



**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
August 27, 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. Agreement, Shoulders to Stand On LGBTQIA+ Archives
Documentation Liaison | Clasper | page 13 |
| 5. Additional Hours for Monroe Branch | Scanlon | page 13 |
| 6. Allocation of 2024-2025 Annual Campaign Proceeds | Hasselwander | page 14 |
| 7. ImagineYOU Esports Agreement | Hasselwander | page 14 |
| 8. Patent Agent Professional Services Agreement | Hasselwander | page 14 |
| 9. County Archive Professional Services Agreement | Hasselwander | page 15 |
| 10. Rochester History Journal Professional Services
Agreement | Hasselwander | page 15 |

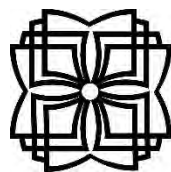
III. REPORT/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| 1. Liaison & Committee Reports | Stockman/Clasper | |
| a. Liaison from the MCLS Board | | |
| 2. Staff Reports | Clasper | page 15 & 18 |
| a. Director's Report/Central Library | Scanlon | page 32 |
| b. Community Libraries | | |
| 3. Proposed New Report to the Board | Clasper | Handout |

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

V. ADJOURNMENT

**Next Meeting
September 24, 2025
Central Library, Rundel Memorial Building**



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**Meeting of the RPL Board of Trustees
Central Library, Rundel Memorial Building
June 25, 2025
Minutes**

RPL Trustees Present: Donna Benjamin, Ellen Brenner, Elizabeth Call, Marcus Cooper, Matt McDermott, Sarah Murphy Abbamonte, Sharon Salluzzo, Suzanne Stockman, Jeffrey Tucker, Mark Wyand (quorum present)

RPL Trustees Excused: James Kraus

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

Call to Order

President Benjamin called the meeting to order at 9:02 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 May meeting were approved as presented.

Personnel Changes

Library Administration & Operations Director Suro called attention to the personnel changes and staffing levels for May 12, 2025–June 6, 2025, and offered to answer questions. Trustee Call MADE A MOTION to approve the personnel changes. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Financial Reports

Library Finance Manager Hasselwander reviewed the financial reports with the trustees and offered to answer questions.

Trustee Salluzzo MADE A MOTION to approve the monthly financial reports as presented and approved by the RPL Finance Committee. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trustee Appointments

Mr. Wyand and Mr. McDermott left the meeting.

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, President Benjamin offered to hear any questions about the nominees. After brief discussion, Trustee Call MADE A MOTION to appoint Matthew McDermott to the RPL Board effective immediately for a partial term ending December 31, 2026. And, to appoint Mark Wyand to the RPL Board effective immediately for a partial term ending December 31, 2027. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trustees Wyand and McDermott returned to the meeting.

Introductions

New Trustees McDermott and Wyand briefly introduced themselves and thanked the board for the opportunity to serve the library.

Officer Election

Trustee Murphy Abbamonte MADE A MOTION to elect Mark Wyand to the office of Treasurer for the remainder of 2025. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Network Professional Services Agreement

Library Finance Manager Hasselwander introduced the action item and offered to answer questions. Trustee Brenner MADE A MOTION to approve a professional services agreement with CampbellNet Solutions for an amount not to exceed \$3,000 and a term of July 1, 2025–June 30, 2026. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trustee Cooper joined the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

Computer and Server (IT) Equipment Repair

Library Finance Manager Hasselwander introduced the action item and offered to answer questions. Trustee Brenner MADE A MOTION to approve a professional services agreement with Tri-Delta Resources for an amount not to exceed \$3,000 and a term of July 1, 2025–June 30, 2026. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Occupancy & Use Agreement, Foodlink Community Café

Library Finance Manager Hasselwander introduced the action item and offered to answer questions. Trustee Stockman MADE A MOTION to approve the occupancy and use agreement with Foodlink for the Community Café operation at the Central Library for a fee of \$7,000 and a term of July 1, 2025–June 30, 2026. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Vending Services Agreement Amendment

Library Finance Manager Hasselwander introduced the action item and offered to answer questions. Trustee Brenner MADE A MOTION to approve an agreement extension with Servomation Refreshments, Inc. for the term October 1, 2025–September 30, 2030, and payment to the RPL of 13.1% of net sales. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Library RPL-MCLS Staff Association Vending Agreement

Library Finance Manager Hasselwander introduced the action item and offered to answer questions. Trustee Call MADE A MOTION to approve an agreement with the RPL-MCLS Staff Association to receive vending commissions up to \$2,500 from RPL and a term of July 1, 2025–June 30, 2026. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Library Store Agreement

Library Finance Manager Hasselwander introduced the action item and offered to answer questions. Trustee Salluzzo MADE A MOTION to renew the Library Store Agreement with the Friends and Foundation of RPL to receive \$25,000 in funding support for the Rochester Public Library. The term of the agreement is July 1, 2025–June 30, 2026. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Library Trust Fund Allocations

Library Finance Manager Hasselwander introduced the action item and offered to answer questions. Trustee Stockman MADE A MOTION to approve total Library Trust Fund distributions of \$492,182 for the 2025-26 fiscal year. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Memorandum of Agreement with the Good Phones Initiative

Community Libraries Deputy Director Scanlon introduced the action item and offered to answer questions. Trustee Call MADE A MOTION to approve a Memorandum of Agreement with the Good Phones Initiative to host a free public “Good Phone” in the Lyell Branch and accept the donation of equipment at the end of the agreement. The term of the agreement will be June 2025–June 2026. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Liaison to the Monroe County Library System (MCLS) Board

Trustee Stockman reported that the MCLS Board thanked Chris Corcoran for serving as president for the past two years, thanked Erick Stephens and Mack Smith, Jr. for their service on the board; and elected Marjorie Shelly as the new board president and Amy Moffitt as the Vice President.

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

FFRPL Executive Director Borgus reported that the FFRPL contributed \$475,121 on behalf of RPL this fiscal year, with an additional \$100,000 expected from the annual campaign after year-end. FFRPL funding supported staff, outreach, local history digitization, technology upgrades, databases, and programming, as well as supplemental initiatives such as summer reading prizes, children’s literacy programs, the imagineYOU digital learning lab, and auditorium improvements.

Borgus noted that FFRPL awarded \$844,161 in annual grants for circulating books and \$10,000 through the Harold Hacker Grants for the Advancement of Libraries. The organization also sponsored the Rochester Children’s Book Festival, which welcomed 2,500 attendees and fifty authors, and supported Festival-to-Go school visits. In addition, FFRPL-managed donations of \$31,387 provided \$26,234 in program support.

Director’s Report/Central Library

Director Clasper reported that the RPL budget was approved by City Council, noting the strong efforts of the senior management team—particularly Library Finance Manager Hasselwander—in preparing and managing the budget during challenging financial times.

She also attended onboarding sessions in Albany with other new library system directors, receiving training from the State Library and establishing a cohort for ongoing support and collaboration. Later this week, she will attend the American Library Association Conference in Philadelphia for a series of meetings.

Finally, Clasper highlighted the success of RPL’s esports team, recognizing Victor, a 17-year-old participant, who won an international Mario Kart tournament undefeated; the team celebrated with a group meal from Dinosaur BBQ to mark the achievement.

Community Libraries

Community Libraries Deputy Director Scanlon offered to answer questions about the written report. He reported that new window banners were installed at the Central Library to honor Rochester City School District valedictorians and senior scholars, with a celebration event attended by the mayor, county executive, and school district leaders.

Next, he provided an update on ongoing HVAC issues at the Phillis Wheatley Community Library, noting that replacement parts are on backorder until late summer. Temporary measures, including additional fans and manual adjustments to cooling systems, are being used to keep buildings at safe temperatures. Similar monitoring is underway at the Maplewood Branch, where rising temperatures have also been reported.

Scanlon further shared that nine new security cameras have been purchased with year-end funds to increase coverage across the branches, addressing a longstanding request. A broader security review is underway, with plans to pursue future grants for additional upgrades. Finally, he noted that the library will be applying for a grant through Senator Cooney's office to expand technology and security support, with the application due in early July.

Councilmember Gruber asked if there is anything that could be done to further prioritize the HVAC improvements at the Phillis Wheatley Community Library. Scanlon assured him that the project is the highest priority and receiving the parts is the only roadblock. In addition, Capital Projects Manager, Brie Harrison has asked the staff at the city to set the current system to run overnight which would prevent the building from heating up therefore reducing the stress on the current A/C system. Scanlon pointed out that the city has made decisions for many years to postpone or reduce capital improvements in favor of maintain jobs and while this is a position that is easy to support, the result down the line is that deferred maintenance often becomes emergencies.

Other Business

None

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

Debi Mansour

**ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY
PERSONNEL CHANGES
June 9, 2025, to August 8, 2025**

➤ **NEW HIRES**

Jackson, Derionna	Library Page/PT/Sully Branch	07/24/2025
Jones-Stewart, Eboni	Librarian I Sub/PT/Branch Administration	07/14/2025
Louis, Joab	Clerk III/Typing/PT/Central/Circulation Department	07/28/2025
Meldrum, Skylor	Library Assistant/PT/Central/Children's Department	06/16/2025
Morich, Katelyn	Accountant/PT/Central/Finance Department	06/30/2025
Nobes, April	Librarian I Sub/PT/Branch Administration	07/03/2025
Rodriguez, Camil	Library Page/PT/Sully Branch	08/04/2025
Shon, Steven	Librarian I/FT/Sully Branch	07/07/2025
Singleton, David B.	Security Guard/PT/Lincoln Branch	06/30/2025
Storey, Najla	Literacy Aide/PT/Wheatley Branch	08/05/2025
Weidner, R. Jack	Building Maintenance Helper/PT/Lincoln Branch	07/28/2025
Werner, Sarah	Clerk Typist/PT/Central/Reynolds Media Center	07/07/2025
Wilson, Hannah	Clerk Typist/PT/Lyell Branch	06/16/2025

➤ **PROMOTIONS**

Mendez, Jose	FROM: Literacy Aide/PT/Sully Branch	06/16/2025
	TO: Clerk Typist/PT/Sully Branch	
Miranda, Melisa	FROM: Clerk III/Typing/PT/Central/Art & Lit Department	06/16/2025
	TO: Circulation Specialist/Bil/FT/Central/Circulation Dept	

➤ **RESIGNATIONS**

Bartlett, Yusef	Building Maintenance Helper/PT/Lincoln Branch	06/13/2025
Dana, Cynthia	Executive Assistant/On-Call/Central/Central Lib. Adm	06/30/2025
Lockwood, Raina	Clerk III/Typing/PT/Central/Circulation Department	08/08/2025
McCullough, Jerome	Library Page/PT/Lyell Branch	06/23/2025
Obi, Chima	Computer Communication Tech/Central/LAS	07/03/2025
Parks, Nelson	Maintenance Worker/PT/Central/Facilities Department	06/09/2025
Ryan, Hayden	Library Page/PT/Charlotte Branch	08/14/2025

➤ **SUMMER SEASONAL YOUTH WORKERS**

Clark, Milan	Lincoln Branch	06/30/2025 to 8/30/2025
Ingram, Jade	Douglass Branch	06/30/2025 to 8/30/2025
Ismel, Farida	Maplewood Branch	06/30/2025 to 8/30/2025
Kelly, Andrea	Charlotte Branch	06/30/2025 to 8/30/2025
Mohamed, Miriam	Maplewood Branch	06/30/2025 to 8/30/2025
Nay, Kyae	Maplewood Branch	06/30/2025 to 8/30/2025
Yeomas, Saniyah	Lincoln Branch	06/30/2025 to 8/30/2025

Personnel Changes
June 9, 2025, to August 8, 2025
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STAFFING

Full-Time Positions	Central	Branches
Budgeted	80	31
Filled	79	29
Vacancies	1	2
Part-time Positions	Central	Branches
Budgeted	96	136
Filled	71	114
Vacancies	25	22

**Rochester Public Library
Financial Report – Summary
August 25, 2025, Board Meeting**

Minor change to the Financial Report template for FY2026:

- Cash Capital section reflects current year allocation and prior-year carryover.

Central Financial Report, July 2025

Salary & Benefits: Salaries, wages, and overtime within budget. Associate Director of Central Library remains vacant as well as multiple part-time positions, generating some savings.

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

Services & Charges: Services & Charges expenses within budget. Quarterly utility invoices occur (\$39,855). Annual OCLC subscriptions processed (\$98,000). Other professional service expenses reflect programming events.

Cash Capital: No Central expenses.

Community Financial Report, July 2025

Salary & Benefits: Salaries and wages are within budget. Employee development expense reflects FY25 PO carried into FY26.

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

Services & Charges: Services & Charges expenses within budget. Quarterly utility invoices occur (\$6,920). Professional service expenses reflect programming events.

Cash Capital: Dutch door installed in Lincoln Branch Manager's Office (\$6,585). Edge Architecture bill for NE branch design paid (\$50,263).

Central Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2025-26 Fiscal YTD (through July 31, 2025)						
Category	Description	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Expenses Fiscal YTD	Remaining Balance	% of Budget
Salary & Benefits						
	Full-Time Salaries	5,226,800	5,226,800	382,095	4,844,705	7.3%
	Part-Time/Temp Salaries	1,664,200	1,664,200	101,687	1,562,513	6.1%
	Overtime	19,000	19,000	297	18,703	1.6%
	Employee Benefits	3,642,600	3,642,600	140,568	3,502,032	3.9%
	Employee Development	34,100	34,100	516	33,584	1.5%
	Other	67,200	67,200	2,412	64,788	3.6%
	Sub Total	10,653,900	10,653,900	627,575	10,026,325	5.9%
Equipment & Supplies						
	Materials Budget	511,800	511,800	27,077	484,723	5.3%
	Other Furnishings & Equipment	10,100	10,100	0	10,100	0.0%
	Office Supplies	60,100	60,100	2,708	57,392	4.5%
	Other Materials & Supplies	59,800	59,800	9,547	50,253	16.0%
	Sub Total	641,800	641,800	39,332	602,468	6.1%
Services & Charges						
	Utilities	467,500	467,500	39,855	427,645	8.5%
	Facility Maintenance	109,300	109,300	5,943	103,357	5.4%
	Professional Services/Fees	236,600	236,600	112,649	123,951	47.6%
	Chargebacks	89,700	89,700	0	89,700	0.0%
	Service Charges - Other Gov't	51,400	51,400	12,564	38,836	24.4%
	Telecommunications	14,200	14,200	0	14,200	0.0%
	Other Expenses	172,300	172,300	2,832	169,468	1.6%
	Sub Total	1,141,000	1,141,000	173,843	967,157	15.2%
TOTAL EXPENSED						
		12,436,700	12,436,700	840,750	11,595,950	6.8%
Central Cash Capital						
		FY26 Budget	Prior Year Carryover	Expenses YTD	Remaining Balance	
	Facility Maintenance Allocation	50,000	171,850	0	221,850	0.0%
	Rundel Loading Dock Assessment	120,000	0	0	120,000	0.0%
	Cash Capital Total	170,000	171,850	0	341,850	0.0%
REVENUE RECEIPTS						
		11,736,100	11,736,100	827,979	10,908,121	
		Original Budget	Revised Budget	City Prorate Share + Revenue YTD	Outstanding Revenue	

Community Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2025-26 Fiscal YTD (through July 31, 2025)						
Category	Description	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Expenses Fiscal YTD	Remaining Balance	% of Budget
Salary & Benefits						
	Full-Time Salaries	2,157,700	2,157,700	146,352	2,011,348	6.8%
	Part-Time/Temp Salaries	2,022,700	2,022,700	151,489	1,871,211	7.5%
	Overtime	2,000	2,000	196	1,804	9.8%
	Employee Development	19,600	19,600	2,783	16,817	14.2%
	Other	27,400	27,400	783	26,617	2.9%
	Sub Total	4,229,400	4,229,400	301,604	3,901,180	7.1%
Equipment & Supplies						
	Materials Budget	536,600	536,600	10,306	526,294	1.9%
	Office Supplies	37,700	37,700	1,657	36,043	4.4%
	Other Materials & Supplies	41,200	41,200	3,721	37,479	9.0%
	Sub Total	615,500	615,500	15,684	599,816	2.5%
Services & Charges						
	Utilities	229,500	229,500	6,920	222,580	3.0%
	Facility Maintenance	39,700	39,700	0	39,700	0.0%
	Professional Services/Fees	402,000	402,000	3,073	398,927	0.8%
	Chargebacks	26,400	26,400	0	26,400	0.0%
	Service Charges - Other Gov't	7,500	7,500	0	7,500	0.0%
	Telecommunications	17,100	17,100	0	17,100	0.0%
	Other Expenses	50,900	50,900	100	50,800	0.2%
	Sub Total	773,300	773,300	10,093	763,007	1.3%
TOTAL EXPENSED						
		5,618,200	5,618,200	327,381	5,264,003	5.8%
Community Cash Capital						
		FY26 Budget	Prior Year Carryover	Expenses YTD	Remaining Balance	
	Library Furnishings	12,000	39,042	18,863	32,180	48.3%
	Library Facilities	40,000	112,133	6,860	145,272	6.3%
	Library Technology	0	108,664	31,124	77,539	28.6%
	Library Capital Projects*	0				
	Cash Capital Total	52,000	259,839	56,847	254,991	21.9%
REVENUE RECEIPTS						
		277,000	277,000	45,320	231,680	
* Projects administered by City DES						
		Original Budget	Revised Budget	Receipts Fiscal YTD	Outstanding Revenue	

