

**Rochester
Public Library**

More Than You Think

115 South Avenue | Rochester | New York | 14604

**Rochester Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting
Kusler-Cox Auditorium, Rundel Memorial Library Building
May 28, 2025, 9:00 a.m.
Agenda**

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Benjamin

II. ACTION ITEMS

- | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| 1. Minutes of Previous Meeting | Benjamin | page 3 |
| 2. Personnel Changes | Suro | page 7 |
| 3. Financial Reports | Hasselwander | page 9 |
| 4. 2025-26 Central Library Budget Updates | Hasselwander | page 13 & 41 |
| 5. 2025-26 Community Library Budget Updates | Hasselwander | page 13 & 43 |
| 6. Central Library Program Aid FY26 | Hasselwander | page 14 & 45 |
| 7. RRLC Grant Acceptance for Central Library | Clasper | page 14 |
| 8. RRLC Grant Acceptance for Charlotte Branch Library | Scanlon | page 14 |
| 9. RRLC Grant Acceptance for Winton Branch Library | Scanlon | page 15 |
| 10. Temporary Closure of Sully Branch Library for
HVAC and Lighting Upgrades | Scanlon | page 15 |

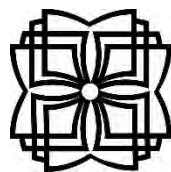
III. REPORT/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| 1. Liaison & Committee Reports | | |
| a. Liaison from the MCLS Board | Stockman/Clasper | |
| b. Liaison from the Reynolds Board | Salluzzo | |
| c. Liaison from the FFRPL | Borgus | |
| 2. Staff Reports | | |
| a. Director's Report/Central Library | Clasper | page 15 & 18 |
| b. Community Libraries | Scanlon | page 27 |

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

V. ADJOURNMENT

**Next Meeting
June 25, 2025
Central Library, Rundel Memorial Building**



**Rochester
Public Library**

More Than You Think

115 South Avenue | Rochester | New York | 14604

**Meeting of the RPL Board of Trustees
Central Library, Rundel Memorial Building
April 30, 2025
Minutes**

RPL Trustees Present: Donna Benjamin, Ellen Brenner, Elizabeth Call, Alinda Drury, James Kraus, Sharon Salluzzo, Jeffrey Tucker (quorum present)

RPL Trustees Excused: Daniel Karin, Sarah Murphy Abbamonte, Suzanne Stockman (observed online)

Staff and Guests: City Law Department Liaison, Allison Bartlett; City Council Liaison, Mitch Gruber; FFRPL Liaison, Donna Borgus; staff members, Emily Clasper, Katy Hasselwander, BJ Scanlon, Jennifer Smathers, Ana Suro

Call to Order

Ms. Benjamin called the meeting to order at 9:09 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

The minutes of the March meeting were approved as presented.

Personnel Changes

Ms. Suro called attention to the personnel changes and staffing levels for March 10, 2025–April 4, 2025, and offered to answer questions. Ms. Brenner MADE A MOTION to approve the personnel changes. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Financial Reports

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

NYS Annual Report

Ms. Clasper reviewed the highlights of the NYS Annual Report with everyone. After a brief discussion, Mr. Kraus MADE A MOTION to approve the RPL 2024 NYS Annual Report. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Central Library Shoulders to Stand On Special Event Hours

Ms. Clasper reviewed the item with everyone and offered to answer any questions. After a brief discussion, Ms. Drury MADE A MOTION to approve keeping the Bausch and Lomb Public Library Building open until 9:00 p.m. on May 21, July 16, September 1, and November 19, 2025, to accommodate the screening of archival films in the Kate Gleason Auditorium. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

RPL Special Event Extended Hours

Ms. Clasper presented the item. After a brief discussion, Ms. Call MADE AN AMMENDED MOTION to authorize the RPL Director to approve extended access to RPL facilities for RPL-sponsored or co-sponsored programs and events under the following conditions:

1. The extension shall not exceed a maximum of two (2) hours beyond regular operating hours.
2. The event shall not interfere with the regular provision of library services.
3. Adequate staffing must be available to ensure safety and security.
4. There shall be no negative impact on the library's budget.
5. The Library Board shall be notified before and after each event.
6. A summary report of all approved extensions shall be submitted to the Board at the end of each calendar year.

This authorization shall remain in effect through December 30, 2029. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Occupancy & Service Agreement Amendment, Empire Justice CASH Program

Ms. Hasselwander reviewed the item with everyone and explained the terms of the agreement are not changing. Ms. Brenner MADE A MOTION to approve the amended occupancy and use agreement with Empire Justice Center for CASH operations at the Central Library for a five-year extension ending February 25, 2030. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Kraus left the meeting at 9:31 a.m.

Liaison to the Monroe County Library System (MCLS) Board

On behalf of Ms. Stockman, Ms. Clasper reported that the MCLS Board approved the MCLS Annual Report to NYS, agreements for the placement of solar Wi-Fi-enabled tables as part of the Wired for Opportunity Program. In response to a question, Ms. Smathers explained how the tables work and gave a brief description of the Wired for Opportunity Program.

Liaison from the Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library (FFRPL)

Ms. Borgus reported that \$1000 was raised for RPL GO! on Library Giving Day. She also shared that RPL will receive a check for \$103,307.27 for circulating materials.

Director's Report/Central Library

Ms. Clasper offered to answer questions about the written report. She then reported that the City has shared preliminary figures for both the operational and capital budgets. Ms. Hasselwander added that staff are still reviewing this information, and a finalized version will be brought to the Board in May for approval. While more clarity is needed, it is anticipated that no staff positions will be cut. At the state level, a tentative agreement includes a 1% increase in library aid, pending formal passage.

Ms. Clasper then shared that a serious incident recently occurred at the Sully Branch. Staff received support, including Employee Assistance Program resources and on-site visits from administration. A visit by Eastman School of Music students coincided with the aftermath, offering a positive and timely experience for staff and patrons.

The Patron Incident Tracking (PIT) system has now been in use for six months. It has improved the library's ability to monitor, analyze, and respond to security-related events across the system. A formal report on trends and findings will be presented next month.

She reminded trustees that they renewed the contract with the Father Tracy Advocacy Center at their last meeting. Their team is now based in the Tech Center and is expanding services to branches, starting with Lincoln. Their partnership with the Peace Collective is also supporting services in the Foodlink Café. In response to a question, she explained the program is currently funded by City Council, and staff are exploring more sustainable funding options. Library staff have had very positive responses to having Father Tracy Center staff so readily available to help patrons in need.

Next, she reported that an organizational assessment is underway with a student consulting team from the Simon School of Business. Areas of focus include management structure, staff roles, and internal reporting. Feedback has been constructive, and a revised Board reporting format is planned for presentation in August.

In response to a question, she explained that changes have been made to RPL's monthly all-staff Zoom meetings based on survey feedback. Meetings now include a pre-distributed agenda, recordings, notes, and presentation materials to improve communication and engagement. Supervisors are expected to ensure the information is shared throughout their teams.

Finally, second-round interviews for the Associate Director position have been completed. The interview panel included staff from multiple departments. A follow-up meeting is scheduled to determine the next steps, with an announcement expected soon.

Ms. Drury left the meeting at 10:16 a.m.

Community Libraries

Mr. Scanlon began by revisiting a topic discussed the previous month regarding branch closures for staff training.

He reported that the Lincoln Branch recently closed for a training day. Staff reviewed procedures, discussed summer staffing needs, and toured the Eastman House library to build familiarity with VIP sites. Mr. Scanlon attended the morning session and found it to be a useful refresher.

Next, he reported on Arnett Branch, which closed on April 23. Staff toured Action for a Better Community, a nearby organization, and explored potential collaborations. The feedback on the visit was very positive.

Douglas Branch closed on April 25. Staff completed training videos, prepared for summer events, and reorganized their juvenile and tween collections to improve accessibility.

Charlotte Branch was scheduled to close that day, April 30. Staff planned to clean and reorganize storage and craft areas and relocate their local history collection for better visibility and care.

At Sully Branch, closing was planned for May 7. Staff would complete conflict resolution training and tackle some facility projects. A requested Stop the Bleed training was postponed to a later date due to presenter availability.

Looking ahead, Mr. Scanlon said Monroe and Winton Branches would close later in May. Lyle, Maplewood, and Wheatley opted out of spring closures due to scheduling and staffing transitions. Maplewood and Wheatley had not yet finalized fall closure dates.

He then provided an update on Maplewood’s temporary site. Old signage had discouraged parking but following a successful appeal to the Traffic Control Board, updated signage was installed to improve access. Mr. Scanlon called this a small but meaningful win. He also confirmed that the Maplewood renovation remains on schedule, with only minor decisions about furnishings still pending.

Next, Mr. Scanlon shared that the Health and Safety Committee has been reconstituted and will meet quarterly. Using data from the new Patron Incident Tracking system, the group will review trends and propose solutions. One recent example involved a patron at Wheatley with a visible knife; staff worked with the city to post updated signage banning weapons. Another involved an unexplained blood incident at Winton, which prompted additional safety conversations.

He highlighted a standout program underway at Sully: “Aviation Station,” led by Mr. Carter and supported by the Friends & Foundation. Ten students across two cohorts are receiving hands-on exposure to aviation careers, including tours, simulations, and guest speakers. Mr. Scanlon praised the effort and noted the program’s quick launch was thanks to generous donor support.

He then announced a new addition to the VIP pass program: The Little Theatre will offer a buy-one-get-one ticket deal. Mr. Scanlon noted this brings a rotating cultural experience to the program and expands its reach.

He also previewed a summer initiative: a raffle for new library cardholders. Each month from June to August, a winner will receive a \$30 media item, with the same item donated to their branch. The effort is supported by the Friends & Foundation.

Concluding, Mr. Scanlon shared details about a May 14 advocacy training session. Responding to growing public interest in supporting libraries, the session will equip attendees with tools to advocate effectively for library funding and legislation. It will be led by two retired state staff and supported by the Friends & Foundation.

Other Business

None

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

Dan Karin, Secretary

**ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY
PERSONNEL CHANGES
April 7, 2025, to May 9, 2025**

➤ **NEW HIRES**

Seidel, Matthew	Librarian I/PT/Lincoln Branch	05/05/2025
Naylor, Wayne	Building Maintenance Helper/PT/Winton Branch	05/05/2025

➤ **RESIGNATION**

Cutter, Olivia	Early Learning Specialist/FT/Central/Children's Center	04/12/2025
Harte, Claire	Library Assistant/PT/Central/Children's Center	05/02/2025
Organa, Chell	Clerk Typist/PT/Central/Circulation Department	04/26/2025

STAFFING

Full-Time Positions	Central	Branches
Budgeted	81	31
Filled	79	27
Vacancies	2	4
Part-time Positions	Central	Branches
Budgeted	105	136
Filled	72	111
Vacancies	33	25

**Rochester Public Library
Financial Report – Summary
May 28, 2025, Board Meeting**

Central Financial Report, April 2025

Salary & Benefits: Salaries, wages, and overtime within budget.

Equipment & Supplies: Materials purchases and other expenses are projected within budget. Security vest purchase invoice hits miscellaneous line.

Services & Charges: Services & Charges expenses within budget. Plumbing invoices hit maintenance lines. Additional funds transferred for contracted security services as needed.

Cash Capital: No new expenses since March. Remaining funds are reserved for planned expenses (HVAC) and unknown needs with upcoming construction projects. Report only reflects FY25 funds, which remain unspent.

Community Financial Report, April 2025

Salary & Benefits: Salaries and wages are within budget.

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

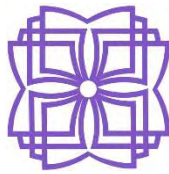
Services & Charges: Services & Charges expenses within budget. Additional funds transferred for contracted security services as needed (Lincoln).

Cash Capital: New expenses hit rollover funds include the remaining Lincoln roof payments, minor furniture purchases for Lyell & Sully, and NE design services.

