



**Board of Trustees Meeting  
Central Library  
Kusler-Cox Auditorium  
October 20, 2025, 5:00 PM  
Agenda**

- |  |              |         |
|--|--------------|---------|
| <b>I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b>            | Shelly       | page 3  |
| <b>II. PUBLIC COMMENTS</b>               | Shelly       |         |
| <b>III. FINANCIAL CLAIMS</b>             | Hasselwander | page 7  |
| <b>IV. REPORTS</b>                       |              |         |
| 1. Liaison Reports                       |              |         |
| a. To Rochester Regional Library Council | Knapp        |         |
| b. From Rochester Public Library Board   | Clasper      |         |
| 2. Staff Reports                         |              |         |
| a. Director's Report                     | Clasper      | page 14 |
| b. Central Associate Director's Report   | Lehman       | page 16 |
| c. MCLS Associate Director's Report      | Smathers     | page 16 |
| 3. Other Reports or Discussion           |              |         |
| <b>V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS</b>            |              |         |
| None                                     |              |         |
| <b>VI. NEW BUSINESS</b>                  |              |         |
| 1. 2026 MCLS Board Meeting Dates         | Clasper      | page 8  |
| <b>VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>                |              |         |
| <b>VIII. ADJOURNMENT</b>                 |              |         |

**Next Meeting:  
Monday, November 17, 2025, 5:00 p.m.  
Central Library, 115 South Avenue, 14620**





**Meeting of the MCLS Board of Trustees  
Ogden Farmers' Library, Spencerport, NY  
September 15, 2025  
Minutes**

**Trustees Present:** Gary Brandt, Kimberly Brown, Christopher Corcoran, Amy Moffitt, Francesca Padilla, Mei Qi, Marjorie Shelly, Suzanne Stockman, Jamia Williams (quorum present)

**Trustees Excused:** Peter Knapp

**Trustees Unexcused:** None

**Staff and Guests:** Monroe County Administration Liaison, Molly Clifford; FFRPL Liaison, Donna Borgus; staff members, Emily Clasper, Katy Hasselwander, Sarah Lehman, Debi Mansour, BJ Scanlon, Jennifer Smathers

President Shelly called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., welcomed trustees, staff, and guests, and noted a quorum was present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the August meeting were APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

**MEMBER LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Ogden Farmers' Library Director, John Cohen introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the library. He provided a brief report expressing his gratitude for the MCLS Services his library receives as a member and pointed out that his medium-sized rural library would not be able to afford the technologies on its own. He also thanked the board and the system for keeping things like construction aid coming every year as he knows that his building is aging and will need to be replaced at some point and the construction aid from the state will be a big piece of that project.

**Introductions**

President Shelly acknowledged the three newest trustees and asked everyone to take turns introducing themselves.

**FINANCIAL CLAIMS**

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

**LIAISON REPORTS**

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

On behalf of Trustee Knapp, President Shelly reported that the RRLC Financial Committee is interviewing several investment groups as part of their periodic due diligence in managing their portfolio. The Audit Committee is interviewing several audit firms, and the board approved an excellent audit report for the 2024-25 fiscal year. The board is reviewing all committee assignments and is updating the RRLC 5-year plan of service.

### **Liaison from the Rochester Public Library (RPL)**

Director Clasper reported that the RPL Board approved a slate of standard annual contracts with service providers, a professional services agreement to hire an archivist to work on the Shoulder to Stand On archive, and a professional services agreement to hire an archivist to work on the Monroe County Historian's Office archive. In addition, the RPL Board renewed an agreement with RIT Press for the production of the *Rochester History* journal.

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

Executive Director Borgus reported that the Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library earned a Platinum Seal of Transparency from GuideStar, the highest ranking available for nonprofit organizations.

She then shared some recent FFRPL support for MCLS including funding for the RMSC STEM Ambassador Program astronomy kits and books and supplies for the VIP Explorer kits.

She noted that the September appeal letter has been sent, and a strong response has already been received. This year's appeal included a donor survey, and nearly half of the early respondents completed it, representing a notably high return rate.

Lastly, she highlighted upcoming and recent events. The 14th annual juried international Art of the Book and Paper exhibit will have an artist reception on Wednesday, September 10, from 5 to 7 p.m. FFRPL is the founding sponsor of this exhibit and has provided support since 2011. In addition, FFRPL was a supporting sponsor of the sold-out event with Shelby Van Pelt, author of *Remarkably Bright Creatures*, on Tuesday, September 9. Penfield Public Library, East Rochester Public Library, and Webster Public Library presented the program. A recording remains available for two weeks at [penfieldlibrary.org](http://penfieldlibrary.org).

