the fastest to complete our sample puzzles. Teens times beat the staff time!

Community Library Updates

Melanie Lewis, Deputy Director reporting

Branch Administration focused activities around the Mobile Library Project. During the previous months, the concentration was on input and support to RIT students around vehicle design. Focus is now on preparing the Lyell interior floor plan for the new service model, updating the City Fleet with retrofit/upfit plans and prospective driver lists for training, and connecting with community partners. Branch Administration staff attended the Lyell Otis Community Organization to share information and gather feedback about the project. A reconnection has been made with the Western New York Childcare Council; initial plans were made two years ago during the foundational preparation stages of the project. A partnership has been formed with Lifespan Senior Services; they will help us connect with appropriate senior organizations in the northwest.

After pausing since the 2020 COVID shutdown, Branch Administration, Safe to be Smart, and FFRPL will reschedule and reformat the previously planned excursion to Washington DC. George Carter, Safe to Be Smart staff from the Sully Branch, has taken a leadership role in coordinating. Tentatively, the plans are to charter a coach for up to 20 teens and visit the National Museum of African American History and Culture, the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Library of Congress, and the National Portrait Gallery. The itinerary is still being built, the last weekend in July is currently scheduled.

Amy Discenza finished up branch orientation visits this month, working half-day shifts at the Lincoln, Douglass, Maplewood, and Winton Branches. It was an extremely valuable experience and training tool for her – and she hopes to be able to continue making regular site visits. Discenza estimates that she'd met roughly 10% of branch staff before the visits and now she's hovering around 70%. It was nice to put faces with names and to learn more about the various programs/services and collections offered at each site. A few things that will stick with her include Brian DiNitto's busy teaching schedule and the manga and anime reference guides created by Kayla Lappino at Maplewood; the late-morning toddler "meetups" in the Toy Library and helping patrons navigate Spanish language cell phones at Lincoln; Douglass's happening but well-organized afterschool activities; and Winton's exceptionally busy reference desk and Rhyme Time following. Most staff she encountered were friendly and generous with their time.



Arnett Branch Library, Bruce Tehan reporting

Programs

- The City of Rochester Assessment Bureau led a Reassessment Workshop at Arnett, followed by a question-and-answer session on the assessment process. The event, sponsored by City Council Vice President LaShay Harris, was well attended and appreciated by the community.
- Arnett also hosted an informational meeting run by the City of Rochester Forestry Division. Patrons provided valuable feedback on the division's Urban Forest Master Plan.

Community Outreach/Meetings

- The fourth annual First Tuesday Book Club Book Giveaway at Arnett was a great success and appreciated by patrons of all ages. Aside from reading materials for kids and teens, the book club's generous donors also purchased titles for new and expecting mothers.



Anecdotes/Other

- After participating in an arts and crafts program led by Prudence Anderson Leusch, a young patron staged a photo shoot in his yard, borrowing his mother's phone to capture his mini snowman creations hitting the slopes.

Charlotte Branch Library, Dennis Williams reporting

Programs

- Charlotte's volunteer-led Fiber Arts Group debuted this month; both patrons and staff were pleased with the outcome and are looking forward to future gatherings. Participants are encouraged to bring any projects they're working on and may come simply for the camaraderie or to receive instruction or support.
- Jennifer Cherelin led story times for all ages, a book discussion for tweens, and a variety of hands-on musical programming for children including hand drumming, piano, ukulele, and guitar.

Anecdotes/Other

- Diane Hummel celebrated her 35th year at the Charlotte Branch Library with a certificate of recognition and a cake.
- Dennis Williams worked with a young patron to create a 3D-printed cookie cutter of a yellow submarine. She returned with a batch of cookies for the staff and a thoughtful letter expressing her thanks.



Douglass Community Library, Evanna DiSalvo reporting

Programs

- Community resident Justin Hubbel presented a calligraphy workshop titled Everyday Calligraphy. The workshop was well received and participants are eager to have him back.
- Books and Bingo attracted a crowd. The kids enjoyed playing and were happy to receive books as prizes.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Isaac Lewis makes weekly visits to Anna Murray Douglass Academy School No. 12 to talk with middle school students during their free period about library programs that might interest them, such as Anime Club, Pokémon Hangout, and Dungeons and Dragons. On a recent visit, Lewis discovered that the card game Mao is trending among students and will use that knowledge to forge relationships.
- Jennifer Nesbitt made two visits to Generations Daycare, engaging with three classes per visit.
- Evanna DiSalvo attended the Common Ground Health Initiative's kickoff for the Global School Day of Play.

Anecdotes/Other

- All three exhibition spaces in the Douglass Community Library were filled with art this month. [Julia J. Wolfe's](#) exhibit of paintings and knitted sculptures was featured in the adult area; "resident artist" Tim Mack displayed a variety of panels near the YA books; and [Logan Turner's](#) work was added to the new exhibit area over the children's picture books. Social media posts featuring Turner's art received a lot of attention.
- The latest collaborative puzzle completed by the adult after-school "puzzle club" turned out to be missing two pieces -- it had been disturbed several times by quick little hands. Recently, a puzzle board with a cover was approved for purchase from the Douglass FFRPL gift fund. It will be greatly appreciated!



Lincoln Branch Library, Sarah Lehman reporting

Programs

- First graders from Andrew J. Townson School No. 39 had a blast visiting the Lincoln Branch and Toy Library. They came to Griffin Van Ostrand's rescue with perfectly coordinated sound effects when Van Ostrand ran out of breath during his Knight Owl storytime.
- Van Ostrand led a hands-on slime-making session for children. Participants enjoyed watching the slime progress from a jar of glue to a workable, glittery end product they could take home with them. Although this event spanned just one afternoon, Lincoln Branch Staff will remember it for months to come due to the lingering glitter.

- Preschoolers from Nathaniel Hawthorne School No. 25 had a great time visiting the Toy Library. The group of students, parents, and teachers enjoyed an engaging story with Rosa Diaz before being set free to browse the children's area, color, and sign up for library cards.
- The University of Rochester Medical Center Mobile Mammography Van visited the Lincoln Library and the People's Pantry to provide free mammograms for community members. As part of the program, in the month leading up to the event, staff at the Wilmot Cancer Center held a food drive to collect donations for the pantry. The van was on site from 9:00 AM–3:00 PM and provided breast cancer screenings for 11 people. The library, People's Pantry, and URMC staff consider the event to be a success and hope to hold another in the future!



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

Rosa Diaz met with staff from the Borinquen Dance Theatre to discuss preparations for the April performance of *Pedro and the Wolf*, a retelling of *Peter and the Wolf*, at Lincoln.

Anecdotes/Other

- A few schoolteachers visited the Toy Library this month, exploring the renovated space with their families. One of them was inspired to begin planning a field trip to return with their students.
- It was a busy month at Lincoln! Almost all the monthly statistics reported show an increase compared to the month before and many are the highest figures the branch has seen since re-opening. Most notably, a whopping 100 patrons registered for new library cards this month.

Lyell Branch Library, Cathy Kyle reporting

Programs

- Artemis Markakis collaborated with Trillium Health to offer a four-part health education lecture series. Topics included sexual health, harm reduction in substance abuse, health literacy, and care management resources.
- Lyell teens learned to use a button maker and created designs featuring their favorite anime characters.

Anecdotes/Other

- Markakis attended an information session and applied for AARP Senior Planet's licensing program, with an end goal in mind of improving digital literacy services for older adults in the Lyell service area. The program equips community-based organizations with tools to help older adults access technology and use it to enhance their lives.



- Lyell's Knitting and Crocheting Club started off as a monthly offering. By popular demand, the group now meets weekly.