Central Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2024-25 Fiscal YTD (through April 30, 2025)						
Category	Description	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Expenses FISCAL YTD	Remaining Balance	% of Budget
Salary & Benefits	Full-Time Salaries	4,943,000	4,943,000	4,152,003	790,997	84.0%
	Part-Time/Temp Salaries	1,597,400	1,581,300	1,141,896	439,404	72.2%
	Overtime	17,500	17,500	17,364	136	99.2%
	Employee Benefits	3,310,600	3,310,600	2,597,141	713,459	78.4%
	Employee Development	27,700	32,726	25,033	7,693	76.5%
	Other	59,800	59,800	46,588	13,212	77.9%
Sub Total		9,956,000	9,944,926	7,980,025	1,964,901	80.2%
Equipment & Supplies	Materials Budget	505,000	507,214	374,756	132,458	73.9%
	Other Furnishings & Equipment	10,100	10,100	339	9,761	3.4%
	Office Supplies	56,500	59,145	34,907	24,238	59.0%
	Other Materials & Supplies	51,000	55,175	31,526	23,649	57.1%
	Sub Total	622,600	631,634	441,528	190,106	69.9%
Services & Charges	Utilities	467,500	467,500	390,913	76,587	83.6%
	Facility Maintenance	103,400	132,962	57,668	75,294	43.4%
	Professional Services/Fees	221,600	228,991	179,322	49,669	78.3%
	Chargebacks	80,700	92,628	45,368	47,259	49.0%
	Service Charges - Other Gov't	51,400	51,400	39,092	12,308	76.1%
	Telecommunications	14,200	14,850	11,121	3,729	74.9%
	Other Expenses	204,400	227,348	92,807	134,541	40.8%
	Sub Total	1,143,200	1,215,678	816,291	399,387	67.1%
TOTAL EXPENSED		11,721,800	11,792,238	9,237,844	2,554,394	78.8%
Central Cash Capital	Facility Maintenance Allocation	94,000	94,000	0	94,000	0.0%
REVENUE RECEIPTS		11,736,100	11,736,100	4,907,516	6,828,584	
		Original Budget	Revised Budget	Central Library Support from City + Central Revenue		Outstanding Revenue

Community Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2024-25						
Fiscal YTD (through April 30, 2025)						
Category	Description	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Expenses FISCAL YTD	Remaining Balance	% of Budget
Salary & Benefits	Full-Time Salaries	2,080,100	2,071,500	1,565,789	505,711	75.6%
	Part-Time/Temp Salaries	2,026,400	2,013,400	1,558,724	454,676	77.4%
	Overtime	2,000	2,000	8,775	-6,775	438.8%
	Employee Development	22,900	26,610	12,342	14,268	46.4%
	Other	28,300	28,300	17,889	10,411	63.2%
Sub Total		4,159,700	4,141,810	3,163,521	967,879	76.4%
Equipment & Supplies						
	Materials Budget	496,600	502,973	369,400	133,573	73.4%
	Office Supplies	37,700	37,806	29,762	8,044	78.7%
	Other Materials & Supplies	34,500	35,512	22,590	12,923	63.6%
Sub Total		568,800	576,292	421,752	154,540	73.2%
Services & Charges						
	Utilities	224,500	229,993	176,765	53,228	76.9%
	Facility Maintenance	39,000	39,496	12,790	26,706	32.4%
	Professional Services/Fees	376,800	435,042	188,774	246,269	43.4%
	Chargebacks	27,300	37,982	24,500	13,482	64.5%
	Service Charges - Other Gov't	7,500	7,500	7,201	299	96.0%
	Telecommunications	21,400	22,631	13,851	8,780	61.2%
	Other Expenses	52,500	71,266	40,489	30,777	56.8%
Sub Total		749,000	843,910	464,369	379,541	55.0%
TOTAL EXPENSED		5,477,500	5,562,012	4,049,642	1,501,959	72.8%
Community Cash Capital	Computers & Equipment	10,000	10,000	2,107	7,893	21.1%
	Library Furnishings	12,000	12,000	9,232	2,768	76.9%
	Library Facilities	41,000	41,000	3,784	37,216	9.2%
	Library Capital Projects*	40,000				
Cash Capital Total		103,000	63,000	15,123	47,877	24.0%
REVENUE RECEIPTS		390,461	390,461	238,783	151,678	
* Projects administered by City DES						
	Original Budget		Revised Budget	Receipts FISCAL YTD	Outstanding Revenue	

Trust Funds Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2024-25						
Fiscal YTD (through May 9, 2025)						
	Allocation	Carry-forward	TOTAL	YTD Expenses	% of Total	
Reynolds Fund - RPL	4229	\$144,857	\$215,802	\$130,973	60.7%	
Fenevessy (Central + Branch bal)	4224	\$31,369	\$72,347	\$71,108	98.3%	
Kenyon-Jeffries Fund	4233	\$20,191	\$30,997	\$29,500	95.2%	
Purton Fund	4231	\$17,007	\$20,723	\$20,521	99.0%	
Gleason Fund	4225	\$15,862				
Gleason Fund (FFRPL)	4225	\$12,183	\$43,472	\$15,596	35.9%	
Gervickas Fund	4235	\$6,045	\$14,203	\$3,390	23.9%	
Taylor Fund	4226	\$3,610	\$7,640	\$3,806	49.8%	
Boland Fund	4232	\$1,541	\$3,076	\$572	18.6%	
Carnahan Fund	4228	\$1,555	\$1,555	\$902	58.0%	
Poletto Fund	4234	\$1,555	\$1,555	\$953	61.3%	
Beeney Fund (FFRPL)	4227	\$4,878	\$7,707	\$1,680	21.8%	
Craig Fund (FFRPL)	4236	\$2,716	\$3,925	\$243	6.2%	
Holtzman Fund (FFRPL)	4239	\$1,560	\$3,411	\$1,233	36.1%	
Lee Fund (FFRPL)	4237	\$1,475	\$4,056	\$425	10.5%	
Vietnam Veterans Fund (FFRPL)	4238	\$688	\$2,849	\$148	5.2%	
Tummonds Fund (FFRPL)	4241	\$88,391	\$142,532	\$88,429	62.0%	
TOTAL		\$355,483	\$220,367	\$369,480	64.2%	
Gift Fund Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2024-25						
Fiscal YTD (through May 9, 2025)						
Fund	Allocation	Transfer In	TOTAL	YTD Expenses	% of Total	
Gift Fund	4230	\$4,244	\$35,054	\$3,705	10.6%	



Rochester
Public Library

More Than You Think

115 South Avenue | Rochester | New York | 14604

TO: RPL Board of Trustees
FROM: Emily Clasper, Director
DATE: May 28, 2025
SUBJECT: Monthly Report–May 2025

Action Items

2025-26 Central Library Budget Updates (Hasselwander)

Since the Board approval of the Central Library budget in February, Monroe County offered a 1.5% increase in Public Service operating support and the NYS budget was passed with a 2.3% increase in Library Aid, 1.3% higher than originally projected. Both the City and County committed to a \$5,000 annual increase to the support of the City and County Historian's Offices. System services revenues and City prorated share of Central costs also finalized.

Final information provided on salaries and wages, chargebacks and worker's compensation. Minor adjustments were made to office supplies, dues and subscriptions, motor equipment, and equipment maintenance lines.

The Central budget as amended will be \$12,436,700, an increase of \$97,900 from February. We are distributing a revised expense and revenue summary, which reflect the changes described.

Board Action Requested: Approve the amended 2025-26 Central Library Budget at \$12,436,700, an increase of \$97,900 from February.

2025-26 Community Library Budget Updates (Hasselwander)

In February, the Board reviewed potential cut scenarios as required by all City departments. Since then, the City decided not to utilize any of the cut scenarios and instead increased the vacancy factor applied to part-time positions. Typically, a vacancy factor of 3% is applied to the budgeted wages for part-time positions. To close the operating gap, the vacancy factor applied to part-time positions increased by 3%, to 6%. This assumes that part-time positions are vacant 6% of the time, and the part-time wages are funded at 94%. This does not impact any individual's wages or position.

Minor adjustments were made to personal leave buyback and water chargebacks based on actuals.

The Community operating budget as amended will be \$5,617,800, a decrease of \$72,500 from February. We are distributing revised expense and revenue summaries, which reflect the changes described. Please note, there are no changes in estimated revenues.

While the operating budget reductions were limited, the City optioned to make reductions at the administrative level across all departments for the Capital Improvement Program, including the Library Fund. Changes from prior Board approval in fall 2024 are as follows:

- Branch Library Computer Replacements: FY26 allocation (\$50,000) is eliminated; remaining years intact. Prior years capital balance remains to support continued equipment purchases, but some PC purchases and wireless device replacements may be deferred.
- Branch Facilities Annual Allocation: FY26 is reduced by \$16,000 (\$40,000 from \$56,000) with the remaining years intact. A minor reduction was proposed as part of budget negotiations.
- Branch Furniture and Equipment: FY26 is reduced by half to \$12,000 (from \$24,000); remaining years intact.
- Branch HVAC Assessments: Deferred to FY27.
- Winton Renovations: Design deferred to FY27; construction allocation deferred to FY28.

Central Library

- Central Facilities Annual Allocation: FY26 is reduced by \$44,000 (\$50,000 from \$94,000); with remaining years intact. A reduction was proposed as part of budget negotiations.
- Rundel Structural Repairs, East Terrace: A FY29 allocation of \$5,500,000 for construction was removed from CIP, presumably deferred to a timeline outside the current five-year plan. With this work providing waterproofing membrane to protect prior structural work, we will be advocating for this to be restored to the original timeline in the next CIP cycle.
- Rundel Cooling System: Design deferred one year to FY29.

Board Action Requested: Approve the amended 2025-26 Community Library Budget of \$5,617,800, a decrease of \$72,500 from February.

Central Library Program Aid FY26 (Hasselwander)

The attached summary reflects expenditures across Central service divisions as reflected in the overall operating budget. Aid increases by 2.3% per NYS budget from 2024-25.

Board Action Requested: Approve the NYSED Central Library Development Aid of \$329,600 for the 2025-26 budget cycle.

RRLC Grant Acceptance for Central Library (Clasper)

The RPL was awarded \$713 from the Harold Hacker Fund for the Advancement of Libraries to facilitate the creation of VIP Pass Explorer Kits. This project is intended to enhance the Very Important Places (VIP) pass experience for patrons visiting four of our VIP pass partner locations (Memorial Art Gallery, Rochester Museum and Science Center, Corning Museum of Glass, and Sonnenberg Gardens) through the addition of materials that can be used during their visit to the location. This pilot project will help determine demand for these kinds of kits and the results will help inform the possible expansion of the kit collection to include other partner locations. It will also serve as a base for expanding the kits availability through other member libraries.

Board Action Requested: Accept a \$713 grant from the Harold Hacker Fund for the Advancement of Libraries administered by RRLC to support the creation of VIP Pass Explorer Kits at the Central Library.

RRLC Grant Acceptance for Charlotte Branch Library (Scanlon)

The Charlotte Branch Library was awarded \$1,487 from the Harold Hacker Fund for the Advancement of Libraries to facilitate the Recording Your Story Project. This funding will facilitate the purchase of equipment for recording high quality videos that can be transferred to DVD format. The goal is to facilitate a local oral history project, and programming will be done in connection with the City Historian. Older adults in the community can record oral histories of Charlotte that will be added to the Local History section, and additional programming opportunities are being developed to have grandparents and great grandparents record story readings for

current or future grandchildren. This is a partial pilot grant, that will allow for one set equipment. If successful, the program may be expanded with additional video equipment.

Board Action Requested: Accept a \$1,487 grant from the Harold Hacker Fund for the Advancement of Libraries administered by RRLC to support the Recording Your Story project at the Charlotte Branch Library.

RRLC Grant Acceptance for Winton Branch Library (Scanlon)

The Winton Branch library was awarded \$1,000 from the Harold Hacker Fund for the Advancement of Libraries to develop a new collection of Tonies and Yotos. The grant affords the opportunity to purchase two Yoto and two Tonie boxes for circulation as well as 20 figurines for the Tonies and 20 cards for the Yotos. The goal is to provide screen-free experiences for young patrons and interest in the boxes and materials will be gauged to see if this collection should be expanded in future years. These items will be used and enjoyed by caregivers and children ages two to five, fostering early literacy skills in ways they will find relevant and interesting.

Board Action Requested: Accept a \$1,000 grant from the Harold Hacker Fund for the Advancement of Libraries administered by RRLC to support the Winton Branch Library's development of a new circulating collection of Tonie and Yoto audio boxes.

Temporary Closure of Sully Branch Library for HVAC and Lighting Upgrades (Scanlon)

The complex that houses the Thomas P. Ryan R-Center, RCSD John James Audubon School No. 33, and the Sully Branch Library is undergoing upgrades to HVAC and lighting. The Thomas P. Ryan Center will be closed for most of the summer as their portion of the work is completed. Moving into the fall, work will begin at the Sully Branch Library. The work plan would currently require the Sully Branch Library to be closed from September 7, 2025–October 26, 2025. We are seeking approval to close the Sully Branch Library during the time of construction, with flexibility granted to the Director to adjust the closure dates to align with the construction timeline. During the closure, staff will be temporarily assigned to other libraries.

Board Action Requested: Approve the closure of Sully Branch library from September 7, 2025–October 26, 2025, or a similar time frame to align with the construction schedule, for HVAC and lighting upgrades.

Report & Discussion Items

RPL Director Emily Clasper reporting

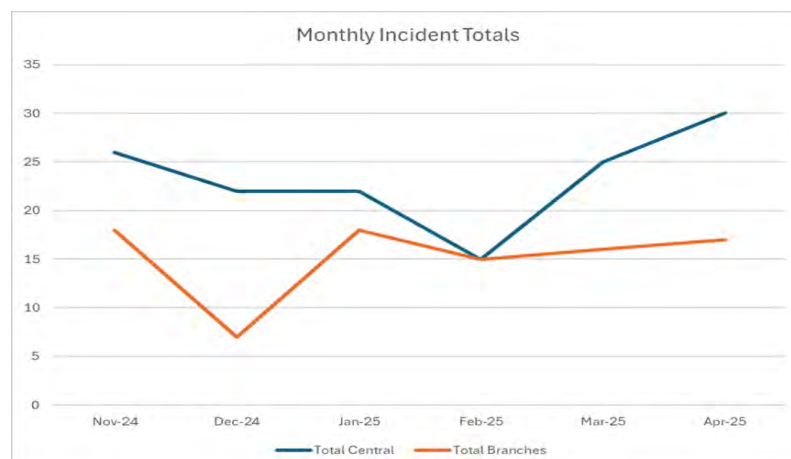
Recommended Reading

- Chicago Public Library no longer issuing e-cards starting in May:
<https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/chicago-public-library-e-cards/>
- Monroe Community College is [hiring for a Librarian who specializes in Information Literacy and AI](#), joining a nationwide trend towards promoting AI Literacy in Higher Education
- Pentagon Furthers Crackdown on Diversity Policies With Fresh Order for Review of Library Books:
<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/09/us/politics/pentagon-hegseth-dei-library-books.html>
- Federal cuts threaten program that allows suburban libraries to share books:
https://www.chicagotribune.com/2025/04/28/illinois-interlibrary-loan/?share=I5ihwtOnochia2rttsnn&fbclid=IwY2xjawJ_RbpleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHnmvrWhUzIZ4cr7nCVqCcD96PJg8mE46yfoOJaFC0AZTjPU3oOjhe_XhtB8T_aem_GfwmbwW_l4CqwaRse5VYuw
- Librarian of Congress firing is latest move in upheaval of U.S. cultural institutions:
<https://www.npr.org/2025/05/09/nx-s1-5393737/carla-hayden-fired-library-of-congress-trump>

- Trump administration fires top copyright official days after firing Librarian of Congress:
<https://apnews.com/article/copyright-director-firing-government-trump-7ab99992a96131bce7de853b66feec68>

Director's Update

- Mayor Evans and County Executive Bellow visited the Central Library during National Library Week, issuing a proclamation honoring the libraries of Rochester and Monroe County. This was part of a documentary screening event coordinated with WXXI. After the presentation of the proclamation, there was viewing of the Independent Lens film “Free For All: the Public Library” and a panel discussion featuring a number of Central Library staff. The documentary aired on WXXI television on April 29th, and can be viewed online at <https://www.pbs.org/independentlens/documentaries/free-for-all/>
- Clasper gave a presentation to the Rochester Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America, highlighting all of the exciting new initiatives and little-known treasures folks can find at their local Public Library. The audience was largely made up of library lovers who were extremely enthusiastic about the programs and resources they didn't know their libraries offered. One retired librarian in attendance even stood up to perform “The Library Song” that she learned during her years working at a library in Erie County. Many people asked for information about how they can advocate for their libraries in light of uncertainty in the Federal government.
- Clasper was a guest panelist on WXXI's Connections with Evan Dawson, speaking about the potential impacts of cuts to the Institute of Library and Museum Services on our local libraries. She was joined by colleagues from local museums as the group discussed the funding of cultural institutions and the importance of these organizations. <https://www.pbs.org/video/will-federal-actions-affect-local-libraries-and-museums-mfbkub/>
- As of April 30th, RPL has been using the Patron Incident Tracking System for six full months. During this time, 231 incidents were recorded with 62% of the incidents occurring at the Central Library. Of the remaining 38% of incidents, the largest number were reported at the Lincoln Branch. April was the busiest month with 47 total reports. A survey collecting staff feedback on the system and suggestions for improving its use to respond more effectively to incidents is underway. Preliminary feedback is generally positive, with staff citing benefits such as improved communication about issues and a dramatic reduction in response time when incidents occur.