Trust Funds Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2025-26						
Fiscal YTD (through August 19, 2025)						
	Allocation	Carry-forward	TOTAL	YTD Expenses	% of Total	
Fenevessy (Central + Branch bal)*	4224	\$81,871	\$0	\$33,871	\$0	0.0%
Gleason Fund	4225	\$16,362				
Gleason Fund (FFRPL)*	4225	\$12,572	\$13,678	\$22,612	\$535	2.4%
Taylor Fund	4226	\$3,723	\$13	\$3,736	\$0	0.0%
Beeney Fund (FFRPL)	4227	\$5,042	\$4,246	\$9,288	\$0	0.0%
Carnahan Fund	4228	\$1,604	\$818	\$2,422	\$0	0.0%
Reynolds Fund - RPL	4229	\$148,267	\$87,265	\$235,532	\$25,355	10.8%
Purton Fund	4231	\$17,543	\$11	\$17,554	\$0	0.0%
Boland Fund	4232	\$1,589	\$2,504	\$4,093	\$0	0.0%
Kenyon-Jeffries Fund*	4233	\$20,827	\$1,497	\$10,324	\$0	0.0%
Poletto Fund	4234	\$1,604	\$68	\$1,673	\$0	0.0%
Gervickas Fund	4235	\$6,236	\$7,823	\$14,059	\$0	0.0%
Craig Fund (FFRPL)	4236	\$2,803	\$2,642	\$5,445	\$0	0.0%
Lee Fund (FFRPL)	4237	\$1,524	\$1,365	\$2,889	\$0	0.0%
Vietnam Veterans Fund (FFRPL)	4238	\$701	\$1,896	\$2,597	\$0	0.0%
Holtzman Fund (FFRPL)	4239	\$1,604	\$330	\$1,934	\$0	0.0%
Tummonds Fund (FFRPL)	4241	\$103,307	\$52,168	\$155,475	\$15,392	9.9%
TOTAL		\$427,180	\$176,323	\$523,503	\$41,281	7.9%
*Support for staffing expenses removed in total column.						
Fenevessy \$48,000 for literacy aides; Gleason \$20,000 for SHH staff; and Kenyon-Jeffries for LHG staff.						
Gift Fund Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2025-26						
Fiscal YTD (through August 19, 2025)						
Fund	Allocation	Transfer In	TOTAL	YTD Expenses	% of Total	
Gift Fund	4230	\$33,188	\$0	\$33,188	\$0	0.0%



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TO: RPL Board of Trustees
FROM: Emily Clasper, Director
DATE: August 27, 2025
SUBJECT: Monthly Report—August 2025

Action Items

Agreement, Shoulders to Stand On LGBTQIA+ Archives Documentation Liaison (Clasper)

In partnership with the Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library, the Local History and Genealogy Division secured additional grant funds for the expansion of the Shoulders to Stand On LGBTQIA+ archives to incorporate the voices and experiences of people and organizations outside the white, middle-class, gay and lesbian paradigm. This includes people who identify as BIPOC, transgender, non-binary, differently abled, or other underrepresented aspects of the LGBTQIA+ experience. Using these funds, the Library will engage with Evan Bobrow as a documentation liaison, who will:

1. Assist the Project Coordinator in identifying and documenting potential collections;
2. Assist with oral history and digitization projects; and
3. Prepare archival material to be transferred to the library and incorporated into the Shoulders to Stand On LGBTQIA+ archive.

This agreement will be for up to 80 hours of work at a rate of \$25 per hour, with a maximum compensation of \$2,000. The term of the agreement will be through March 1, 2026.

Board Action Requested: Approve an agreement with Evan Bobrow to act as a documentation liaison for the Shoulders to Stand On LGBTQIA+ archives for an amount not to exceed \$2,000 through March 1, 2026.

Additional Hours for Monroe Branch (Scanlon)

The Monroe Branch would like to host a community children's ballet program in November. Sundays are the only day that the instructor has availability (Esipova Youth Ballet Theater). The request is to have the Monroe Branch open from 1:00–4:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 16, 2025.

While the ballet program is being held in the children's room, a book sale will be held on the adult floor along with a musical performance from Monroe Branch staff members. This continues a three-year tradition of Monroe's special Sunday program, which has been a well-attended success.

Board Action Requested: Approve three additional hours for the Monroe Branch on Sunday, November 16, 2025.

Allocation of 2024-2025 Annual Campaign Proceeds (Hasselwander)

\$364,069.66 was raised through the July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, annual campaign. Based on the RPL’s joint fundraising agreement with the Friends and Foundation of RPL, the proceeds of the annual campaign are to be divided evenly between the FFRPL and RPL, less any donor-restricted gifts, which results in the following recommended allocation:

Distribution of net proceeds	
Rochester Public Library for books, materials and programs	\$ 100,000.00
The Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library	\$ 100,000.00
 Campaign direct costs	
	\$ 54,313.70
 Restricted gifts and additional library allocation	
Donor restricted funds for library use	\$ 48,399.07
Restricted gifts to endowment funds	\$ 300.00
Gifts designated for special projects	<u>\$ 61,056.89</u>
 Total	 \$ 364,069.66

Board Action Requested: Approve the proposed FFRPL 2024-2025 annual campaign earnings allocation of \$364,069.66.

ImagineYOU Esports Agreement (Hasselwander)

This agreement is with 585FighterZ Esports Entertainment Group and the library for services at the ImagineYOU media lab. This is a continuation of a successful first year of the Central Library’s partnership with 585FighterZ. During the 2024-25 school year, 585Fighterz hosted 10 Esports with over 100 participants, including the Jingle Bell Roc and the Central Library Liberators vs. RPD events. This year’s agreement increases the number of programs provided. Through this agreement, the vendor will host:

- Two workshops per month at a rate of \$200 each, amounting to 20 workshops total for \$4,000.
- One mini-tournament event per month, amounting to ten mini-tournaments total for \$1,750.
- Five tournaments throughout the term of the agreement, including two open esport tournaments, two youth tournaments, and one tournament between the Teen Central Liberators and Rochester Police Department. This amounts to \$2,250.

The events will be held monthly during the upcoming school year, beginning in September. This agreement is funded through the Teen Central/ImagineYOU operating budget.

Board Action Requested: Approve an agreement with 585FighterZ Esports Entertainment Group to provide esports programming services for an amount not to exceed \$8,000, for a term through June 30, 2026.

Patent Agent Professional Services Agreement (Hasselwander)

The RPL Business Insight Center (BIC) maintains the Carlson Center for Intellectual Property, a designated U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) Patent and Trademark Resource Center. Through that Center, RPL will contract with an attorney to provide one-on-one legal advisement and evaluation of intellectual property prospects. This patent agent will be available on an as-needed basis for clients identified by the BIC staff, at a rate of \$200 per hour. The only requirement is that clients have an annual household income of \$60,000 or less. The total amount of the contract will not exceed \$4,800 with a term through August 30, 2026. This agreement is funded through the BIC operating budget, with support from FFRPL for market research services.

Board Action Requested: Approve an agreement extension with David Bassett dba Bassett Statistical Company, LLC to continue providing patent agent services for an additional year, with a term through August 30, 2026, and charges that will not exceed \$4,800.

County Archive Professional Services Agreement (Hasselwander)

In February, this Board accepted a grant of \$3,300 from the Rochester Regional Library Council for the inventory, arrangement, and description of the Monroe County archives. Using these funds, RPL will engage with Alison Wilkie to process the archives. The agreement will be for 140 hours of work at a rate of \$23.50 per hour. The compensation will not exceed \$3,300 with a term through June 30, 2026.

Board Action Requested: Approve a professional services agreement with Alison Wilkie to process the Monroe County archives for an amount not to exceed \$3,300 and a term through June 30, 2026.

Rochester History Journal Professional Services Agreement (Hasselwander)

In September 2021, this Board approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the Rochester Institute of Technology to develop a mutually beneficial partnership for the publication of the *Rochester History* journal. In June 2022, this Board approved a professional services agreement with RIT to continue the creation, publication, and administration of the *Rochester History* journal. The City Historian works in close collaboration with RIT Press to develop content and copy. The journal was first published in January 1939, by former City Historian Blake McKelvey and is considered a premier source of local history and culture. The journal is supported by the Kenyon-Jeffries trust fund.

Under this agreement, RIT Press will publish two print issues of *Rochester History* per year, at a rate not to exceed \$6,000 per year, through August 30, 2027, with the option to renew for three two-year terms. This agreement will increase compensation by \$750 per issue to \$3,000 per issue. In addition, RIT will continue to maintain the interactive digital platform for online content distribution, oversee that content, handle manuscript copyediting and journal design, and manage marketing, distribution, and subscriptions. RPL and RIT Press will continue to share copyright for jointly published issues, and RPL will retain the right to post digitized copies of the print issues of the journal online one year after publication, allowing continued free public access. RPL and RIT will share editorial control. Any revenue above the cost of production will be shared equally between the library and RIT Press.

Board Action Requested: Approve a professional services agreement with RIT Press for the publication of the *Rochester History* journal for an amount not to exceed \$6,000 annually, for a term through August 30, 2027.

Report & Discussion Items

RPL Director Emily Clasper reporting

Recommended Reading

- Efforts to restrict or protect libraries both grew this year: <https://stateline.org/2025/07/22/efforts-to-restrict-or-protect-libraries-both-grew-this-year/>
- Libraries Pay More for E-Books. Some States Want to Change That: <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/07/16/books/libraries-e-books-licensing.html>
- Why you should make the library a model for your business: <https://www.fastcompany.com/91379648/why-you-should-make-the-library-a-model-for-your->

[business?fbclid=IwY2xjawMAXuVleHRuA2FlbQlxMQABHkoW_LS62oPhUCSc2vKoZI_mMkQ5I7sVVSyA3C3JnS1QldP1FMY6zg7I-LZ0_aem_a_33LnxES1TOOIp4C4WUUQ](https://www.whec.com/top-news/monroe-county-unveils-solar-powered-wi-fi-tables-free-computer-literacy-courses-to-bridge-digital-divide/)

Director's Update

- Emily Clasper joined Congressman Joe Morelle, County Executive Adam Bello, and members of the County Legislature at a press event unveiling the Solar Tables now installed and bringing free WiFi to ten locations throughout Monroe County. Clasper was joined at the event by Wired for Opportunity's program manager, Jennfier Byrnes, as well as Jennifer Smathers, BJ Scanlon, and Patrick Pittman from the Brockport Seymour library. The level of appreciation our local leaders had to offer to the libraries was wonderful, as was the enthusiasm expressed for providing new to our community in bridging the Digital Divide. <https://www.whec.com/top-news/monroe-county-unveils-solar-powered-wi-fi-tables-free-computer-literacy-courses-to-bridge-digital-divide/>
- Clasper attended the Annual Conference of the American Library Association in Philadelphia. The conference marked the end of her tenure on three different committees for the organization, and she is looking forward to taking a short break from formal service to the organization before diving back into committee work in future years. Clasper spent quite a bit of time connecting with vendors and experts in the field of library technology in preparation for the MCLS RFP process to identify an Integrated Library System. It was interesting to learn of the recent developments in the technologies that power Library Automation as well as the business landscape for these products. Additionally, Clasper attended sessions and connected with colleagues, particularly in regard to some of the current "Hot Topics" in Libraries, such as staff safety and wellbeing, Artificial Intelligence, and challenges to intellectual freedom and library funding.
- Clasper has been involved in the City of Rochester's Street Homeless Advisory Council, and with Amy Discenza from Branch Administration, continues to participate in the City's Opioid team and County Opioid Task Force. It is imperative that the library is present in this space, as our workers are often on the front lines of these critical issues in our community. We are working hard to collaborate with City and County government departments as well as other partners in the community to find effective and empathetic solutions to managing these difficult issues in Rochester and Monroe County.
- Emily Clasper and Amy Discenza visited the Charlotte Branch to meet with a reporter doing a story on library sponsored "Read to Dogs" programs in the area. They used this opportunity to promote Summer Reading programs and discuss the importance of libraries in the effort to combat the "Summer Slide" effect that impacts students each year. They also got a chance to hang out with the very chill (and fluffy!) therapy dog, Charley Brown. The story can be accessed here: <https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/rochester/news/2025/07/12/unleashing-literacy--therapy-dogs-help-combat-summer-slide-through-reading-programs>





- The City of Rochester is offering a series of “Supervisor Boot Camp” training courses to all current and rising leaders on staff. A number of RPL Staff are taking advantage of this program, learning new leadership skills, and refreshing their memory on City policies and procedures that our supervisors and managers must adhere to. Staff response has been positive, and some of our RPL folks have proven to be shining stars in the program!

Director's Site Visits

July

Newman Riga

June

Fairport

May

Brighton Memorial Library

Mendon Public Library

Parma Public Library

Pittsford Community Library

Winton Branch Library

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

Central Library Updates

Emily Clasper reporting

- The Central Library was approached by representatives from the New York State Library to organize an Immigrant Resource Fair in collaboration with the New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC). A team of RPL staff including Brian DiNitto, Jennifer Byrnes, Erin Clark, Tonia Burton, BJ Scanlon, Ana Suro, Emily Clasper, and members of our Security team worked with NYIC and the NYS Library to recruit partner organizations for tabling, plan and execute the event, and discreetly publicize the resource fair to interested members of our community. In order to ensure that the event was safe for all participants as well as staff, several of our team took additional NYIC training on managing sensitive events safely and effectively. The Resource Fair went very smoothly and provided a number of families with essential information to help them navigate the immigration process and access local services.
- Central Construction: Rundel Window and masonry work remains on schedule for completion in January 2026. Some of the windows are complete and look amazing! Scaffolding has moved from the Court Street side of Rundel to the Broad Street terrace, changing the entrance paths to the building. Signage has been updated to help patrons gain entry to the library. The Public Link elevator is now back online after a substantial outage due to the availability of replacement parts. Modernization of other elevators in Rundel will be performed over the course of the next year or so, occurring in stages to ensure that the building remains accessible. Ventilation work is also being planned for the Rundel building, with the aim of improving air quality. This project is currently out to bid, with no firm schedule for completion yet established.

Arts/Literature, Erin Clarke reporting

Programs

- July was the first meeting of the Brownbag Book Discussion Group through Arts & Literature! Diane Gardner, newly retired former member of the Media Center staff is continuing to bring her thoughtful discussions to the dedicated group, and Erin Clarke is excited to have her join the programming roster. The group discussed *Martyr!: A Novel* by Kaveh Akbar.
- Andy Coyle, along with Brighton author and artist Sara Rubin, is producing performances by the Script-in-Hand Players theater group. The group will perform at Central Saturdays September 13th and 20th as part of the Rochester Fringe Festival. The group is a spin-off of Wordcrafters, a 50-year-old writing group in Rochester that meets at the Arnett branch on Friday mornings. Practices have gone well, and the talented group is excited to get the show on the road!
- Don Hyatt presented 'Cyanotypes: A How-To with the Process,' in June and July. This program began after various seasonal cyanotype programs had attendees asking how to do the process in its totality: coating the paper, exposure times, and image considerations. Hyatt had the group make a cyanotype outside to show the exposure process before coming inside to process the exposed sheets in water. Patrons left with their own coated sheets and insights to make their own artwork using the cyanotype process.



- The Meet the Orchestra series began in July with a performance and historical background from Ryan Hardcastle playing the viola. Hardcastle played various musical scores from the 1500s to modern times, showing the unique changes this instrument has had over its historical lifetime. The viola has become a revisited instrument in recent years: the unique properties of its shape and the sounds it makes, not being a pitch perfect instrument like a violin or cello, has given composers a more unique instrument to utilize in their compositions. Ko'u Inoa by Anne Leilehua Lanzilotti was the final song played, a worthwhile listen for anyone curious about this instrument.



Outreach

- Erin Clarke worked with Mary Fraser (Winton Branch Library, formerly Arts & Literature) and Jessica Gasbarre, Engagement Manager at the Memorial Art Gallery, to coordinate a special event book group at the Memorial Art Gallery. Participants attended a specially curated lecture led by Gasbarre, then the group discussed *The Estate* by Sarah Jost. The program had excellent feedback and participation, and Clarke plans to work with Gasbarre again for a future event. Special thanks to the Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library for sponsoring this event and paying for gallery admissions and copies of the book!
- Don Hyatt rode the Book Bike to join Bruce Tehan from Branch Administration at a Parcel 5 outreach event. Hyatt and Tehan chatted with attendees, handed out information about the library, and gave away free books.
- Don Hyatt went to LifeSpan of Rochester NY to host a painting class.



Anecdotes

- Beate Sigriddaughter, former poet laureate of New Mexico and a contributor to Arts & Literature's journal *Rundelania* donated a signed copy of her latest poetry collection, *Circus Dancer*, to Central.
- Clarke took a phone call from a patron who wanted to have a book restored before giving it to his grandchildren as a memento. After looking around and checking with other library staff, Clarke was able to contact the patron with a list of places to potentially take the book. He was so excited to have other leads and was very thankful—a really fun patron interaction!
- Clarke participated in Central's immigration resources fair and spent a while chatting with an attendee about services at City libraries and recreation centers. After asking if all of these services were free for him and his family, the patron wanted to get a library card immediately, so Clarke walked him over to circulation and Jace Harr helped him get his new card.