Maplewood Community Library, Johanna Buran reporting

Programs

- Maplewood youth pitched a tent in the library in honor of National Sleep Day. For many participants, this was their first time “setting up camp,” and the tent became a popular hangout for the remainder of the day.
- Maplewood staff hosted a trivia challenge to celebrate National Trivia Day. Participants were eager to exchange correct answers for candy.
- Kayla Lappino's creative writing group reflected on their 2023 accomplishments and set writing goals for the new year.
- Lappino also leads a weekly Dance Club. On lesson days, the group selects a dance and follows tutorials to learn the choreography; other meeting days are more casual – featuring open dance and a popular game called Freeze Dance.

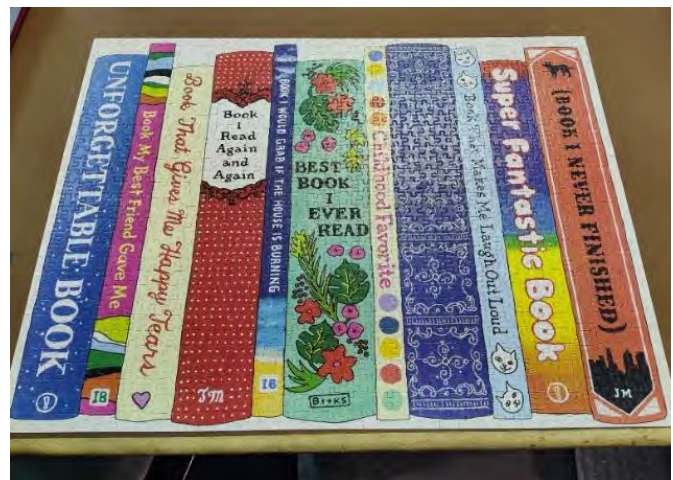
Anecdotes/Other

- A patron has been working with Brian DiNitto twice a week to improve her English writing skills. The staff at Maplewood are delighted to announce that this individual has successfully passed the written component of her Naturalization Exam.
- There were 22 unique languages spoken among the attendees of Maplewood's English and Citizenship Classes in 2023.
- Maplewood staff helped patrons file a FAFSA, locate a family member's death record on the Social Security Death Index, and prepare paperwork for an in-home daycare.

Monroe Branch Library, Mary Clare Scheg reporting

Programs

- Matthew Hoople hosted a school visit from Francis Parker School No. 23 and led weekly storytimes in the branch.
- Theresa Filo rebranded Monroe's crochet club to include knitters. Participants can come to learn either craft or work on individual projects in good company.
- Monroe patrons collaborated on a bookish jigsaw puzzle.
- Staff continued to curate a cozy movie night experience for patrons, circulating two “mystery” films with packets of hot chocolate.



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Hoople led weekly story times at St. Paul's Daycare and conducted a school visit at the Genesee Community Charter School Flour City Campus.
- Staff from Trillium are tabling in the library on the fourth Tuesday of the month.
- Thanks to Roc Made With Love, Monroe staff were able to make more warm hats and scarves available to neighbors this month.

Anecdotes

- Two-year-old Judy really likes playing hide and seek – so much so that she shows up over an hour before storytime ready to play. Luckily, Judy is a good sport and pretends she can't find Hoople, who scoops up his work and retreats to the same corner of the library to hide over and over. Multitasking!

Wheatley Community Library, Sheilah Murphy reporting

Programs

- In honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Wheatley children and teens completed a service project, making fleece scarves for community members in need. SewGreen Rochester, a nonprofit second-hand retail and education center specializing in fiber arts, donated the materials. The children loved crafting the scarves and checked daily to see how many had been distributed.



- Alex Haehn and Katy Rebholz held a Tea Party Mix and Mingle for children and teens. Participants sipped tea from teacups, enjoyed snacks, colored, completed word searches, and listened to stories.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Peggy Braitsch from The Genesee Valley Quilt Club (GVQC) reached out to Phillis Wheatley Library staff in hopes of partnering for a quilting program. Haehn and Sheilah Murphy met with her to discuss spring events, and Murphy contacted staff at other branches to gauge interest in participating in a collaborative program with the GVQC.

Anecdotes/Other

- A library patron came in looking for a book similar to *A Child Called It* for her companion. After some searching, Murphy was able to find a comparable option. A couple weeks later the patron returned to thank staff for the recommendation. They shared that their companion had been having a hard time finding books she could relate to, and Murphy's suggestion was exactly what she wanted.
- A teen patron will be attending *The Color Purple* in June with her mom and sister thanks to the ROC Geva Pass Program.

Sully Branch Library, Maria Heeks-Heinlein reporting

Programs

- M&T Bank presented a financial wellness program about budgeting. Although the session was geared toward an adult audience, the topic appealed to several teen patrons who were invited to join in.
- Nefisa Ahmed, one of Sully's new Literacy Aides, started teaching some of the children to crochet, and they're really enjoying it.
- Jacob Bigelow is running game nights at Sully. Uno is the game of the moment, attracting large groups of teens. Participants are enjoying themselves and engaging with Bigelow.

Community Outreach/Meeting/Training

- Maria Heeks-Heinlein attended the Beechwood Neighborhood Coalition meeting; she was able to share marketing materials for the healthy cooking and financial wellness programs being offered at Sully.
- Heeks-Heinlein visited Friendship Children's Center and read stories to five classrooms of children in pre-K and younger.

Anecdotes/Other

- Foodlink presented a healthy cooking workshop this month to a full house. After the program, a participant thanked staff and mentioned that the Sully Branch holds a special place in her heart. Years ago, her son, who is now an adult, took his first steps in the old Sully building.



Winton Branch Library, Kathy Wolf reporting

Programs

- Winton tweens got to flex their Greek mythology muscles during the Comic Club meeting, which featured the graphic novel adaptation of Rick Riordan's *The Lightning Thief*.
- In this month's *Hot Takes* poll, patrons weighed in on whether they would rather fight a bear-sized goose or a goose-sized bear. A near-universal fear of geese swayed votes in the direction of fighting a goose-sized bear; however, one brave patron declared they'd fight a bear-sized goose just to see how loud it could honk.

Anecdotes

- There's no such thing as a typical day at the Winton Branch Library, except that each day people are using the unique library space and resources to make their lives a little better. For example, on a recent day, people were visiting the library for very different purposes: several people needed to print or scan tax documents; one woman checked out a stack of Tween books; caretakers with babies and preschoolers made a beeline for the children's room; a man requested an ILL from a neighboring university; and residents from

a group home stopped in to play a round of Uno. At another table, a volunteer from Digital Literacy Rochester was talking to Spectrum Customer Service on behalf of an older, non-native English speaker who was having trouble understanding his utility bill; a young man, sitting at a table strewn with paper forms, was completing his application to become a Monroe County Sheriff; a mother stopped in with her five children to get everyone signed up for their first library cards; and a family was spotted reading together at the library!



Proposed Central Library Budget, 2024-2025

February 15, 2024

Assumptions:

1. Requested 1.5% increase from Monroe County in the amount of \$7.5 million, due to wage/salary and operating inflation impacts.
2. State Aid projected increase of 2.5% based on governor's proposed budget assumed retained in final budget (note this is first executive proposed increase in many years)
3. Employee benefit cost increases:
 - a. 15.3% blended retirement contribution, no amortization payment (12.4% FY24)
 - b. Lower FY24 employee medical costs, 9.2% FY25 rate increase estimate (self-insurance by City)
 - c. Lower FY24 retiree medical costs, minor FY25 blended rate increase (2024 & 2025)
 - d. No Dental increase
4. Salary/wage increases at 3.25% AFSCME, CSEA & APT (all bargaining units under contract)

Proposal: Adjustments to revenue changes (1.2% increase from FY24)

1. Budget gap ~ \$325,000 due primarily to benefit increases and wage/salary inflation, with minor revenue losses incorporated (\$50,000 loss from fine elimination program).
2. Gap closed with request for 1.5% increase in County support (\$111,500) and minor increases in System Services (increases in wage/salary offsetting partial system reimbursements).
3. The County has extended historian's office services to the RPL (\$50,000, with expenses represented in Local History division (PT to FT position to support additional duties by other staff).
4. There are many position changes/upgrades/transfers within Central; these are detailed in the bureau budgets and summarized in personnel sheet. The net full-time decrease is 1.5 positions.