- In response to concerns expressed by patrons, RPL has worked to put together Stand Up for Libraries: Library Advocacy Workshop. Emily Clasper and BJ Scanlon have worked with NYLA to identify important bills and budget actions at the NYS level and are supporting the reinstitution of the Institute of Museum and Library Services at the federal level. Allan Richards, a retired staff member in the NYS assembly, and Linda Donahue a former congressional staffer and retired labor educator at Cornell will present on best practices when advocating for state and federal support.
- RPL is getting ready to launch a Summer Library Card Program – this program funded by FFRPL will select one new library card subscriber for each month (June, July, and August) and the patron will win a free piece of media valued at \$30 or less. The branch library where they got their card will also get this item. We will monitor and compare year over year library card stats to see if there is any movement.
- Starting in May, RPL will be restarting it's Health and Safety Committee, which brings together representatives from across departments—Security, LAS, Facilities Maintenance, HR, Senior management, and labor representatives—to review health and safety concerns and recommendations at RPL. This initial meeting will focus on creating a shared understanding of the work and beginning outreach to staff. Already on the agenda are PITS review, plans to acquire AEDs for Branches, Narcan/Stop the Bleed kits, and a lactation room/pod.

Director's Site Visits

April

Ogden Farmers' Library
Irondequoit Public Library
Phillis Wheatley Community Library

March

Penfield Public Library
Henrietta Public Library
Rush Public Library
Sully Branch
Arnett Branch
Chili Public Library

February

Charlotte Branch
Maplewood Community Library

January

Frederick Douglass Community Library
Lyell Branch
Monroe Branch

Social Media



Central Library

Emily Clasper reporting

In honor of National Library Week, a four-day Banned Books Read-Out event was held in Hacker Hall. Each day, members of the community were invited to read aloud from their favorite banned and challenged titles. We were joined by members of library staff, City employees, Board members, and members of the community who were all excited to exercise their right to Read Freely.



Arts/Literature, Erin Clarke reporting

Programs

- Presentation on the historical context of Louisa May Alcott's classic *Little Women*. Professor Mark Sample discussed the impact the Emancipation Proclamation, the Draft Riots, the election of 1864, and Lincoln's assassination had on people living through this chaotic period of American history. Mark Sample is a Professor at Monroe Community College in the Anthropology, History, Political Science, and Sociology Department. This presentation was held once at Writers & Books and once in the Kusler-Cox Auditorium at Central.
- Words in Progress with Jen Case: in this monthly Zoom workshop you'll work within a creative and supportive writing community to hone your craft and tell your story. Expect a variety of activities that will help you generate new ideas, revise existing projects, and establish effective writing practices for yourself. All levels of experience are welcome.
- Pathway of Resistance: Erie Canal and the Underground Railroad - For the 200th anniversary of the Erie Canal, the Erie Canal Museum has been doing various series on the history of the canal. The Arts Division

featured Steph Adams, who gave an informative presentation on the history of the canal through the Black American experience, both in its relation to enslaved peoples and Black Americans that worked on the canal.

- Create a Fairy Doll: Come celebrate spring with us and create these whimsical flower fairies out of wire or clothespins. You will learn how to make the body, clothing, and accessories. Perfect for a garden fairy house!

Anecdotes/Other

Andy Coyle received an email from a graduate student to thank Coyle for all his help proctoring: *"I wanted to reach out and let you know that I'll be graduating from NC State's Electrical Engineering Master's program at the end of this week. Thank you so much for your help with proctoring while I lived in Buffalo last year. It was truly appreciated. The support you provide for students of all kinds is making the world better."*

Business Insight Center (BIC), Jennifer Byrnes, reporting

Programs

- Business First Wednesday – Buying and Selling a Business presented by Lydia Palmer from Alliance Advisory Group.
- Cannabis Career Overview and Rights and Responsibilities. Presented by April Smith of the Cannabis Workforce Initiative.
- Cannabis Plant Science and Job Overview. Presented by April Smith of the Cannabis Workforce Initiative.
- Thinking Money for Kids: Currency Conga. Currency Conga. A Twister comparable game, players move their hands and feet to different parts of the mat dictated by spinning a spinner. Instead of different colors, the mat has different denominations of United States Currency. Children learned what each denomination of money was called and how much it was worth.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Melissa Cobo and Lily Anthony attended the 46th Annual Patent and Trademark Resource Center Program's Training Seminar from April 14 to April 17. At this four-day seminar Anthony and Cobo learned tips and tricks on searching for intellectual property and networked with other Patent and Trademark Resource Centers throughout the country.
- Anthony started Libraries as Launchpads Entrepreneurship Librarian Certificate. The seven-week course focuses on what needs the entrepreneurs in the community need, and how the library can assist them. Cobo is participating in Lead On: Supervisor Leadership Development Training by the Jackman Group through the City of Rochester. This is a ten-week program.
- Anthony and Cobo did a presentation in two graduate level classes, Invention & IP Management and Design & Invention, at Cornell University on how to search for patents using Public Patent Search, the free database on the United States Patent and Trademark Office's website.
- Byrnes presented on intellectual property and market research to ChargeUp, a 6-month accelerator program that supports startups developing next-gen solutions across the battery and energy storage value chain. ChargeUp is affiliated with the Koffman Incubator in Binghamton.
- Byrnes presented to the 8th cohort of Luminate, a startup accelerator focused on advancing next-generation optics-, photonics-, and imaging-enabled companies. Luminate is affiliated with NextCorps.

Consulting

- Hours of in-depth market research/prior art searching: 45
- The Carlson Center for Intellectual Property assisted:
 - In person: 1

- Email: 24
 - Mail: 0
 - Phone: 2
 - Zoom: 5
- 3D Printer: 3, with 8 separate components
- Requests Outside Greater Rochester Area: 8
- Referrals to Tracy Jong (Intellectual Property Attorney): 2
- Referrals to Davis Bassett (Patent Agent): 3

Database Usage Statistics

- Frost & Sullivan - Page views: 21 Value: \$77,950
- IBISWorld - Page views: 75 Value: \$43,330
- InnovationQ - Logins: Searches:
- Mintel - Sessions: 43 Page Views: 30 Downloads: 14
- PitchBook - Logins: 22
- Statista - Page views: 58 Downloads: 25
- Foundation Directory - Searches: 51 Views: 59

Wired for Opportunity Program

- Anna Neumaier has been engaging in a number of training opportunities aimed at helping her develop skills that will help her perform her duties executing the Digital Equity Program. These included Mastering the Art of Difficult Conversations training with Alliance Research, the Know Your Fair Housing Rights talk and the Urban Libraries Unite Urban Library Trauma Study training. She also attended the Digital Equity Academy live session, where they discussed funding sources and charting funding in your organization, as well as pros and cons of E-Rate.
- Total Literacy Rochester Visits - 271
 - Central - 68
 - Irondequoit - 30
 - Winton - 29
 - Lincoln - 24
 - Lyell - 21
 - Penfield - 18
 - Gates - 15
 - Phyllis Wheatley - 15
 - Webster - 15
 - East Rochester - 12
 - Arnett – 6
- Mi-Fis
 - Circulations: 934
 - Holds: 642
 - Number of Units Circulating: 880
- Udemy:
 - Users Active this month: 858
 - Most Popular Course Category: Generative AI for Tech
 - Most Popular Class: 100 Days of Code: The Complete Python Pro Bootcamp
 - Courses enrolled in: 48

- o Courses started: 28
- o Courses completed: 2
- The solar table locations have been finalized and the tables have been ordered. The logo and graphic for the solar tables have been finalized.
- The request for proposals was issued for a provider for computer class instruction.

Anecdotes/Other

Byrnes was named a “Mover & Shaker” by Library Journal. Library Journal's 2025 Movers and Shakers represent the best of the creative, inspiring, visionary, and committed individuals who are advancing the library field. LJ highlights the Movers' important work supporting students, families, and individuals lean in to learning, connect with community, and engage with reading.

Children's Center, Chelsea Arnold reporting

Programs

- More than 100 children visited the library and the children and teen areas for the City's Take Your Child to Work Day. Children enjoyed browsing the shelves and discovering the Secret Room.
- We welcomed animals from the Seneca Park Zoomobile during Spring Break, who engaged an audience of more than 50 people.
- Nadia Morales did a Spring umbrella pop-up card craft, where kids made rainy day pop-up cards out of construction paper. Morales also did a Think Money program with Lily Anthony from the Business department, where kids learned about coin values by playing a financial version of the game Twister.



- Miranda Hazen held three Art and Craft programs this month: a 6x6 Art Party where participants made 6x6 pieces to submit to Rochester Contemporary Art Center's annual art show fundraiser, Rainy-Day Watercolor with oil pastels and straw blown watercolor paints during spring break, and a Recycled Magazine Basket craft on Earth Day.
- Hazen also offered a LEGO Lab with a garden theme. Participants built their own LEGO Gardens that were added to the green garden already in our display!



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Representatives from RMSC came to the monthly MCLS children's services meeting. They shared information on the educational programs they can offer at libraries.
- Arnold participated for the second year in a row as a judge at the Rochester City School District's Annual Storytelling Festival, listening to a group of city school students recite and reenact memorized stories.

Raising A Reader

RAR staff have been dealing with the recent resignation of one of their team members. RAR staff continued with story times for sites and keeping the lines of communication open with teachers. Staff coordinated pick up dates and end of year celebrations for each site. Margarita Chaves also attended Ibero's Spring/Easter celebration. Chaves was able to reconnect with families and teachers by sharing books and catching up on how the program has impacted their reading at home.

Circulation/Information, Chad Cunningham reporting

Statistics

- Curbside Pickup Appointments- 0
- New Borrowers- 361
- RRLC Access Cards Issued- 7
- Notarial Acts- 164

Anecdotes/Other

- A patron came by the Circulation desk to check out a MIFI unit. He exclaimed that having the MIFI unit has been so convenient in helping him do schoolwork and search for jobs. He also inquired about what small business resources the library provides in assisting him in starting a barber business for disabled folks.
- A patron with limited tech skills came to the Circ desk looking for help printing from his phone. He needed text messages printed out and didn't know how to do so. Kathy Sochia spent 90 minutes helping him print the messages. He was very grateful.

Local History & Genealogy, Shalis Worthy reporting

Programs

- The Local History & Genealogy Division partnered with The University of Rochester as part of their Neilly Author Series to bring Dr. Camden Burd to the Central Library to present on his book *The Roots of the Flower City*. Guests of this program learned about Rochester's early plant nursery industry and how it helped shaped Rochester into the city it is today.
- The Local History & Genealogy Division hosted the 8th Annual Anthony Mascioli Rainbow Dialogues. Panelists discussed LGBTQIA+ activism in Rochester's past and present. The panelists gave inspiring insight on this topic to much applause and engagement from the audience. This program allowed us to strengthen our connections with the LGBTQ+ community and engage them about activism in the community's past and present.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

Shalis Worthy completed a Copyright First Responders Network four-part training on copyright law for libraries. Completion of this training allows her to join the Copyright First Responders Network support group, which offers support and keeps participants updated on current events and legal decisions around copyright law.

Anecdotes/Other

Antoine McDonald was honored by Mayor Malik Evans for his service as the only Black male librarian in the Rochester Public Library system from 2017 until now.

Office of the City and County Historian, Christine Ridarsky reporting

Programs

- The Office of Rochester & Monroe County History, in partnership with RIT, presented "The Raging Erie," a book talk by author Mark Ferrara. The talk was one of many events planned this year for the Erie Canal Bicentennial. Following the talk, the library, RIT's Department of History, and RIT Press hosted a reception for Rochester History journal subscribers to celebrate the journal's receipt of the Association of American Publisher's 2025 Prose Award for Best New Journal in Humanities and Social Sciences. The journal was eligible because of its new format and design.
- Historian Christine L. Ridarsky led a walking tour of the City's Heritage Trail for members of the City's Team of Leaders.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Much of the historian's time this month was spent engaged in planning and participating in events related to the 200th anniversary of the opening of the Erie Canal and the upcoming 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. Some events commemorating these occasions have already started happening, with many more to come!
- Historian Christine L. Ridarsky was a guest on WXXI's Connections with Evan Dawson on April 11 as part of a segment on the bicentennial. You can listen at <https://www.wxixnews.org/show/connections/2025-04-11/marking-the-bicentennial-of-the-erie-canal>.
- Ridarsky participated in meetings of several City, County, and external committees throughout the month, including the Monroe County Airport Centennial Planning Committee, the City archives and records management improvement working group, the City's Civil Rights Heritage Park Advisory Committee, and the Rochester Museum & Science Center (RMSC) Collections Committee.
- Ridarsky met with representatives from the Rochester Area Community Foundation, Rochester Historical Society, and Greentopia to discuss the possibility of repurposing the site of the former High Falls Interpretive Center as a satellite location for Rochester Historical Society exhibits and a visitors' center for the forthcoming High Falls State Park.
- Ridarsky held various meetings with representatives from RIT Press, RIT Department of History, and RIT Archives to discuss a new contract for continued publication of Rochester History journal and a proposal to hold a symposium next year in honor of Gene DePrez on the theme of civic engagement.

