



**Board of Trustees Meeting  
Central Library  
August 18, 2025, 5:00 PM  
Agenda**

**I. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Shelly

**II. ACTION ITEMS**

- |                                |              |        |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------|
| 1. Minutes of Previous Meeting | Shelly       | page 3 |
| 2. Financial Claims            | Hasselwander | page 7 |

**III. REPORT/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- |  |          |              |
|--|----------|--------------|
| 1. Liaison from Rochester Public Library Board   | Clasper  |              |
| 2. Liaison to Rochester Regional Library Council | Knapp    |              |
| 3. Staff Reports                                 |          |              |
| a. Director's Report/Central Library Services    | Clasper  | page 11 & 24 |
| b. MCLS Services                                 | Smathers | page 13      |
| 4. Proposed New Report to the Board              | Clasper  | Handout      |

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

**Next Meeting:  
Monday, September 15, 2025, 5:00 p.m.  
Ogden Farmers' Library, 269 Ogden Center Rd, 14559**





**Meeting of the MCLS Board of Trustees  
Chili Public Library  
June 16, 2025  
Minutes**

**Trustees Present:** Gary Brandt, Christopher Corcoran, Peter Knapp, Amy Moffitt, Marjorie Shelly, Suzanne Stockman (quorum present)

**Trustees Excused:** Kimberly Brown, Emily Hessney Lynch, Mack Smith, Jr.

**Trustees Unexcused:** Erick Stephens

**Staff and Guests:** FFRPL Liaison, Donna Borgus; Monroe County Law Dept. Liaison, Keana Williams; staff members, Emily Clasper, Katy Hasselwander, Debi Mansour, BJ Scanlon, Jennifer Smathers; Jeff Baker, Chili Public Library Director; Jennifer Lowden, Chili Public Library Assistant Director

**Call to Order**

Pres. Corcoran called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m., welcomed trustees, staff, and guests, and rearranged the agenda with reports first due to lack of quorum.

**Public Comments**

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

**Rochester Public Library (RPL) Liaison**

Dir. Clasper reported that at the most recent meeting, the RPL Board accepted the Central Library Program Aid and approved updated budget information for both the Central and Community Libraries. They also approved three Harold Hacker grants through the Friends & Foundation of RPL. One grant will fund the creation of VIP Pass Experience Kits at the Central Library, designed to enhance visits to cultural institutions. Another grant will support the Charlotte Branch Library in launching an oral history project with new equipment. The third grant will allow the Winton Branch Library to purchase Tonie and Yoto devices, which offer screen-free early literacy audio experiences for children.

Trustee Knapp joined the meeting at 5:04 p.m., and a quorum was reached.

**Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the May meeting were APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

**Claims**

Finance Mgr. Hasselwander reviewed the financial claims with the trustees and offered to answer questions. After a brief discussion, Trustee Moffitt MADE A MOTION to approve the financial claims as presented. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Election of Officers**

Trustee Shelly presented the Nominating Committee's recommendation for 2025-26 Officers. President Corcoran MADE A MOTION to appoint Marjorie Shelly as President and Amy Moffitt as Vice President of the MCLS Board for the term July 1, 2025–June 30, 2026. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

### **Wired for Opportunity Professional Services Agreement**

Finance Mgr. Hasselwander reviewed the action item with everyone and offered to answer questions. The vendor was selected through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process to provide instruction as part of the Wired for Opportunity program. Trustee Brandt MADE A MOTION to approve a professional service agreement with Brilliant Repairs for an amount not to exceed \$129,360 and a term of July 1, 2025–December 31, 2026. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

### **Rochester Regional Library Council (RRLC) Liaison**

None

### **Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library (FFRPL) Liaison**

Executive Director Borgus shared that the recent board meeting was productive, and the organization is approaching the end of its fiscal year on June 30 with promising results. The annual campaign, planned giving, and major gifts have shown significant progress. She highlighted that funding was provided for several grants, including \$10,000 for the Harold Hacker grant, with notable allocations going to the Rochester Public Library, Seymour Library in Brockport, and St. John Fisher University's Lavery Library for various educational initiatives. Additionally, she noted that the organization serves as the fiscal sponsor for the Rochester Children's Book Festival, which attracted 2,500 attendees and featured 50 authors and illustrators. The festival's outreach program also took place in local schools to enhance literacy. FFRPL managed donations totaling \$31,387, with \$26,234 specifically allocated to these programs, while the remainder is held for future use.

She reported on the return of space to the Rochester Public Library, which has affected their ability to sort and store books. Consequently, changes will be made to the book sales and partner contracts to optimize resources and minimize waste. Moving forward, partners will no longer have the option to have unsold books returned to them, and contract renewals will not be offered to those outside the Monroe County Library System. This decision aims to ensure that only sellable books are received, enhancing efficiency in operations.

Borgus emphasized the organization's fundraising success this year, noting it has been their best in nine years, with metrics significantly outperforming other non-profit organizations. This includes increases in the amount raised, the number of donors, and cost efficiency in fundraising efforts. She expressed gratitude to all those who contributed, acknowledging their support and efforts as instrumental to FFRPL's achievements.

### **Director's Report/Central Library**

Director Clasper reported on recent activities at the Central Library, noting a focus on budget matters over the past month. She attended a required training session at the State Library in Albany, which included new directors from various library systems discussing construction aid formulas and specific guidelines pertinent to each library's situation.

Additionally, Director Clasper participated in a regional meeting of the NYLA Friends of the Library section at the Henrietta Public Library, where attendees exchanged ideas and strategies related to library support and advocacy.

Next, Director Clasper highlighted two upcoming events at the Central Library. The first is a display of RCSD valedictorians' photos in the library windows, which has garnered positive community feedback, with a press conference scheduled to coincide with the unveiling. The second event is a summer reading program kickoff planned for 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 25, which aims to encourage community participation. She then

reminded everyone that the Central Library serves as a location for the Jazz Festival and will have concerts every day at noon.

### **MCLS Office**

Assoc. Dir. Smathers offered to answer questions regarding the written report. She highlighted recent outreach efforts by the Monroe County Library System (MCLS) such as farmers markets, the public market, and Middy Bash on Wednesdays at Parcel Five. MCLS staff have been successful in signing up library cardholders during these events, including the recent relaunch of Washington Square Park, which featured new benches and umbrellas. Smathers mentioned that after introducing games to the park, there has been a noticeable increase in usage. She shared that MCLS is planning more outdoor games throughout the summer, with staff actively engaging in outreach.

Additionally, she discussed technical improvements regarding the library's acquisitions process using the Carl system. A breakthrough has been made allowing clerks to input temporary records, enabling catalog librarians to efficiently transfer acquisitions information to full bibliographic records. This advancement is expected to streamline the transition to item-level acquisitions, ultimately improving the library's operational processes.

### **Chili Public Library Director's Report**

Chili Public Library Director Jeff Baker welcomed attendees and reflected on the building's four-year journey since its opening. He acknowledged the significance of the state aid library construction grant and expressed gratitude towards the board for their support. He noted that over a million dollars from the grant had been utilized, with approximately a third of it allocated for furnishings and shelving throughout the library.