Business Insight Center (BIC), Jennifer Byrnes, reporting

Programs

Tax Implications for Foreign Companies Operating in the US. Presented by EFPR Advisory, LLC. This was a special program for [Luminate](#) finalists that are not US-based. These include companies in the UK, France, Germany, South Korea, Ireland, and India.

Outreach

- Cobo attended the Rochester Business Resource Partnership Meeting – Lead by ROCEDC. Included SCORE, SBDC, Venture Jobs, Rochester Hispanic Business Association, SBA, Global Entrepreneurship Network, Ibero, RIT Center for Urban Entrepreneurship, Urban League, Rochester Commissary, and PathStone.
- Cobo Presented about the Business Insight Center and Intellectual Property to Urban League's Community Business Academy.

Consulting

- Hours of in-depth market research/prior art searching: June- 36, July- 59
- The Carlson Center for Intellectual Property assisted:
 - In person: June- 3, July- 3
 - Email: June- 11, July- 11
 - Mail: June- 1, July- 1
 - Phone: June- 2, July- 2
 - Zoom: June- 3, July- 3
- 3D Printer: June- 2, July- 6 jobs with 15 components
- Requests Outside Greater Rochester Area: June-12, July- 26
- Referrals to Tracy Jong (Intellectual Property Attorney): June- 2, July- 0
- Referrals to Davis Bassett (Patent Agent): June- 0, July- 1

Database Usage Statistics (April)

- Frost & Sullivan - Page views: 17 Value: \$60,100
- IBISWorld - Page views: 61 Value: \$31,795
- InnovationQ - Logins: 8 Searches: 26
- Mintel - Sessions: 28 Page Views: 44 Downloads: 32
- PitchBook - Logins: 31
- Statista - Page views: 57 Downloads: 21
- Foundation Directory - Searches: 35 Views: 150

Database Usage Statistics (May)

- Frost & Sullivan - Page views: 25 Value: \$86,700
- IBISWorld - Page views: 92 Value: \$49,610
- InnovationQ - Logins: 8 Searches: 26
- Mintel - Sessions: 47 Page Views: 35 Downloads: 24
- PitchBook - Logins: 24
- Statista - Page views: 24 Downloads: 13
- Foundation Directory - Searches: 23 Views: 170

Wired for Opportunity Program, Jennifer Byrnes, reporting

- Ten solar tables were installed at locations across Monroe County,
- Classes Offered:
 - Intro to Computers
 - Library Resources
 - Online Job Search
 - Applying for Benefits
 - Intro to Google Workspace
 - Scams and Security

So far, 33 people have completed a series of classes and received a Chromebook to continue learning with.

- During June and July, Literacy Navigators provided digital literacy services for a total of 476.5 hours across 14 locations.
- Udemy
 - May
Users active: 314
Courses enrolled this month: 266
Total Activities Accessed: 5,157
Average rating: 4.5/5
 - June
Users active: 217
Courses enrolled this month: 505
Total Activities Accessed: 5,403
Average rating: 4.5/5
- MiFis:
 - June
Circulations: 887
Holds: 940
Units: 857
 - July
Circulations: 884
Holds: 1,035
Units: 870

Additional MiFi Units are being added to the collection with a goal of 1000 units by the end of August.

Anecdotes

A computer class student e-mailed Mangione and said, *"I would like to say that this is a very helpful class, and I really appreciate it that the teacher Briannah Williams is making this class so much fun to learn about the computer."*

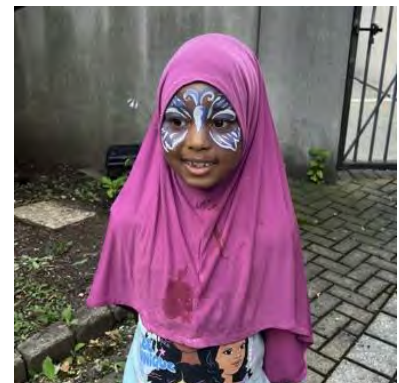
Children's Center, Tonia Burton reporting

Programs

- The Rochester Fencing Club performed a demonstration for families on the basics of fencing. Patrons learned basic movements and fencing vocabulary. Families were also able to have a visual of an actual sword and the appropriate attire that is needed for safety during fencing competitions. Families then applied what they had learned and used their fencing skills with foam swords.
- This year's summer reading theme is Color Our World. Our reading game was enhanced with fun prizes of book bundles, Family Game Night Bundle, and family four pack of tickets to Seabreeze, Strong Museum, Seneca Park Zoo, and Genesee Country Village. Every time kids read, they cross off a space on the board and earn raffle tickets that can be used to win the prizes. Bonus tickets are earned by attending our programs. The colorful artwork was provided by the Collaborative Summer Library Program and the NYS Library. To kick off the theme, children painted a mural that is hanging in the Children's Center and can be seen through the windows of the bridge area.
- Every Tuesday, Highland Park Storytime draws a large crowd! It is a huge hit with families and childcare centers!
- Engaging band "BenAnna" presented this month and was enjoyed by many. There were several childcare sites that attended along with other families. This program allows children to participate in singing and dancing along with the band.
- Local comic book artist Eugene Commodore led a group of tweens in a comic book workshop, including a visiting childcare center. Twins visiting the center as part of a home childcare visit happened to be budding comic book artists, and impressed Eugene with their skills.



- Nadia Morales hosted a colorful Summer Sidewalk Party where kids did sidewalk chalk in the reading garden, played games, and got their face painted. Morales also did a skittles color experiment program, where kids poured water over skittles to watch the colors bleed into neat patterns.
- The Children's Center welcomed many groups for visits this summer, including a group of English Language Learners from Pittsford and Camp Arise, a group of students from different city schools. We welcome as many scheduled and unscheduled group visits as possible, letting the children explore all the library has to offer.



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Summer is prime time for outreach! Our children's services staff have been visiting childcare programs that offer summer programs. Each week, staff visit Summer Leap classes @ Baden Street, Generations at Clinton Square, Friendship Children's Center, Ibero, Adams and Jackson R Centers, and Volunteers of America Childcare Center, and Wilson Commencement Park. They read stories, sing songs, and have craft activities. In addition to the weekly visits, we have been able to give out children's books at a health and wellness fair at School #50 and the Public Market.
- Burton met with Anna Laurenza, Early Childhood Project Coordinator at Common Ground Health, to explore how the library can support and sustain, and expand the *Infant & Toddler Play Day* program developed and piloted by Common Ground Health over the past year. *Infant & Toddler Play Day* is a Healthi Kids initiative born directly from community input and designed to create welcoming, supportive environments for parents and caregivers of young children. These events foster connection, skill-sharing, and education around the critical role of play in building strong, trusting relationships between caregivers and their infants and toddlers. Recognizing the power of play in early childhood development and caregiver-child bonding, the initiative features six interactive stations. Each station is thoughtfully designed to promote emotional, cognitive, and social-emotional growth while strengthening caregiver-child relationships through playful, responsive interactions. Burton worked with Friends and Foundation to secure funding to create the kits that will be made available to all member libraries.
- We began serving summer lunches and snacks to patrons 18 years and younger. This is a program that will occur Monday through Friday in July and August. Patrons were enthusiastic about it last year, so we are hopeful to get a good turnout again.

Raising A Reader

- The Raising A Reader team attended fourteen different graduation and moving-up ceremonies for the classrooms that participated in the program over the last year. Margarita Chaves put together Color Our World tote bags with summer reading program information, Toy Library brochures, and RPL brochures. Chaves, Burton, and Cheryl Johnson worked together to make as many events as possible. At each event, children selected a book to add to their home libraries.
- The Children's Center hosted the graduation celebration for Generations Clinton Square. The Early Pre-Kindergarten (three- to four-year-olds) and the Universal Pre-Kindergarten (four- to five-year-olds) and their families filled the Kate Gleason Auditorium. Families and teachers cheered the students on as they walked on the stage to receive their diplomas. After the ceremony, the families went up to the Children's Center for a story time, popsicles, cookies, and playtime.
- During the end of the year celebrations, children entertained the audience with songs and teachers shared the students' dreams for future careers. There will be police officers, doctors, veterinarians, teachers, truck drivers, dancers, artists, and business owners from the Class of 2025.





- The team made a concerted effort to encourage families to complete the end-of-year survey developed by Raising A Reader National, which collects valuable data on program impact and participant demographics. To maximize participation, we promoted the survey during end-of-year events and distributed flyers with a QR code, allowing families the flexibility to respond at their convenience. We also collaborated with site directors to share the QR code via their social media channels and sent home printed materials to further increase visibility. As an added incentive, families who completed the survey were entered into a raffle for Strong Museum passes. Based on the responses received, The Raising A Reader Red Bag program has demonstrated a positive impact across multiple areas of early childhood literacy and development, including confidence in sharing books, knowledge of reading techniques, and children's motivation and attendance. A majority of responses indicated a 'large increase' in these areas, demonstrating the program's success in fostering early literacy and family engagement. Based on this feedback, the program has led to increased confidence in sharing books, improved reading habits, and greater access to diverse and culturally responsive books.
- A grant from the Konar Foundation supported the purchase of books to give away in the Color Our World tote bags. The grant also supported hiring temporary part-time staff to expand outreach story times to Raising A Reader locations and other summer programs. The grant will provide transportation funding for summer programs to attend a program at the Central Library. In addition to the Konar Foundation support, the Friends & Foundation of Rochester Public Library secured private funding for summer reading support to hire another temporary staff person. We were able to rehire Gabby Larsen, who worked with us last summer, as well as Mikayla Guck. Larsen is a Speech-Language Pathologist who enjoys helping children and their caregivers work on language acquisition skills, which support the development of early literacy skills. Guck is a student at Nazareth University to obtain a Bachelor of Science in Studio Art, Minor in Psychology, and Art Therapy. She has worked with the Nazareth Partners to Partners program, which supports City of Rochester community partners, including Wilson Commencement Park, an afterschool program that Central and Lincoln Libraries visit weekly during the school year. Guck has created a six-week art and literacy program that will use Teaching for Artistic Behavior (TAB). The primary principle of this way of teaching is that the child is the artist. Guck will provide the program at summer sites and in the library.

Anecdotes

- A former Flower City AmeriCorps member, who had served with the Raising A Reader team several years ago, attended a recent moving-up ceremony. Now a parent, she shared her excitement that her own children are currently benefiting from the very same program. She expressed sincere appreciation for the support she received from the library during her service. Encounters like these are common—former

members often reach out to Burton or Sarah Lehman; Flower City AmeriCorps team leaders, to share how their experiences with the library have shaped their personal and professional journeys. These ongoing relationships are a powerful testament to the library's enduring presence and influence in the community.

- 4 Seabreeze tickets for a family, secured for each of the MCLS libraries, was easily the most sought-after summer reading prize in the Children's Center. To give families enough time to use the passes, they are raffled as an incentive to register for summer reading early. In mid-July Chelsea Arnold called the parent of the winner. The regular visitors to Central Library who won the tickets issued screams of excitement and gratitude that the family had won this prize.

Circulation/Information, Chad Cunningham reporting

Statistics

June

- Curbside Pickup Appointments- 0
- New Borrowers- 387
- RRLC Access Cards Issued- 7
- Notarial Acts- 131

July

- Curbside Pickup Appointments- 0
- New Borrowers- 367
- RRLC Access Cards Issued- 8
- Notarial Acts- 145

Anecdotes

One Saturday in June Chad Cunningham got to witness an example of one of the great joys of working in a library. Two patrons were at the circulation desk to check out items. They are both very stylish, interesting, friendly women who love coming to the library. They started exchanging compliments, each celebrating the style and presence of the other. It was an incredibly beautiful moment of positivity, and a great reminder of how libraries are a meeting place where everyone can find something good. Cunningham told them that, while he absolutely doesn't have favorites, they were two of his favorite patrons and that seeing them complimenting one another was certain to be the best part of the day. And, dear reader, it was.

Local History & Genealogy, Shalis Worthy reporting

Programs

- The Archive of Black History and Culture Panel Discussion was held in celebration of the Juneteenth holiday and to highlight the archive's history and recent achievements. The panel was comprised of past community advisory board members Jean Pryor, Mauricio Coombs, and Darien Lamien and project manager Antoine McDonald. This program engaged patrons with the division's community archives project and educated on special collections and their role in the preservation of history.
- Author Jack Butler presented on the history of Durand Eastman Park to promote his latest book *Durand Eastman Park: Yesterday and Today*. Patrons enjoyed this program immensely and found Butler to be an engaging speaker.

- An artist's reception was held for an exhibit installed in the Mascioli Gallery in partnership with the library's Shoulders to Stand On LGBTQIA+ Archive. The exhibit centers photographs, clothing, and other props used in the creation of the book *Shapeshifters: Bodies Like Water*. Attendees enjoyed an evening of refreshments, socializing, and a presentation from the creator and art director of the book. This exhibit brought awareness to our Shoulders to Stand on LGBTQIA+ archival collections as three exhibits of collections accompanied the *Shapeshifters* work. Patrons learned about the creative process of making a book like this and about gender identity.



Outreach/Meetings/Training

- The Local History and Genealogy Division partnered with the Documentary Heritage and Preservation Services of New York to bring the workshop "Collective Wisdom: Collaborative Learning to Support Your Community Archiving Projects" to the Central Library. Shalis Worthy, Brandon Fess, and Antoine McDonald attended the workshop.
- McDonald was invited to attend a Juneteenth celebration at the New Bethel church, to learn about the church's history in the community and to briefly speak about the Archive of Black History and Culture.
- Fess presented on the library's special collections for the Rochester City School District Teacher Summit. He ran three sessions of this presentation, speaking to a total of 70 teachers and librarians over the course of the day.
- Fess represented the library at the annual Hometown History event at Genesee Country Village & Museum. This event was a terrific opportunity to meet members of the public from around the region and discuss the role of the Local History & Genealogy Division, as well as a great networking opportunity with other cultural heritage profession.
- Worthy joined Alicia Gunther and Chad Cunningham at the Rochester Pride Festival to talk with festival goers about the library's Shoulders to Stand On LGBTQIA+ Archive and the Evelyn Bailey Endowed Fund.

Anecdotes

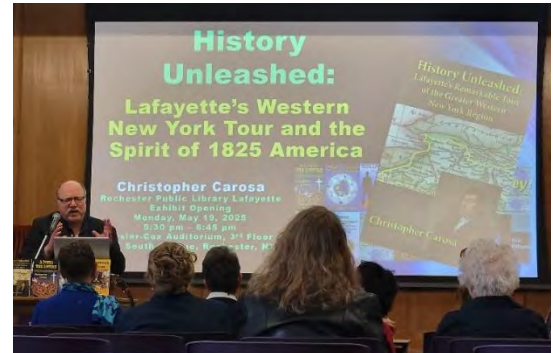
Fess received notice from NYS Historic Newspapers that digitized issues of the Rochester Telegraph and Rochester Daily Telegraph (pioneering newspapers of the 1820s) are now available on the website. These files fill gaps in a partial run of these newspapers previously mounted by NYS Historic Newspapers using microfilm from another institution.

Office of Rochester & Monroe County History, Christine Ridarsky reporting

Programs

- The Office of Rochester & Monroe County History, Rochester Institute of Technology's History Department, and RIT Press presented "Exploring the Roots of Rochester's Deaf Community" presented by Rebecca Edwards, author of the feature article in the Spring 2025 issue of Rochester History journal. The talk attracted an engaged, majority deaf audience both in person and online. You can view the presentation at <https://www.youtube.com/live/QZUOnflenA4?si=ZZP8ofS5J2oiWnQ4>.

- Another installment of the popular "Storied Saloons: Local History Happy Hour" series was held at the Spirit Room, where owner Jacob Rakovan discussed the history of the State Street site and neighborhood. Rakovan informed Morry and Ridarsky that he would welcome future collaborations with the library.
- Chris Carosa, Deputy Mendon Town Historian, gave a talk entitled "History Unleashed: Lafayette's Western New York Tour and the Spirit of 1825 America, in celebration of the opening of the new exhibit, "Hero of Two Worlds: Remembering Lafayette's 1825 Visit." The talk and the exhibit commemorate the bicentennial of Revolutionary War Gen. Marquis de Lafayette's stop in Rochester on June 7, 1825, during his Farewell Tour. The exhibit will be on display through the end of the year in the Rundel Memorial Building's second floor hallway. It was produced in partnership with the Rochester Chapter of the American Friends of Lafayette.
- Historian Christine L. Ridarsky gave a presentation on the history of Rochester and the Erie Canal as part of a session of the City's Community University. She also gave a short walking tour of the Genesee River between Court and Broad streets to a group of senior citizens who were on an excursion to explore the Erie Canal at different points in Monroe County.