Reynolds Media Center, Joseph Born reporting

Reference

RMC handled 864 reference questions and 416 non-reference transactions for a total of 1280.

RMC Circulation

- RMC loaned 8 pieces of equipment and 934 Mi-Fi units in addition to the regular collection. As of this writing we have 696 holds on our Mi-Fi units, with 874 currently circulating. RMC is still waiting for cases to house the Mi-Fi units waiting so we can add them to our circulating collection.
- Total circulation of RMC materials, including those that occurred at other libraries was 11,812.
- RMC materials accounted for 30% of the overall Central Library circulation (before renewals).

Programs

- First Friday Film: *A Real Pain*
- See it First Matinee: *Mufasa*
- Brown Bag Book Discussion: *Mania* by Lionel Shriver
- RMC also sponsored a viewing of *Free For All: The Public Library* in collaboration with WXXI

Hoopla

Circulation

- Audiobooks – 2029
- Binge Pass – 44
- Comics – 148
- eBooks – 453
- Movies/TV – 428
- Music – 97
- **Total Circulation – 3239**

Users

- New users – 89
- Patrons using all 7 borrows – 174 (18%)
- Total users – 967

Cost

- Total - \$7,336.45
- Per item –\$2.28

Science and History, Gabe Pellegrino reporting

Programs

- Action Vision Board Blastoff: From Vision to Victory was presented by Lisa A. Johnson, Educator and Resilience Coach. In this interactive workshop, Lisa educated patrons on how to set goals and action plans for a specific vision or result. Participants set personal goals and determined the steps to achieve them using handouts provided by Lisa. Then they used this information to create a vision board using poster boards, crayons, colored pencils, markers, clip art, and other supplies. This was a teaching moment for people to work on their priorities. The instructor and assistant were personally engaged with each attendee as they created these vision boards to help them in the future.
- This tax season, representatives from the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance Taxpayer Assistance Program (TAP) were on site assisting people filing their taxes. Florence Morris, who plans and implements this program, reports that 163 people were assisted this year.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- April ushered in a new group of medical students visiting the Science Division and holding the weekly health clinic in partnership with the University of Rochester Medical Center, Center for Community Health and Prevention. The Division is grateful to have the continuing commitment from UR Medicine. Even if they are

not pursuing a distinction in community health, the students are engaging with the public. In speaking with the new students, Pellegrino found that several of them have not declared their specialty yet, so this method of partner outreach is mutually beneficial to the students and the library.

- LROC (Library Resource Outreach Center) visitors numbered about 45 people seen in April. These numbers also include visits to Legal Assistance of Western New York, who assist with various legal and housing issues. There were 5-10 visits to LawNY.

Anecdotes/Other

- Earlier in the year, Morris ordered a bicentennial banner celebrating the 200th anniversary of the completion of the Erie Canal, free of charge, from the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. With the help from the Maintenance staff Sam Marciano and Joel Gaffney, this large banner has been hung from one of the atrium bridges in the Science, History and Social Sciences Division. The banner is visible, looking up from the first-floor main entrance of the Bausch & Lomb Library Building.
- To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War on April 29, Alaikia Miller created a new display, including a book display area housed in the cabinets adjacent to the Vietnam Learning Center. Many of the books within the display are very recent personal narratives from Vietnam Veterans. In May there will be a program regarding the women veterans of Vietnam.

Technology Center, Jay Osborne Reporting

Programs

- Senior Planet Computer Basics started in April, already proving to be a very popular program! Several organizations in Rochester have begun providing free Chromebooks to seniors that they can keep after they complete a series of computer classes. Many of those seniors have come to the Computer Basics class to get started.
- Coding Club has also seen high attendance and engagement from both teens and adults. This program is designed for anyone interested in learning anything from foundational computer skills and technology sector job skills to wiring electronics and programming microcontrollers. This program's attendees have considerable influence on the topics covered. Votes on suggested topics are taken, and the curriculum is shifted to accommodate the needs of the group. This has been a remarkably successful program and with a recent infusion of needed hardware and supplies, an increase in attendance is expected.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Both Hammond and Wallance began the training to become certified trainers for Senior Planet, a digital literacy program for older adults. This certification will allow them to collaborate with Shropshire, who introduced the program to the Tech Center. Goodwill of the Finger Lakes, which administers the program, is the agency providing the training. Through these efforts, the Technology Center looks forward to expanding digital access and education to an important segment of the community.
- In addition to his daily duties, Hammond began participating in Cohort XI of the LeadOn: Supervisor Leadership Development Program. This 11-week program equips future leaders with essential skills in leadership strategy, team building, and succession planning. Through this initiative, Hammond is gaining tools to enhance his leadership and teamwork abilities and contribute to a positive and productive work environment.

Anecdotes/Other

- Late in April we heard from a patron who used to extensively use our reservable study rooms for therapy, addiction recovery, and medical appointments. Technology Center staff also assisted this patron with the full spectrum of job assistance we offer such as updating his resume, searching for jobs, obtaining certifications, and applying for open positions online. The patron came in just to tell us he is no longer homeless and is gainfully employed. He won an MVP award at the data entry job he applied for with assistance from Tech Center staff.
- One day, a patron asked for help in one of the meeting rooms, but it turned out that he didn't need any help. He did need to talk. In a 20 minute mostly one-sided conversation, the patron explained how much the library has meant to him over the years. The library is where he first learned the biology and chemistry he needed to become a nurse. The library is where he studied for all his tests and where he took many of those tests. He mentioned that now that he has achieved many of his academic and professional goals, some people don't understand why he still comes to the library to work. He explained that he comes here because there is always activity and it is a reminder of where he started. He gestured to the desk and the busy computer area and said, *"You really have no idea what a difference you are making every day in the lives of the people that are here every day and the impact you are all having on the community"*.
- Technology Center staff have seen a sharp increase in the number of patrons utilizing the public library for assistance obtaining REAL IDs and Enhanced IDs. The downtown DMV has been sending folks that need extra assistance to the library in order to take permit tests and complete appointment scheduling.
- Having recently begun operating out of one of the Technology Center's Innovation Spaces, the Father Tracy Advocacy Center (FTAC) has been able to work with some of our patrons most in need of assistance. Providing resources on Mondays and Fridays, FTAC has assisted our patrons with referrals for housing and social services coordination. Our patrons are getting more comprehensive help and guidance by shifting the location of the Father Tracy service point to the Technology Center. Patrons can more thoroughly utilize the connections and resources provided by both teams to directly interface with social service organizations and governmental services providers.

Teen Central, Shetora Banks and Jeff Bostic reporting

Programs

- Teen Nail program: Teens were given manicure supplies and shown how to properly push back cuticles, clip nails evenly, and file in one direction. All of these actions encourage nail length retention and allow the polish to adhere smoothly to the nail for a polished finished product. Participants really enjoyed playing with the gel polishes to create custom artistry and some even ventured to design custom press on nails for later use. Nail design helped us to discuss some underlying health issues that can be observed including heart, lung, liver, or thyroid problems, as well as nutritional deficiencies. It also allowed us to discuss the nail technician profession and NYS requirements to get licensure. This is definitely going to be a repeat program as it has already been requested for more supplies!
- Teen Collage: A collaborative effort by some of our regular teens to bring the quote "We are the Ones we've been waiting for; we are the change that we seek. - Barack Obama" to life. A QR code at the bottom of the collage will lead admirers to a song "Angels" by Chance the Rapper. Through the construction of the collage, we discussed a multitude of different people seen in the magazines we were using and any noteworthy contributions they may have made. We discussed what legacies we would like to leave, and a consensus was made that wealth was good, but fame may be overrated. Participants said this was a fun, stress-busting activity that led to a cool outcome!

- **Photovoice Project:** This project was completed over 6-weeks in partnership with Diane Bardeen and staff, a new grassroots non-profit, Adorned with Grace, in collaboration with the 9th Floor Artists Collective, and Teen Central. We recruited youth who attend the library on a regular basis. They brainstormed the theme and learned an introduction to photojournalism through a process called Photovoice. At the end of the program participants presented their final projects to an audience as a gallery event and spoke on their personal creative processes. Participants learned about some other agencies in our community that are teen friendly and a creative way to spotlight people and places they experience daily. They were able to merge photography and AI capabilities to produce exclusive artistry. Every meeting was catered, and the teens were compensated with a \$160 stipend; needless to say, they were ecstatic!
- **Murals** led by Francheska Diaz and the ROC Paint Division were created on the wall outside the Imagine You Lab and inside the glassed-in portion of the studio room of Imagine You. The murals are inspired by the Central Library's large collection of comic books, graphic novels and manga on the second floor. The first mural is inspired by summer days at Durand beach hanging with friends. The next mural is a scene of downtown Rochester, depicting imagery of the bridge with fireworks representing the annual Fourth of July fireworks downtown. While these artists were painting the walls others from their group were engaging our teens with Zine making—a small-batch, non-commercial publication often produced by hand. It can be written, drawn, photographed, or collaged, and explores a wide range of topics.



Community Libraries

BJ Scanlon reporting

April was a busy month with our branches focused a lot on education and resource building. Spring staff days will occur for 7 of the 10 branches between mid-April and late-May. During staff days, libraries are closed for the day, and staff get together for continued education and to work on projects.

BJ Scanlon and Alicia Gunther met with Ayette Jordan, the Executive Director at the Little Theater, and the Little will be the newest member of the Libraries VIP (Very Important Places) program, offering a buy one, get one free ticket for any regular show.

Finally, we offer our congratulations to Cathy Kyle at the Charlotte Branch who won a partial Harold Hacker Grant that will allow Charlotte to acquire video recording equipment, to begin recording oral histories to add to their local history collection, and will work with the City Historian for additional programing. We also offer our

congratulations to Kathy Wolf and Emily Smith who won a fully funded Harold Hacker Grant to develop a new collection of Tonies and Yotos for the Winton Branch.

Branch Administration, Amy Discenza reporting

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- RPL Marketing Team meeting: The team assembled to vote on the designs submitted for the teen sticker contest.
- As part of the City of Rochester Opioid Team, Amy Discenza provided a written branch update and delivered 500 copies of the RPL marketing brochure to City Hall for distribution to the four community-based organizations participating in the Neighborhood Ambassador Program. Discenza and Clasper attended the April Opioid Steering Committee meeting, which was held in the Kusler-Cox Auditorium. There were many prominent Rochesterians in attendance, including leadership from the city, County, Center for Youth, Rochester Regional, Jordan Health, Trillium Health, Regional Health Reach, Rochester City School District, University of Rochester, Cameron Ministries, Father Tracy Advocacy Center, MC Collaborative, Barakah Muslim Charity, Baden Street, Rochester Transit, AFSME, and the Rochester Police Department. During the session, Lilliana Ruiz, who leads the City of Rochester Opioid Team, spoke about the approved uses of opioid funds, while Dr. Stephanie Godleski from the RIT Research Team presented on evidence-based practices and their significance to this project. Additionally, Matthew Jarrett, Dr. Rachel McGinnis, Dr. Tisha Smith, Dr. April Aycock, and Jessica O'Connor provided an overview of the county's opioid command structure to clarify the county's role versus the city's role in the opioid epidemic. At the May Opioid Steering Committee meeting, the committee will review community input, opioid survey results, and data alignment efforts.
- Discenza serves as the branch library point-person for the 2025 Summer of Opportunity Program. She scheduled and participated in four interviews at the Lincoln Branch this month. Intern placement hasn't been finalized, but it appears the branches are on track to receive a total of eight interns – nearly all of whom were recruited and supported through the application process by branch staff.
- In April, BJ Scanlon, Katy Hasselwander, Jennifer Smathers, Alicia Gunther, and Mark Hafer received CORLEO training. Discenza updated the RPL GO! binder and Teams files after receiving clarification from Rich Cato about outdated pre and post trip forms. Discenza worked with Graphics staff to draft two sandwich board designs for community events, and with the assistance of LAS staff, laid the groundwork for a public-facing calendar to be reviewed by the Mobile Library Team.

Anecdotes/Other

- Discenza and branch substitute librarian April McCloud joined the Lincoln Branch team for a behind-the-scenes tour of the Richard & Ronay Menschel Library at the George Eastman Museum, led by Head Librarian Ken Fox, followed by a self-guided tour of the Eastman House on Lincoln's staff training day. Fox was funny, charming, and an expert tour guide. The Lincoln team asked thoughtful and intelligent questions, and Discenza learned that Cormel Sirmons is a serious film buff. Spending time with McCloud and the Lincoln team outside the library was a special treat. Discenza is grateful for the invitation, even if she found some of George Eastman's décor, particularly this hoof ashray, questionable.



- This month, Discenza visited the Lincoln, Sully, and Douglass community libraries and attended two fantastic branch programs: a poetry event at the Maplewood Community Library, hosted by staff from the OACES Literacy Zone, and a local history presentation celebrating the Bicentennial of the Erie Canal at the Charlotte Branch. At the poetry event, participants could choose to create a variety of poems (blackout, epistolary, list, acrostic) using different media (paint cards, magnets, book pages, etc.). There were plenty of supplies and staff available to guide attendees through the options. Discenza chose to create a blackout poem and then sat in the “poet’s chair” to read it aloud to the group, who snapped enthusiastically in response—rumor has it, she is still riding this high and has her poem on display in her office. The Erie Canal Bicentennial presentation at Charlotte was interesting and very well attended. County Historian Christine Ridarsky is an expert presenter; she spoke to a full house and kept the room engaged for the entire hour.