Director Baker highlighted the positive reception of the building, inviting attendees to explore various areas. He described many of the different rooms and features along with the various patron groups that utilize each.

He passed around literature for the library's successful summer reading program, which offers various incentives for children and acknowledges support from the business community. He encouraged attendees to look over the program details, including the Bookmark Contest for kids, and lauded the efforts of the youth services team.

Furthermore, Director Baker spoke enthusiastically about the Wired for Opportunity program, scheduled for the first four Mondays in July. This series will guide participants through the process of applying for benefits such as health care and affordable housing and will provide Chromebooks to participants at the end of the program.

He also mentioned the upcoming Chili Summer Fest on June 28, inviting everyone to attend from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Chili Avenue. In closing, he shared personal news, announcing his upcoming retirement after 57.7 years of service, with his last day being August 15. His assistant director, Jennifer Lowden will take over as the new director.

### **Other Business**

Trustee Stockman brought up the trustee membership option to the New York Library Association (NYLA). Director Clasper will send out an email to the RPL and MCLS boards asking who is interested in joining.

Trustee Stockman MADE A MOTION to officially thank President Corcoran for his service to the board as president and to thank trustees Stephens and Smith Jr., for their time on the board. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Introduction**

President Corcoran welcomed Mai Qi, the newly appointed trustee, and asked her to introduce herself. Qi is the Assistant Director of Community and Belonging at RIT, a role that had recently transitioned from the Division of Diversity and Inclusion. She expressed her enthusiasm for her work and her new responsibilities within the community. Having moved to Rochester from Houston, Texas, in the summer of 2024, she is still acclimating to the area but has already engaged with local organizations and utilized the library system. Qi had served in a nonprofit cultural organization in Texas, Asia Society, where she collaborated with various library systems and witnessed their extensive outreach efforts. Her family relocated to the Rochester because her husband secured a position teaching Supply Chain Management at RIT.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

*Emily Clasper, Secretary*

**MONROE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM  
FINANCIAL CLAIMS 2025**

MON	DAY	CLAIM VO	VENDOR	DESCRIPTION	EXPENDED	REMARKS
5	1				\$ 736.88	County Journal for Fleet Maintenance Fuel & Repairs
5	28	2000650648	11126800- CORNING MUSEUM OF GLASS	1 LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP & 34 VIP PASSES	\$ 1,150.00	
5	28	2000650340	11108746- SUSAN B ANTHONY HOUSE	VIP PASSES	\$ 1,040.00	
6	1				\$ 1,275.16	County Journal for Fleet Maintenance Fuel & Repairs
6	6	2000650869	11103336- ROCHESTER PHILHARMONIC	VIP PASSES	\$ 570.00	
6	6	2000651018	11119168- NY MUSEUM TRANSPORTATION	VIP PASSES	\$ 455.00	
6	6	2000650856	11102440- ROCHESTER MUSEUM & SCI	VIP PASSES	\$ 2,880.00	
6	6	2000652724	11127577- CARROUSEL MUSUM	VIP PASSES	\$ 360.00	
6	6	2000650863	11103162- GENESEE COUNTRY VILLAGE & MUSEUM	VIP PASSES	\$ 660.00	
6	6	2000651997	11109903- OVERDRIVE	MATERIALS HOLD	\$ 197.34	
6	6	2000651997	11109903- OVERDRIVE	MATERIALS HOLD	\$ 1,671.72	
6	6	2000651997	11109903- OVERDRIVE	MATERIALS HOLD	\$ 1,672.00	
6	6	2000652490	11120635- CROWN CASTLE	INTERNET	\$ 2,075.00	
6	6	2000652459	11118915- OCLC	EZ PROXY	\$ 8,218.76	
6	9		11113713- FFRPL	REIMBURSEMENT FOR GODADDY SITES	\$ 338.60	ARPA FUNDS
6	10		11128531- LITERACY ROCHESTER	BRANCH HOURS: MAY 2025	\$ 5,407.50	ARPA FUNDS
6	20	2000652490	11120635- CROWN CASTLE	DTS	\$ 16,921.06	
6	23	2000653277	11108164- SCHOOL SPECIALTY	TECH TUB TROLLEYS	\$ 2,059.96	ARPA FUNDS
6	23	2000652921	11101803- MAG	VIP PASSES	\$ 1,890.00	
6	23	2000653153	11125352- NUB GAMES/LIBRARYH3IP	ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 7/10/2025-7/9/2026	\$ 1,692.00	
6	23	2000653280	11110035- PROQUEST	HERITAGE QUEST	\$ 9,473.72	

**\$ 60,744.70**





**MONROE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM  
FINANCIAL CLAIMS 2025**

MON	DAY	CLAIM VO	VENDOR	DESCRIPTION	EXPENDED	REMARKS
6	13	2000653563	11105432-	Brighton Memorial Library	\$ 2,312.93	
6	13	2000653809	11105162-	Henrietta Public Library	\$ 885.54	
6	13	2000653812	11105398-	Mendon Public Library	\$ 682.87	
6	13	2000653799	11103572-	Pittsford Community Library	\$ 5,529.97	
6	13	2000653815	11106034-	Scottsville Free Library	\$ 578.73	
6	13	2000653576	11106122-	Newman Riga Library	\$ 533.50	
6	13	2000653800	11103615-	Brockport Seymour Library	\$ 3,679.25	
6	13	2000653802	11103746-	Penfield Public Library	\$ 1,998.72	
6	13	2000653788	11101928-	Fairport Public Library	\$ 6,190.55	
6	13	2000653823	11106907-	Parma Public Library	\$ 287.73	
6	13	2000653561	11105346-	Webster Public Library	\$ 1,849.54	
6	13	2000654727	11105288-	East Rochester Public Library	\$ 694.18	
6	13	2000654721	11104404-	Greece Public Library	\$ 9,490.28	
6	13	2000654722	11104449-	Rush Public Library	\$ 457.21	
6	13	2000654708	11101777-	Hamlin Public Library	\$ 658.15	
6	13	2000655333	11105181-	Rochester Public Library	\$ 9,317.08	
6	13	2000655312	11102081-	Gates Public Library	\$ 2,981.33	
6	13	2000655343	11105989-	Irondequoit Public Library	\$ 6,282.93	
6	13	2000655590	11102058-	Chili Public Library	\$ 2,823.75	
6	20	2000654070	11105635-	CAMPBELLNET	\$ 5,468.90	CAPITAL
6	30	2000655333	11105181-	ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY	\$ 155,389.83	ARPA FUNDS
7	1				\$ 3,972.77	County Journal for Fleet Maintenance Fuel & Repairs
7	3	2000653860	11117594-	TMOBILE	\$ 21,397.92	ARPA FUNDS
7	3	2000653901	11126874-	SONNENBERG GARDENS	\$ 320.00	
7	3	2000653741	11128715-	LITTLE THEATER	\$ 1,050.00	
7	3	2000653895	11122281-	CHARLOTTE LIGHTHOUSE	\$ 270.00	
7	3	20006553374	11109903-	OVERDRIVE	\$ 1,669.51	
7	3	20006553374	11109903-	OVERDRIVE	\$ 146.51	
7	3	20006553374	11109903-	OVERDRIVE	\$ 1,672.13	
7	3	2000655029	11102541-	UNIQUE MANAGEMENT SERVICES	\$ 1,285.20	
7	3	2000655228	11120635-	CROWN CASTLE	\$ 2,075.00	
7	3	2000655228	11120635-	CROWN CASTLE	\$ 16,921.06	
7	3	20006553374	11109903-	OVERDRIVE	\$ 2,500.00	