Outreach

- The Local History ROCs! blog featured two new posts in May: "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is Not Dead: Spiritualism, Rochester, and (the author of) Sherlock Holmes," by Sheila Pietrowski, and "Hero of Two Worlds: A New Exhibit in Local History!" by Emily Morry, who also edits the blog. These posts received a total of 298 views in May. In addition, readers from 22 countries revisited 215 previously published posts for a total of 2,414 blog views in May. All blog posts can be read online at www.rochistory.wordpress.com.
- Ridarsky represented the City and County at several Erie Canal Bicentennial events in May, including opening ceremonies in Pittsford on May 16. She also collaborated with Nathan Stone, the county's creative director, to develop and film content for social media posts related to the bicentennial. Per the recommendation of county communications leadership, Ridarsky launched an Instagram site for the Office of Rochester & Monroe County @rocmonroehistory. She will be working with Stone in coming months to develop content, as well as a strategy for putting it to the best use.
- Ridarsky participated in a meeting of the City's Civil Rights Heritage Committee. She also met with Sarah Scott, of the City's Department of Recreation and Human Services, and Laura Warren Hill, a consultant working on the Civil Rights Heritage Park, to discuss plans for archiving information and material collected from residents and organizations as part of the park planning process.
- Ridarsky researched and developed content for two interpretive signs that will be installed in Washington Square Park later this year. The project is a collaboration between Washington Square Neighborhood Association and the City of Rochester.



Reynolds Media Center, Joseph Born reporting

Reference

June: RMC handled 713 reference questions and 389 non-reference transactions for a total of 1,102.

July: RMC handled 757 reference questions and 329 non-reference transactions for a total of 1,086.

RMC Circulation

June: RMC loaned 8 pieces of equipment and 897 Mi-Fi units in addition to the regular collection, for a grand total of 3,709 items.

July: RMC loaned 9 pieces of equipment and 884 Mi-Fi units in addition to the regular collection, for a grand total of 3687 items.

As of this writing there are 1036 holds on our Mi-Fi units. We have 870 units in circulation, with plans to add more during August, now that the cases for packaging the units have arrived.

Programs

- RMC hosted 3 "Conversations in Jazz" performances.
- RMC also hosted the "Jazz Starts Here" program with 5 performances during the Rochester International Jazz Festival week.
- RMC hosted 4 "Tuesday Concerts".

Hoopla

Circulation

- Audiobooks- 2020
- Binge Pass- 47
- Comics- 179
- eBooks- 429
- Movies/TV- 477
- Music- 97
- **Total Circulation– 3247**

Users

- New users- 84
- Patrons using all 7 borrows- 167 (17%)
- Total users- 977

Cost

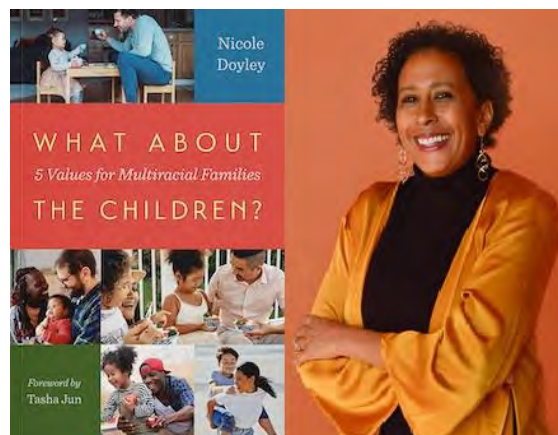
- Total- \$7,531.98
- Per item- \$2.32

Science and History, Gabe Pellegrino reporting

Programs

- Oliver Wendell Petrie: Erie Canal Cook, presented by Derrick Pratt from the Erie Canal Museum. Oliver was a native of Oswego, New York, served for three years as a cook on board the Empire State oil tanker moving along the modern Barge Canal. Oliver specialized in traditional soups and stews, but he also knew a few recipes for other ethnic cuisines, such as chili con carne, Hungarian goulash, and chop suey! The audience was engaged throughout Derrick's presentation and there were lots of questions! Several of the attendees were local historians, and Derrick was invited to join the monthly meeting of the Rochester Historians lunch group, where additional discussion ensued.

- Life in the Past Lane: History Along the Highways of New York State, presented by Lisa Wemett and Terry Mulee. During this Zoom program, Lisa and Terry highlighted the sites along the Erie Canal that tell the story of this National Historic Landmark, its influence on the development of cities, the women's rights movement, and the 20th century luminaries who followed the suffragettes. Lisa and Terry shared a handout that contained information about all of the places shared in their presentation. All the participants were engaged throughout the program and there was positive feedback in the Zoom Chat. This program was a partnership with several other MCLS libraries.
- Stephen Richey, a local U.S. military career veteran presented *Joan of Arc: Discussion, Travelogue, and Screening*. In his talk, Richey discussed how it might have been possible for Joan, a teenaged illiterate peasant farmgirl, to take control of an army and lead it to multiple victories, and free her country from foreign domination, as discussed in his book, *Joan of Arc: The Warrior Saint*. A slide show covered the places Joan had visited through her campaigns as the story was told. There was a very engaging question-and-answer period, followed by a screening of the 2013 documentary film *Saint Joan of Arc: Maid for God*, in which Richey appears. As a bonus, Richey brought in a 2-foot bronze statue of Joan to display during his presentation.
- Nicole Dooley, a local writer, podcaster, and presenter on race from both Christian and secular perspectives presented the talk, *What about the Children? 5 Values for Multiracial Families*, Drawing from her more than 25 years of experience serving in various ministerial capacities, Dooley spoke on the challenges of growing up biracial in Brooklyn, and how she and her Jamaican husband have raised their children, giving much practical advice. In this program, a very animated discussion ensued, with people from many walks of life looking for guidance and talking about their own experiences.



Outreach and Partnerships

- Gabriel Pellegrino attended the Community Partner Breakfast for the Center for Community Health and Prevention, University of Rochester Medical Center. This is an annual opportunity for all the partners to network. Pellegrino received many questions about services provided by the library.
- Pellegrino met with Evelyn D'Agostino and two colleagues from the Grupo Cultural Latinos en Rochester, which will once again be providing display materials to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month this September/October. D'Agostino is excited about all the space available in Science to create some beautiful decorating, displays, and exhibition. The Division will support this effort by creating book displays and providing related activities for the patrons.

- Pellegrino was in contact with Katlyn Newberry of the Cancer Services Program of the Finger Lakes. The Program wishes to resume its partnership with the Library and provide a semi-regular presence on LROC days to promote its services.

Anecdotes

- The Central Library received two certificates of appreciation regarding tax assistance to the public. One came from the IRS (VITA Program) and one from the New York State Taxpayer Assistance Program, which is hosted here in the Science Division.
- LROC (Library Resource Outreach Center) visitors numbered about 40 people seen in June and another 40 in July. (Person Centered Housing Options) had to take a short hiatus during July but the numbers are still high. These numbers also include visits to Legal Assistance of Western New York, who assist with various legal and housing issues.

Technology Center, Jay Osborne Reporting

Programs

- The Technology Center is collaborating with the Teen Center to create an entertaining and educational program called Game Theory. The first class was held will be in the first week of August. The plan is to introduce teens to a variety of board games. After playing the games, participants will critique the game and identify what they liked and did not like about the game. Then participants will try to design their own games and, in the process, learn some of the basics of game structure and flow charting. The basic elements of storytelling and world building will also be introduced. This program is designed to lead-in to the next set of programs more focused on basic programming, ultimately leading to a module on computer-based game design. It looks like an interesting project and will be just one of a series of interwoven programs in a long series.
- The Coding Club continues to draw a small but committed group of attendees. The size of the group allows the topics to move rapidly from topic to topic. This highly dynamic and organic program provides a great learning experience for the participants. Cy Shropshire is able to provide a range of learning opportunities ranging from the basics of computer programming to 3-D printing.
- Trevor Johnson has been teaching seniors about technology through zoom classes and in person. His easy sense of humor and patience make him an approachable and effective instructor. His pleasant demeanor and professionally disciplined poise, both honed by a career in security services, give him the aura of being an island of calm even in the midst of tension and chaos.

Anecdotes

At a recent outreach event at R.L Edwards Manor on Clarissa Street, Tomaszewski and Johnson offered a class on Artificial Intelligence to a group elderly residents aged 70 to 87 years old. The topics of the two-hour session ranged from logging in to a computer, to Wi-Fi essentials, to using A.I. computer programs. By the end of the session participants had a better understanding of what A.I. is (and isn't) and were able to use an A.I. program to create images. Even an administrator of R. L. Edwards attended the presentation. Using the newly acquired skills she created an image of Luther VanDross. But not just any image of Luther Vandross, this was Luther Vandross as a Jedi Knight. Seeing the images she said, "*Ooh the building manager would like this.*" One elderly man said "*This was so advanced! And I understood it!*" Another said, "*Rochester Really cares about its old people.*"



Teen Central, Shetora Banks and Jeff Bostic reporting

Programs

- During their visit to the Rochester Public Library, summer school scholars explored the innovative spaces of Teen Central and the Imagine You Lab—two hubs designed specifically for creativity, exploration, and youth empowerment. In Teen Central, scholars engaged with a vibrant teen-only space equipped with gaming systems, study areas, and multimedia resources. At the Imagine You Lab, they had the opportunity to explore emerging technologies and hands-on digital tools, sparking ideas for future projects and creative pursuits.
- AI Comics started up again at the end of this month with a group from Black Men Achieve. Black mentors brought in several youth to create images for their stories. This program allowed several underprivileged teens to experience a unique way to creatively express themselves.
- Teen Central and the Digital Media Lab have partnered again with Action for a Better Community's Summer Youth Employment Program. This program employs 10 youth each for the AIMM and EPIC programs. These youth have focused on the impact of youth fashion and expressed themselves in social media, photography, and video. They have learned how to operate different software and hardware during this process. Their behind-the-scenes website can be seen here: <https://new.express.adobe.com/webpage/HhNAovXd1s9tF>
- The 9th Floor Collective began their art program this month. They received the Arts Bloom Grant to help youth put art on the ceiling tiles in the ImagineYou Digital Media Lab.



- The director of the Center for Community Alternatives reached out to Teen Central and was interested in working with youth who have experienced school suspensions and may benefit from additional support in transitioning back into the classroom and school. Their goal is to provide advocacy for students during long-term suspension hearings and offer support as they transition back into their home schools. They aim to ensure that every student returns with a clear, student-centered transition plan developed in collaboration with the school's administrative team. During their visit they were able to connect and have a discussion group with our teens and were able to share ideas and their feeling about school suspensions. We have plans to continue this relationship with the Center for Community Alternatives in the future.
- The end of school year carnival was an awesome way to celebrate graduates and set expectations for the peaceful and fun summer we had planned. Teens enjoyed playing games and eating pizza and subs while learning about The Summer Reading theme. The Tech center's Josh and Cy joined us with a cool table set up showing the coding program and other services; Cy even took participants to the reading garden to launch a rocket! FASFA festival representatives staffed a table with goodies and information to help navigate the upcoming college application season.



Community Libraries

BJ Scanlon reporting

- This summer kicked off our first ever New Library Patron of the Month raffle. At the end of each month, we randomly draw a patron who signed up for a new library card at RPL and provide them with a piece of media of their choice, also giving the library where they signed up a copy of the item to add to their collection. June's winner was just 3 months old when her mother signed her up for a library card! Bruce Tehan and the team at the Arnett Branch helped the family pick an adorable collection of board books for their family and the Arnett Branch. July's patron of the month has been selected — a new patron at the Lincoln Branch.
- With the financial support of Senator Samara Brouk, the Lincoln Branch was able to purchase a portable lactation pod that is in use in the Toy Library. The addition of this pod will give nursing parents a safe, clean place to feed their little ones or express milk while taking advantage of all the library has to offer. Senator Brouk will hold a press event to unveil the new lactation pod on August 13.



- Aviation Station will hold a graduation ceremony in August celebrating the 11 young people who completed the program and received awards and certificates from Mr. Carter and Mayor Evans.
- A big shout out to Cathy Kyle, manager of the Charlotte Branch, Cathy was elected as the First Vice President/Incoming President of the Youth Services Section Board for the NYLA (New York Library Association). This is a well-earned honor reflecting her leadership and commitment to youth services.

Branch Administration, Amy Discenza reporting

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Amy Discenza gave a virtual presentation to eight classrooms of adult learners through the Rochester City School District's Office of Adult and Career Education Services (OACES) as part of their ongoing Speaker Series. She introduced participants to essential library resources, collections, and services, sparking strong engagement and plenty of questions. Learners were especially interested in the Wired for Opportunity initiative, Empire Passes, and materials available for new Americans.

Anecdotes

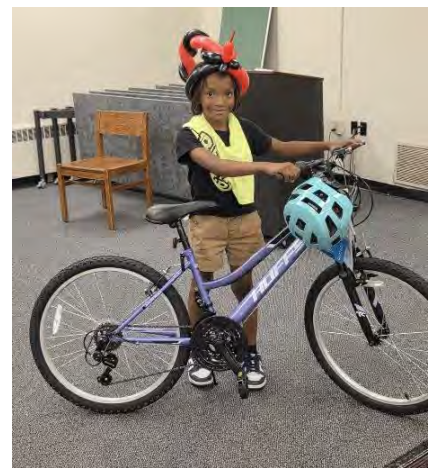
- Kudos to the team at Winton for hosting a standout event! In June, the library hosted its seventh annual Summer Music Party, and it was nothing short of fantastic. The evening was filled with energy and community spirit. Big Blue House, a trio of local musicians, played a blend of rock, folk, blues, and reggae, getting the crowd moving—a few young partygoers stole the spotlight with their impressive dance moves. The Children's Room was bustling with activity, from face painting to balloon animals. Outside, families lined up for sweet treats at the Netsin's ice cream truck. Summit Federal Credit Union had folks spinning their prize wheel for fun giveaways. A raffle to win Sea Breeze tickets added to the excitement. The love and pride this community has for the Winton Branch was on full display—it was a joy to experience.
- A heartfelt thank you to **substitute librarian April McCloud** for her outstanding support during two important events in July. April played a key role in ensuring **Mayor Evans's visit to Lincoln Branch** went smoothly, helping the team create a warm and welcoming experience. She also skillfully managed a **visit from the Monroe County Health Department at Sully Branch**, which serves as a **Foodlink Summer Meal site**. April handled both situations with professionalism, grace, and her trademark calm under pressure. Branch Administration staff are fortunate to have her on the team—thank you, April, for everything you do!



Arnett Branch, Ginger Brewer reporting

Programs

- The ZooMobile visited Arnett twice in July, drawing in crowds of curious kids and families. Zoo staff shared fascinating facts about animal habitats and defense mechanisms, while live animals—including snakes, African birds, spiders, tortoises, and other reptiles—captivated young audiences. The interactive format kept kids asking questions and fully engaged throughout.
- African Drumming was another highlight. What started with a few hesitant onlookers quickly turned into a high-energy event as the rhythm of the drums pulled people in. Several children and families joined, along with a handful of teens, and even adults couldn't help but dance along. The room was filled with movement, laughter, and joy—it was nearly impossible to stay seated!
- Arnett's summer reading celebration was filled with fun and surprises. Families enjoyed games, prizes, and a lively magic show that kept the crowd entertained from start to finish. The magician amazed everyone with clever tricks and even invited kids onstage to help as honorary "Magician Assistants." The day ended on a high note with a raffle, where two lucky winners took home brand-new bikes and helmets
- Arnett teens participated in various hands-on art activities. For Father's Day, they decorated ceramic mugs with vibrant acrylic paint markers alongside Nancy Cholewa. Later, a spin art session drew both spectators and participants, who created colorful designs—from patriotic themes to explosive patterns—some even making a second piece. The Teen Taste Test turned into a full-blown birthday bash in honor of Kate Peck. The teens sampled an assortment of cakes, discussing everything from texture and sweetness to cost, advertising, and ingredients. They even touched on the connection between sugar and health issues like diabetes. It was both fun and informative—with plenty of frosting. The top pick? Strawberry lemon cake, hands down. And yes—the staff happily joined the taste testing too!
- Overcoming Barriers, a community program led by Wes Becker from the MCLS Outreach Department, shifted to a drop-in style tabling event this month. Becker talked with individuals whose loved ones are navigating life after incarceration, sharing resources and strategies for overcoming challenges like finding housing, employment, and educational opportunities.



Community Outreach/Meetings

- Books by Bike made an appearance at Square Fair. The event featured a parade, performances, a mechanical bull, Peter Evans Kids Zone, and over 30 vendors.
- The Arnett Library participated in a multi-day community event, Ease on Down the Road, building relationships with neighbors and boosting awareness of library programs.

- At the Monica Place Family Day event, Arnett joined forces with RPL GO! for a day of family fun. Attendees enjoyed RPL-themed mini-golf, signed up for library cards, and received information about upcoming services and events.

Anecdotes/Other

On Tuesdays, staff from the Arnett and Douglass branches visit the Westside Farmers Market. With the help of Books by Bike, they distribute free books, shared library resources, and invited families to participate in games, crafts, and conversations. Bruce Wilbur helped make memories for a couple of kids when he helped a young boy learn to fly his kite and repaired a kite for another visitor.