Arnett Branch Library, Ginger Brewer reporting

Programs

- The Arnett Library hosted its final music series performer of 2025, the Eastman School Chamber Music Quartet. The quartet filled the library with enchanting music, inviting patrons to listen and sway along. The event drew a good crowd and received positive feedback from attendees.
- Teen Makers crafted garden steppingstones this month. Participants created vibrant pieces that could serve as garden decorations, paperweights, or coasters, featuring tree of life and colorful daisy designs. One group of friends exchanged stones mid-project, allowing them to contribute to each other’s finished designs.
- The Westside Farmers Market presented a hands-on cooking demonstration featuring fresh, locally grown ingredients, along with a seed planting project at the library this month. Many patrons attended the event and were excited to learn how to prepare nutritious recipes. The aroma of the food lingered in the library, piquing the interest of other guests. The event attracted a large crowd, and the Westside Farmers Market has scheduled additional dates.



- Kate Peck hosted a job fair for teens and young adults ages 14 to 24. Ten organizations participated, meeting with young people and their parents. Staff raffled off an RPL swag bag featuring candy, stickers, a Bluetooth speaker, and library-branded giveaways. Some attendees had never been to a job fair, so Peck explained the process and encouraged engagement with potential employers. A table displayed work permit applications and job postings from absent businesses. The event was successful, prompting requests from organizations unable to attend to be informed about future job fairs and opportunities at the library.



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- On Arnett's spring training day, the team visited Action for a Better Community (ABC) to learn more about the organization and its services. Staff exchanged contact information to facilitate future collaborations, tabling, and programs at Arnett.

Anecdotes/Other

An 11-year-old boy visited the library with his older sisters during spring break. They set him up at a computer, but after some time, he approached Peck and asked, "Miss, can I just read?" Peck replied, "Of course!" and asked him some questions about his interests. He said, "I'd like to read a book where I learn something new." Together, Peck and the boy selected several books that he found interesting. When he needed a break from reading, he switched to coloring beside his sisters. Peck was thrilled to connect a young person with books.

Charlotte Branch Library, Cathy Kyle reporting

Programs

- Storytime with Real Silkie Chickens was a riot, drawing an enthusiastic crowd of children, adults, and library staff. Many attendees expressed their appreciation, and one parent, who is also a special education teacher, expressed interest in bringing the program to her classroom.



- In celebration of Earth Day, the library hosted a special program encouraging children to consider how their personal actions can help reduce their carbon footprint. The event prompted thoughtful conversations and inspired environmentally conscious ideas.
- Jennifer Cherelin and a team of volunteers fed local families and made a large donation to a church's blessing box through the branch's food distribution program. Produce was secured from vendors at the Rochester Public Market.
- Cherelin's weekly book discussion, the Turning Point Book Group, includes a small group of homeschoolers who follow along with the books and then discuss them afterwards.



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Cathy Kyle met with staff from the Memorial Art Gallery to plan future staff training sessions, strengthening partnerships with local cultural institutions.
- Charlotte's spring staff training day featured creative and team-building activities, including a tie-dye project and the relocation of the local history collection. The retreat also offered an opportunity to celebrate Anajah Ford's birthday. It was a productive and festive day.

Anecdotes/Other

Following Storytime with Silkie Chickens, a parent and local teacher contacted the library via Facebook to share her appreciation. She described the unique challenges faced by her first-grade special education students and how much an experience like the Silkie chicken story time could benefit them. She expressed strong interest in connecting her classroom at School No. 5—just ten minutes from the library—with the Charlotte Branch. Kyle is currently working with this teacher to bring story times to her classroom in the future.

Frederick Douglass Community Library, Evanna DiSalvo reporting

Programs

- At Be a Birdwatcher, participants discovered common local birds. They practiced how to hold binoculars correctly using handmade paper tube binoculars, learned to recognize various bird calls, explored ways to attract birds to their yards, and were introduced to bird watching apps.
- Families from across the Rochester area come to battle, trade, and talk Pokémon at Isaac Lewis's monthly Pokémon Hangout. It's become the most popular program at the library.
- The Debussy String Quartet from the Eastman School of Music held a free concert at the Frederick Douglass Community Library. Students Madison Oh, Felix Harkness, Israel Anselme, and Erica Lin delivered a performance that lived up to its description as "full of originality and charm." The event attracted a large audience, including preschoolers, one of whom even initiated the applause!





- To celebrate Earth Day, the staff and community members cleaned up the library flower beds and added native wildflower seeds to this year's wildflower garden. The library kids really enjoyed planting the seeds.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- School No. 12's Nature-Based Learning Coach, Kyra Stephenson, invited Douglass Library staff to participate in Earth Day Blankets and Books, an evening event held near the Highland Park Pond. Evanna DiSalvo attended and brought amphibian-themed books for the "passport" event. Children visited six stations to have their passports stamped after participating in an activity. At the library station, they had to read one of the books. The event was well attended by families familiar to DiSalvo and several others she met for the first time.
- On April 25, Douglass was closed for its spring staff development day, during which the team opted to stay in-house. The day involved a meeting, a game, and various reorganization projects. During the meeting, staff shared updates on recent activities, examined offerings from Ryan Dowd for future meetings, discussed upcoming events, suggested ideas for programs, brainstormed the fall staff development day, and outlined plans for afternoon projects. While playing the game "What Comes to Mind," staff learned a lot about one another before enjoying DiBella's subs, generously provided through a gift card from library families. After lunch, significant reorganization efforts were initiated in the children's area, combining tween and J collections and restructuring the media collection's storage space.



Anecdotes/Other

- This month, Roarke Delany and DiSalvo both fielded calls from children who were working on a report about Frederick Douglass. They sounded young on the phone and initially wanted to "buy" books on Frederick Douglass. Delany realized they were not in Rochester but down in North Carolina the first time they called. The second time they called, Delany transferred the call to DiSalvo since they hadn't heeded his advice to go to their local library. They told DiSalvo that they were in Knoxville, North Carolina—but Knoxville is in Tennessee. The children were eventually convinced to go to their local library, saying they knew where it was. A call was placed to a North Carolina library system, confirming that there is no Knoxville in North

Carolina. If they call again, perhaps it can be determined if they have recently moved from one state to the other and are confused.

- This month's art exhibit by Eric VanAuken was selected to coordinate with the "Be a Bird Watcher" program and the annual spring bird migration. Douglass employee Andrea Reithmayr is an avid birder and volunteers at the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory Banding Station every year.



Lincoln Branch Library, Sarah Lehman reporting

Programs

- RocDog continues to visit the Lincoln Branch on the first and second Tuesday of every month. Both staff and patrons enjoy the opportunity to interact with the dogs during their visits.
- Teens participated in a candy jar guessing game. The individual who guessed closest or correctly won the jar. The teens were amazed by how many pieces of candy fit inside.
- Teens took part in a spring scavenger hunt and were awarded prizes upon its completion.
- M&T Bank conducted a credit repair and credit scores program at the Lincoln Branch.
- This month, RIT began tabling at Lincoln to share information about a new career services program for patrons and to assist with job development services.
- Staff from the Father Tracy Advocacy Center started tabling at Lincoln, too. They will be on-site every Wednesday to share information regarding the services offered at the Father Tracy Center and act as an on-site social services resource for any patrons who may need assistance.
- The planning committee for the Joseph Avenue ArtWalk held its final public feedback meeting at the Lincoln Branch. The committee has finished its work studying traffic patterns and challenges to pedestrian traffic along Joseph Avenue and will be making its recommendations to the city on what changes should be made to the area.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Sarah Lehman attended the monthly meeting for the New York Alliance of Library Systems to discuss community partnerships and advocacy across the state.
- Lehman and Natalie Soto attended a training on book repair at the Henrietta Public Library.

- Lehman represented the Lincoln Branch at a press conference for their neighbors at the People's Pantry. The Pantry recently received a grant to create a new mural on the back wall of the building and to establish raised garden beds for community gardening behind the pantry itself.
- Lehman attended a meeting for the planning committee for the Complete Streets Makeover project occurring in May on the corner of Ave D and Hollenbeck Street.

Anecdotes/Other

Lincoln staff had their spring staff training day in April. They spent the morning taking care of backlogged work and had a staff meeting. That afternoon they toured the Richard & Ronay Menschel Library at the George Eastman Museum and visited the different exhibits in the George Eastman House.



Lyell Branch Library, Dennis Williams reporting

Programs

Benjamin Harrigan delivered an engaging PowerPoint presentation for young adult patrons at the library, guiding them through the process of creating their own potting soil and planting seeds. His session emphasized the satisfaction and joy of growing your own food, with the promise that they could be harvesting fresh produce right from home within just a few weeks. To make it more hands-on, Benjamin distributed seed packets to attendees and left extra supplies for those who had already discovered a love for gardening. The event not only inspired budding green thumbs but also nurtured a deeper appreciation for sustainable, homegrown food.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

RPL GO! appeared at the City of Rochester's Take Your Child to Work Day festivities, Hillside's Spring Carnival, and the Charles Settlement House. RPL GO! makes regular stops at Rochester Academy Charter School on Genesee Street. The school lacks its own library, so these visits provide essential library services to middle school students. As RPL GO! has visited other local sites, staff have observed that many people are unaware that library materials can be returned to any library in the County. WE have been very happy to let people know that they absolutely can!



Maplewood Community Library, Johanna Buran reporting

Programs

- Maplewood Community Library held its annual egg hunt. Groups of four to five participants were taken outside to search for eggs that were hidden just for them. Younger children were limited to the playground, while older kids could explore the entire courtyard in their search for eggs. It was a joy to see the excitement

on everyone's faces as they discovered their eggs. A highlight of the hunt occurred when one of the participants walked past an egg in plain sight at eye level. After finally spotting it, he sprinted over—only to discover another egg nearby that even the staff hadn't noticed. It took him another ten minutes to find the egg just inches from his face; his excitement upon discovering it was contagious.

- This month also marked a milestone in the Patron of the Month contest, achieving the highest individual and combined scores of the year. The contest encourages children to contribute to a fun and safe library environment by rewarding positive behavior. Each week, the staff selects a focus behavior or task that earns double points, typically based on the most challenging behavior from the previous week. This targeted approach has significantly reduced undesired behaviors. A new record was established as one patron won the title for four consecutive weeks—edging out a victory by just half a point and surpassing the previous record of three consecutive wins. The close competition is expected to motivate other children to rise to the challenge in the coming weeks.

Anecdotes/Other

- A patron stopped by to have some documents notarized. He shared that he had spent much of his childhood at Maplewood Community Library and had read every farming book. Today, he is a farmer with horses and expressed deep gratitude for the role the library played in his early life.
- Catholic Charities brought a group of over 30 individuals, including approximately 15 children, to visit the library. Brian DiNitto addressed the group based on language groups (Arabic, Nuer, Swahili, French), relying on multilingual staff members and smartphone apps to help translate. The visitors received a tour of the library and registered for library cards.
- Staff provided a patron with study materials and a citizenship application form. The patron, a retiree from Bausch & Lomb who has lived in the U.S. for 50 years, shared that it was finally time to apply for citizenship.

Monroe Branch Library, Mary Clare Scheg reporting

Programs

- Monroe hosted a musical program featuring the BYTZ Quartet from the Eastman School of Music. Patrons enjoyed the sound of the saxophones.
- Annette's Seed Library returned this month and is very popular with library visitors. Staff will draw names for two prizes to give to Monroe gardeners. The seed bank will continue until the packets are gone.
- Theresa Filo hosted a successful henna program featuring Henna Rising. The event attracted more than 20 attendees, ranging from children to adults.
- Kassady Lewis held two story time programs in collaboration with the Southeast Area Coalition.
- Students from the Genesee Community Charter School visited the Monroe Branch. They are creating zines to be donated to the library to help establish a new zine collection.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Lewis made an outreach visit to St. Paul's Daycare. She led three story times, engaging classes of 2-year-olds, 3-year-olds, and 4-year-olds.
- Theresa Filo hosted a successful gaming outreach program at the Center for Youth.

Anecdotes/Other

Residents of Cobb's Hill Manor Assisted Living Facility have restarted their visits to the library. Unsold books from recent sales now have a place in the facility. The library continues to foster a strong and positive relationship with Cobb's Hill Manor.

Phillis Wheatley Community Library, Kathryn Rebholz reporting

Programs

- *Dog Man* enthusiasts gathered to celebrate Dog Man Day with Alexandra Hahn. Attendees enjoyed a movie screening, engaging activity packets, and an extremely competitive game of trivia. The first-place winner answered 12 questions correctly and took home a *Dog Man* game; the second-place winner answered 11 questions correctly and won a set of *Dog Man* erasers.
- Young patrons participated in Scrap Art over spring break. Mary Wenner brought everything imaginable for the children to build with. They had a blast creating robots, armor, and sparkly pictures for their mothers, as well as spring egg baskets. Some participants designed robots that resembled the monster buildings from the *Dog Man* movie they had watched the day before.
- Katy Rebholz partnered with the Metro Council for Teen Potential to host Positive Affirmations, a program where teens participated in creating a web of community connections, recited affirmations, and developed a board of affirmations to display in the library.
- Heather Ahearn hosted an Oreo and Book Tasting for adults. She set up six genre tables—science fiction, fantasy, urban fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and mystery/suspense/thriller—each featuring a different Oreo flavor. Participants moved from table to table, exploring the books and sampling the Oreos. They were encouraged to check out any books that caught their interest, and they received a full list of the displayed titles with suggestions for future reads. The classic Oreo flavor emerged as the winner, yet the real achievement of the event was the increase in new library card sign-ups and book loans.