## **STAFF REPORTS**

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

Director Clasper began by noting the introduction of the new report format and invited trustees to share feedback. She also reported that while member library directors did not have updates to share for this cycle, several have already submitted items for inclusion in future reports.

She highlighted recent trustee training led by Debi Mansour on Robert's Rules of Order and parliamentary procedure. The trainings, which help boards ensure proper documentation of their proceedings, have been well received by participants.

Director Clasper also shared her experience attending the MCLS retirees' brunch, which brought together approximately thirty-five former staff members from across Monroe County. She described the event as warm and meaningful, noting the deep ongoing commitment of retirees to the library community.

### **MCLS Office**

Associate Director Smathers offered to answer questions regarding the written report. She reported that August is the busiest time of year for construction grant work, as applications must be finalized for submission to the Division of Library Development by early October. She explained that while MCLS has historically avoided conflicts over funding allocations, this year she introduced a new rubric and spreadsheet system to improve transparency, ensure all state requirements are met, and provide clearer documentation for the committee of library directors who make allocation recommendations.

She noted that the construction grant process involves multiple layers of state review and can take up to three years from application to funding. MCLS has consistently been able to use its full allocation, often absorbing additional funds that other systems cannot spend. Smathers emphasized that RPL's extensive construction needs make it possible for Monroe County to maximize available funding. She also shared that MCLS collaborates closely with other library systems across the state and contributes tools and practices to strengthen the process statewide.

Trustee Brandt commented on how much he appreciated the work of Pittsford Librarian Jim Byrnes and all the MCLS libraries involved in his stunt to visit all thirty-one member libraries and check something out from each. The positive publicity was well earned.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Presidential Appointments- Committees & Liaisons**

President Shelly asked that all trustees review the committee assignments listed on the handout and let her know if anyone wanted to discuss getting a different assignment. Otherwise, the appointments would stand as presented.

### **Nominating Committee Election**

President Shelly introduced the item. Trustee Corcoran MADE A MOTION to elect Trustees Peter Knapp, Francesca Padilla, and Jamia Williams to serve as the Nominating Committee with Trustee Knapp as the chair. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

### **Executive Committee Election**

President Shelly introduced the item. Trustee Moffitt MADE A MOTION to elect Trustees Gary Brandt and Suzanne Stockman to serve on the Executive Committee. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

### **Bylaws Review Ad Hoc Committee**

President Shelly introduced the item. Trustee Brandt MADE A MOTION to establish an ad hoc committee to review the bylaws with members to be appointed by the board president. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

### **NYS Library Construction Grant Allocations**

Associate Director Smathers reviewed the item and offered to answer questions. After discussion, Trustee Corcoran MADE A MOTION to allocate \$1,757,857 in construction grant funding from New York State for MCLS libraries as follows: \$24,955 to the Newman Riga Library for project 0386-26-1728; \$62,500 to the Seymour Public Library for project 0386-26-1759; and \$1,670,402 to the Rochester Public Library for project 0386-26-1688. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

### **Wired For Opportunity, Professional Services Amendment**

Finance Mgr. Hasselwander reviewed the item and offered to answer questions. After discussion, Trustee Williams MADE A MOTION to approve an amendment to a professional services agreement with Brilliant Repairs with a term of July 1, 2025–December 31, 2026, increasing the maximum compensation to an amount not to exceed \$137,480. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

### **Monroe County Capital Improvement Program (CIP) 2027–2032 Request**

Finance Mgr. Hasselwander reviewed the item and offered to answer questions. After discussion, Trustee Corcoran MADE A MOTION to approve the MCLS 2027–2032 County CIP Request of \$1,410,000 for Library Automation and \$280,000 for Fleet Replacement totaling \$1,690,000. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

### **Other Business**

None

### **ILS RFP Update**

Associate Director Smathers reported on the timeline for the Integrated Library System (ILS) RFP. She noted that the process has moved from early preparation into gathering requirements. A diverse RFP team has been formed through Directors Council, representing staff from libraries of varied sizes and roles. The team will hold town hall–style meetings, both in person and via Zoom, to gather staff input on essential, desired, and “nice-to-have” system features. Subgroups will also meet with affinity groups such as technology staff and children’s librarians. An open forum will be available for additional feedback. Public input will follow the staff process. Smathers expects to share preliminary results with the Board in November and will seek trustee perspectives as system users rather than on operational details. A visual timeline has been developed and will be shared with trustees at the next meeting to track progress throughout the process.