Fund Balance

1. MCLS fund balances supported Central operations from FY11 to FY16. Going forward, excess fund balances shall apply to approved activities within the MCLS capital and operating budgets.
2. Based on 2023 MCLS expenses under budgeted allocations, the projected MCLS fund balance is approximately \$1.5 million pending final County year-end close. The projected *available* balance is the same, as no funds are currently incorporated in the 2024 budget for operating or capital support.
3. The minimum fund balance required by the MCLS fund balance policy is \$69,652, based on 1.5% of the MCLS 2024 budget.
4. It is possible the fund balance could be appropriated for priority, temporary projects, such as continuation of MiFi loaning services, as a mid-year County appropriation in June.

Highlights:

1. Bausch & Lomb HVAC upgrades will begin in spring 2024; we anticipate roof replacement fall 2024 (both are NYSED grant-funded projects).
2. We must re-bid the Rundel masonry and window upgrades based on first bid over budget; this will move the construction schedule to start fall 2024. This is Federal stimulus (ARPA) funded.
3. There are several remaining Rundel long-term projects, which will be discussed with the Board. Updates to City Capital Improvement Program requests and Plan will be shared with RPL Board this spring prior to final recommendations as part of the City budget.

FY25 CENTRAL LIBRARY

BUDGET REVENUE

	BUDGET 2021-22	ACTUAL 2021-22	BUDGET 2022-23	ACTUAL 2022-23	BUDGET 2023-24	BUDGET 2024-25	+/- 23-24 Budget
MCLS SYSTEM SERVICE REVENUE							
Technical Services	274,332	247,077	276,526		250,506	258,933	8,427
Interlibrary Loan	66,000	66,000	68,000		72,000	74,000	2,000
Delivery Charges	456,484	385,945	459,199		447,160	472,115	24,955
Automation Operations	484,690	474,501	510,035		515,227	521,571	6,344
Director Office Reimbursement	104,337	97,840	108,680		125,094	120,742	(4,352)
Operational Support	920,640	800,000	930,076		973,158	964,039	(9,119)
TOTAL	2,306,500	2,071,364	2,352,500	2,126,228	2,383,100	2,411,400	28,300
USE/SERVICE CHARGES							
Fines, Fees, Miscellaneous (1)	70,000	50,166	70,000		70,000	20,000	(50,000)
Minor Sales & Library Chargebacks (2)	2,500	1,254	25,100		25,100	38,100	13,000
Library Chargebacks	21,600	21,627	0		0	0	0
Misc. Additional Payments (3)	196,500	158,677	164,000		164,000	164,000	0
TOTAL	290,600	231,724	259,100	187,749	259,100	222,100	(37,000)
GRANTS							
Grants (4)	188,000	146,400	233,000	141,531	188,000	209,000	21,000
TOTAL	188,000	146,400	233,000	141,531	188,000	209,000	21,000
STATE AID							
Central Library Program Aid (5)	219,300	219,471	302,100		302,100	309,600	7,500
Central Library Book Aid	66,300	65,881	0		0	0	0
Outreach (5)	128,800	128,781	136,200		159,200	163,100	3,900
State Corrections (5)	800	802	0		0	0	0
County Jails (5)	8,300	8,460	8,800		8,800	9,000	200
TOTAL	423,500	423,395	447,100	462,942	470,100	481,700	11,600
TOTAL STATE AID, GRANTS, FEES	3,208,600	2,872,883	3,291,700	2,918,450	3,300,300	3,324,200	23,900
MONROE COUNTY SUPPORT (6)	7,079,000	7,079,000	7,291,300	7,158,349	7,487,100	7,598,600	111,500
CITY PRORATED SHARE	641,900	641,900	654,000	654,000	678,900	687,500	8,600
TOTAL REVENUE	10,929,500	10,593,783	11,237,000	10,730,799	11,466,300	11,610,300	144,000

- 1 FINE FORGIVENESS PROGRAM IMPLEMENTED DURING FY24 - BALANCE FEES AND LOST/DAMAGED ITEMS
- 2 OUT OF COUNTY CARD TO MCLS \$35,000, ATM SVCS \$1,500, AUTOMATION CHARGEBACKS \$1,600 (MERGED WITH MINOR SALES FY23)
- 3 FFRPL ANNUAL CAMPAIGN \$60,000, MTG ROOMS/EVENTS \$28,000, FFRPL BOOKSTORE \$35,000, CASH PROGRAM OCCUPANCY \$37,000, FOODLINK CAFÉ UTILITIES \$4,000
- 4 GRANT REVENUE/EXPENSE ALLOCATION \$75,000, FFRPL DIGITIZING \$35,000, FFRPL BUSINESS INNOVATION \$40,000
- 5 GLEASON SCI/HIST SUPPORT \$20,000, KENYON JEFFRIES LH SUPPORT \$19,000, FFRPL OUTREACH \$15,000, STRONG MUSEUM \$5,000
- 6 CENTRAL AID MERGED FY23; STATE CORRECTIONS CLOSED FY23; OUTREACH CONSOLIDATED FY24; ALL FUNDS BROUGHT IN FROM MCLS TO EXPEND IN RPL FISCAL YEAR