Charlotte Branch, Cathy Kyle reporting

Programs

- Storytime at the beach is making waves! Cathy Kyle launched a story time with a refreshing new twist, inviting young people and their caregivers to gather at Ontario Beach Park for stories, songs, and sunshine.
- Music with Jennifer, led by Jennifer Cherelin, was another summer highlight. The program brought smiles to participants of all ages, continuing Charlotte's tradition of joyful, music-filled programming.
- Charlotte hosted two popular art workshops. Watercolor with Wendy provided a relaxing environment for patrons to explore their artistic side. Accompanied by soft music and the scent of essential oils, participants completed free-form paintings. Glass Etching attracted eager makers using Cricut stencils and etching crème to craft personalized glass pieces, with many already asking about future sessions.
- Charlotte hosted Waterway of Change: Women and the Erie Canal, a presentation from the Erie Canal Museum. As expected, the local history program attracted a full house and was well-received.
- Cherelin and a team of volunteers organized two produce distribution events, helping local families and making a substantial donation to a church's blessing box. Produce was secured from vendors at the Rochester Public Market.



Community Outreach/Meetings

- Kyle led a Pride-themed Storytime at Seneca Park. The seals and polar bears were tough competition, but some children excitedly sat for stories. She also represented the Charlotte Branch at Harborfest, partnering with Alicia Gunther from the MCLS Office and RPL GO! to engage with attendees.
- Cherelin and Summer of Opportunity intern Andrea Kelly hosted Playtime at the Beach. The combination of sunshine, fresh air, and playful activities has been a hit with kids and families alike.
- Kyle visited School No. 42 and handed out 500 summer reading packets. She couldn't have done it without the help of Pages Xavier Scott and Hayden Ryan, whose behind-the-scenes efforts—stapling, counting, and organizing—ensured every classroom received materials. The initiative led to follow-up calls from families, confirming its positive impact.

Anecdotes/Other

- The Charlotte Branch was featured in the [Upstate Gardeners' Journal](#) for their chicken story time.
- When a patron came in feeling overwhelmed about her personal information being online, Kyle took the time to help. They spent over an hour reviewing websites and steps she could take to remove or limit her

online presence. The patron was so relieved and grateful for the support that she later called Bruce Tehan to personally express her appreciation.

Frederick Douglass Community Library, Evanna DiSalvo reporting

Programs

- The Frederick Douglass Community Library hosted a two-day plant swap. Patrons and staff contributed indoor and outdoor plants and accessories so that visitors to the library could go home with something new to them. The library also hosted its first Community Flea Market of the summer. Participants were so enthusiastic about the event that staff are organizing two more sessions.
- We Love Strawberries, was a workshop led by Monroe County Cornell Cooperative Extension. Participants read *I Love Strawberries* by Shannon Anderson, then explored the lifecycle of the strawberry, learned what the plant needs to thrive, and planted seeds to take home.
- In honor of the Erie Canal Bicentennial, Teresa Wood brought two dollhouses, a canal boat model, and American Girl dolls to present a fun and interactive story.
- Artist Deb Coller guided and inspired patrons of all ages to unleash their creativity, creating works of art out of what started as an ordinary rock.



Community Outreach/Meetings/Trainings

- Frederick Douglass Community Library and Arnett Branch staff teamed up to host a table at the Westside Farmers' Market this year. At least twice a month, Douglass staff share information about RPL, hand out small giveaway items, and set up oversized games to play.
- DiSalvo represented the library at Anna Murray Douglass Academy's Nature-Based Learning Program's final Blankets and Books event of the school year. This event was held outside near the lily pond and was in partnership with PBS. Participants received a free stuffy donated by PBS after reading a book at the library station.



Anecdotes/Other

- Isaac Lewis introduced the Frederick Douglass Community Library to a new "volunteer" named Clyde. He is a big hit with library patrons, young and old!
- This summer, there has been record participation in the Adult Summer Reading Program. Gift cards to local businesses, Cheesy Eddie's and Abundance Co-op, were awarded to participants whose names were drawn randomly at a Facebook Live event. The participant with



the most entries received a gift card to Domino's Pizza and the second most entries received a gift card to Price Rite. The awards will be repeated in August.

- Hipocampo Children's Books invited Frederick Douglass Community Library to participate in a "Where's Waldo" scavenger hunt. Waldo figures were hidden in fourteen local businesses. Participants who collected stamps or signatures in at least ten locations received rewards at the bookstore.
- BJ Scanlon, Emily Clasper, Evanna DiSalvo, Jennifer Dupre, and Amanda Santacrose from Jeremy Cooney's office met with artist Laura Babiuk to discuss details surrounding a 3-part set of murals to be painted at the Douglass Library. The artwork will combine images from Alice and Wonderland and Narnia, honoring Jeremy Cooney and his mother. State Senator Jeremy Cooney is providing funds for the project. Work will begin in September, and a tea party celebration will be planned upon its completion.
- Seven library regulars graduated during the 6th-grade moving-up day ceremony at Anna Murray Douglass Academy School No. 12. Douglass staff agree it will feel strange next year not to see them every day, although the new 7th graders say they will still visit.



Lincoln Branch, Vera Haygood reporting

Programs

- The Summer Reading Kickoff party, led by Matt Seidel and Vera Haygood, was a June highlight. The event brought together children and families for a day of food, games, and reading inspiration.
- In July, the Lincoln Branch offered a variety of programs focused on creativity, literacy, and confidence-building. Teens joined Crochet with Ms. Kim to practice chain stitching and learn pattern reading. Haygood led a workshop on self-esteem and positive self-talk, while Seidel launched a musical storytime series featuring guitar, egg shakers, tambourines, and rhythm sticks.
- Staff from RIT's Animation Department visited the Lincoln Branch to host an engaging demonstration for families, offering a glimpse into the creative world of animation. The library also hosted a visit from the Seneca Park Zoo, giving children the chance to visit with live animals and learn fun facts.
- In partnership with Writers & Books, the library hosted a weeklong creative writing workshop called *SummerWrite*. This year's theme, *It Could Happen Here*, encouraged young writers to explore genres like fantasy, science fiction, and magical realism. After searching the shelves for inspiration, participants crafted their own characters, settings, and plot twists.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Seidel helped finalize and participate in the Reconnect Rochester Complete Streets Makeover initiative, contributing to a neighborhood beautification effort that included planting a garden, painting public spaces, and installing a Little Free Library just off Avenue D. He also represented the branch during the Joseph Avenue Annual Celebration, where he handed out flyers and offered impromptu chess lessons to kids and adults, introducing new visitors to both the game and the library.
- Seidel distributed promotional flyers for the library's summer programs to nearby schools, the Gantt Recreation Center, and Ibero, helping to spread awareness and increase community participation.
- Vera Haygood has continued to adapt to her new role as Interim Branch Supervisor, stepping into expanded operational and leadership responsibilities while covering for Sarah Lehman.

Anecdotes/Other

- The Lincoln Branch serves as a host site for the Foodlink Free Summer Lunch Program, which offers nutritious meals to children ages 18 and under. The program helps kids stay fueled and focused during the summer months.
- Staff from the Father Tracy Advocacy Center visit the library weekly. Every Wednesday, they're on site to connect patrons with social services and resources offered by their center, acting as a dependable contact point for community support.
- One of the sweetest moments of the summer came during a Musical Storytime, when a young girl enthusiastically sang the *Frozen* hit "Let It Go" (affectionately referred to as "the Elsa song") with Seidel, who accompanied her on guitar. The performance was spontaneous, heartfelt, and perfectly captured the joy that library programs bring to the community.

Lyell Branch, Dennis Williams reporting

Programs

- Lyell's Much Ado About Yarn knitting and crochet group kept the creative energy flowing. Regulars shared tips, laughter, and conversation while working on their latest projects—and as always, they had a blast.
- Chicken Storytime was a recent highlight. Children and adults alike enjoyed spending time with two calm, friendly Silkie chickens. The event featured three farm-themed read-aloud, with *Chicks and Salsa* by Aaron Reynolds being the clear crowd favorite.
- Teens had the opportunity to participate in a wooden coaster decorating workshop. Using ceramic tiles, they created unique, colorful designs. Teens also enjoyed the Photo Comic Club, where they developed their own photo-based comics.



Community Outreach/Meetings/Trainings

- Caleb Paul and Manju Sharma visited Flower City School No. 54 to promote summer reading among K–6 students. They shared their excitement about joining the program, earning prizes, and exploring new books. Additionally, they left free books for students and teachers, encouraging everyone to include reading in their summer activities.
- The Lyell Branch team has been out and about in RPL GO! Dennis Williams and Markakis visited the Maplewood YMCA, where they registered new library cardholders, circulated books, and distributed free reading materials. Williams and Paul brought the mobile library to the Thurston Road YMCA Neighborhood Center Health Fair, engaging with families, sharing resources, and providing additional free books to encourage summer learning. Williams and Markakis also made outreach visits to the Charles Settlement House and Highland Park. During the Highland Park event, they met the individual responsible for helping the library acquire its outreach van. She was visibly excited to see her vision realized and in use within the community.



Anecdotes/Other

- The new 3D printer is up and running. Young patrons have taken a special interest in it, frequently requesting specific items to print—especially the popular infinity fidget cubes.
- Caleb Paul began testing the new Chompsaw, a child-safe cardboard crafting tool that opens up fun and safe possibilities for hands-on building projects.
- Lyell Branch's new Nintendo Switch Lites have arrived, and the Teen Zone got a snazzy new sign.
- The Lyell Branch continues to be a space visited by many individuals facing significant mental health challenges. Staff have found that consistent kindness, paired with clear and respectful boundaries, remains the most effective approach in creating a safe and supportive environment for all.



Maplewood Community Library, Johanna Buran reporting

Programs

- The last day of school brought a surge of excitement—and kids—into the library. Children from across the neighborhood poured in, eager to start summer. To keep things running smoothly, staff introduced some new tools and routines: timers and special passes now help manage computer time and reading activities. These improvements wouldn't be possible without the help of three Summer of Opportunity interns, who've jumped right in. Each of them has been coming to Maplewood Community Library for years, and now they're part of the team, contributing with confidence and care.
- Several craft days gave children a chance to explore their artistic side, with activities like origami, magnet-making, and decorating butterfly ornaments. The butterflies were a crowd pleaser, and the finished creations are now proudly displayed in the children's area.
- Two fan favorites made a return this summer: the Connect 4 tournament and the hula-hoop contest. Both brought in enthusiastic participants and plenty of friendly competition. A new addition this year was Giant Game Day, held outside and featuring oversized versions of checkers, chess, and Connect 4. The giant Connect 4 pieces doubled as "bionic arms" for a few imaginative kids, which led to some impromptu robot battles.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Mark Hafer made two visits to Ida B. Wells School No. 34 in June. The first initiative involved engaging with parents during student pick-up; the second took place at the school's annual carnival, where he distributed free books and information to families and educators, fostering a lasting love of reading beyond the classroom.
- Hafer and Anthony Monahon brought RPL GO! to an event sponsored by the Genesee Land Trust on the Driving Park bridge, Bridging Communities: A Riverside Celebration. They handed out books and registered visitors for library cards. It was a great opportunity to connect with families and introduce them to what the library has to offer.



Anecdotes/Other

- A memorable moment involved a young library regular working on her summer bridge book, which started with setting goals. When asked her goals, she said, "*I want to stay busy!*" but refused help spelling "busy," insisting on spelling it herself: "*M W V O D L...*" She did the same for her next two goals, with the librarian providing small translations beside each.
- Staff worked with a refugee from Afghanistan, using price cards and a toy cash drawer to practice making change. After gaining confidence with whole-dollar amounts, the next session will introduce coins and more complex transactions.
- A victim of identity theft came to the library for help with filing her taxes. Staff assisted her in navigating the IRS website, securing a new identification number, and completing her return. Another patron needed help printing text messages from a contractor who had failed to complete a roof repair. The messages were crucial evidence for her small claims court case scheduled for later that day.
- Some of the most inspiring moments of the summer have happened in the dirt. Young patrons started collecting bugs in the library's outdoor space, identifying them, researching their diets, and building small terrariums. Each bug received a name and some temporary care before being safely returned to the wild by the end of the day.

Monroe Branch, Mary Clare Scheg reporting

Programs

- Kassady Lewis led a lively mix of story time programs throughout June and July. Rainbow Story Time introduced preschoolers to a new color each week, with themed stories and take-home coloring packets. LEGO Story Time gave school-aged kids the chance to build creations inspired by each session, proudly displayed in the library afterward. A crowd favorite, Chicken Story Time, gave kids the chance to hear stories and interact with real silkie chickens—a hands-on experience they won't forget. To wrap up the month, the library hosted a cozy PJ Storytime & Stuffy Sleepover. Children arrived in pajamas for bedtime stories, then left their stuffed animals for a special overnight stay. The next day, they received a flipbook showing their plush friend's nighttime adventures—adding a touch of magic to their reading experience.
- Monroe Branch hosted an all-ages magic show starring Mr. Steve Ingraham.
- Cupcake Color Theory combined creativity and dessert. Jeanie Coley taught kids how to mix colors using frosting and food dye, while Lewis assisted with supplies and setup. The best part? Every participant went home with a decorated cupcake and a juice box.
- The tabletop gaming group meets every Saturday, building a warm, welcoming community and a loyal following.



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Lewis made two outreach visits to St. Paul's Daycare. She offered a total of six story times, engaging classes of 2-year-olds, 3-year-olds, and 4-year-olds.
- Lewis held a storytime at the Wide Water Gardens as part of the community's Lady Bug Day celebration. The event was organized by the Southeast Area Coalition and the Upper Monroe Neighborhood. Lewis hosted her storytime in the middle of the gardens after the live ladybug release and handed out Summer Reading flyers afterward.
- The Monroe Branch hosted a meeting of the Pearl, Meigs, Monroe Neighborhood Association.



Anecdotes/Other

- A patron dropped by and took a moment to let the Branch Manager know how much they appreciated Joe Bushen's help with their cell phone.
- Chris Price was away on Grand Jury duty for much of July, and the Monroe Branch community felt his absence. Regular patrons frequently asked staff about his whereabouts, expressing genuine concern and curiosity. When they learned he was serving on jury duty, many shared their relief and eagerly awaited his return. Chris was warmly welcomed back by both staff and patrons alike.

Phillis Wheatley Community Library, Lori Frankunas reporting

Programs

- To honor Juneteenth, young patrons created UNITY bracelets using green, black, red, and yellow beads while learning about the holiday's significance. They explored why the color red plays such an important role in Juneteenth celebrations, symbolizing the bloodshed and resilience of those who fought for freedom. Afterward, they enjoyed a spread of red fruits, with strawberries and cherries topping the list of favorites.
- Children created colorful hanging yarn art by wrapping yarn around sticks and customizing the ends. Several young artists proudly displayed their pieces in the children's room for others to enjoy.
- Teens explored their storytelling skills through Collage Comics, crafting comic strips using cut-out images from magazines and filling in the dialogue with speech bubbles of their own. The activity sparked both creativity and conversation.
- July's Take & Make craft connected with the Rochester Reads selection, *Soil* by Camille Dungy. Participants created paper seed bombs—shapes made from recycled paper infused with wildflower seeds that can be planted later. The craft blended creativity and sustainability, while also encouraging participants to learn more about this year's community-wide read.



- The Urban Fiction Book Club switched things up with a Saturday morning meeting, drawing in some new faces. The group explored *Lazarus Man* by Richard Price, discussing the characters' journeys and the intricate twists of the plot.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- The library hosted a Community Paint Day to support the Storywalk refresh project. Artist Chloe Smith sketched out the design, and nearly 50 neighbors—of all ages—came together to bring it to life. Families painted side by side, while others stopped in to say hello and cheer on the effort. The event was a beautiful reminder of how the library serves as a gathering place and a catalyst for neighborhood pride.



Anecdotes/Other

- Alexandra Haehn helped an older patron navigate the process of taking her driving permit test. From creating a NY.gov ID to troubleshooting technical issues, Haehn made sure the patron felt supported every step of the way. The patron left feeling both grateful and empowered.
- An adult patron came in looking for a single title but left raving about the new book display, especially the wide selection of non-fiction titles. She praised the variety and depth of the adult collection, noting how impressed she was by the curation.
- A notable moment came when a patron with limited computer experience came in hoping to create a personal ledger. With support from staff and some time in Excel, the patron was able to build a functional spreadsheet tailored to his needs. He left not only with a working ledger, but also with a sense of pride and accomplishment—just one example of how the library helps patrons build confidence through technology.
- Three teens were selected as winners of the "Get Caught Reading" raffle, each receiving a gift card for their efforts in making reading a part of their everyday lives.



Sully Branch, Maria Heeks-Heinlein reporting

Programs

- Two Pre-K classes from School No. 33 made weekly visits to the library for storytime. Each session featured stories, music, dancing, and early literacy activities that brought big smiles to the faces of the little ones. The sessions were such a hit that Sully staff hope to expand the partnership next school year.
- At Sully, summer reading is in full swing, and thanks to the support of the Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library, the excitement is reaching readers of all ages. There's been a strong turnout for the adult summer reading program, with enthusiastic participants submitting their entries and hoping for a prize. July winners were thrilled to receive Walmart gift cards, and one winner was so motivated she asked for more entry slips—she's already planning her comeback in August!
- Crunchy Zoo made a much-anticipated visit, bringing a mix of wonder and a few shivers. Young animal lovers especially enjoyed the chance to see a tarantula up close—although not everyone was eager to get too near! It was a great opportunity for hands-on learning, and the children had plenty of questions.
- The Sully Branch is serving as a Foodlink Summer Meal site, offering lunch and snacks for youth and teens Monday through Friday to make sure neighborhood kids get access to healthy meals all summer. Steve Shon adds a personal touch by reading aloud to the children.
- The Aviation Station program continues to soar—both in popularity and impact. Participants remain enthusiastic about this unique opportunity to explore the world of aviation, gaining insight into an exciting and often overlooked industry.