### **Legislative Outreach**

Trustee Brandt emphasized the importance of bipartisan support for library funding, noting that two members of the Assembly Committee on Libraries and Higher Education Technology represent Monroe County. Assemblymember Jen Lunsford has long been supportive, and Assemblymember Andrea Bailey, elected last year, is also on the committee. Smathers explained that local meetings with legislators are being scheduled for October and November, and details will be shared with trustees once confirmed. Board members agreed that strong bipartisan relationships remain essential to advancing library priorities.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

President Shelly reminded everyone that the next meeting is October 20, 2025.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

*Emily Clasper, Secretary*

**MONROE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM  
FINANCIAL CLAIMS 2025**

MON	DAY	CLAIM VO	VENDOR	DESCRIPTION	EXPENDED	REMARKS
8	19	2000659540	11101777- Hamlin Public Library	2025-26 LLSA 90%	\$ 2,617.20	
8	19	2000660434	11101918- Ogden Farmer's Library	2025-26 LLSA 90%	\$ 5,763.60	
8	19	2000659547	11102081- Gates Public Library	2025-26 LLSA 90%	\$ 11,069.10	
8	19	2000660441	11103572- Pittsford Community Library	2025-26 LLSA 90%	\$ 8,705.70	
8	19	2000659577	11103615- Brockport Seymour Library	2025-26 LLSA 90%	\$ 5,729.40	
8	19	2000659560	11103746- Penfield Public Library	2025-26 LLSA 90%	\$ 11,214.00	
8	19	2000660447	11104404- Greece Public Library	2025-26 LLSA 90%	\$ 27,560.70	
8	19	2000659564	11104449- Rush Public Library	2025-26 LLSA 90%	\$ 1,376.10	
8	19	2000659571	11105162- Henrietta Public Library	2025-26 LLSA 90%	\$ 13,391.10	
8	19	2000659572	11105181- ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY	2025-26 LLSA 90%	\$ 97,204.50	
8	19	2000659574	11105288- East Rochester Public Library	2025-26 LLSA 90%	\$ 2,663.10	
8	19	2000659299	11105346- Webster Public Library	2025-26 LLSA 90%	\$ 12,888.90	
8	19	2000659575	11105398- Mendon Public Library	2025-26 LLSA 90%	\$ 2,585.70	
8	19	2000659301	11105432- Brighton Memorial Library	2025-26 LLSA 90%	\$ 10,559.70	
8	19	2000659579	11105989- Irondequoit Public Library	2025-26 LLSA 90%	\$ 15,257.70	
8	19	2000659314	11106122- Newman Riga Library	2025-26 LLSA 90%	\$ 1,588.50	
8	19	2000660467	11106907- Parma Public Library	2025-26 LLSA 90%	\$ 4,611.60	
8	21	2000658996	11111096- NYLA	MEMBERSHIP THROUGH 5/31/2026	\$ 210.00	
8	26	2000659013	11117594- TMOBILE	MIFI CHARGES	\$ 20,235.31	ARPA FUNDS
8	29	2000658963	RRLC 11103128	OCLC FIRST SEARCH ACCESS 7/1/25-6/30/26	\$ 4,750.00	County Journal for Fleet Maintenance Fuel & Repairs
9	1				\$ 2,079.20	
9	2	2000659671	11127748- BRILLIANT REPAIRS	DIGITAL LITERACY INSTRUCTION- WIRED FOR OPPORTUNITY 7/1/25-8/1/25	\$ 7,407.00	ARPA FUNDS
9	2	2000660351	KNOW BE4 - 11126766	KNOW BE4 SECURITY AWARENESS TRAINING 7/1/25-7/30/28: YEAR ONE	\$ 17,608.91	3 YEAR LOCKED IN PRICE
9	2	2000659288	TRIDELTA - 11104976	VMWARE 9/21/25-9/20/26	\$ 12,816.00	
9	4	2000660677	11103982 - SHI	FLATBED SCANNER	\$ 246.98	
9	4	2000660495	11109903- OVERDRIVE	MATERIALS HOLD	\$ 212.29	
9	4	2000660495	11109903- OVERDRIVE	MATERIALS HOLD	\$ 1,672.00	
9	4	2000660495	11109903- OVERDRIVE	MATERIALS HOLD	\$ 1,595.66	
9	11	2000660574	11127026- HOMELESS TRAINING INSTITUTE	ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP	\$ 1,869.00	
9	11	2000660591	11128531- LITERACY ROCHESTER	BRANCH HOURS: AUG 2025	\$ 5,407.50	ARPA FUNDS
9	18	2000660698	11118980 - HP	Compete Desktop- 400 SFF G9	\$ 1,943.12	
					<b>\$ 312,839.57</b>	