CENTRAL OPERATIONS SUPPORT \$7,548,600, COUNTY HISTORIAN SUPPORT \$50,000

FY24-25 PROPOSED EXPENSE SUMMARY

MUNIS OBJECT	DESCRIPTION	ADMIN		PUB SVCS		PUB SVCS		MCLS SVCS		MCLS SVCS		BUDGET		BUDGET	
		23-24	24-25	+/-	23-24	24-25	+/-	23-24	24-25	+/-	23-24	24-25	23-24	24-25	
601000	SALARIES	1,406,400	1,396,300	(10,100)	2,109,100	2,179,200	70,100	1,250,100	1,294,100	44,000	4,765,600	4,869,600			
601050	PART TIME	157,700	172,100	14,400	1,091,600	1,065,500	(26,100)	268,900	276,000	7,100	1,518,200	1,513,600			
602010	OVERTIME	11,000	13,500	2,500	1,000	1,000	0	3,000	3,000	0	15,000	17,500			
603010	PERSONAL LEAVE BUYBACK	20,600	20,600	0	12,600	12,600	0	4,000	4,000	0	37,200	37,200			
603030	LONGEVITY	7,000	7,000	0	18,000	18,000	0	8,100	8,100	0	33,100	33,100			
603080	CELL PHONE ALLOWANCE	1,000	1,300	300	1,700	1,700	0	2,300	2,300	0	5,000	5,300			
603100	W/A	7,100	0	(7,100)	27,300	0	(27,300)	8,700	0	(8,700)	43,100	0			
	SUBTOTAL	1,610,800	1,610,800	0	3,261,300	3,278,000	16,700	1,545,100	1,587,500	42,400	6,417,200	6,476,300			
605010	OFFICE SUPPLIES	43,300	47,700	4,400	5,200	5,200	0	3,600	3,600	0	52,100	56,500			
605070	CLEANING SUPPLIES	21,000	21,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21,000	21,000			
605080	WEARING APPAREL	11,600	11,600	0	0	0	0	4,100	4,100	0	15,700	15,700			
605120	TOOLS & MACHINE PARTS	8,200	8,200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8,200	8,200			
605150	LIGHTING	4,100	4,100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,100	4,100			
605200	MISCELLANEOUS SUPPLIES	1,500	2,000	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,500	2,000			
	SUBTOTAL	89,700	94,600	4,900	5,200	5,200	0	7,700	7,700	0	102,600	107,500			
606010	COMMUNICATION	5,000	10,500	5,500	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,000	10,500			
606020	DUPLICATING SERVICES	200	200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200	200			
606040	POSTAGE	5,800	5,800	0	0	0	0	500	500	0	6,300	6,300			
606060	REFUSE COLLECTION	22,000	22,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22,000	22,000			
606070	WORKER'S COMPENSATION	10,000	10,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10,000	10,000			
606080	WATER CHARGES	38,900	38,900	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	38,900	38,900			
606090	MOTOR EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	3,500	3,500	2,700	2,700	0	2,700	6,200			
607010	UTILITIES	464,600	479,100	14,500	0	0	0	0	0	0	464,600	479,100			
607020	RENTS	45,200	45,200	0	2,500	2,500	0	6,500	9,000	2,500	54,200	56,700			
607030	EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	5,500	5,500	0	23,700	20,700	(3,000)	3,100	3,100	0	32,300	29,300			
607040	BUILDING MAINTENANCE	89,600	89,600	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	89,600	89,600			
607050	SECURITY SERVICES	3,600	3,600	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,600	3,600			
608010	PRINTING & ADVERTISING	3,500	3,500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,500	3,500			
608030	CLEANING & LAUNDRY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
608050	DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS	2,000	2,300	300	1,900	7,900	6,000	500	900	400	4,400	11,100			
608060	MILEAGE	1,000	1,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,000	1,000			
608070	FOOD & MEALS	1,000	1,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,000	1,000			
608120	MISCELLANEOUS	72,900	64,500	(8,400)	0	0	0	0	0	0	72,900	64,500			
609010	TRAVEL & TRAINING	12,600	12,600	0	0	0	0	3,000	3,000	0	15,600	15,600			
610010	PROFESSIONAL FEES	40,800	31,400	(9,400)	104,700	69,700	(35,000)	120,500	120,500	0	266,000	221,600			
611010	OTHER COMMUNICATION	11,100	2,600	(8,500)	0	500	500	600	600	0	11,700	3,700			
612020	SERVICE CHARGES OTHER GOVERNMENTS	51,400	51,400	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	51,400	51,400			
	SUBTOTAL	886,700	880,700	(6,000)	132,800	104,800	(28,000)	137,400	140,300	2,900	1,156,900	1,125,800			
652010	FURNITURE & FURNISHINGS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
652030	LIBRARY MATERIALS	2,500	0	(2,500)	489,900	496,100	6,200	12,400	8,900	(3,500)	504,800	505,000			
660010	MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT	3,100	3,100	0	0	0	0	5,400	7,000	1,600	8,500	10,100			
	SUBTOTAL	5,600	3,100	(2,500)	489,900	496,100	6,200	17,800	15,900	(1,900)	513,300	515,100			
604090	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,201,300	3,310,600			
665010	UNITEMIZED EXPENSE	75,000	75,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	75,000	75,000			
	SUBTOTAL	75,000	75,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,276,300	75,000			
	GRAND TOTAL	2,667,800	2,664,200	(3,600)	3,889,200	3,884,100	(5,100)	1,708,000	1,751,400	43,400	11,466,300	11,610,300			

2024-25 FRINGE BENEFITS COST PROJECTIONS

CENTRAL	FY22 Actual	FY23 Budget	FY24 Budget	FY25 Budget
MEDICAL	885,557	916,300	942,900	989,400
FICA	450,813	479,100	483,700	495,100
DENTAL & VISION	54,753	55,800	57,700	58,100
LIFE INSURANCE	2,724	900	1,500	1,500
RETIREMENT	799,846	725,800	682,800	818,700
PAST WORKER'S COMP	56,477	11,600	35,000	44,300
RETIREE MEDICAL	877,610	935,900	982,700	888,500
UNEMPLMT & DIS INS	1,522	10,100	15,000	15,000
TOTAL	3,129,302	3,135,500	3,201,300	3,310,600

1. Medical Benefits (\$989,400): Self-funded insurance trust administratively managed by MVP. Central bills County for premium equivalents. Increases based on FY23/24 actual costs and projected 2025 (9.2%) rate assumptions.
2. Social Security (\$495,100): Cost is based on the current rate of 7.65% of the total full and part-time salaries for FY24-25.
3. Dental & Vision Insurance (\$58,100): The City projects flat for FY25. Vision supplement is not charged to Library Fund.
4. Life Insurance (\$1,500): These costs are based on current expense levels.
5. NYS Retirement (\$818,700): This estimates the Central portion of actual NYS Retirement contributions as of 3/30/2024. NYS has projected significant increases in average contribution for FY25 (12.4% to 15.3%)
6. Past Worker's Compensation (\$44,300): Estimated from historic expense levels; Library billed for actual claims coverage.
7. Retired Employee Medical (\$888,500): Costs are based on estimated, blended calendar year increases, with costs coming in lower than anticipated (and budgeted) for FY24.
8. Unemployment & Disability Insurance Benefits (\$15,000): The library fund is charged based on actual insurance payments. This is estimated from prior year actuals as well as projected APT costs of disability insurance.

Proposed Community Library Budget, 2024-2025

February 15, 2024

Assumptions:

1. City provided no reduction request to meet Budget Level Allocation (BLA); however, we continue to reduce revenue targets for FFRPL private support for Safe to Be Smart and Raising a Reader.
2. Salary/wage increases of 3.25% are known for all contracted positions and planned for APT.
3. City administration will accept a combination of operating and capital reductions to achieve BLA. Fund balance utilization may be necessary in future for capital projects (both Central and branches) given the current inflationary environment, which continues to be felt in construction bids.
4. City Administration is reviewing the request for support of the Northeast Branch Library contribution as submitted by the Rochester Housing Authority for NYS-supported financing.

Process:

1. Senior Management worked with branch supervisors in evaluating staffing, hours of operation, programming and materials expenses to provide operating and capital budget recommendations.
2. Branch administration operations and activities was focus of evaluation, with goals of optimizing branch performance with minor changes in operating allocations (programs, materials).
3. Capital projects were evaluated for deferral or scope reductions; final CIP submissions and changes will be reviewed by the Board in spring.

Proposal:

1. Revenue reductions of \$95,000 are assumed for reduction in Safe to Be Smart support and the conclusion of private support for a Raising a Reader full-time position. FFRPL has agreed to supplant a portion of Raising a Reader underwriting with grant making and donor contributions.
2. Sharing costs for a full-time Raising a Reader position with Central, and elimination of a vacant part-time position in Lincoln, support reductions with minimal operating impact.
3. We are proposing reductions in annual capital allocations for furnishings and facility maintenance (total reductions \$27,000) to meet overall budget targets.
4. We are proposing merging two vacant PT Security Guard positions to one FT position at the Arnett Branch; with a net increase in FTE of 0.5 positions. Other minor adjustments are proposed; see attached 'Savings' summary.
5. FY25 revenue projections include a 2.5% increased in State Aid based on the Governor's proposed budget and legislative advocacy feedback.
6. Given the changes in revenue and the *available* fund balance (\$1.4M), we recommend retention of the RPL fund balance to support upcoming capital projects and potential bid shortfalls.
7. Maplewood construction will begin at the start of the new fiscal year; temporary operations will comprise the entirety of FY25 and some of FY26. Temporary locations, services and hours are still under development with more to share later in the spring.
8. A note that the current, proposed budget does not include an operating impact for a potential future northeast branch library. If funded and authorized, this will have an impact of FY26 operations.