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

A community input session was conducted to reimagine the Story Walk. Participants met Chloe Smith, the artist chosen for the project, and shared their visions for the mural's appearance.

Anecdotes/Other

- A participant in the Teen LEGO Building event reminisced about his time at the library as a child. He remembered building with LEGO in

the children's area and wishing he could be on the teen side. He said he would definitely be back for another session.

- Numerous community members have been impacted by a statewide transition involving the fiscal intermediary responsible for payments to home support workers aiding individuals with disabilities. Throughout the month, patrons visited for assistance. Both recipients and providers were required to submit information and documentation for the transition, including a copy of their ID, a health letter, and an extensive checklist of mandatory documents that needed to be reviewed and signed. For some patrons, this procedure felt overwhelming as it necessitated access to a computer, a scanner, and familiarity with both. Despite the potential for tediousness and frustration, every patron accomplished their goals, even if it took multiple visits over different days. All patrons expressed heartfelt appreciation for the support and assistance provided by the Phillis Wheatley Community Library, offering thanks and expressing their gratitude towards the staff, among other positive remarks.

Sully Branch Library, Maria Heeks-Heinlein reporting

Programs

- Students from the Eastman School of Music's Music for All program presented a beautiful chamber music concert during spring break. The children were seen swaying and air conducting to the music.
- Maria Heeks-Heinlein has been meeting with a Pre-K class from John James Audubon School No. 33 for story time in the library. Music, laughter, and stories fill the air during these sessions.
- George Carter launched an Aviation program this month. This weeklong initiative covers subjects such as physics, history, meteorology, and various career paths. Additionally, participants will experience flight simulator training. Some will also receive referrals for flying lessons if their parents choose to explore that opportunity independently with their child.



- Healthi Kids hosted an Infant-Toddler Play Day in the library. The youngest attendees enjoyed activities designed for their age group, and parents were able to gather valuable information.

Anecdotes/Other

- After a violent incident in the neighborhood, several community members checked in on the library team. One friend even brought her favorite team member, Ms. Red, flowers.
- A patron requested a book that was not in the system. Heeks-Heinlein submitted an Interlibrary Loan request for it. The patron called a few weeks later to ask about the status, so Heeks-Heinlein contacted Rob Pierce to inquire. He mentioned that this was a difficult book to obtain, and all of the libraries, except for the last one on the list, denied the request. However, he managed to acquire the book for the patron, who was thrilled to receive this hard-to-find item. Three cheers to the RPL Interlibrary Loan department!



Winton Branch Library, Kathy Wolf reporting

Programs

- It was a spirited meeting of the Winton Comic Club. This month, the tweens read the *Avatar: The Last Airbender* and tested their bending prowess with five elemental-themed mini games. Two tweens arrived ready to rumble, one of whom had styled their hair like Katara, a character from the graphic novel. Participants competed in an egg and spoon obstacle course, a feather race, a balloon toss tournament, and a penguin seal fishing game. Once these games were completed, the tweens showcased their skills in a battle against the vicious Lord Ozai. This cardboard copy was no match, and unfortunately, he did not survive to see the end of the meeting. It was a fun gathering full of laughter, Avatar references, and, of course, super cool fake air bending.
- 2025 marks the 250th anniversary of British novelist Jane Austen's birth. The Winton Branch Library celebrated by having local Regency Era fashion expert and Jane Austen Society officer Lisa Brown present a fashion show. Several models showcased costumes from Jane Austen's time, while Miss Brown discussed the social significance, historical influences, and practicalities.



Anecdotes/Other

- Emily Smith helped two patrons navigate an online claims form for Medicare reimbursement. The form itself was simple, but submitting it required using a complicated online portal, and a customer service representative had misplaced their form. After exploring the website, Smith managed to get on the phone with a representative and send the required form through the library's email address. The two patrons were incredibly grateful, especially given how much trouble the website was causing them. They told Smith that everyone who works at Winton has always treated them with immense kindness and care.
- This past Saturday, something lovely happened during Natalie Brennan's shift. A regular patron, Chris, approached the circulation desk to return *Dwellings* by Linda Hogan. He asked if he could read Brennan a passage, as they had previously discussed their shared appreciation for bats. He read, "*How can we listen or see to find our way by feel to the heart of every yes or no? How do we learn to trust ourselves enough to hear*

the chanting of earth? To know what's alive or absent around us, and penetrate the void behind our eyes, the old, slow pulse of things, until a wild flying wakes up in us, a new mercy climbs out and takes wing in the sky?" Getting to share the love of books (and sometimes bats) is one of the best parts of the job.

- A young patron asked Kathy Wolf where he might find the Minecraft guides and she took him to the shelf. Impressed, he asked if they were new and commented, *"Good job!"* A page overheard the exchange and brought over a similar title she'd found on the return cart. He replied, *"We just returned that one, but thank you very much. That was very thoughtful of you."* This interaction left the staff smiling.
- Winton staff have been feeling the love from their community. Someone left a vase outside the entrance with a note that read, *"Here's some flowers to remind us both that spring is coming. Warmer days to come. Birds to listen to. Pretty flowers and live music and tan faces. I hope your day is a good one. Cheers!"* Another patron gave the staff a lovely thank-you card, stating, *"We appreciate all your smiling faces and all the help you give us. Thanks for being an awesome and vital part of our community and lives!"* It feels good to be appreciated by the people we see and help each day.



FY26 CENTRAL LIBRARY

BUDGET REVENUE

	BUDGET 2022-23	ACTUAL 2022-23	BUDGET 2023-24	BUDGET 2024-25	BUDGET 2025-26	+/- Budget
369050 MCLS SYSTEM SERVICE REVENUE						
Technical Services	276,526	245,534	250,506	258,933	262,520	3,587
Interlibrary Loan	68,000	70,000	72,000	74,000	74,000	0
Delivery Charges	459,199	390,123	447,160	472,115	487,155	15,040
Automation Operations	510,035	509,749	515,227	521,571	548,469	26,898
Director's Office Reimbursement	108,680	97,976	125,094	120,742	116,656	(4,086)
Operational Support	930,076	812,846	973,158	964,039	1,019,399	55,360
TOTAL	2,352,500	2,126,228	2,383,100	2,411,400	2,508,200	96,800
369100 USE/SERVICE CHARGES						
Fines, Fees, Miscellaneous (1)	70,000	48,107	70,000	20,000	20,000	0
Minor Sales & Library Chargebacks (2)	25,100	31,375	25,100	38,100	3,100	(35,000)
Misc. Additional Payments (3)	164,000	139,450	164,000	164,000	146,000	(18,000)
TOTAL	259,100	187,749	259,100	222,100	169,100	(53,000)
407110 GRANTS						
Grants (4)	233,000	141,531	188,000	259,000	264,000	5,000
TOTAL	233,000	141,531	188,000	259,000	264,000	5,000
407120 STATE AID						
Central Library Program Aid (5)	302,100	300,616	302,100	322,200	329,600	7,400
Outreach (5)	136,200	157,444	159,200	164,700	145,000	(19,700)
County Jails (5)	8,800	7,882	8,800	9,100	9,300	200
TOTAL	447,100	465,942	470,100	481,700	483,900	2,200
430350 TOTAL STATE AID, GRANTS, FEES	3,291,700	2,921,450	3,300,300	3,374,200	3,425,200	51,000
MONROE COUNTY SUPPORT (6)	7,291,300	7,158,349	7,487,100	7,660,100	8,276,600	616,500
CITY PRORATED SHARE	654,000	654,000	678,900	687,500	736,100	48,600
TOTAL REVENUE	10,929,500	10,733,799	11,466,300	11,721,800	12,437,900	716,100

- 1 FINE FORGIVENESS PROGRAM IMPLEMENTED DURING FY24 - BALANCE FEES AND LOST/DAMAGED ITEMS
 - 2 ELIM OUT OF COUNTY CARD TO MCLS (-\$35,000), ATM SVCS \$1,500, AUTOMATION CHARGEBACKS \$1,600
 - 3 FFRPL ANNUAL CAMPAIGN \$60,000, MTG ROOMS/EVENTS \$20,000 (DEC BY 8,000), FFRPL BOOKSTORE \$25,000 (DEC BY 10,000), CASH PROGRAM OCCUPANCY \$37,800
 - 4 FOODLINK CAFÉ UTILITIES \$7,000
 - 5 GRANT REVENUE/EXPENSE ALLOCATION \$75,000, FFRPL DIGITIZING \$35,000, FFRPL BUSINESS INNOVATION \$40,000, MONROE COUNTY HISTORIAN SERVICES \$55,000, GLEASON SCI/HIST SUPPORT \$20,000, KENYON JEFFRIES CITY/COUNTY HISTORIAN SUPPORT \$19,000, FFRPL OUTREACH \$15,000, STRONG MUSEUM \$5,000
 - 6 2% STATE AID INCREASE; OUTREACH CONSOLIDATED FY24; ALL FUNDS BROUGHT IN FROM MCLS TO EXPEND IN RPL FY
- 1.5% COUNTY INCREASE TO CENTRAL OPERATIONS SUPPORT (7,780,000) PLUS REIMBURSEMENT FOR DIGITAL EQUITY GRANT POSITIONS

FY25-26 PROPOSED EXPENSE SUMMARY

MUNIS OBJECT	DESCRIPTION	ADMIN 24-25	ADMIN 25-26	+/-	PUB SVCS 24-25	PUB SVCS 25-26	+/-	MCLS SVCS 24-25	MCLS SVCS 25-26	+/-	BUDGET 24-25	BUDGET 25-26
601000	SALARIES	1,412,200	1,431,500	19,300	2,222,300	2,426,900	204,600	1,308,400	1,368,400	60,000	4,942,800	5,226,800
601050	PART TIME	172,700	224,000	51,300	1,123,400	1,120,800	(2,600)	301,400	319,400	18,000	1,597,500	1,664,200
602010	OVERTIME	13,500	13,500	0	1,000	1,000	0	3,000	4,500	1,500	17,500	19,000
603010	PERSONAL LEAVE BUYBACK	8,300	9,900	1,600	6,300	7,800	1,500	2,500	1,100	(1,400)	17,100	18,800
603030	LONGEVITY	7,200	9,000	1,800	19,300	20,300	1,000	12,200	12,400	200	38,650	41,700
603080	CELL PHONE ALLOWANCE	1,500	3,000	1,500	1,000	1,700	700	1,500	1,700	200	4,000	6,400
603100	W/A	0	300	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	300
SUBTOTAL		1,615,400	1,691,200	75,800	3,373,300	3,578,500	205,200	1,629,000	1,707,500	78,500	6,617,550	6,977,200
605010	OFFICE SUPPLIES	47,700	46,700	(1,000)	5,200	9,800	4,600	3,600	3,600	0	56,500	60,100
605070	CLEANING SUPPLIES	21,000	23,000	2,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	21,000	23,000
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	9,000	800	0	0	0	0	0	0	8,200	9,000
605150	LIGHTING	4,100	4,100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,100	4,100
605200	MISCELLANEOUS SUPPLIES	2,000	2,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,000	2,000
SUBTOTAL		94,600	96,400	1,800	5,200	9,800	4,600	7,700	7,700	0	107,500	113,900
606010	COMMUNICATION	10,500	10,500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10,500	10,500
606020	DUPICATING SERVICES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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	15,000	5,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	10,000	15,000
606080	WATER CHARGES	38,900	38,900	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	38,900	38,900
606090	MOTOR EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	3,500	3,500	0	2,200	4,000	1,800	5,700	7,500
607010	UTILITIES	465,000	465,000	0	2,500	2,500	0	0	0	0	467,500	467,500
607020	RENTS	45,200	45,200	0	2,500	2,500	0	9,000	9,000	0	56,700	56,700
607030	EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	0	0	0	20,700	20,700	0	3,100	9,000	5,900	23,800	29,700
607040	BUILDING MAINTENANCE	79,600	79,600	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	79,600	79,600
607050	SECURITY SERVICES	3,600	12,100	8,500	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,600	12,100
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	2,300	6,000	3,700	7,900	11,600	3,700	900	900	0	11,100	18,500
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	64,500	31,100	(33,400)	0	0	0	0	0	0	62,500	31,100
609010	TRAVEL & TRAINING	12,600	17,600	5,000	0	5,000	5,000	3,000	3,000	0	15,600	25,600
610010	PROFESSIONAL FEES	31,400	30,000	(1,400)	69,700	80,000	10,300	120,500	114,500	(6,000)	221,600	224,500
611010	OTHER COMMUNICATION	2,600	2,600	0	500	500	0	600	600	0	3,700	3,700
612020	SERVICE CHARGES OTHER GOVERNMENTS	51,400	51,400	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	51,400	51,400
SUBTOTAL		850,900	838,300	(12,600)	107,300	126,300	19,000	139,800	141,500	1,700	109,600	1,106,100
652010	FURNITURE & FURNISHINGS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
652030	LIBRARY MATERIALS	0	0	0	496,100	496,100	0	8,900	15,700	6,800	505,000	511,800
660010	MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT	3,100	3,100	0	0	0	0	7,000	7,000	0	10,100	10,100
SUBTOTAL		3,100	3,100	0	496,100	496,100	0	15,900	22,700	6,800	515,100	521,900
604090	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,310,600	3,642,600
665010	UNITIMIZED 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	3,385,600	3,717,600
GRAND TOTAL		2,636,700	2,704,000	67,300	3,981,900	4,210,700	228,800	1,792,400	1,879,400	87,000	11,721,800	12,436,700

BRANCH LIBRARY REVENUE BUDGET 2025-26

REVENUE CODE	DESCRIPTION	BUDGET 23-24	BUDGET 24-25	BUDGET 25-26	+/- BUDGET 24-25
369500	RENTS, FEES & OPERATIONS (1)	88,700	88,700	88,700	0
407510	GRANTS (2)	198,500	103,000	83,000	(20,000)
407520	STATE LIBRARY SERVICES AID	103,261	105,300	105,300	0
TOTAL		390,461	297,000	277,000	(20,000)
1	FFRPL ANNUAL CAMPAIGN (40,000), LINCOLN BRANCH RENT (24,000), FFRPL BRANCH PROGRAMMING SUPPORT (5,000), GREENLIGHT ARNETT USE (2,500), BALANCE BRANCH FEE COLLECTIONS				
2	FFRPL-SAFE TO BE SMART (15,000), FENYVCESSY FUND-LITERACY AIDES (48,000), OTHER GRANTS (20,000)				

**ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY
BRANCH LIBRARIES
2025-26 BUDGET**

MUNIS OBJECT	DESCRIPTION	2024-25	2025-26	+/-	%
601000	SALARIES	2,080,100	2,157,600	77,500	
601050	PART TIME	2,026,400	2,022,600	(3,800)	
602010	OVERTIME	2,000	2,000	0	
603010	PERSONAL LEAVE BUYBACK	12,100	11,200	(900)	
603030	LONGEVITY	14,200	14,100	(100)	
603080	CELL PHONE ALLOWANCE	2,000	1,800	(200)	
603100	W/A	0	300	300	
	SUBTOTAL	4,136,800	4,209,600	72,800	2%
605010	OFFICE SUPPLIES	37,700	37,700	0	
605060	FOOD	2,100	2,100	0	
605070	CLEANING SUPPLIES	16,000	16,500	500	
605120	TOOLS & MACHINE PARTS	7,200	8,000	800	
605130	CONSTRUCTION & REPAIR MATERIALS	3,200	3,200	0	
605150	LIGHTING	2,200	2,300	100	
605200	MISCELLANEOUS SUPPLIES	3,800	3,800	0	
	SUBTOTAL	72,200	73,600	1,400	2%
606010	COMMUNICATION	15,600	15,100	(500)	
606020	DUPLICATING SERVICES	0	0	0	
606040	POSTAGE	4,000	4,000	0	
606060	REFUSE COLLECTION	7,000	7,200	200	
606070	WORKER'S COMPENSATION	1,000	1,000	0	
606080	WATER CHARGES	8,500	8,800	300	
606090	MOTOR EQUIPMENT	6,800	5,400	(1,400)	
607010	UTILITIES	224,500	229,500	5,000	
607020	RENTS	15,900	14,400	(1,500)	
607030	EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	14,300	14,300	0	
607040	BUILDING MAINTENANCE	24,700	25,400	700	
607050	SECURITY SERVICES	4,000	12,000	8,000	
608030	CLEANING & LAUNDRY	3,800	3,900	100	
608050	DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS	3,300	5,300	2,000	
608060	MILEAGE	6,000	6,000	0	
608100	HIRED EQUIPMENT	12,600	12,600	0	
609010	TRAVEL & TRAINING	13,600	13,600	0	
610010	PROFESSIONAL FEES	376,800	390,000	13,200	
611010	OTHER COMMUNICATION	2,000	2,000	0	
612020	SERVICE CHARGES OTHER GOVERNMENTS	7,500	7,500	0	
652030	LIBRARY MATERIALS	496,600	536,600	40,000	
665010	UNITEMIZED EXPENSE	20,000	20,000	0	
	SUBTOTAL	1,268,500	1,334,600	66,100	5%
	TOTAL OPERATING	5,477,500	5,617,800	140,300	3%
	COMMUNITY CASH CAPITAL FUNDS				
	TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT	10,000	0	(10,000)	
	FACILITIES-MAINTENANCE	41,000	40,000	(1,000)	
	FURNISHINGS	12,000	12,000	0	
	ARNETT SOLAR INVERTERS	40,000	0	(40,000)	
	TOTAL CASH CAPITAL	103,000	52,000	(51,000)	50%
	GRAND TOTAL	5,016,100	5,669,800	653,700	13%

**NYS Education Department
CENTRAL LIBRARY PROGRAM AID
2025-26 BUDGET**

Systemwide Services Provided by Central Library

Availability of Collection:

	25-26 budget
652030 Electronic Materials (System Collection)	\$ 145,500
Reference Materials	\$ 59,300
System-wide Databases & Research Databases	\$ 63,400
Non-fiction Materials	\$ 44,500
Foreign Language Library Materials	<u>\$ 16,900</u>
TOTAL	\$ 329,600

Electronic Materials: Overdrive e-books, audio book, streaming video

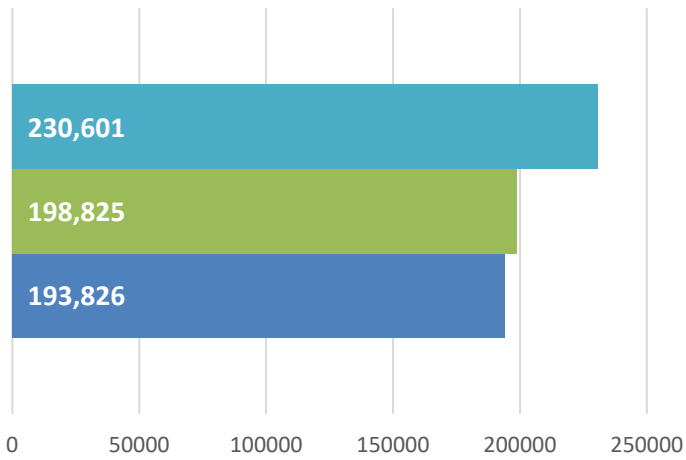
System-wide Databases: A-Z Database, Gale, EBSCO (select databases)

Research Databases: IBIS World, Frost & Sullivan

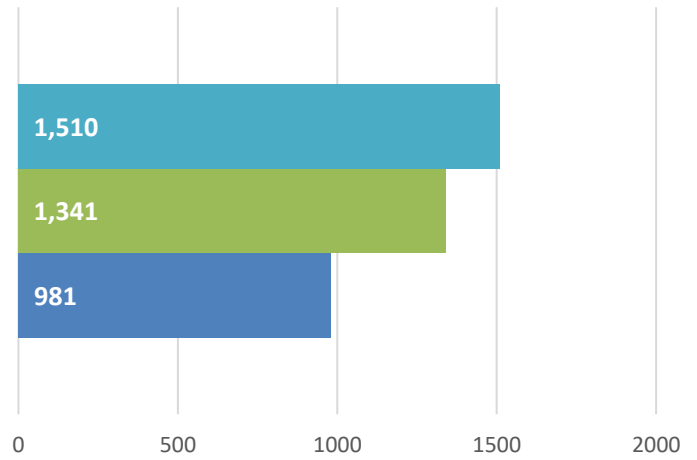
RPL Central Statistics YTD
Jan-Apr



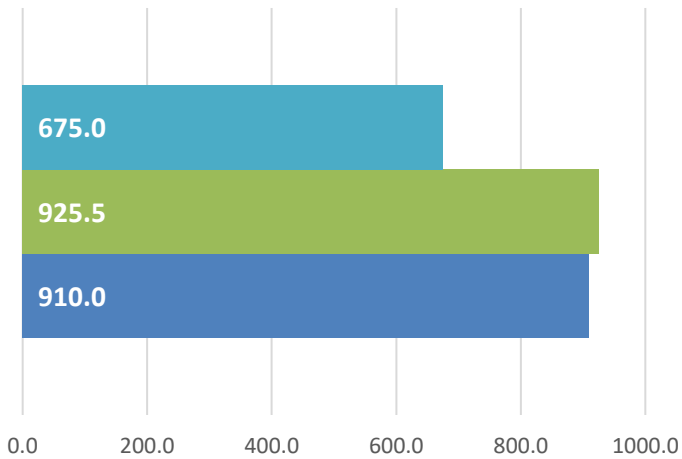
CIRCULATION



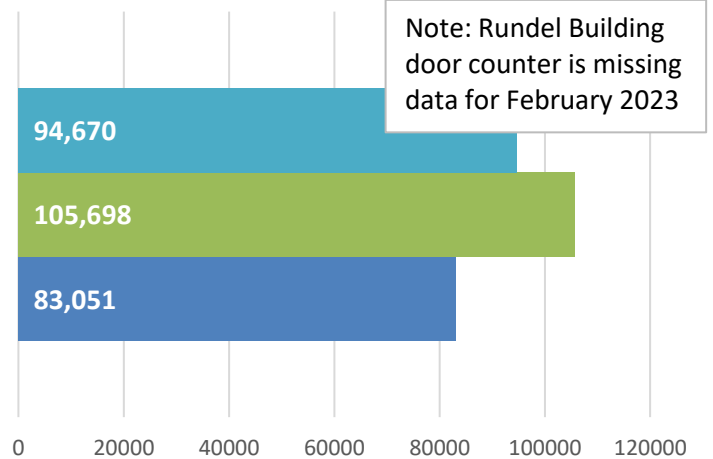
LIBRARY CARDS



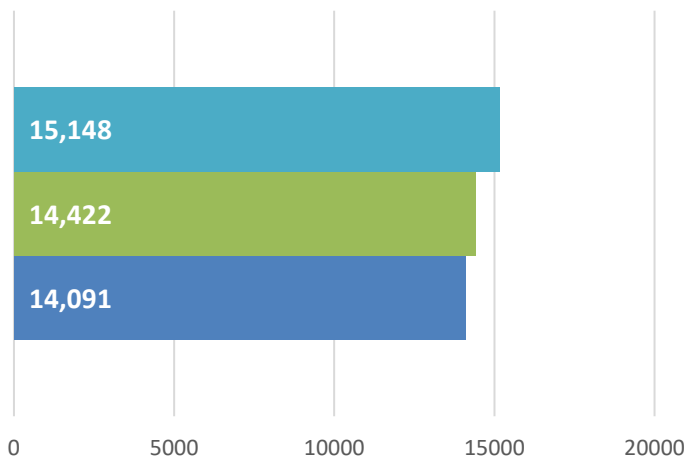
SERVICE HOURS



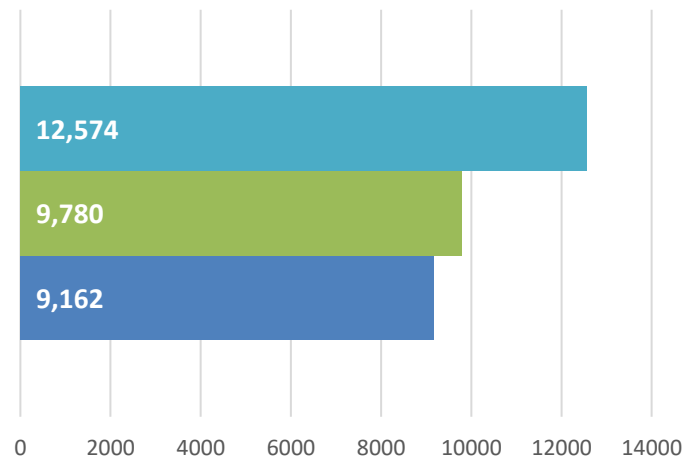
VISITS



REFERENCE QUESTIONS



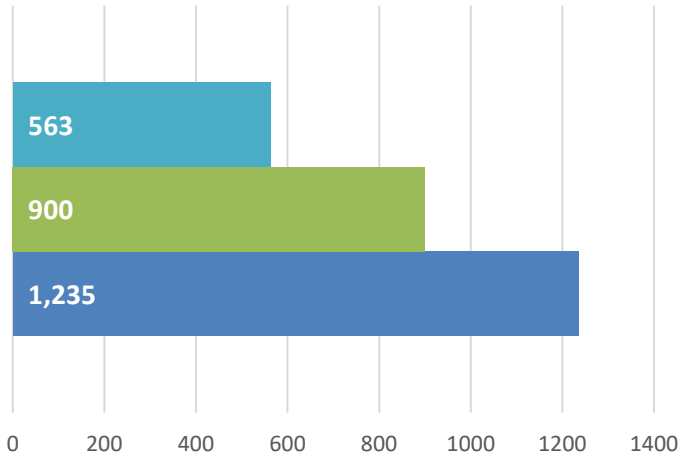
NON-REFERENCE



RPL Central Statistics YTD Jan-Apr



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.

Reference Questions: Questions requiring staff to recommend, interpret, evaluate, instruct, etc.

Non-reference: Directional questions. E.g., What are the hours? Where is ___?

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

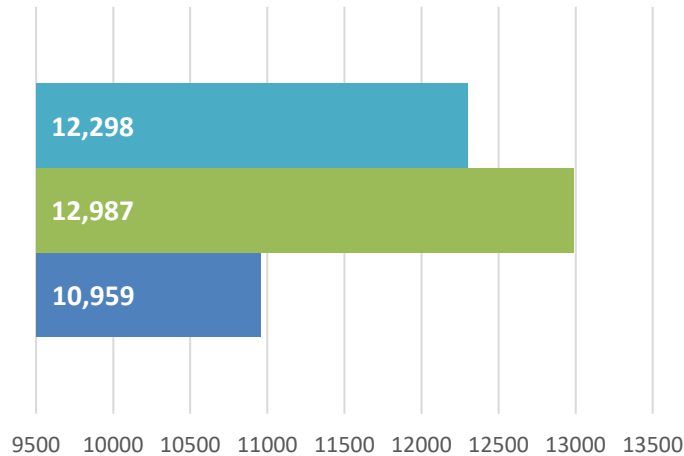
Computer Hours: Hours patrons used the public PCs.

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

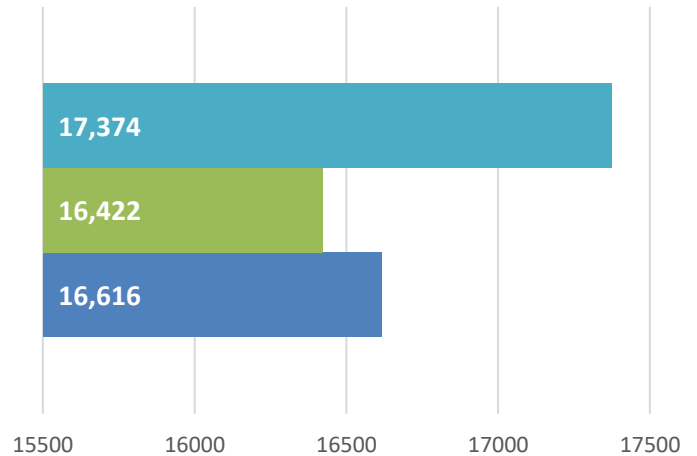
Group Programs: In-person and online programs. Excludes one-on-one programs and take-n-make.