## 10

MON	DAY	CLAIM VO	VENDOR	DESCRIPTION	EXPENDED	REMARKS
7	9	2000653917	11128531- LITERACY ROCHESTER	BRANCH HOURS: JUNE 2025	\$ 5,407.50	ARPA FUNDS
7	18	2000655444	11128845- ENERFUSION	SOLAR TABLES	\$ 141,312.50	ARPA FUNDS
7	18	2000655333	11105181- ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY	SYS SVC MCLS JAN-JUNE 2025	\$ 842,290.15	
						<b>\$ 1,260,383.23</b>



# Monroe County Library System

[www.libraryweb.org](http://www.libraryweb.org)

115 South Avenue | Rochester | New York | 14604

Emily Clasper, Director | [emily.clasper@libraryweb.org](mailto:emily.clasper@libraryweb.org) | 585-428-8046

TO: MCLS Board of Trustees  
FROM: Emily Clasper, Director  
DATE: August 18, 2025  
SUBJECT: Monthly Report–August 2025

## ***Report & Discussion Items***

### ***MCLS 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\\_mMkQ5I7sVVSyA3C3JnS1QldP1FMY6zg7l-LZ0\\_aem\\_a\\_33LnxES1TOOIp4C4WUUQ](https://www.fastcompany.com/91379648/why-you-should-make-the-library-a-model-for-your-business?fbclid=IwY2xjawMAXuVleHRuA2FlbQlxMQABHkoW_LS62oPhUCSc2vKoZI_mMkQ5I7sVVSyA3C3JnS1QldP1FMY6zg7l-LZ0_aem_a_33LnxES1TOOIp4C4WUUQ)

#### 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 RPF 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

***MCLS Member Libraries***

***Jennifer Smathers reporting***

Collaborative Programs Hosted by Multiple Member Libraries

MCLS member library staff participated in the Rochester Pride Parade, which connected nicely to the summer reading theme to Color Our World. The MCLS float, contributed by the staff of the Webster Library, was pulled by the RPL GO! Van and accompanied by more than 25 staff members from MCLS Libraries. At the festival booth, library staff promoted library activities, handed out over 150 buttons, and signed 15 people up for MCLS Library Cards.

The Summer Reading program has been in full swing at libraries across the County. The theme, Color Our World, along with programming suggestions, graphics, and other support materials is financially supported by the New York State Library, which receives funding from the IMLS.





### Brighton Memorial Library

Chalk the Walk program left the library's sidewalks beautified, or as one patron commented, "Gorgeous!"



### Chili Public Library

Competition between summer reading teams really heated up in July.



### East Rochester Public Library

Alerting patrons to interesting content is a cornerstone of library outreach to the community. A recent Facebook post shared that the East Rochester Department of Public Works were featured completing bulk trash pickup on YouTube as a part of the East Coast Refuse channel. When sharing that local content with the community, the library gave a shoutout of thanks to ERDPW. See the video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uTIO94xNyY>

### Fairport Public Library

As part of their Bronze Award project, Troop 60787 identified a meaningful need in the community—the Children's Room did not have a collection of braille books available for young readers with visual impairments. Instead of just noticing the problem, the troop acted. These dedicated Girl Scouts researched popular titles, found reliable sources for braille books, and used their cookie sale earnings to purchase a brand-new collection for the community. Thanks to their dedication, the library now has a beautiful, inclusive collection of braille books ready to be checked out. The library staff is incredibly impressed by their hard work and honored that the troop chose the library as the focus of their efforts.



#### Gates Public Library

The library jumped on the Rochester Cougar meme trend featuring a mountain lion reading the book *Big Cats are Not Pets*. To which a reader replied, “Your collection is claw-some. We can't wait to get our paws on another good book!”

#### Greece Public Library

Among the kaleidoscope of color themed programs at the library, the cutest might have been summer baby art. Babies got hands-on (or feet-on) experience with paint. Assisted by their adults, families created a painting that really left an impression.

#### Hamlin Public Library

The Hamlin Library Board of Trustees announced the hiring of Olivia Durant as the newest library director. She will commence her duties on Monday, August 11. The Hamlin board, Staff and Friends group are very much looking forward to working with Olivia. Olivia is a former longtime teen librarian with experience as an assistant director at the Webster Public Library and most recently Staff Development Librarian at the Henrietta Public Library. She believes that libraries are for everyone and is looking forward to working for the Hamlin Community.



#### Henrietta Public Library

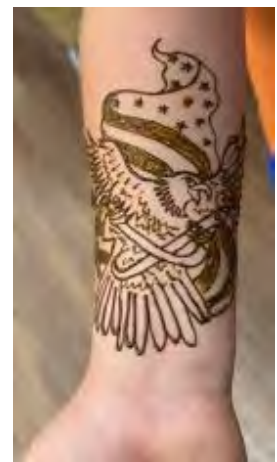
The Henrietta spin on the Rochester cougar meme featured a Tyrannosaurs Rex.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/16oAeEzJwC/>

#### Irondequoit Public Library

The demand was high for the teen and tween Henna programs with Priyanka Patel. Both sessions resulted in stunning artwork. Among the comments, was an adult who felt left out wishing to have a Henna program too.

#### Mendon Public Library





The Summer Reading Program kick off was packed. It featured an amazing magic show by Nick Mambretti and a beautiful sand art mandala by Katie Jo Suddaby of Sand Mandalas. Clementine even took some time away from her tank to make a special visit.



Newman Riga Library

All summer long patrons popped, hopped, skipped, jumped, twirled, sang, stomped, and smiled their way to the Newman Riga Library. They might have been inspired by this sidewalk chalk.

Ogden Farmers' Library

Nothing says summer reading more than handing out books at Canal Days.



Parma Public Library

Parma was on the move this summer. Patrons took off on a field trip to the Memorial Art Gallery to enjoy a tour of the galleries and journal decorating. Then library staff were showered with praise for the library banner and bubbles at the Hilton Fireman's Parade.





### Penfield Public Library

Access to the Children's Room on Friday morning, June 27th, was somewhat limited until roughly 12:30. The open-play toys weren't available during that time either. "Why," you ask? Well, the less-than-lovely weather that was anticipated meant the Summer Reading kick-off carnival celebration was held INDOORS. Luckily, Rochester's weather didn't rain out the fun, and the intrepid children's librarians weren't thwarted! Those who visited that morning got to embrace the chaotic fun and good (maybe slightly noisy) summer vibes.

### Pittsford Community Library

Sometimes summer reading and summer construction must coexist. That was the case for a day in July when patrons were asked to enter the library through the front door and to return books inside. The newly installed doors are hands-free automatic sliding doors, meaning no more pushing open a heavy door with an armload of books and a coffee in hand.