BRANCH LIBRARY REVENUE BUDGET 2024-25

REVENUE CODE	DESCRIPTION	BUDGET 22-23	BUDGET 23-24	BUDGET 24-25	+/- BUDGET 23-24
369500	RENTS, FEES & OPERATIONS (1)	223,700	88,700	88,700	0
407510	GRANTS (2)	233,500	198,500	103,000	(95,500)
407520	STATE LIBRARY SERVICES AID	103,261	103,261	105,300	2,039
	TOTAL	560,461	390,461	297,000	(93,461)

- 1 FFRPL ANNUAL CAMPAIGN (40,000), LINCOLN BRANCH RENT (24,000), FFRPL BRANCH PROGRAM SUPPORT (5,000), GREENLIGHT ARNETT USE (\$2,500), BALANCE BRANCH FEE COLLECTIONS
- 2 FFRPL-SAFE TO BE SMART (35,000), FENYVCESSY FUND-LITERACY AIDES (48,000), OTHER GRANTS (20,000)

**ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY
BRANCH LIBRARIES
2024-25 BUDGET**

MUNIS OBJECT	DESCRIPTION	2023-24	2024-25	+/-	%
601000	SALARIES	1,590,800	1,888,000	297,200	
601050	PART TIME	1,983,000	1,947,000	(36,000)	
602010	OVERTIME	2,000	2,000	0	
603010	PERSONAL LEAVE BUYBACK	9,200	9,600	400	
603030	LONGEVITY	5,500	12,600	7,100	
603080	CELL PHONE ALLOWANCE	500	500	0	
603100	W/A	0	38,400	38,400	
	SUBTOTAL	3,591,000	3,898,100	307,100	9%
605010	OFFICE SUPPLIES	36,600	37,700	1,100	
605060	FOOD	2,000	2,100	100	
605070	CLEANING SUPPLIES	15,500	16,000	500	
605120	TOOLS & MACHINE PARTS	7,000	7,200	200	
605130	CONSTRUCTION & REPAIR MATERIALS	3,100	3,200	100	
605150	LIGHTING	2,100	2,200	100	
605200	MISCELLANEOUS SUPPLIES	3,700	3,800	100	
	SUBTOTAL	70,000	72,200	2,200	3%
606010	COMMUNICATION	11,600	15,600	4,000	
606020	DUPLICATING SERVICES	500	0	(500)	
606040	POSTAGE	4,000	4,000	0	
606060	REFUSE COLLECTION	7,000	7,000	0	
606070	WORKER'S COMPENSATION	1,000	1,000	0	
606080	WATER CHARGES	8,500	8,500	0	
606090	MOTOR EQUIPMENT	11,800	6,500	(5,300)	
607010	UTILITIES	213,500	213,500	0	
607020	RENTS	15,900	15,900	0	
607030	EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	13,900	14,300	400	
607040	BUILDING MAINTENANCE	24,000	24,700	700	
607050	SECURITY SERVICES	3,000	4,000	1,000	
608030	CLEANING & LAUNDRY	3,700	3,800	100	
608050	DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS	3,200	3,300	100	
608060	MILEAGE	6,000	6,000	0	
608100	HIRED EQUIPMENT	12,200	12,600	400	
609010	TRAVEL & TRAINING	13,200	13,600	400	
610010	PROFESSIONAL FEES	377,200	376,800	(400)	
611010	OTHER COMMUNICATION	4,000	2,000	(2,000)	
612020	SERVICE CHARGES OTHER GOVERNMENTS	7,500	7,500	0	
652030	LIBRARY MATERIALS	474,400	496,600	22,200	
665010	UNITEMIZED EXPENSE	20,000	20,000	0	
	SUBTOTAL	1,236,100	1,257,200	21,100	2%
	TOTAL OPERATING	4,897,100	5,227,500	330,400	7%
	COMMUNITY CASH CAPITAL FUNDS				
	TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT	10,000	10,000		
	FACILITIES-MAINTENANCE	54,000	41,000		
	FACILITIES-VAN REPLACEMENT (EV)	65,000	0		
	FURNISHINGS	22,000	12,000		
	MAPLEWOOD EXPANSION	633,000	0		
	ARNETT SOLAR INVERTERS	0	50,000		
	TOTAL CASH CAPITAL	784,000	113,000	(671,000)	14%
	GRAND TOTAL	5,016,100	5,340,500	324,400	6%

Totality Rocs at RPL

The eclipse glasses sponsored by the Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library have arrived! 14,000 pairs were obtained at the RMSC's best discount rate for distribution from Rochester Public Library locations. A supply of 1600 glasses will be reserved for use at Central by staff and visitors on April 8, 2024.

Branch Administration received 7000 pairs of eclipse glasses to distribute, from those purchased by the Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library. Winton and Lyell branches both have eclipse programs planned in February and March.

The remaining glasses will be distributed from Central Library circulation when a patron shows their library card. The plan is to provide 2 pairs per cardholder, in line with the recommendations from the RMSC regarding glasses use. New cardholders will also be eligible for glasses.

Eclipse programming between now and April has been planned for our patrons of all ages. All RPL and MCLS eclipse programs are being cross-promoted from LibCal to the RochesterEclipse2024.org website by our part-time clerk-typist, Tiffany Dukes. In addition, any relevant programming missing the Eclipse and Solar Eclipse 2024 tags will have those tags added.

The Central Library Eclipse planning team is working on a wide variety of tasks to ensure the best possible outcomes. The team's overarching goals are to provide safe viewing for both our staff and visitors. The planning team's efforts will culminate with the creation of a Run-Of-Show plan for April 8th. The plan is for everyone to know when and where they will be working. How staff will rotate between inside and outside during the roughly 3 and a half minutes of totality has yet to be decided.

Facilities is aware of our increased housekeeping needs on the day, similar to the anticipated Security needs that will come with increased foot traffic. Central Supervisors have been tasked with sharing to their departments and staff details of this all-hands-on-deck event. The Graphics department will be responding to requests for eclipse programming and specialized wayfinding signs. A staff drop-in Eclipse Party is planned for March further to raise awareness of the plans for April 8th and distribute Eclipse t-shirts, as purchased for staff by FFRPL.

After partnering with Grupo Cultural for a Latin Celebration of the Partial eclipse in October, Childrens is collaborating with the Mighty Muslim Mountains Youth Program for a February program on eclipses in Muslim culture. The day of the eclipse, April 8, 2024, the Central Library has a full day of programming planned, with Children's science stations, a sensory-friendly area in the Rundel riverside room for quieter observations and breaks from crowds.

On the day at Central, there will be opportunities to learn about Rochester's eclipse history, a variety of selfie stations, library card sign-up tables, FFRPL recruitment, eclipse media playing throughout the day, a live stream of the event from NASA, space Legos, eclipse experience recording stations to capture oral history of the event, maps with pins to indicate where all the visitors traveled from, replays of previous eclipse programming, and, of course, outside viewing areas at both Rundel Terraces with announcements regarding when it is safe to take off glasses during totality.

MCLS Circulation

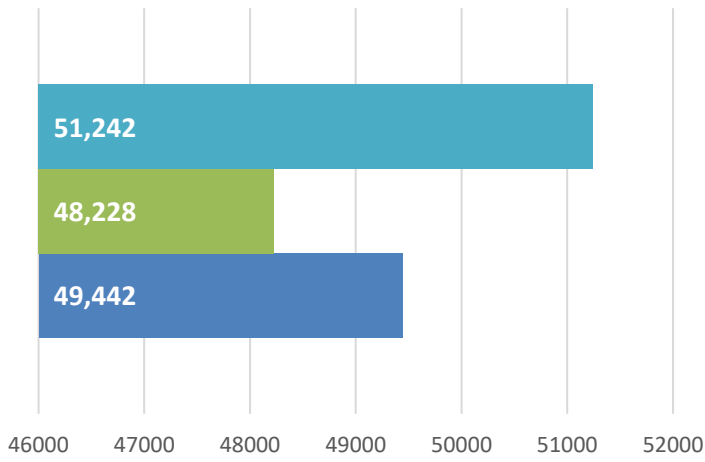
Town Libraries				
	Jan 2024	Jan 2023	+/-	%
Brighton	42,753	41,582	1,171	2.8%
Seymour	11,070	10,166	904	8.9%
Chili	17,443	17,013	430	2.5%
East Rochester	3,421	3,285	136	4.1%
Fairport	50,159	49,583	576	1.2%
Gates	18,091	18,457	(366)	-2.0%
Greece	41,303	41,125	178	0.4%
Hamlin	4,105	4,050	55	1.4%
Henrietta	35,832	33,983	1,849	5.4%
Irondequoit	34,717	31,541	3,176	10.1%
Mendon	6,993	8,007	(1,014)	-12.7%
Newman Riga	1,737	1,861	(124)	-6.7%
Ogden	10,090	9,524	566	5.9%
Parma	6,738	6,366	372	5.8%
Penfield	33,737	32,388	1,349	4.2%
Pittsford	44,092	41,258	2,834	6.9%
Rush	2,583	2,429	154	6.3%
Mumford	564	502	62	12.4%
Scottsville	2,731	2,312	419	18.1%
Webster	33,168	32,358	810	2.5%
<i>Towns Total</i>	<i>401,327</i>	<i>387,790</i>	<i>13,537</i>	<i>3.5%</i>
<i>RPL Total</i>	<i>69,467</i>	<i>66,327</i>	<i>3,140</i>	<i>4.7%</i>
MCLS Total	470,794	454,117	16,677	3.7%