October 2025

NEW BUSINESS (BOARD ACTIONS)

*2026 MCLS BOARD MEETING DATES (CLASPER)*

**Board Action Requested: A motion to approve the proposed schedule of MCLS Board meetings for 2026.**

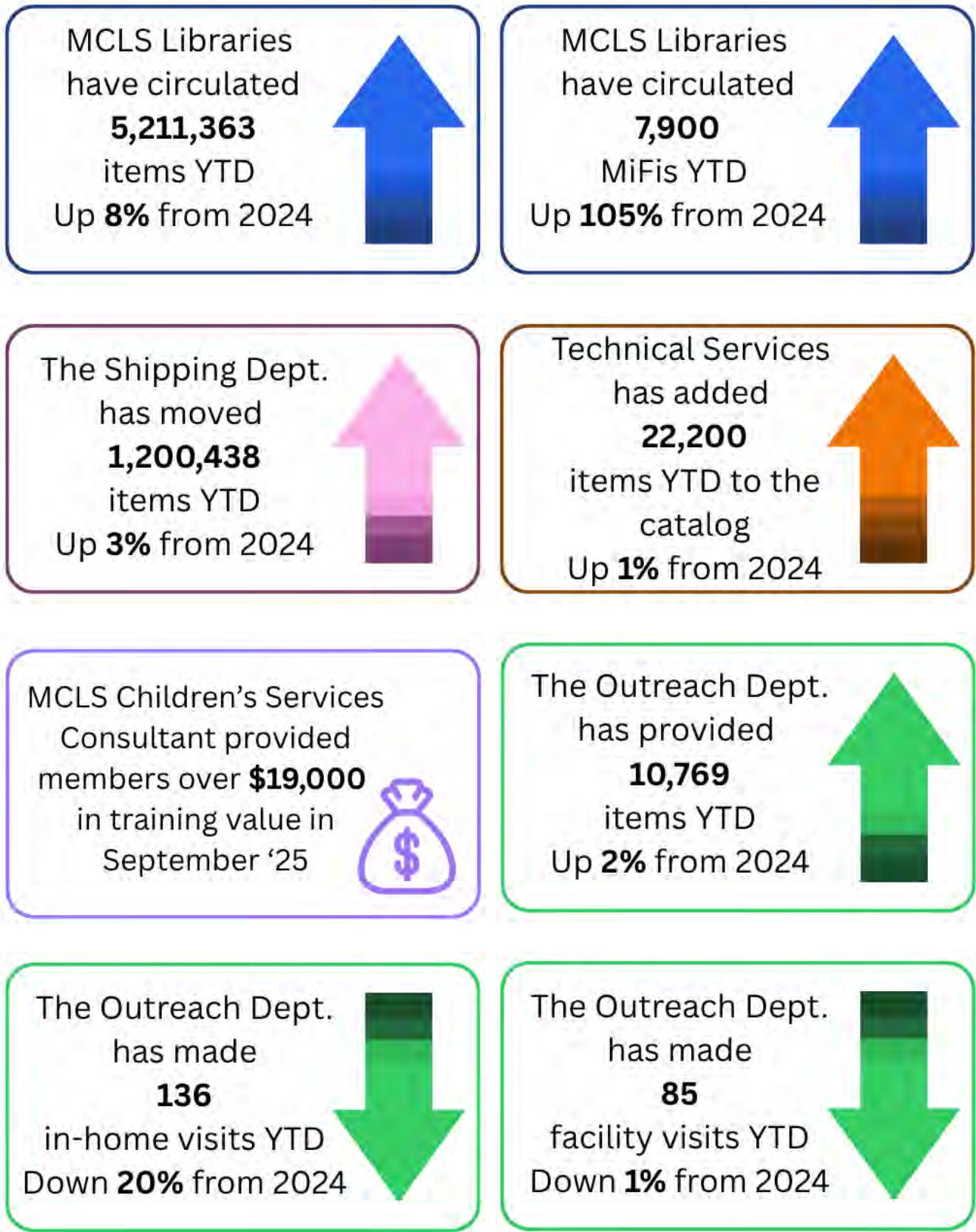
The proposed Monroe County Library System Board meeting dates are:

January 26 (one week late due to MLK Jr. Day)  
February 25 (9:00 a.m. on a Wednesday, joint budget meeting with RPL)  
March 16  
April 20  
May 18  
June 15  
No Meeting in July  
August 17  
September 28 (one week late due to Yom Kippur)  
October 19  
November 16  
No Meeting in December

All meetings are held on Mondays at 5:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Most meetings are held at the Central Library, with the occasional meeting scheduled at a Member Library.



MCLS AT A GLANCE (JAN–SEP)



## PATRON STORIES

### *STORYTIME SO GOOD, IT ENDED IN TEARS (THE HAPPY KIND!)*

Children's Librarian Chelsea Arnold kept the magic of summer alive by extending outdoor storytime in Highland Park through September. Families were thrilled to keep gathering under the trees for stories and songs, long after summer officially ended. At one session, when Chelsea said goodbye, a toddler burst into tears—proof that some stories are just too good to end.

### *RPL STICKER COLLECTION: A COLLECTOR'S BOOK INCLUDING STORIES BY THE CHILDISH CREATORS*

A print book was created by a Winton Branch Library family who were inspired by the RPL branch stickers. Branch Administration reached out and a record was created by Central Library's Technical Services team, so this local art inspired by art is discoverable to the world via [WorldCat](#) and found in [Carl](#). Finally, the digital version was placed by Alicia Gunther into [Libby](#) and is available to all MCLS patrons.

## MCLS SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

### *SENIORS GET SMART ABOUT AI*

Outreach Librarian Ron Freitag continues to provide drop-in device help and technology instruction to senior programs, now with an exciting new addition. Partnering with Joshua Tomaszewski from the Central Library's Technology Center, he is introducing older adults to the world of artificial intelligence, helping them understand how it works and how it can be used in scams. This month, the program reached Charles Settlement House, Baden Street MARC (pictured), and Meadow Reserve.

Henrietta, age 86, was enthusiastic about what she learned. She said she was *"going to tell everybody about this"* and *"spread the word"* about AI, noting that she knows many people in her building and could not wait to share her experience.



Another participant, a retired teacher who had been uneasy about AI and its relationship to consciousness, left with a new perspective. *"I don't know if I will use it,"* she said, *"but I am more confident now that I am smarter than AI and it is not human."*

### *LIBRARIES OPEN DOORS TO OPPORTUNITY*

Outreach Librarian Maren Kyle met with participants in the Pathstone Employment Focused Services Program to highlight how the library can support job seekers. She shared information about essential library resources, emphasizing collections and services that help individuals search for employment, build skills, and access new opportunities for personal and professional growth.

### *LIBRARIES SUPPORT SECOND CHANCES*

Outreach Librarians Wes Becker and Ron Freitag met with residents at the county jail to share information about reentry resources and library services. Their presentation focused on how the library can empower incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals with the knowledge and tools needed to overcome barriers to success that stem from arrest and conviction records.

### *HANDS-ON LEARNING INSPIRES FRESH IDEAS FOR CHILDREN'S LIBRARIANS*

The first Monroe County Library System Children's Services meeting of the 2025–2026 season focused on professional growth and creative learning. Held at Seymour Library, the session featured Suzanne Kolodziej, an art and museum educator and curriculum developer at the Eastman Museum, who presented a workshop on the concept of *Loose Parts*.

Originally introduced in the 1970s by architect Simon Nicholson, Loose Parts are open-ended materials, natural or manufactured, that children can move, combine, transform, and reimagine to support their ideas through play.

Nineteen staff members participated in hands-on activities, creating their own Loose Parts projects using materials provided by the presenter. The session sparked collaboration, creativity, and lively discussion, with many reluctant to stop experimenting when time ended.

The workshop directly supported the MCLS goal of providing high-quality professional development and training. Participants left with new strategies for encouraging play-based learning in library programs, along with a renewed sense of inspiration to bring to their work with children and families.



### *SHORT STORY DISCUSSION PROGRAM*

Outreach librarians visit Lifespan senior day programs where they listen to a short story read by Levar Burton and then discuss it. Most recently *The Court Magician* by Sarah Pinsker at Lily Café.