### Rush Public Library

In June, the library was challenged by flooding and HVAC woes. When closed for flooding the library offered curbside pickup. Special thanks for assistance go to Supervisor Woolaver and Town Board Members, Dan Chase & Luther Keyes, plus Chuck Wolcott, Robby Bird, and the Rush Fire Department! By July, the library was ready for patrons to embrace summer reading and spread their wings at the new Color Our World themed mural.

### Scottsville Free Library

Magic shows, concerts, and crafts kept our summer readers coming back to the library. One patron especially liked the baby turtle creations.



### Seymour Library

Audrey Kalish, a resident of the Greater Brockport area, completed her required Eagle Scout service project to benefit the Seymour Library. Audrey planned, designed, fundraised for, and built two picnic tables and indoor planter boxes. She led her team as project manager to build them and took valuable lessons in practical skills for community development. Audrey attended Brockport High School and intended to enter the nursing field upon graduation. She had deep ties to the Seymour Library and chose the library as the beneficiary of her project because library programs had provided her confidence to read and continue learning from an early age. Audrey demonstrated how everyone could Be More at Seymour. The community was lucky to have such a talented, intelligent, kind, and thoughtful person representing the area. Kudos to Audrey! She had a bright future ahead. A huge thanks was extended to everyone who assisted Audrey in meeting their goal. Patrons are encouraged to stop in to see the planters and use the picnic tables—resources intended for everyone.



#### Webster Public Library

The library's new mascot, Rocky the Raccoon was busy this summer. Eating ice cream during the summer reading kick off and marching (or was it riding) in the Webster Fireman's Carnival parade.

### ***MCLS Office Updates***

***Jennifer Smathers reporting***

#### Community Events

- MCLS coordinated ten Community Outreach tabling events
- Gunther took the RPL Go van to the Harbor Festival at Charlotte beach. At the table, staff interacted with over 150 patrons and gave away free books to the community to promote Summer Reading.
- MCLS organized five zoom programs to support the system-wide gardening series in collaboration with Cornell Cooperative Extension.
- Gunther began coordinating team communications for planning two Star Parties at MCLS Member Libraries on October 4, in partnership with the RMSC STEM Ambassador Program.



#### ***Technical Services, Dee Mrak reporting***

- A total of 5047 new titles were added to the CARL system
- Lorry Wisse conducted two book mending training sessions with Art/Lit staff, Margaret Chatterton and Andrew Coyle.
- For the first time in Technical Services history, Jessica LaManna paid everything in the City's Munis system and Em Forbes received everything in CARL Acquisitions for FY25. Due to budget and acquisitions workflow improvements.

***Shipping Department, Michael Ekiert reporting***

Delivery & Sort

The department processed 1815 Hold totes and hauled 12,774 total totes.

The Books By Bike program is popular over the summer, with the department moving the BBB to various locations 4 times. Other activities included receiving a crate for a Local History exhibit, Outreach Stations deliveries, and multiple trips to the county garage for vehicle maintenance.

***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.

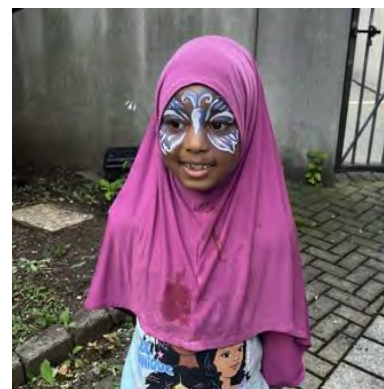




- Local comic book artist Eugene Commodore led a group of tweens in a comic book workshop, including a visiting childcare center. Twins visiting the center as part of a home childcare visit happened to be budding comic book artists, and impressed Eugene with their skills.



- 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.

#### ***Outreach Department, Maren Kyle reporting***

- We are six months into our librarian-led book cart service at Monroe County Jail, and the Outreach department is finding remarkable success there. We recently expanded to allow each jail patron to check out two items at a time instead of just one. Folks have been excited to be able to choose a novel and self-help book, for example, or to binge read a thrilling series! Jail staff have been incredibly supportive of the program, even finding a larger cart for us to use so that we can expand the book selection.
- During Alzheimer's Awareness month in June, the Outreach Department offered Memory Care Collection items to member libraries. Items from the collection were included in displays at Ogden, Penfield, Pittsford, and Webster libraries.
- The Outreach Department's online and print reentry resource guide, formerly Making Moves, continues to expand its resource breadth, and now has a fresh look and a new name, "Moving Forward: reentry resources and strategies for overcoming barriers from arrest and conviction records." The name change represents a shift from a person's transition phase immediately after release from prison or jail to a more

comprehensive and forward-looking strategy of reentry and growth for anyone with a conviction record, even if they have been out of jail or prison for a long while.

- Maren Kyle attended a mini conference for Outreach Coordinators in Albany, hosted by the New York State Library and Upper Hudson Library System and funded by PULISDO. With sessions at the state library around disability and accessibility, and great brainstorming and collaboration among the group, it was a wonderful opportunity to connect with colleagues from around the state—we even rode the historic Herschell-Spillman carousel together!



#### Other Notable Activities

- Outreach staff selected and distributed 490 library materials to 35 in-home patrons. 2 patrons received a cartridge loaded with digital audiobooks from the NYS Talking Book and Braille library by mail (30 titles total).
- 1671 items were distributed to 24 micro collection library stations, with special requests filled for 16 sites.
- Tech Link: Ron Freitag and technology center staff conducted four tech outreach sessions at senior and residential facilities
- Short Story Discussion Program: Outreach librarians visited three Lifespan senior day programs where we
- Book Club Support: Provided copies of book club titles in multiple formats to support four book club programs at senior living facilities
- Kyle continued participation in the Library Freedom Institute program learning about Internet privacy and intellectual freedom concerns, including attending their cohort conference weekend in Philadelphia where 40 library workers from around the country convened to discuss these important and extremely relevant topics.



## **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."*

**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 Lamén 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.

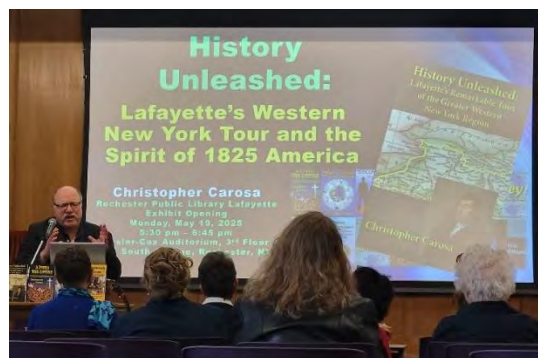
### Anecdotes

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](http://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

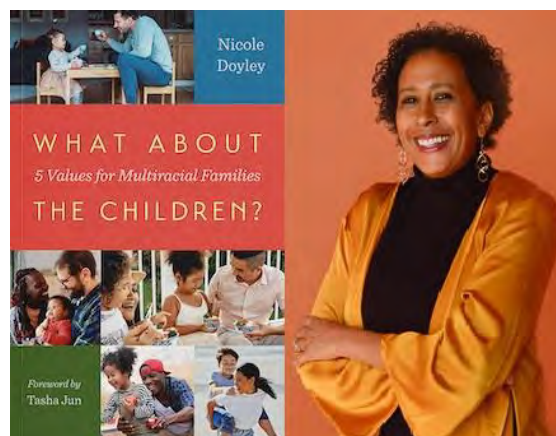
### ***Science and History, Gabe Pellegrino reporting***

#### 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 Doyley, 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, Doyley 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 to be an interesting project and will 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."