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Maria Heeks-Heinlein represented Sully at a family engagement event at School No. 8 on St. Paul Street. She had the opportunity to speak with students, parents, and teachers about all the resources offered at both Sully and Lincoln Branch libraries. Attendees were especially excited to hear about Lincoln Branch's toy library and Sully Branch's collection of tabletop role-playing game manuals—both great examples of how libraries support learning and creativity beyond books.
- Sully Branch staff were proud to take part in a Southeast Neighborhood Service Center outreach event held outdoors. Steve Heinlein, Shon, and Derionna Jackson represented the library, chatting with attendees, sharing information about library services, and giving away free books. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive—one participant even said Sully Branch had the best table at the event!

Anecdotes/Other

- July brought two new faces to Team Sully: Children's Librarian Steve Shon and Page Derionna Jackson. Staff are excited to have them on board.

- Two longtime team members, George Carter and Carmen Gonzalez, were honored for their years of dedicated service. Their contributions have made a lasting impact on the community and the Sully Branch team is proud to celebrate their commitment.
- When East High School faced power outages on a key Regents exam day, the library quickly responded to an early morning call for help. Staff opened the Storytime Room for students to take their tests, and Marie Turner went above and beyond to create a quiet, welcoming, test-friendly space. Additional students were accommodated at the Thomas Ryan Center as well.
- With the temporary closure of the Thomas Ryan Center, extra steps were taken to ensure the safety of everyone at the branch during the busy summer season. A big thank-you goes out to BJ Scanlon, Bruce Tehan, Vincent McIntyre, Ronald Sneed, and Mike Brooks for developing and implementing a thoughtful and effective summer security plan. Their work helps maintain Sully Branch as a safe and welcoming space for patrons and staff alike.



Winton Branch, Kathy Wolf reporting

Programs

- The Winton Branch was a place of joyful community spirit during the 2025 Summer Music Party. Inside the library, three-piece folk/rock/blues band Big Blue House set the mood with tunes that had the kids (and a couple of their grown-ups) dancing. Others were content to relax in the air conditioning and enjoy the music. Community partner Summit Federal Credit Union brought a prize wheel that had the kids lined up to win small treasures, and Just Clowning Around added sparkle and smiles with balloon animals and festive face painting. Outside, the celebration continued with a special treat—Netsins debuted a spiffy, brand-new ice cream truck. The frozen treats were a hit with patrons of all ages—and even a few curious pets! Behind the scenes, Winton staff were in constant motion—checking out books, handing out Seabreeze raffle tickets, restocking the snack table, and most importantly, making every visitor feel welcome. The appreciation from the community was felt in every smile, compliment, and even a heartfelt gift. One patron dropped off a book titled *Libraries* for the staff's break room, with a note that read: *"To Winton Road Library Staff, thank you for all your assistance with library needs...here's a book for your break room."*
- The Winton Comic Club had a great turnout, with both new and returning members gathering to dive into *Animorphs*. The animal transformation theme inspired a spirited round of Super Jenga, where traditional block stacking met animal trivia and charades. Team Huge Nerds faced off against Team Ten in a suspenseful and often hilarious match. While Team Ten impressed with top-tier animal impersonations, it was Team Huge Nerds' mastery of obscure trivia that secured them the win. Inspired by the theme, several tweens decided to give comic creation a try. One standout was the debut of *Cheese Guys* (Volumes 1 and 2), the imaginative and laugh-out-loud story of best friends Ryan and Eddie and their misadventures at Johnny's



Cheese Emporium. The comic got a dramatic reading from Emily Quevedo Smith, much to the group's delight. Everyone is now eagerly awaiting the July release of *Cheese Guys Volume 3*.

- Fridays are Nintendo Switch Day! Quevedo Smith sets up the Nintendo Switch so kids can drop in and play videogames from Winton's collection. So far, the program is well received, with both tweens and teens having a good time with games like Mario Kart and Super Smash Bros. Several tournaments have broken out, filling the children's room with laughter.

Anecdotes/Other

- One Saturday, a patron told Mary Fraser that she was making an unusual solo visit to the library since her grandsons were going to a party. Fraser was surprised to see her back at the library with her two young grandsons that afternoon. The boys were excitedly looking at the new video games, then went to find their favorite graphic novels. *"They decided they wanted to come to the library instead of going to the party,"* Grandma explained. Is the library better than cake and ice cream? Of course it is!
- One of Winton Branch's tweens brought his friend to Nintendo Switch Day. When introducing the friend to Quevedo Smith, he said, *"This is Miss Emily. She's the GOAT."* Quevedo Smith believes this is the highest praise she has ever received!
- One afternoon, Mary Fraser heard an enthusiastic boy's voice from across the library: *"Hey! I LOVE that book! Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site!"* The boy headed to the checkout desk with his mother, who was carrying a bag loaded with materials to check out. Graphic novels, DVDs, video games, books, Wonderbooks, and Playaways—she was getting them all. When her son begged to look at *Captain Underpants* while the other items were being checked out, she said, *"We're saving that for our trip."* *"Why?"* *"So they'll still be fresh and exciting when we're driving, and at camp when I'm cooking and cleaning up..."* Ah, camping with kids! The library is the place for all the fresh and exciting materials you can carry. Captain Underpants to the rescue!



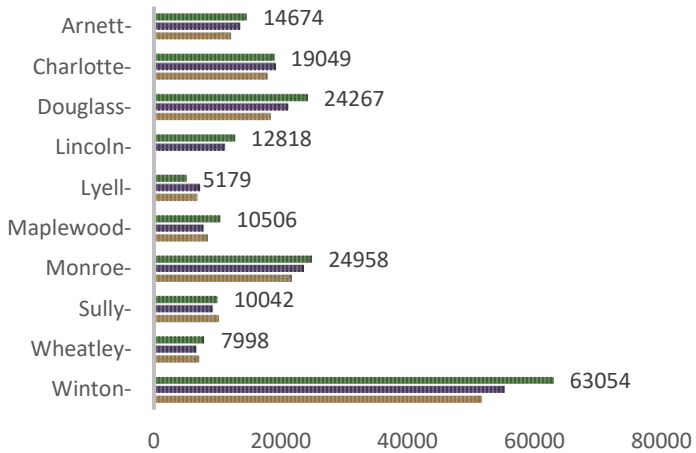
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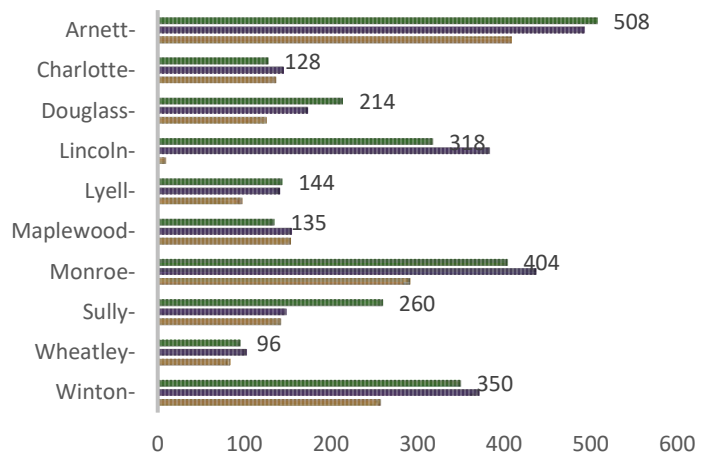
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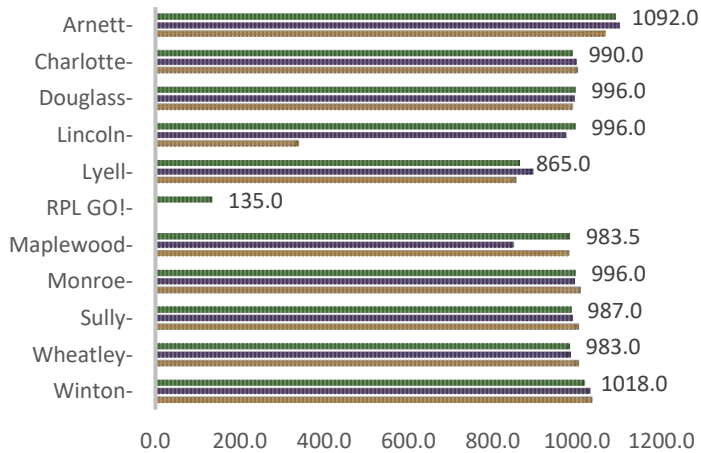
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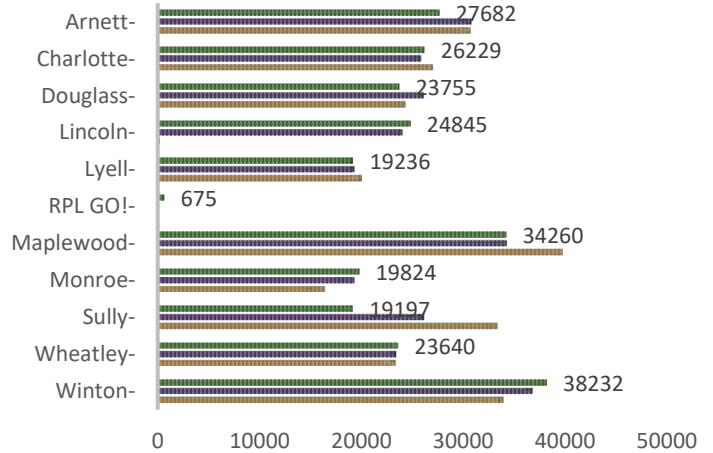
LIBRARY CARDS



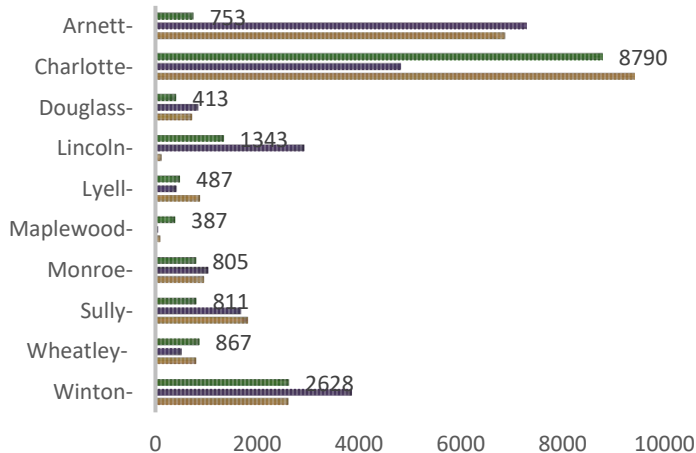
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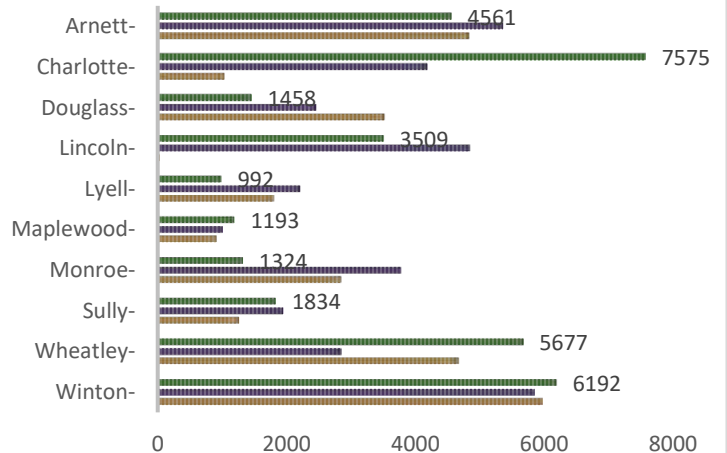
VISITS



REFERENCE QUESTIONS



NON-REFERENCE



RPL Branch Statistics YTD

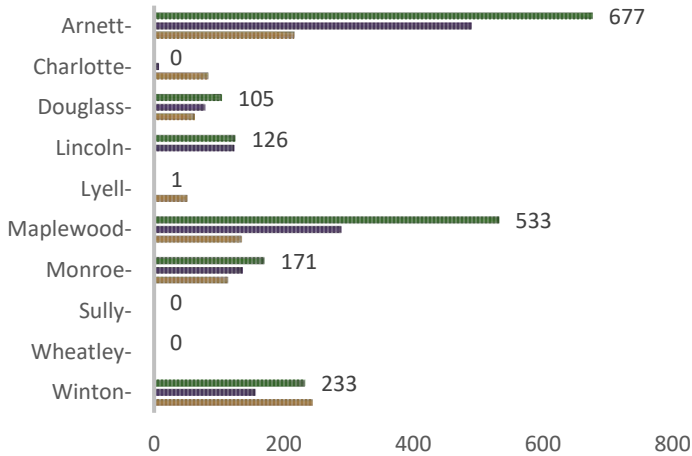
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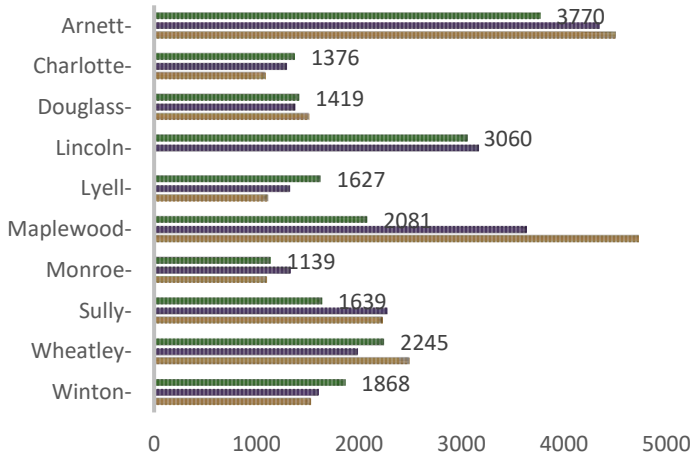
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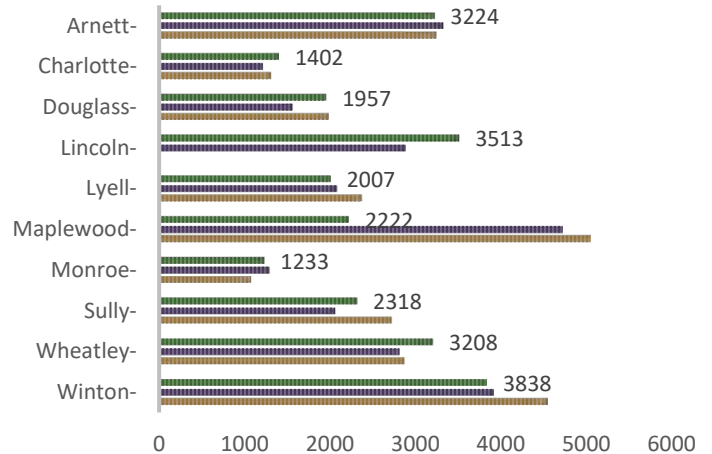
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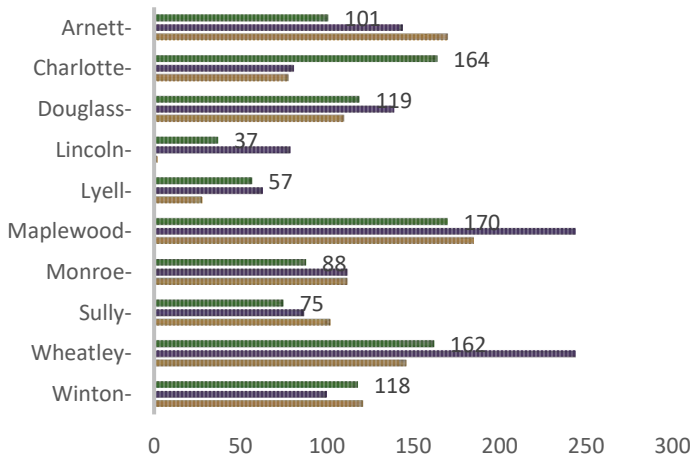
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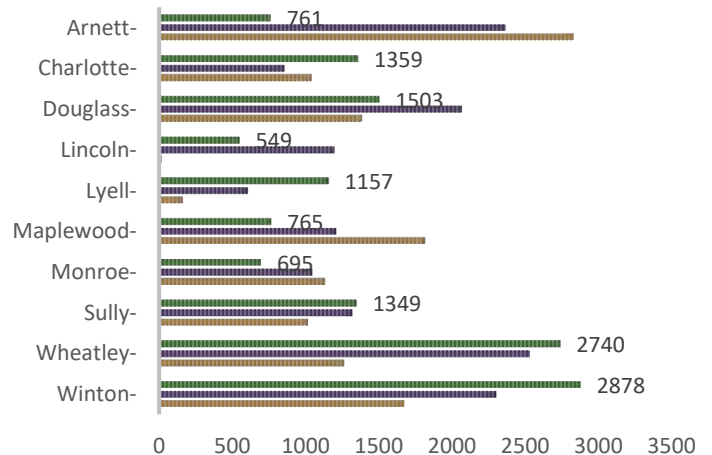
WIFI SESSIONS