RPL Central Statistics YTD

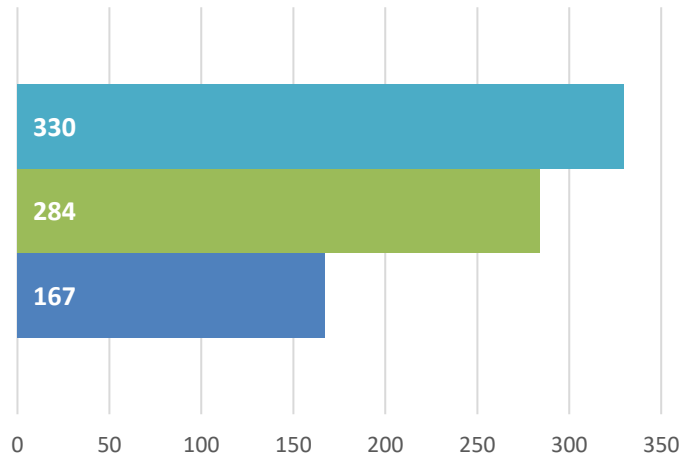
Jan



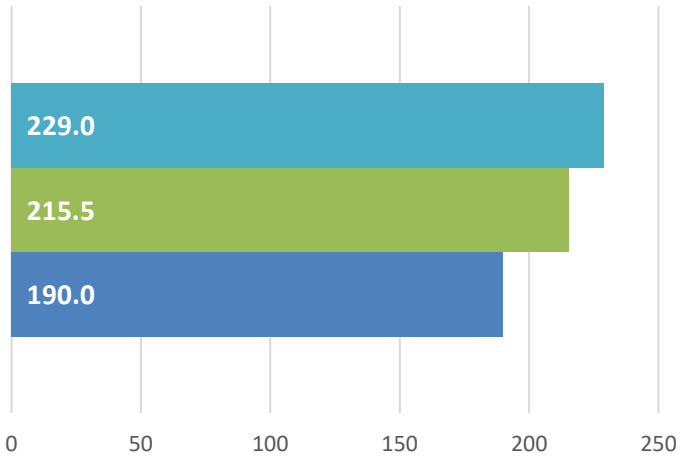
CIRCULATION



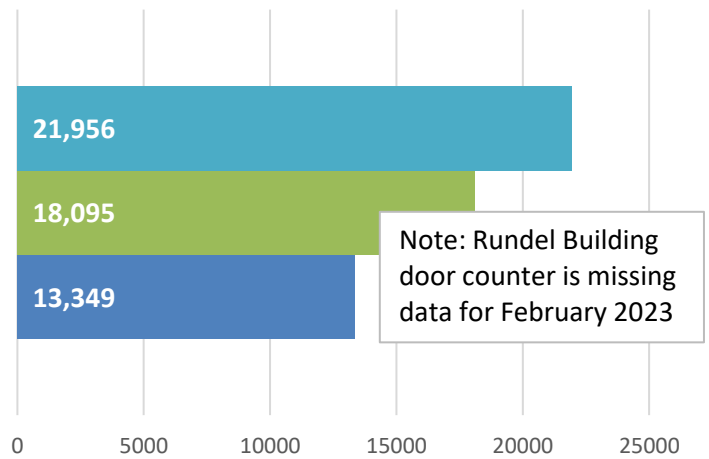
LIBRARY CARDS



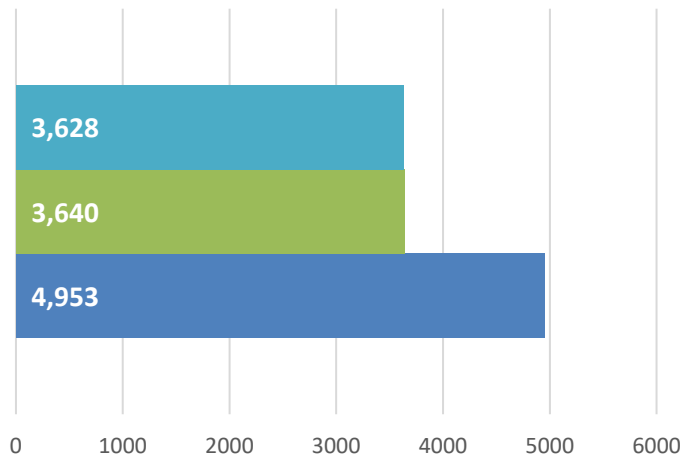
SERVICE HOURS



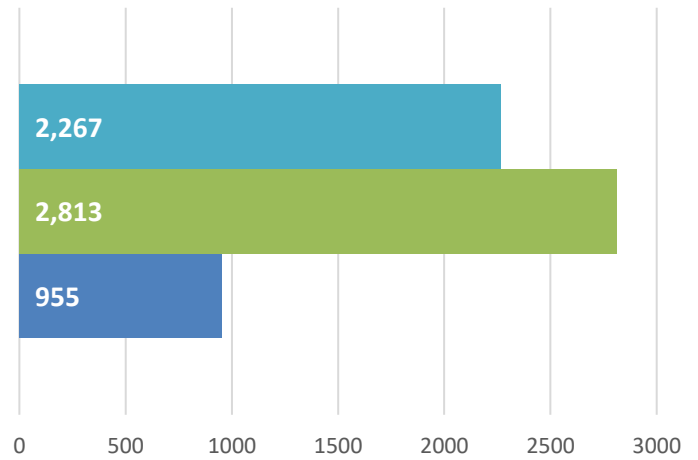
VISITS



REFERENCE QUESTIONS



NON-REFERENCE

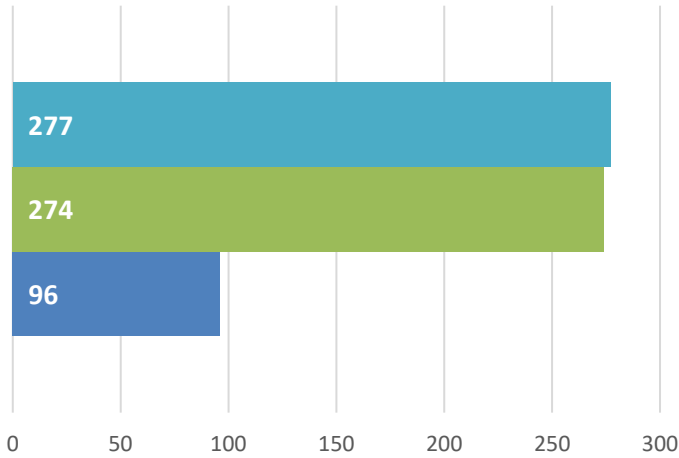


RPL Central Statistics YTD

Jan



NOTARY



DEFINITIONS

Circulation: Includes the circulation of all library materials both over the desk and virtual/e-content.

Library Cards: New patron registrations. Excludes renewals.

Service Hours: Hours the library is open to the public.

Visits: Door count of persons entering the library.

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Notary: Notary Public acts. Each signature counts as one act.