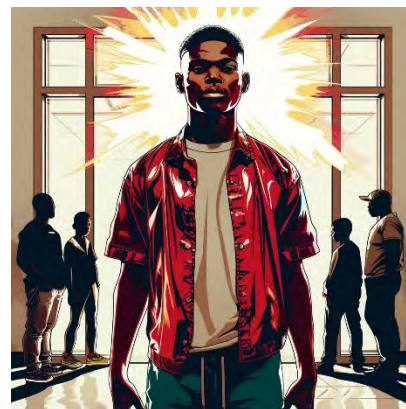


#### ***Teen Central, Shetora Banks and Jeff Bostic reporting***

#### 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>



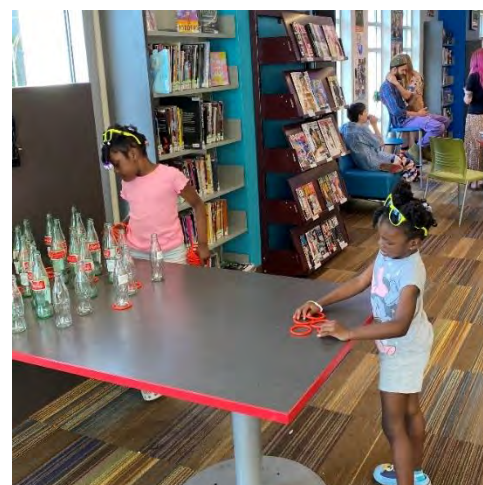
- The 9th Floor Collective began their art program this month. They received the Arts Bloom Grant to help youth put art on the ceiling tiles in the ImagineYou Digital Media Lab.



- 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.



MCLS Circulation

Town Libraries				
	Jun 2025	Jun 2024	+/-	%
Brighton	51,033	50,716	317	0.6%
Seymour	12,498	13,004	(506)	-3.9%
Chili	20,816	18,811	2,005	10.7%
East Rochester	3,809	3,746	63	1.7%
Fairport	56,707	58,372	(1,665)	-2.9%
Gates	20,281	21,461	(1,180)	-5.5%
Greece	48,992	47,785	1,207	2.5%
Hamlin	4,962	4,580	382	8.3%
Henrietta	41,151	39,994	1,157	2.9%
Irondequoit	40,725	39,521	1,204	3.0%
Mendon	9,144	9,561	(417)	-4.4%
Newman Riga	2,080	2,197	(117)	-5.3%
Ogden	11,958	11,967	(9)	-0.1%
Parma	8,012	8,251	(239)	-2.9%
Penfield	43,201	35,910	7,291	20.3%
Pittsford	52,912	51,554	1,358	2.6%
Rush	2,538	2,148	390	18.2%
Mumford	719	807	(88)	-10.9%
Scottsville	2,813	2,599	214	8.2%
Webster	41,180	40,242	938	2.3%
<i>Towns Total</i>	<i>475,531</i>	<i>463,226</i>	<i>12,305</i>	<i>2.7%</i>
<i>RPL Total</i>	<i>78,542</i>	<i>75,294</i>	<i>3,248</i>	<i>4.3%</i>
<b>MCLS Total</b>	<b>554,073</b>	<b>538,520</b>	<b>15,553</b>	<b>2.9%</b>

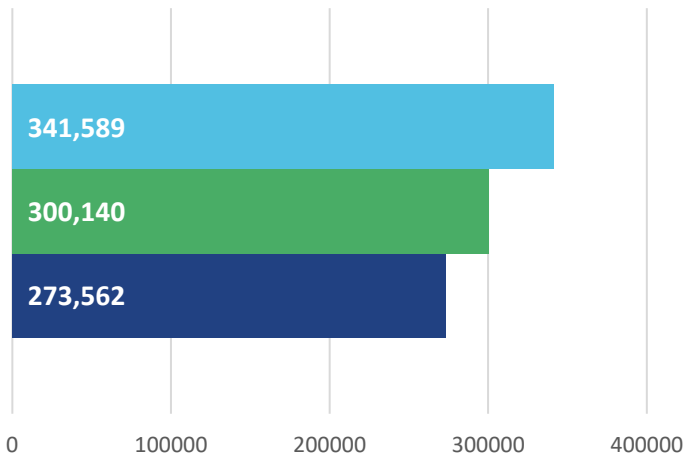
MCLS Circulation

Town Libraries				
	Jul-25	Jul-24	+/-	%
Brighton	60,146	59,630	516	0.9%
Seymour	15,040	15,267	(227)	-1.5%
Chili	26,682	24,975	1,707	6.8%
East Rochester	4,407	4,487	(80)	-1.8%
Fairport	74,125	69,383	4,742	6.8%
Gates	23,269	25,561	(2,292)	-9.0%
Greece	60,287	59,106	1,181	2.0%
Hamlin	5,623	6,231	(608)	-9.8%
Henrietta	49,383	49,911	(528)	-1.1%
Irondequoit	42,436	46,068	(3,632)	-7.9%
Mendon	11,680	12,148	(468)	-3.9%
Newman Riga	2,916	2,512	404	16.1%
Ogden	14,229	14,471	(242)	-1.7%
Parma	9,371	10,413	(1,042)	-10.0%
Penfield	51,769	46,806	4,963	10.6%
Pittsford	57,259	57,971	(712)	-1.2%
Rush	3,009	2,546	463	18.2%
Mumford	856	1,037	(181)	-17.5%
Scottsville	3,408	3,394	14	0.4%
Webster	48,833	49,662	(829)	-1.7%
<i>Towns Subtotal</i>	<i>564,728</i>	<i>561,579</i>	<i>3,149</i>	<i>0.6%</i>
<i>RPL Subtotal</i>	<i>79,791</i>	<i>83,114</i>	<i>(3,323)</i>	<i>-4.0%</i>
<b>MCLS Total</b>	<b>644,519</b>	<b>644,693</b>	<b>-174</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