GROUP PROGRAMS



PROGRAM ATTENDANCE



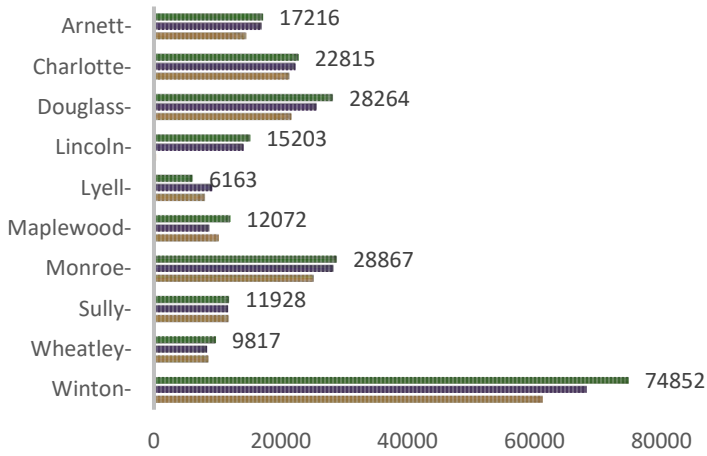
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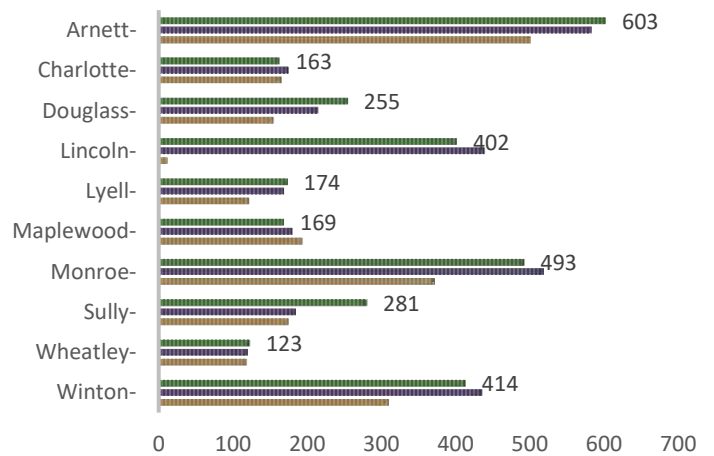
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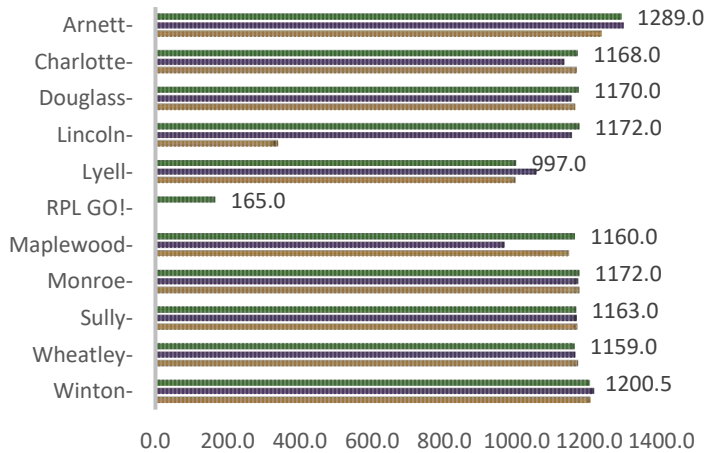
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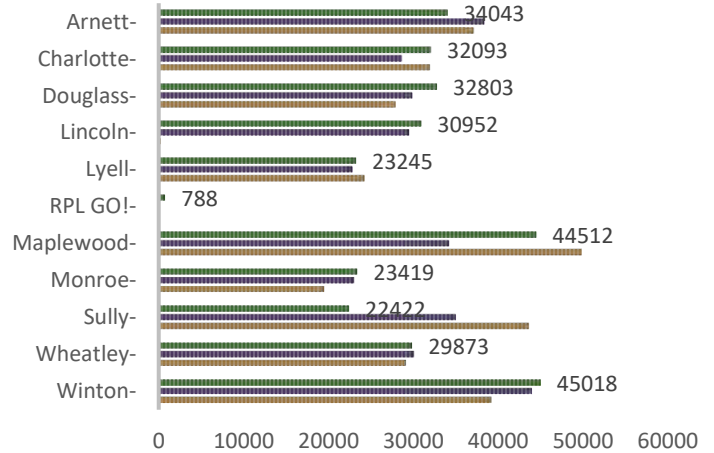
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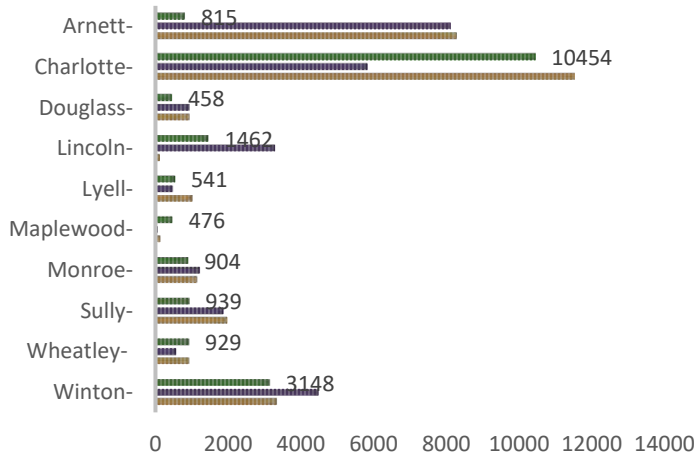
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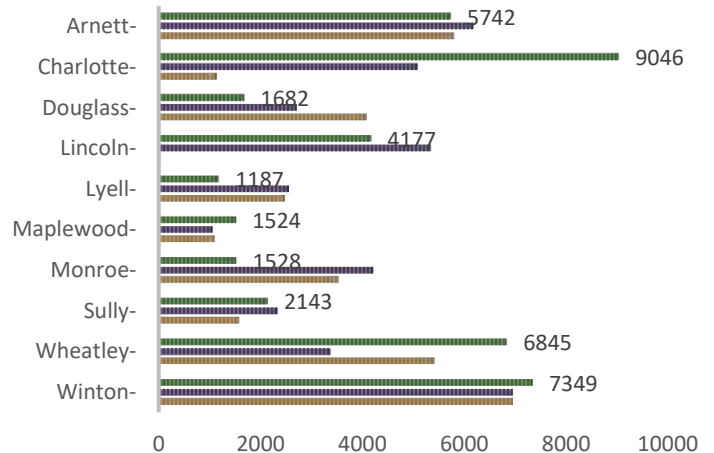
VISITS



REFERENCE QUESTIONS



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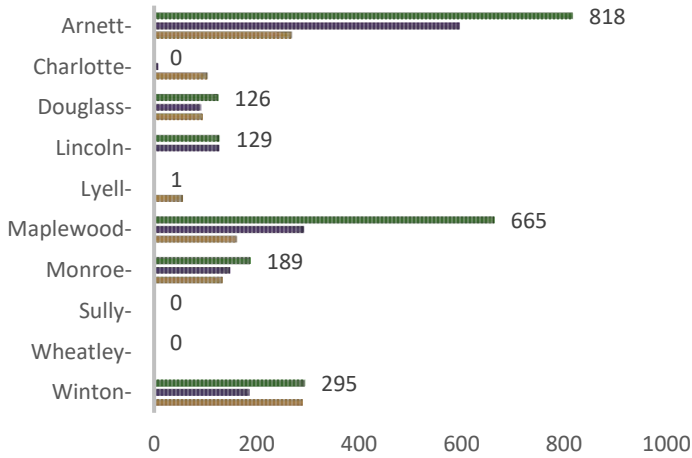
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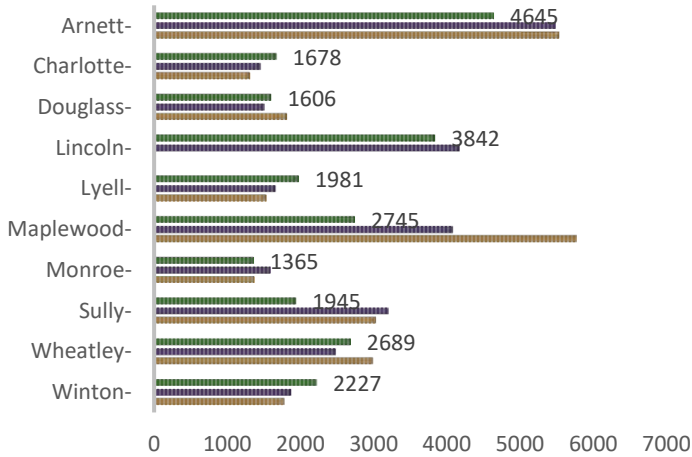
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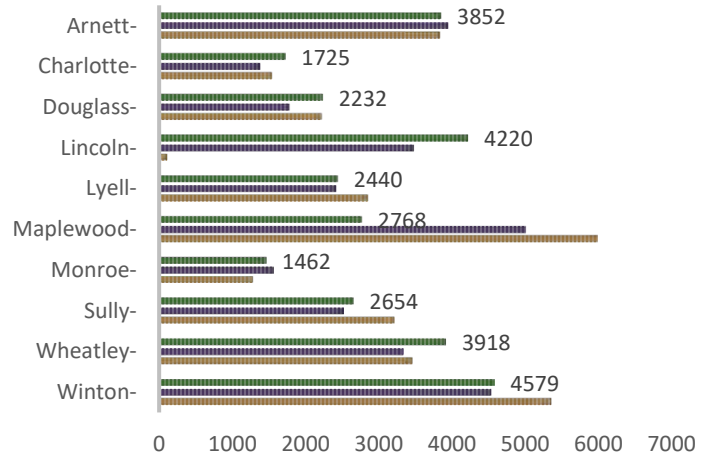
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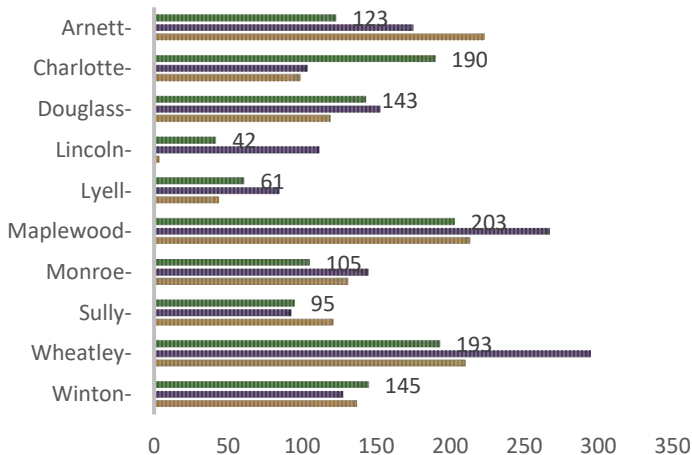
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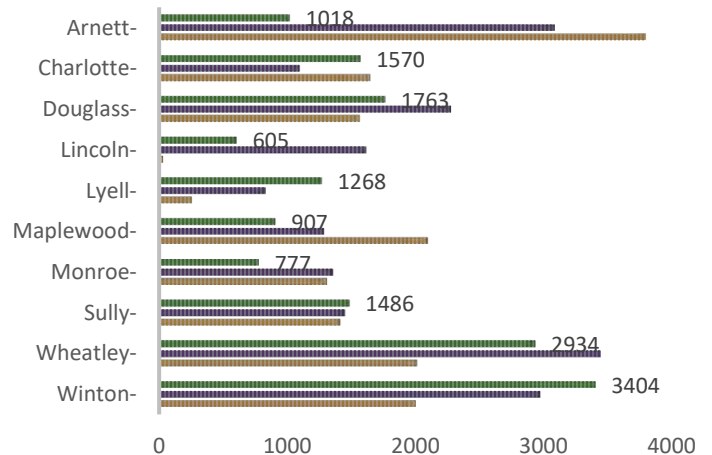
WIFI SESSIONS