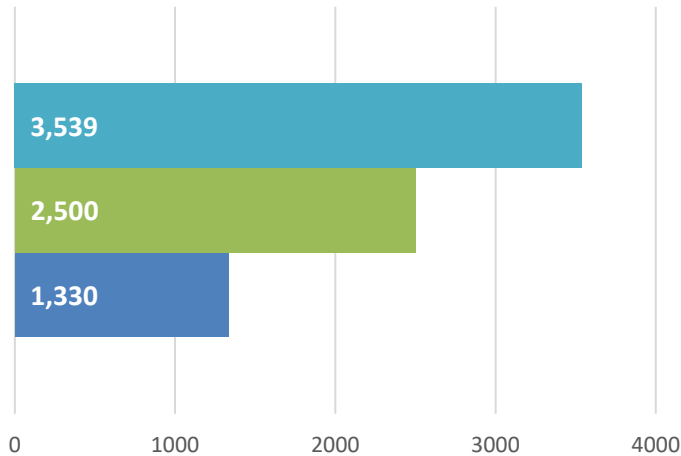
Computer Hours: Hours patrons used the public PCs.

WiFi Uses: Number of log-ins to the public WiFi.

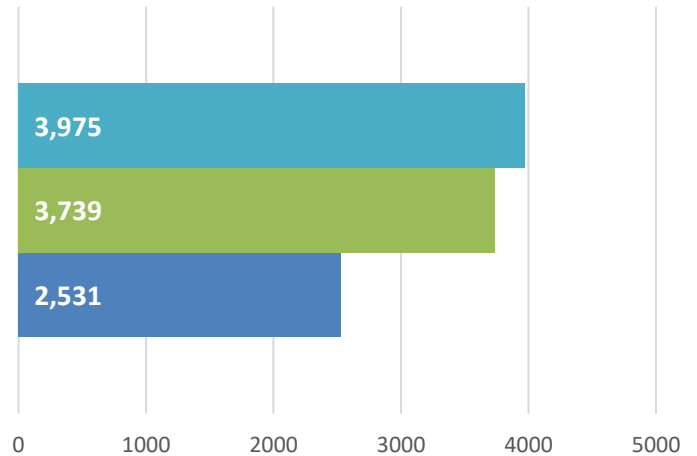
Group Programs: In-person and online programs. Excludes one-on-one programs and take-n-make.

Program Attendance: Attendance at Group Programs. Excludes staff and presenters.

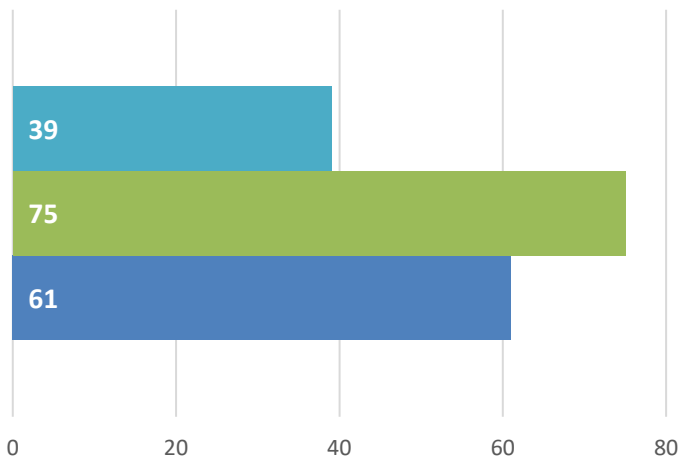
COMPUTER HOURS



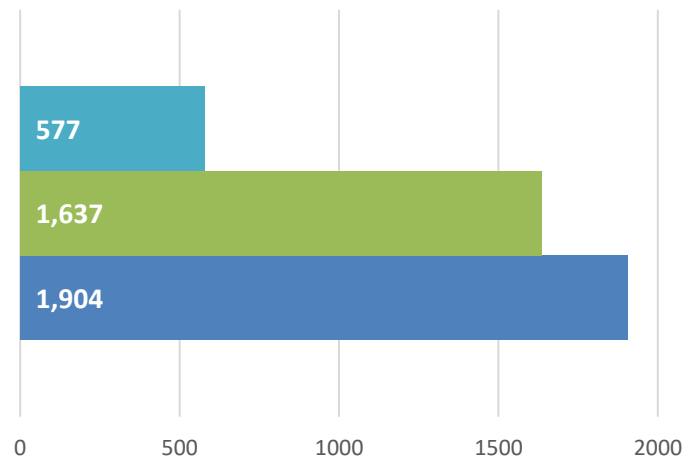
WIFI USES



GROUP PROGRAMS



PROGRAM ATTENDANCE



RPL Branch Statistics YTD

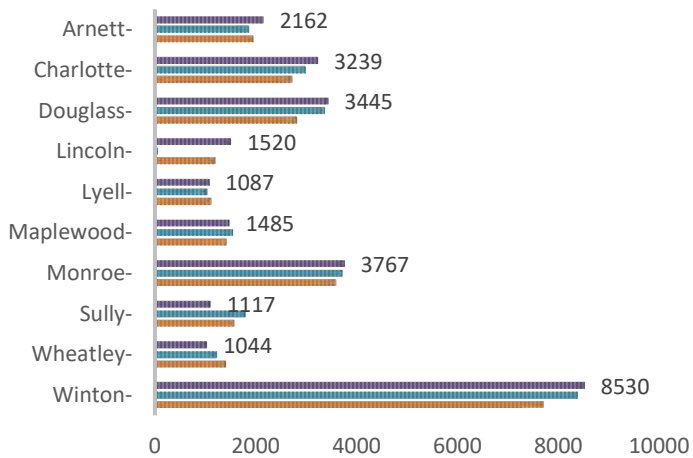
Jan

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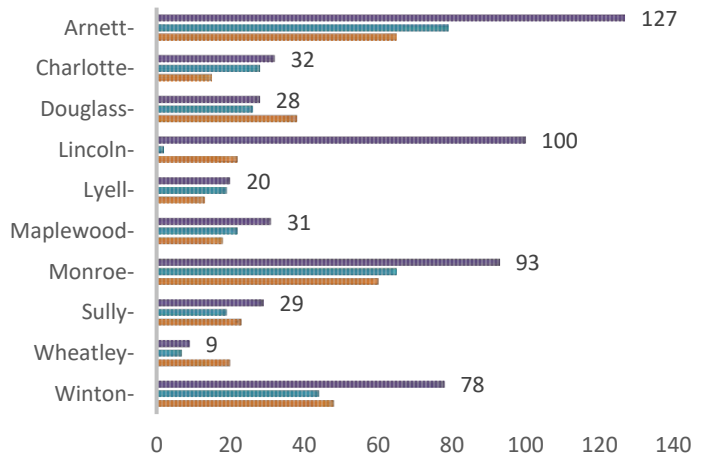
2023