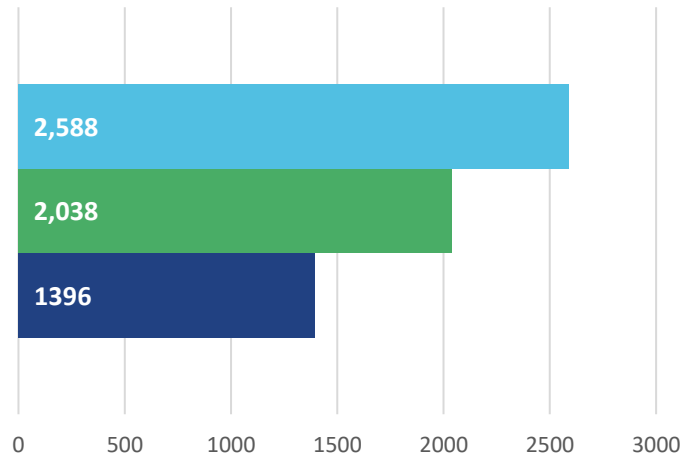
RPL Central Statistics YTD  
Jan–June



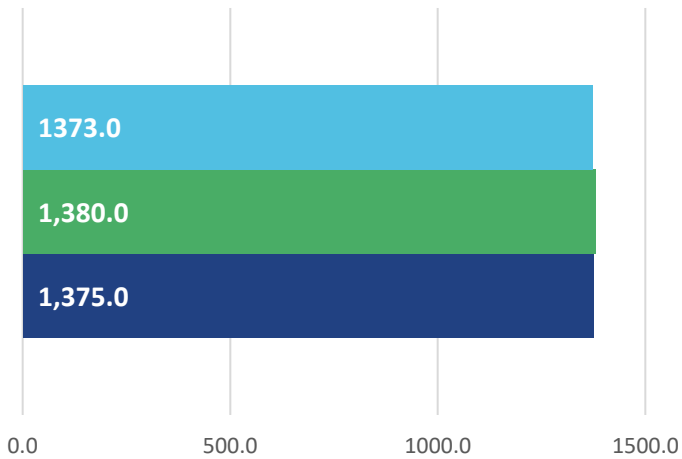
### CIRCULATION



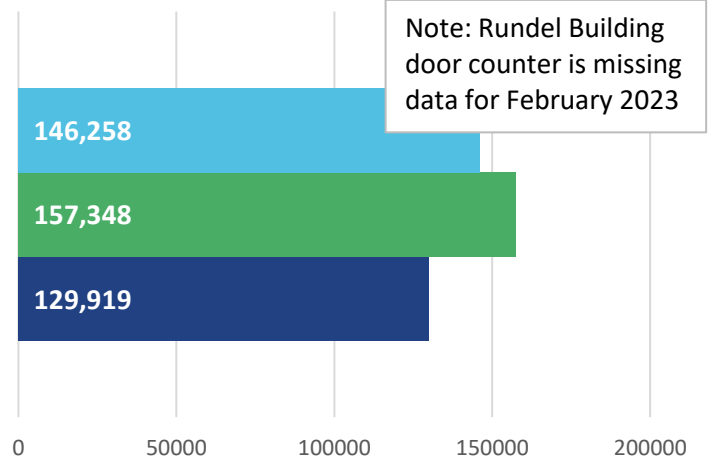
### LIBRARY CARDS



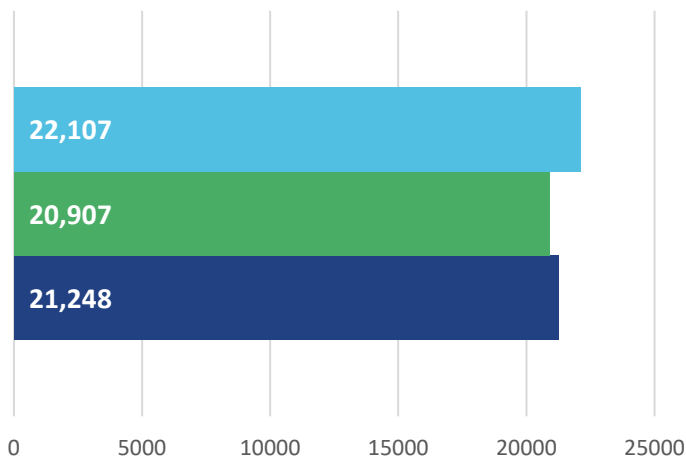
### SERVICE HOURS



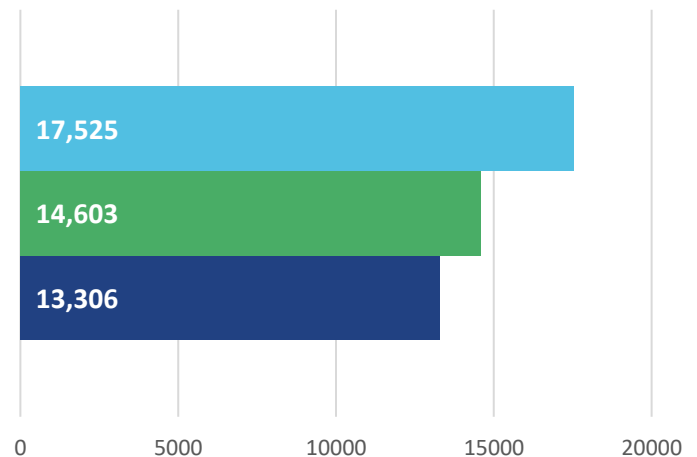
### VISITS



### REFERENCE QUESTIONS



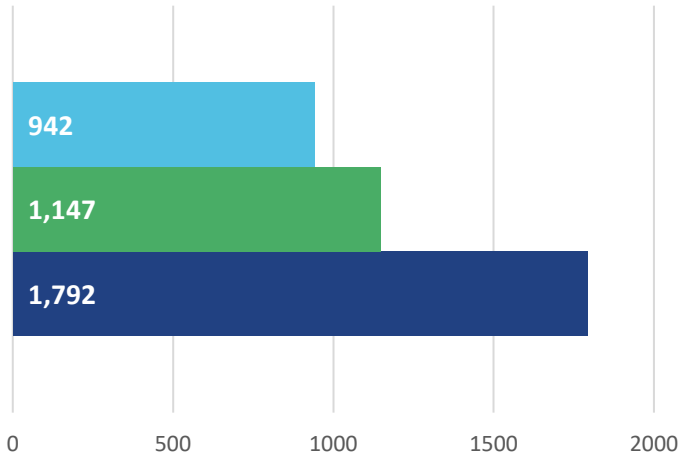
### NON-REFERENCE



# RPL Central Statistics YTD Jan–June



## NOTARY



### DEFINITIONS

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

**Library Cards:** New patron registrations. Excludes renewals.

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

**Visits:** Door count of persons entering the library.

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

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

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

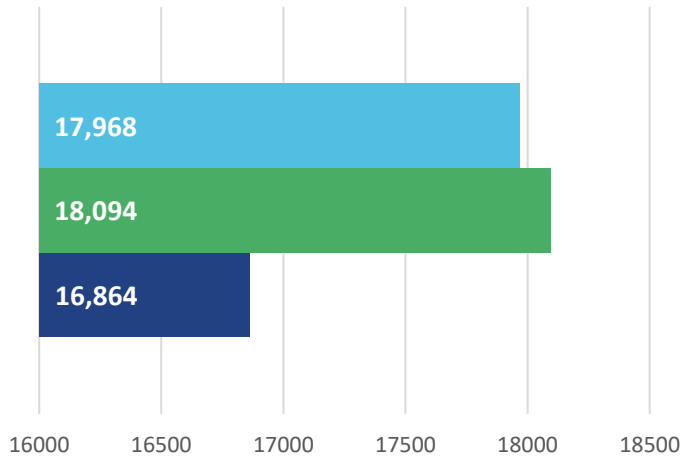
**Computer Hours:** Hours patrons used the public PCs.