GROUP PROGRAMS



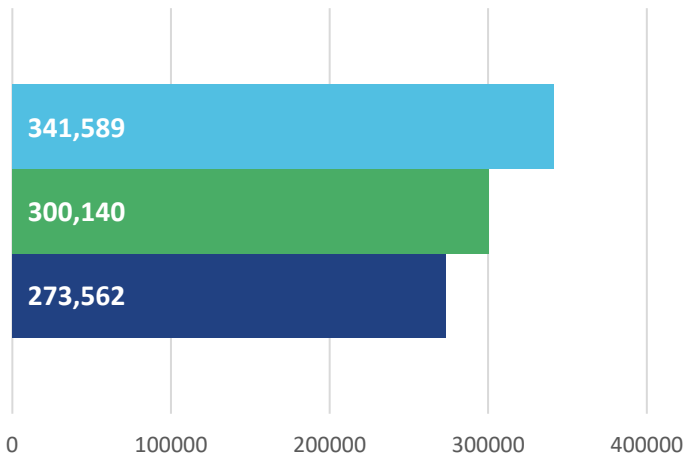
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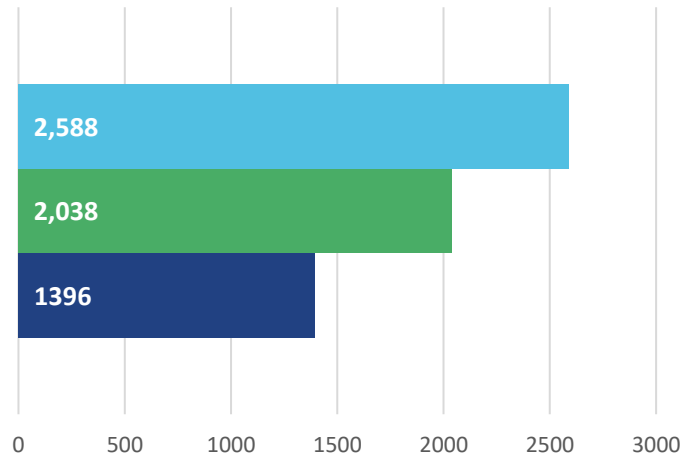
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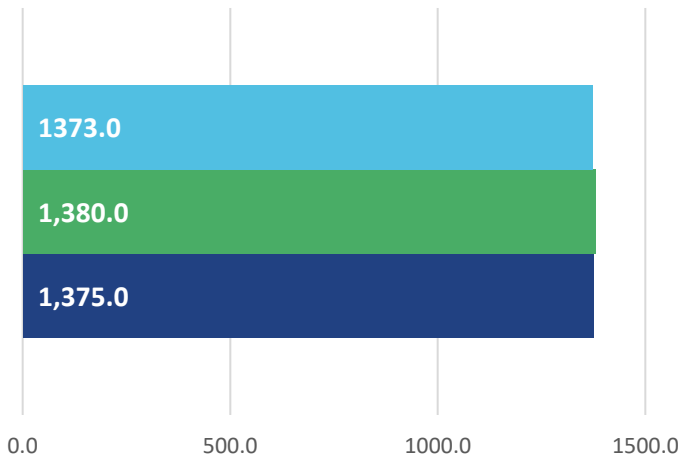
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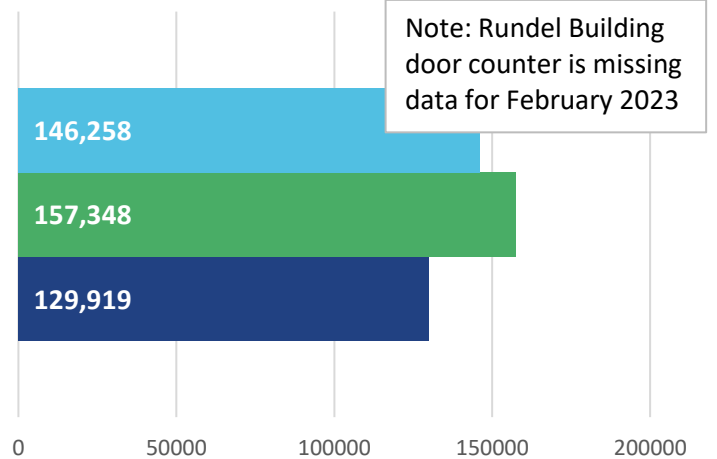
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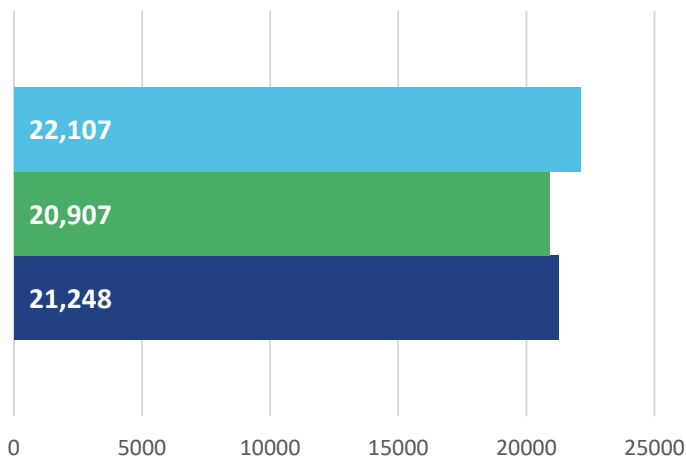
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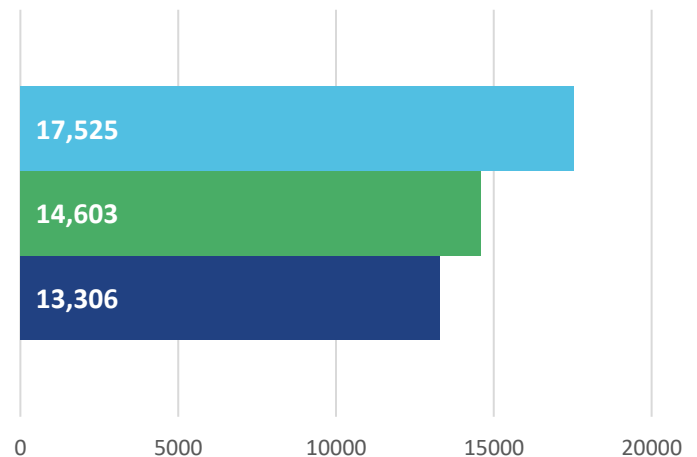
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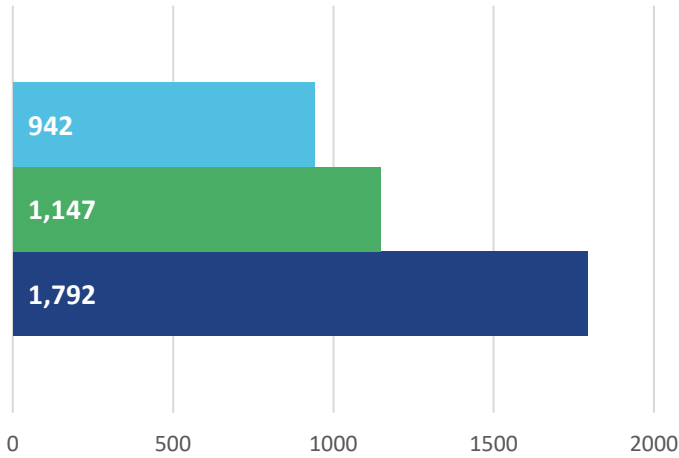
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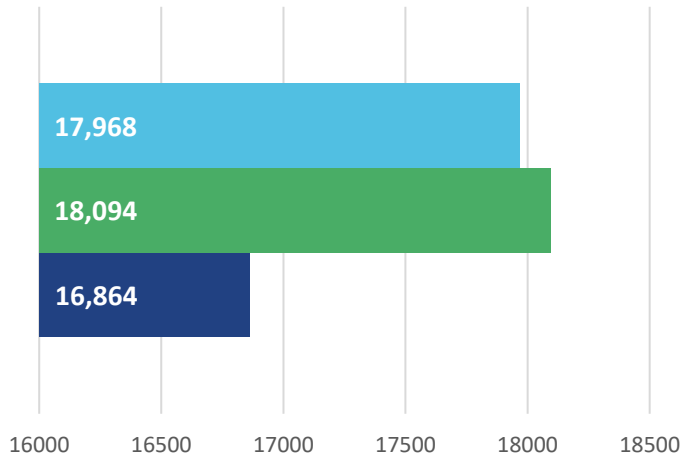
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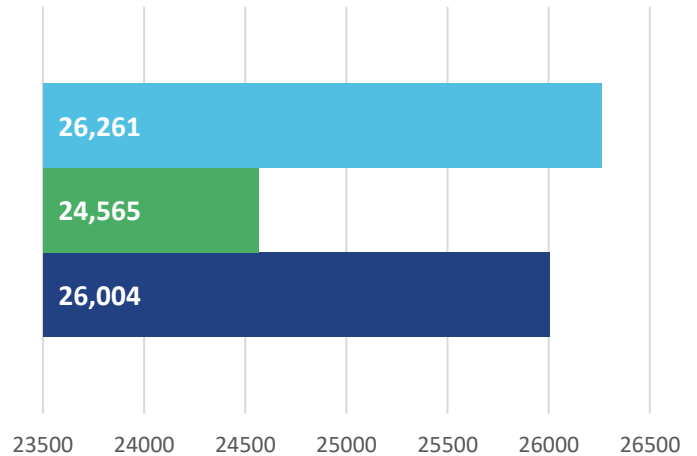
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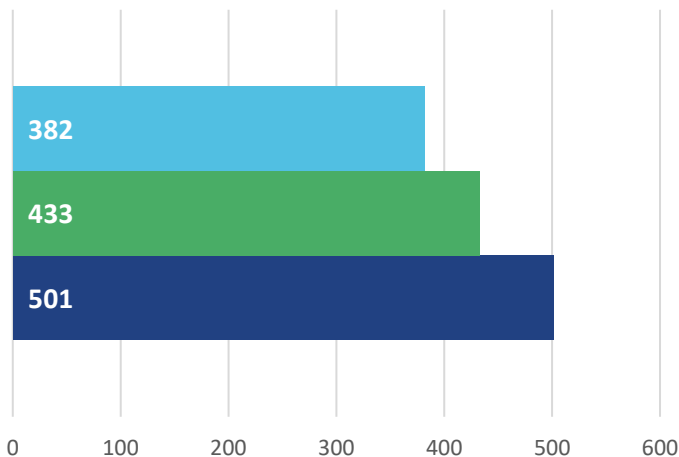
COMPUTER HOURS



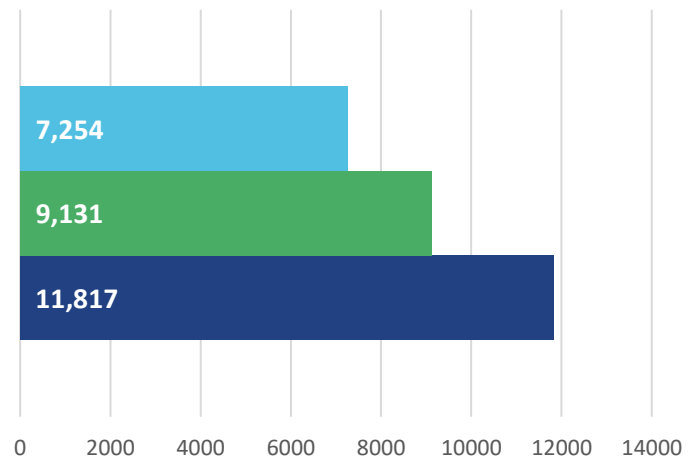
WIFI USES



GROUP PROGRAMS



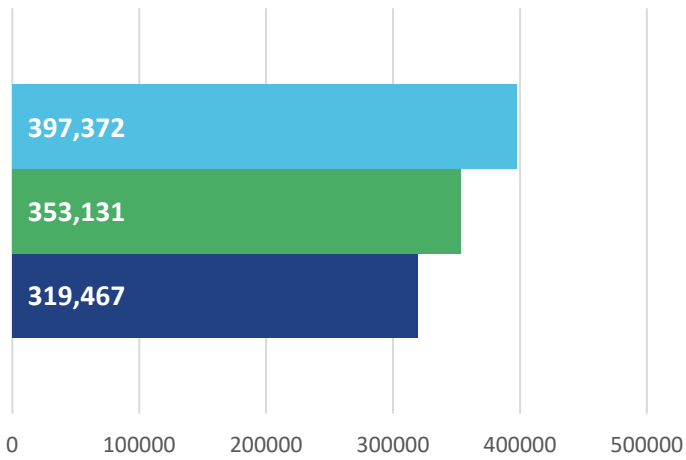
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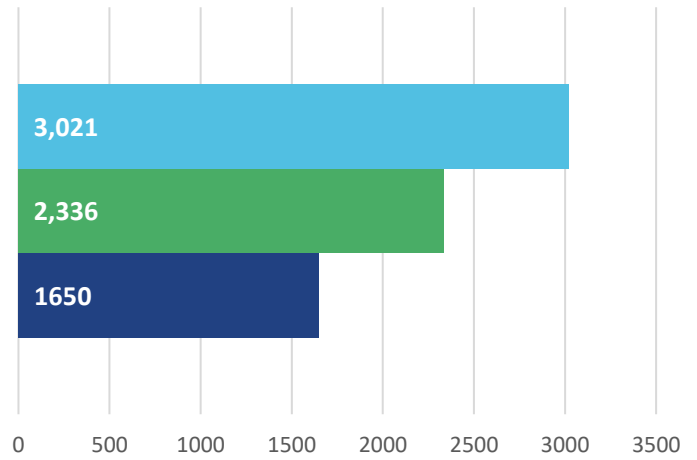
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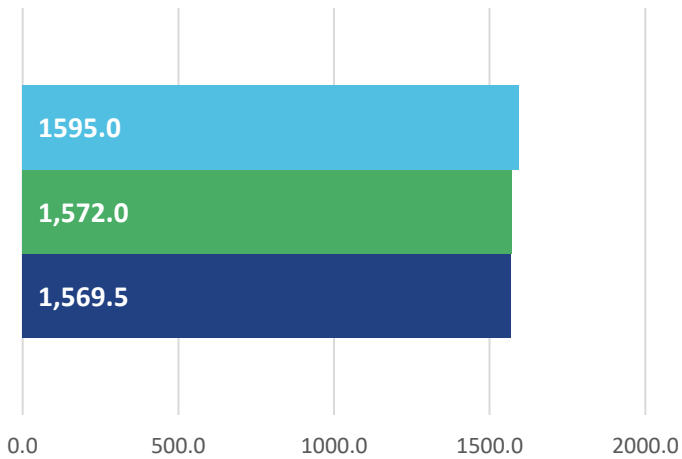
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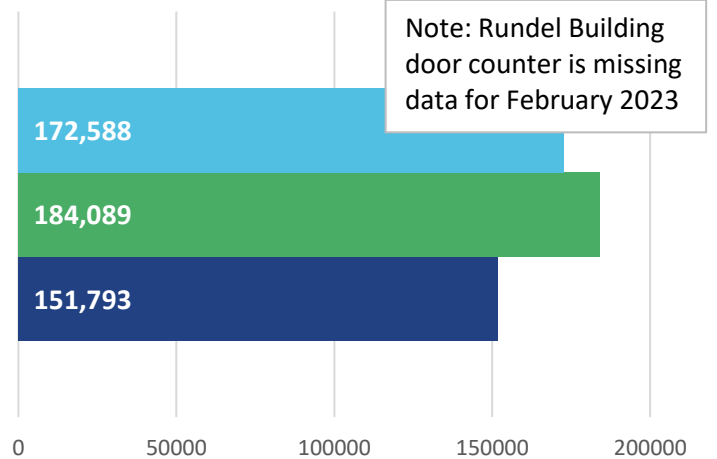
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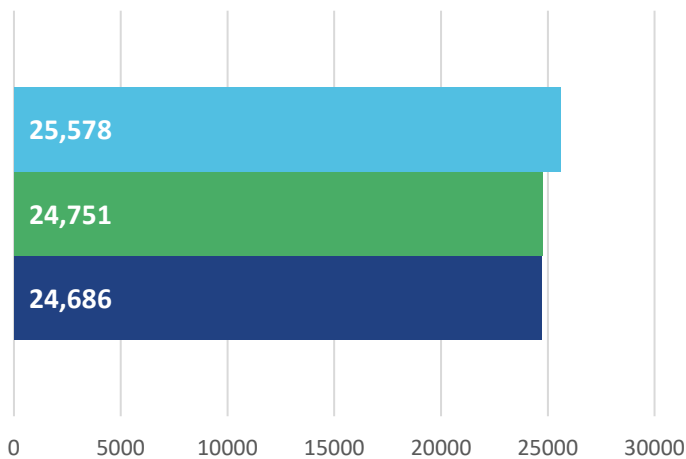
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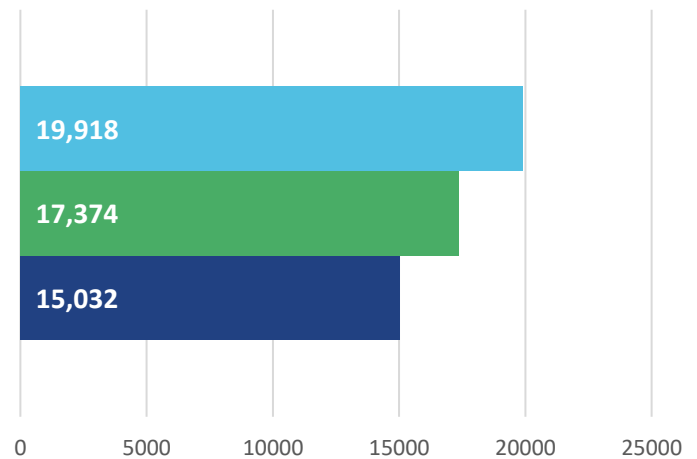
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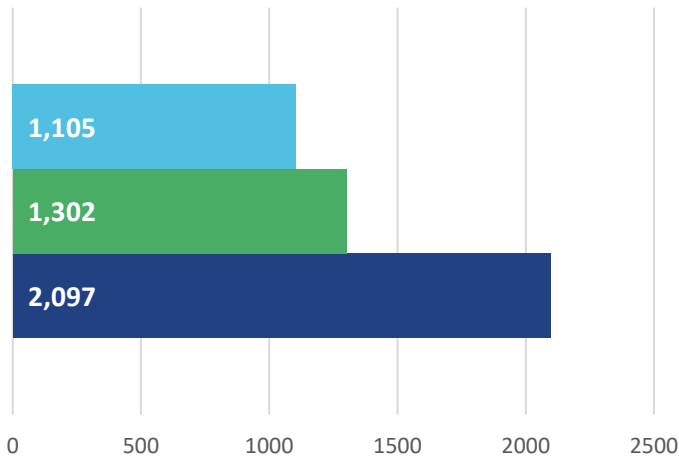
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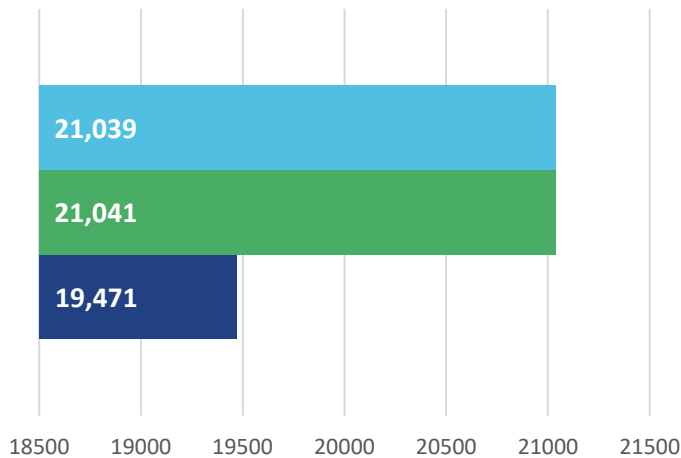
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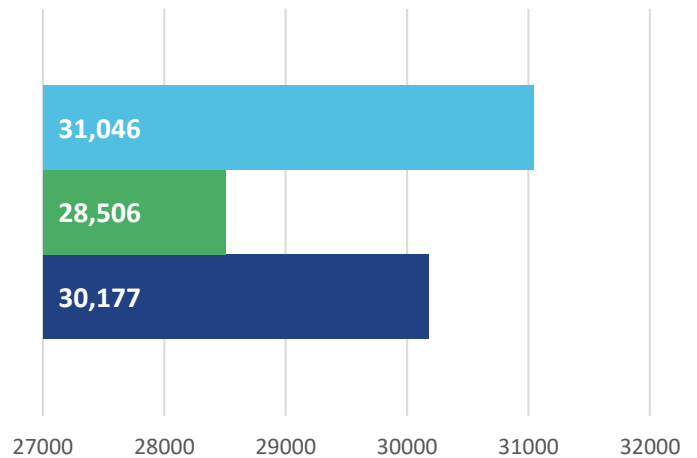
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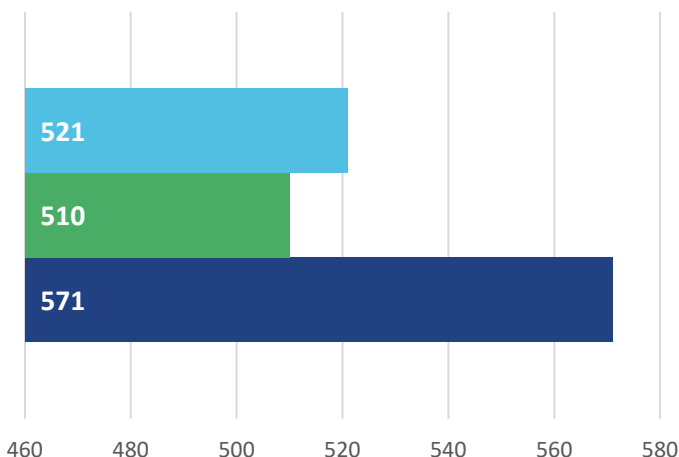
COMPUTER HOURS



WIFI USES



GROUP PROGRAMS



PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