2022

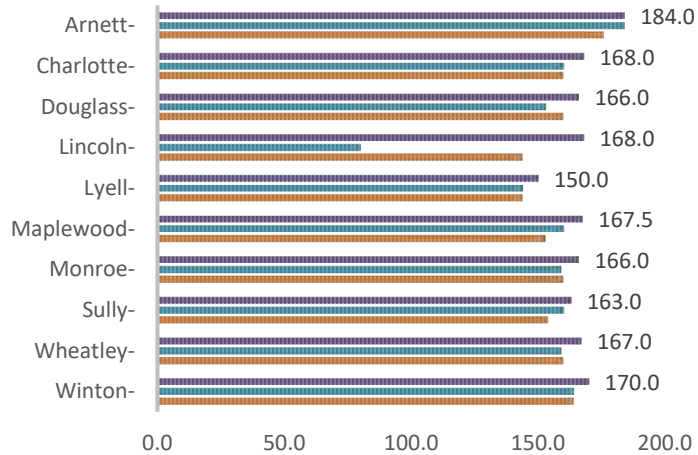
CIRCULATION



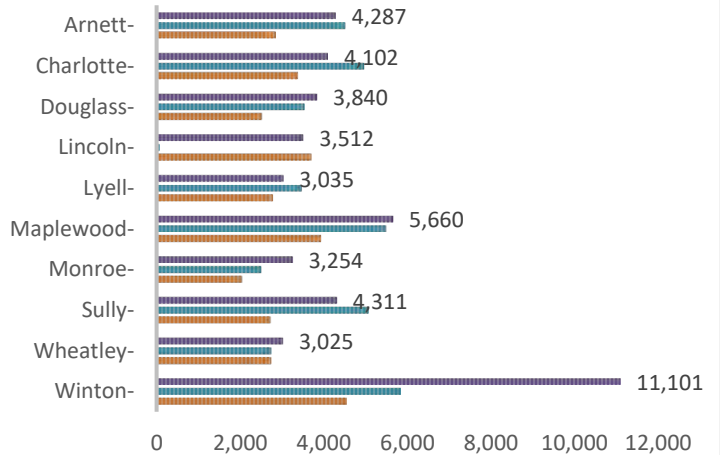
LIBRARY CARDS



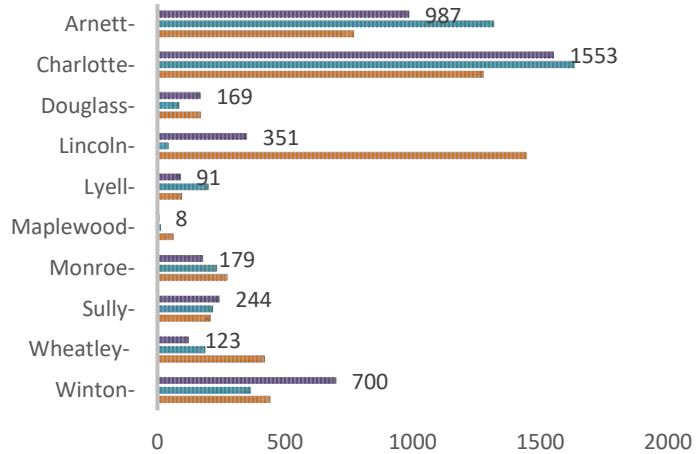
SERVICE HOURS



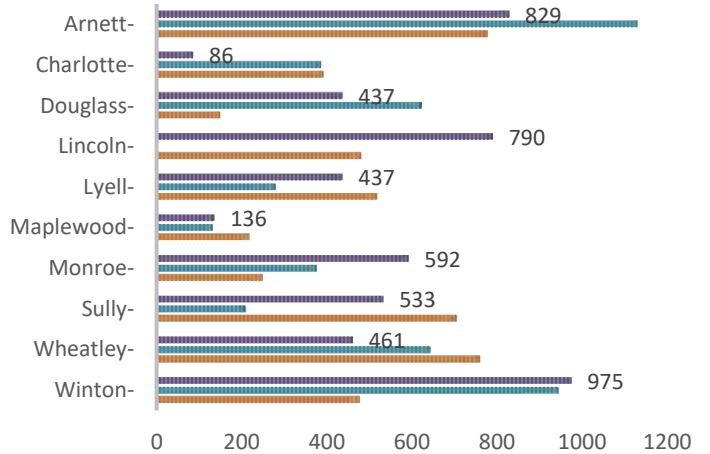
VISITS



REFERENCE QUESTIONS



NON-REFERENCE

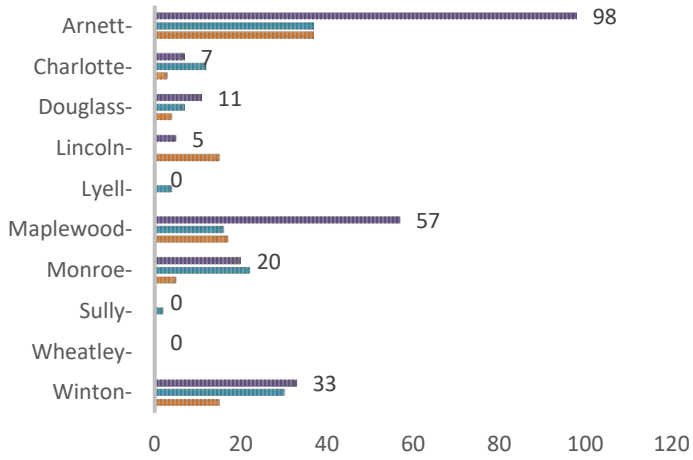


RPL Branch Statistics YTD

Jan



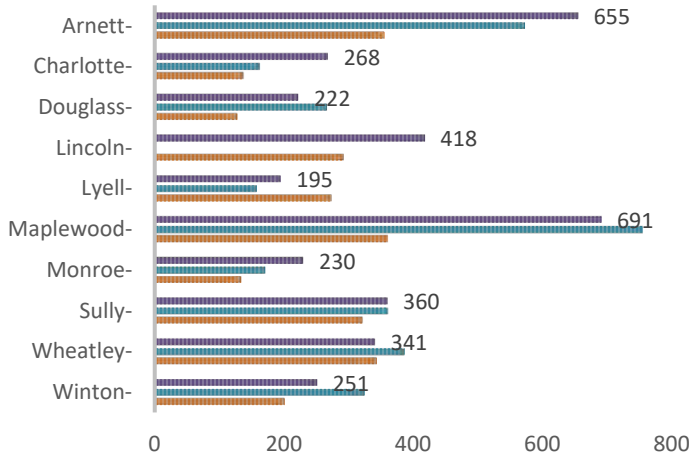
NOTARY



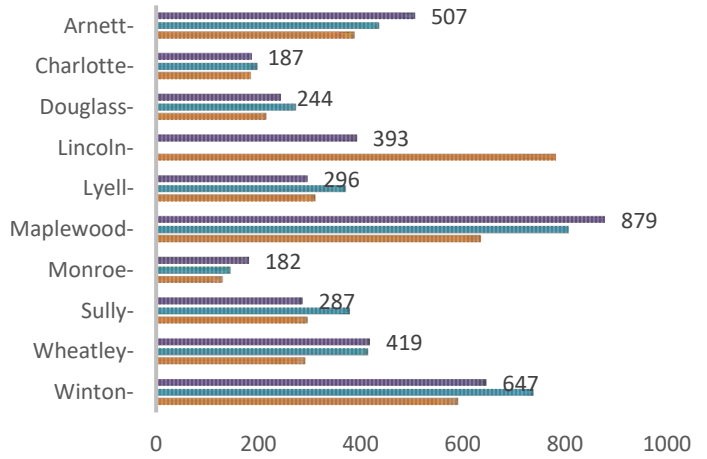
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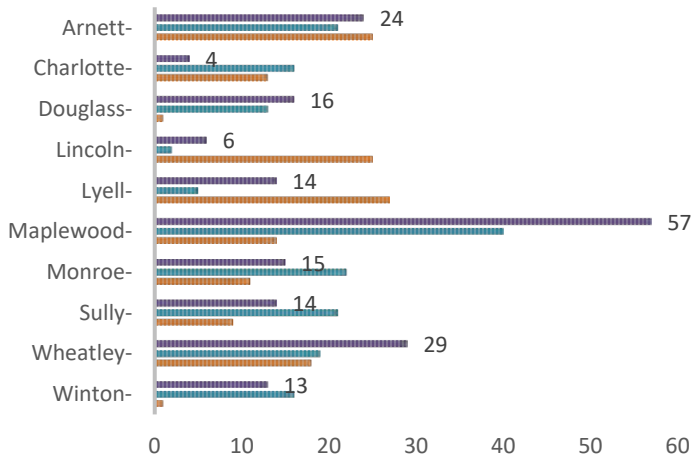
COMPUTER HOURS



WIFI SESSIONS



GROUP PROGRAMS



PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