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

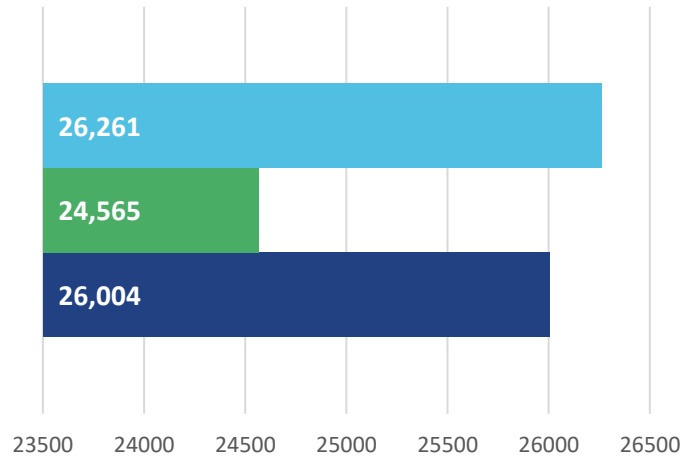
**Group Programs:** In-person and online programs. Excludes one-on-one programs and take-n-make.

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

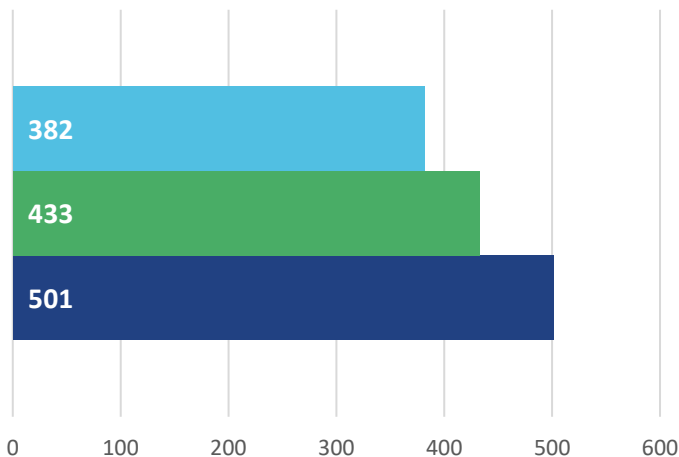
## COMPUTER HOURS



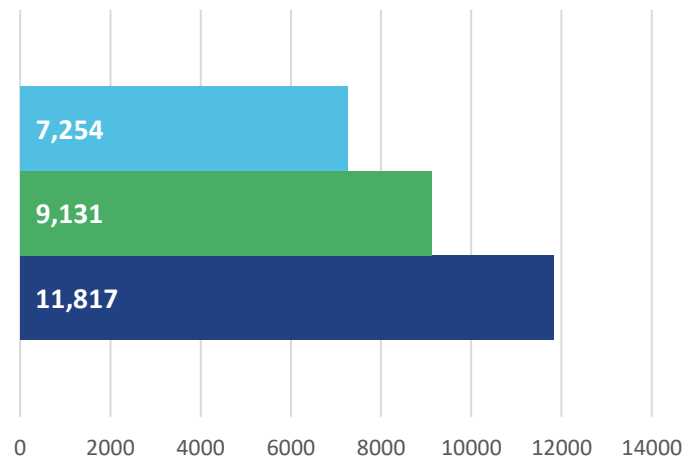
## WIFI USES



## GROUP PROGRAMS



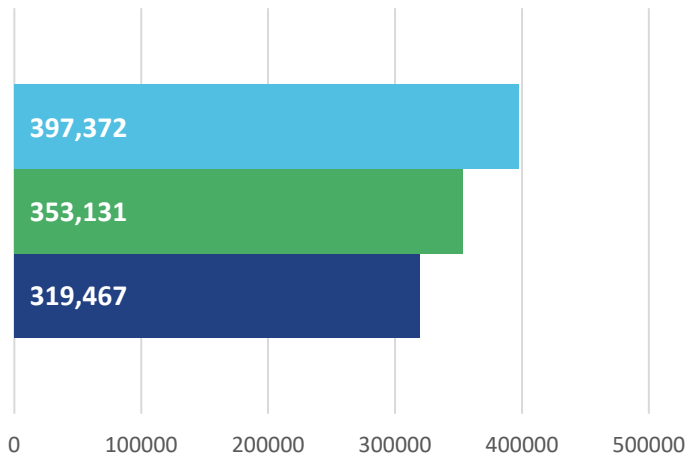
## PROGRAM ATTENDANCE



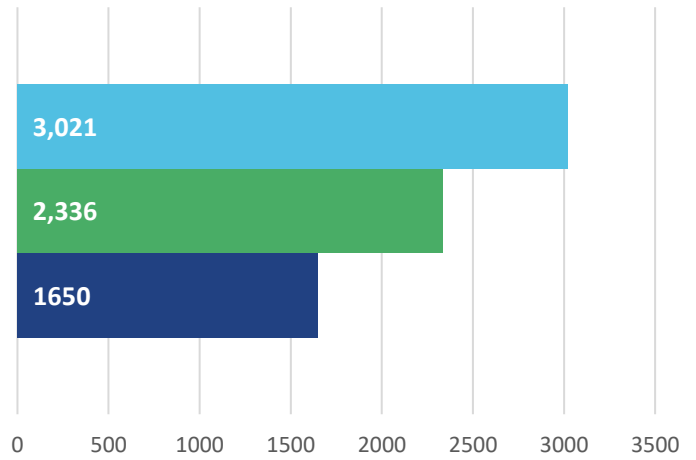
RPL Central Statistics YTD  
Jan–July



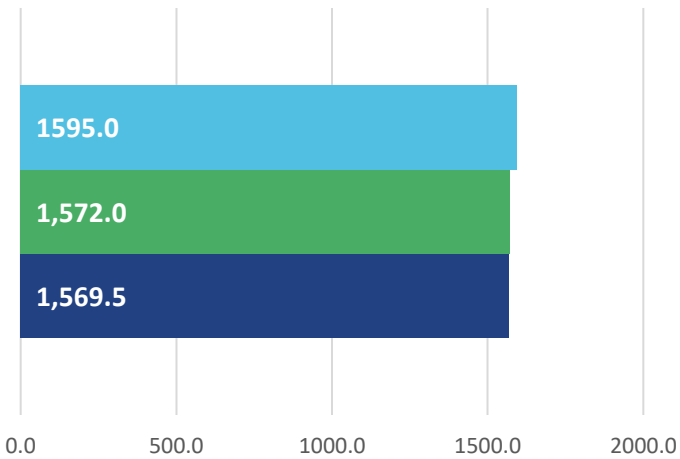
### CIRCULATION



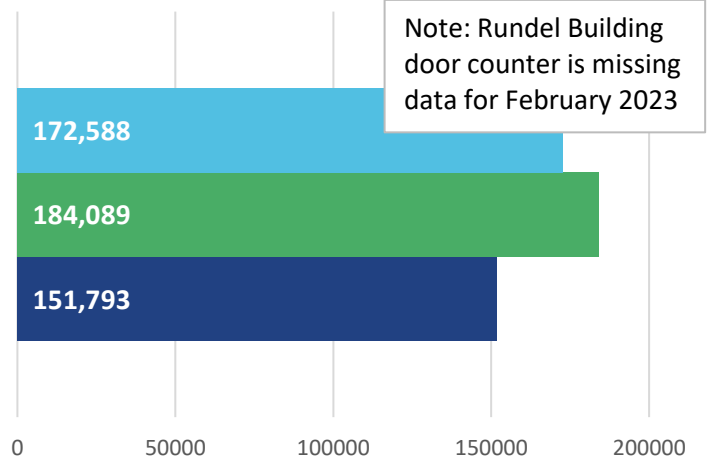