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

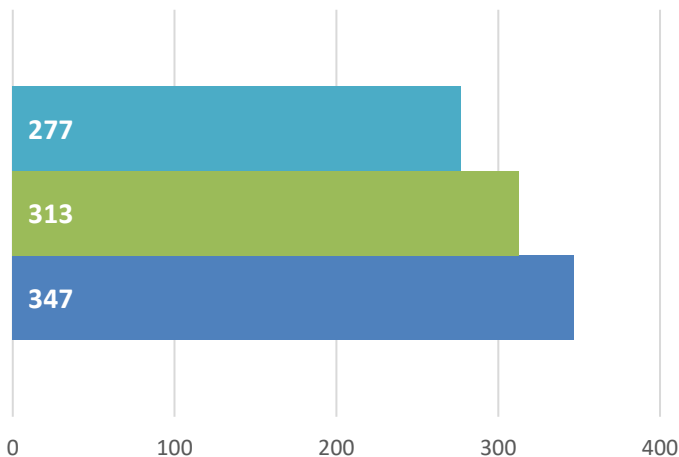
COMPUTER HOURS



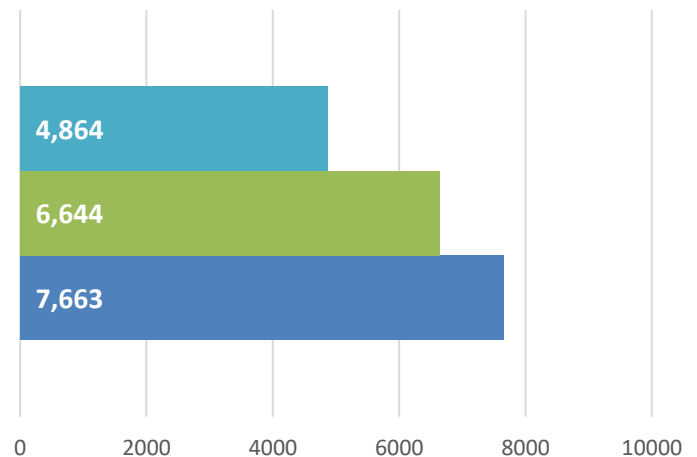
WIFI USES



GROUP PROGRAMS



PROGRAM ATTENDANCE



RPL Branch Statistics YTD

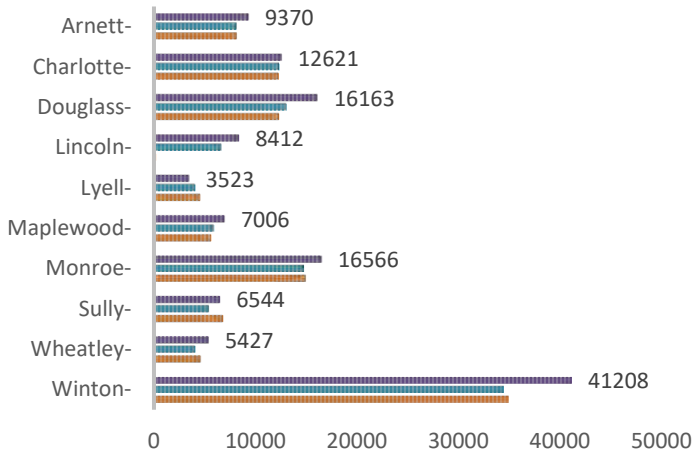
Jan-Apr

2025

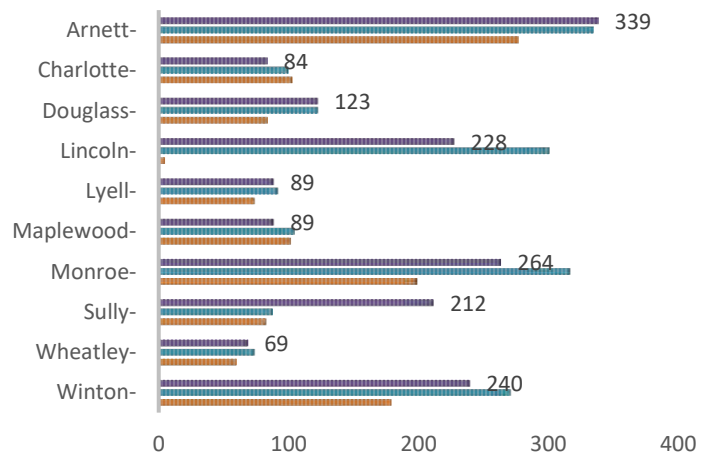
2024

2023

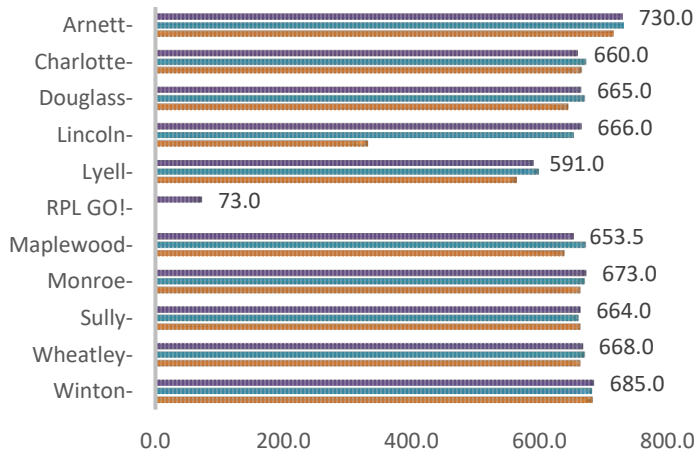
CIRCULATION



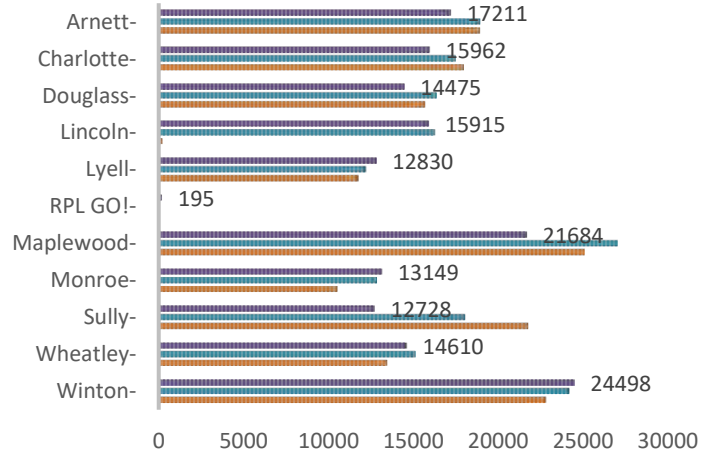
LIBRARY CARDS



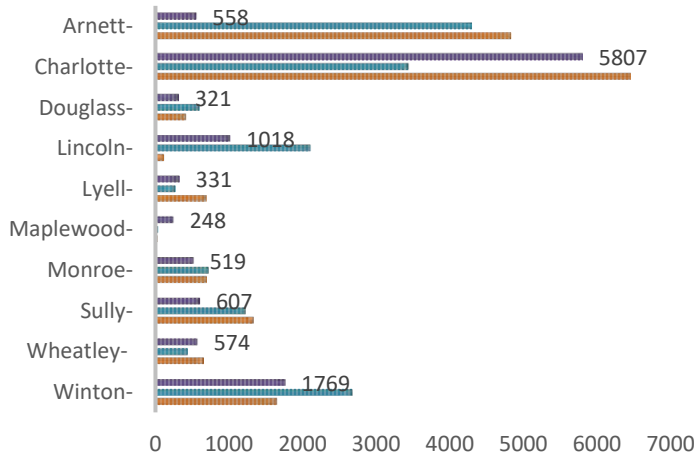
SERVICE HOURS



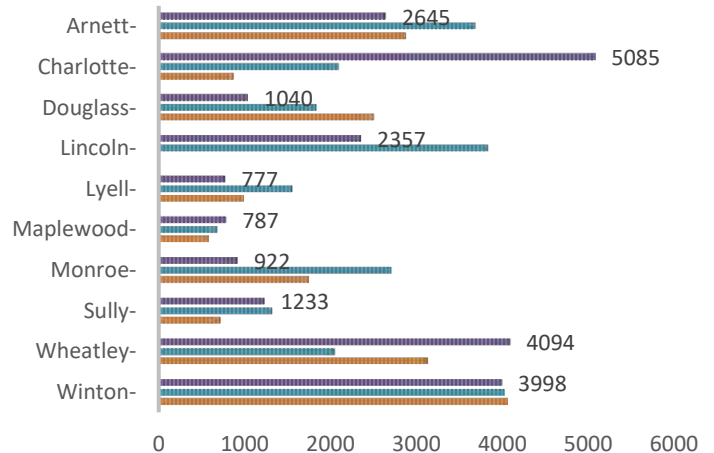
VISITS



REFERENCE QUESTIONS



NON-REFERENCE



RPL Branch Statistics YTD

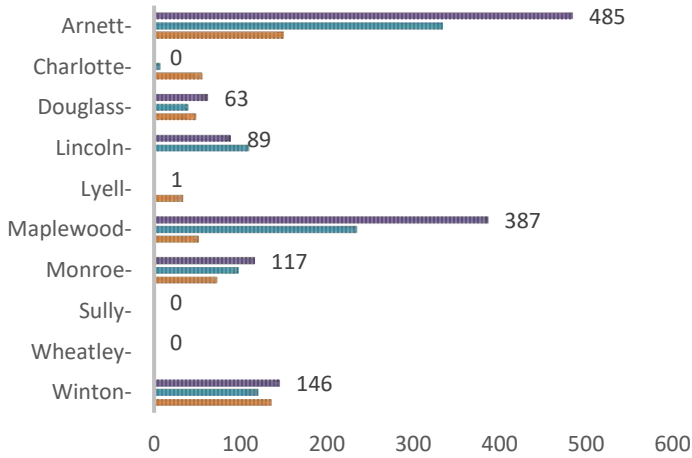
Jan-Apr

2025

2024

2023

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.

Reference Questions: Questions requiring staff to recommend, interpret, evaluate, instruct, etc.

Non-reference: Directional questions. E.g., What are the hours? Where is ___?

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

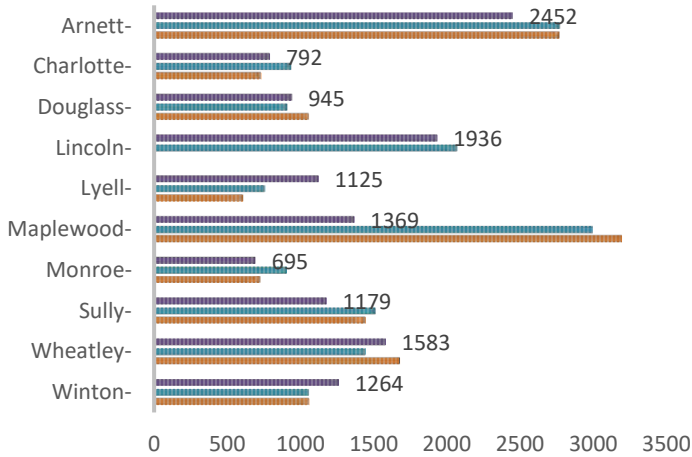
Computer Hours: Hours patrons used the public PCs.

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

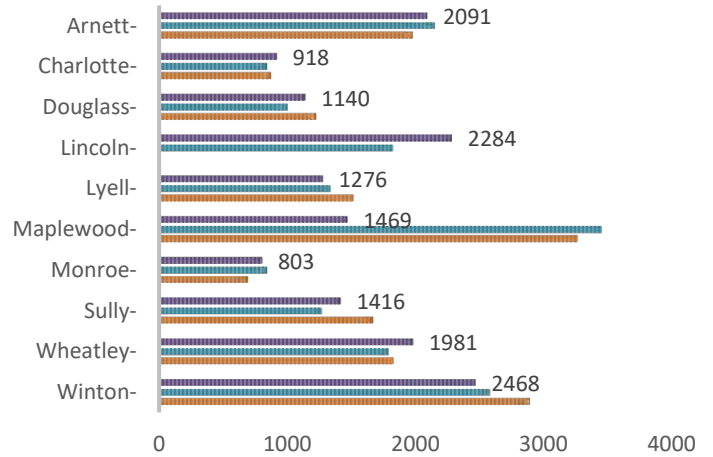
Group Programs: In-person and online programs. Excludes one-on-one programs and take-n-make.

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

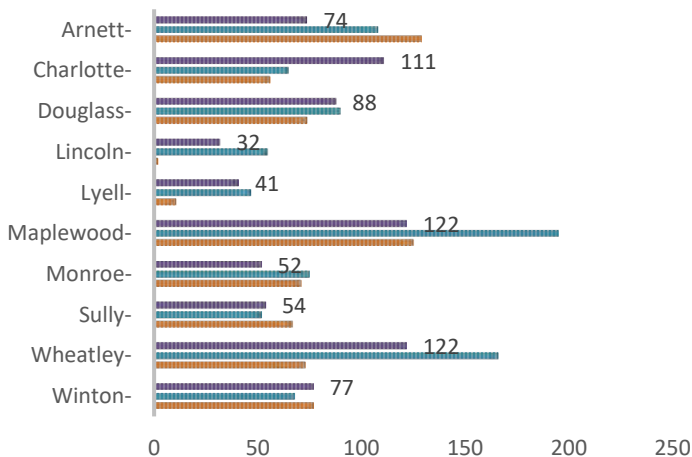
COMPUTER HOURS



WIFI SESSIONS



GROUP PROGRAMS



PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