### LIBRARY CARDS



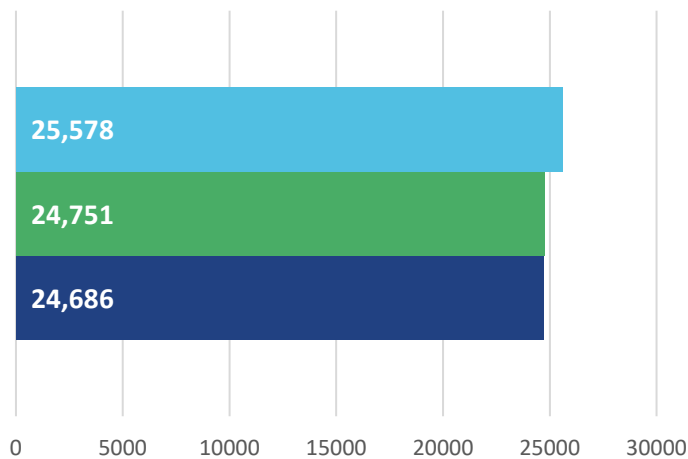
### SERVICE HOURS



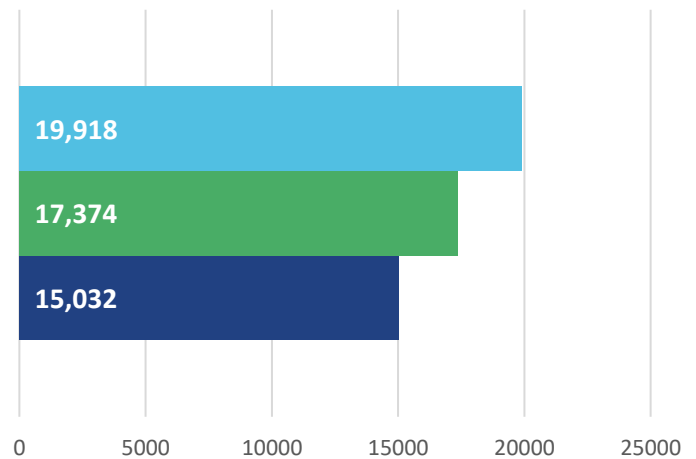
### VISITS



### REFERENCE QUESTIONS



### NON-REFERENCE

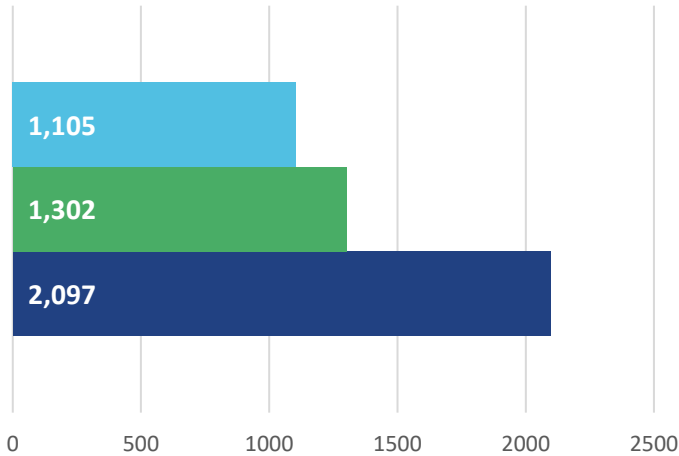




# RPL Central Statistics YTD Jan–July



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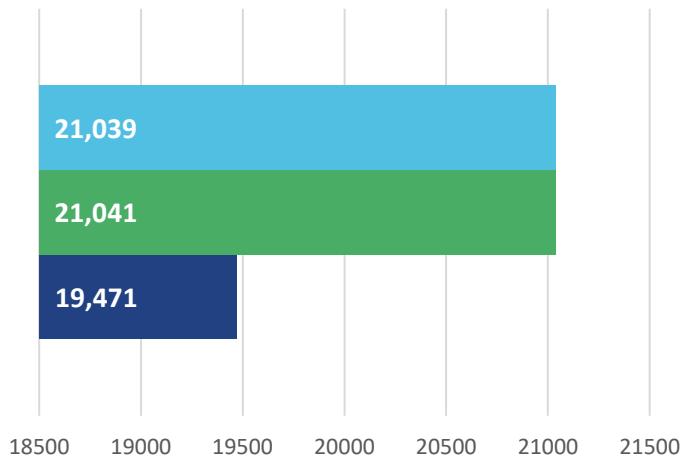
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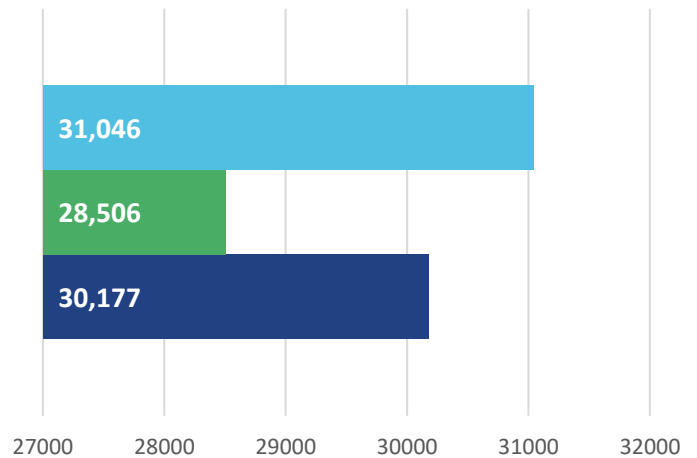
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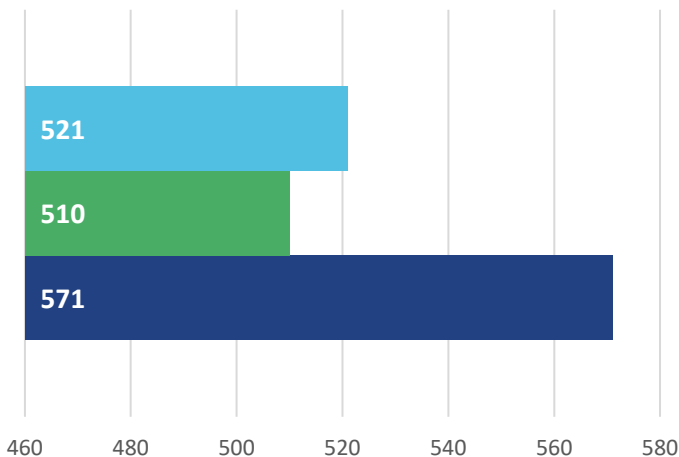
## COMPUTER HOURS



## WIFI USES



## GROUP PROGRAMS



## PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