### *BOOK CLUB SUPPORT*

Copies of *Plainsong* by Kent Haruf and *Soil: The Story of a Black Mother's Garden*, by Camille T. Dungy were provided, in multiple formats, to support book club programming at Valley Manor.

### *MCLS SUPPORTS CAREGIVERS*

Outreach Librarian Wes Becker tabled as a vendor at Lifespan's 4th Annual Finger Lakes Caregiver Institute Caregiver Conference, hosted at Monroe Community College. The memory care collection was showcased, with multiple conference attendees expressing interest in and gratitude for our "library of things" designed for people experiencing dementia. The Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library generously donated a raffle basket for the event.



### *MCLS OFFICE OUT AND ABOUT*

Alicia Gunther and Jessica Post from the MCLS Office attended three community events, including the 3-day Flower City Comic Con and the Fall Fest at Parcel Five. Staff from MCLS member libraries assisted at Comic Con where they engaged with hundreds of patrons and signed people up for library cards. Fall fest was equally as busy with book giveaways, and community engagement that resulted in five newly issued library cards.

### *WELL-DESERVED RECOGNITION*

The Raising a Reader program was acknowledged by Rochester City Council during National Literacy Month. MCLS Children's Services Consultant Tonia Burton accepted the award. This event honored a variety of other



literacy organizations and inspired Tonia to spearhead the creation of a regional literacy meeting. This meeting will bring together the myriads of literacy organizations in our region to collaborate and share best practices.

### ROCHESTER FRINGE FESTIVAL

The Central Library hosted six Fringe Festival programs including three developed by staff: the Art of the Book exhibit, Art of the Book reception, and the exciting return of Spooky Stories in the Stacks. Over 65 people attended the Fringe cross-promoted reception for Art of the Book. Spooky Stories in the Stacks had 96 attendees. A similar number of interested people had to be turned away due to staffing and safety capacity for the storytelling event.



## SPECIAL INITIATIVES

### WIRED FOR OPPORTUNITY

#### PROGRAMS

In September, 41 students completed their courses and received a free Chromebook.

Month	Classes	Attendance	Class Topics	
Jul	25	170	Applying for Benefits	Intro to Google Workspace
Aug	23	146	Computer Catch-Up	Library Resources
Sept	26	175	Intro to Computers	Online Job Search Scams and Security

#### SOLAR TABLE USAGE STATISTICS – SEPTEMBER 2025

Location	Data Usage (GBs)	Connections
Brockport	5.16	91
Connected Communities	3.71	210
East Rochester	0.99	136
Father Tracy Center	10.66	94
Freestyle Mercantile	0.25	132
Gandhi Institute	4.79	107
Greece Canal Park	1.4	205
Honeoye Falls	2.3	143
Parma	0.78	72
Riga	1.54	132

### INTEGRATED LIBRARY SYSTEM (ILS) RFP DEVELOPMENT

The ILS RFP team launched a series of introductory sessions in a townhall format designed to help library staff understand what an ILS RFP process is, why it is happening now, what the timeline looks like, and how to give feedback to the team. The first two sessions had 21 attendees. A recording will be made available in October for anyone unable to make one of the in-person or zoom sessions.

Some themes are already emerging; powerful one-box searching interface, suggested spelling options, and more consistent language across both staff and public facing interfaces. The message sent clearly at these

meetings was that the team wants to hear from everyone, with all suggestions welcome. One participant suggested they had a silly request, when encouraged to share they responded, *"Please, whatever it is, can the next ILS not have a human name?"* It seems it can be confusing sometimes at Fairport to have Carl the catalog and Carl the director at the same time.

## STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

**Jennifer Byrnes** joined the American Library Association's Digital Inclusion Working Group and will be presenting on Wired for Opportunity later in the fall.

**Emily Forbes** resigned from the part-time Acquisitions Clerk position at Central Library to take a full-time position as Librarian Trainee with the Irondequoit Public Library.

## MCLS MEMBER LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

### *A REMARKABLE AUTHOR EVENT IN PENFIELD*

A collaboration between the Penfield Public Library, East Rochester Public Library, Webster Public Library, the Friends of the Penfield Public Library and the Friends and Foundation of Rochester Public Library brought a *New York Times* bestselling author to our community. Shelby Van Pelt, author of *Remarkably Bright Creatures*, appeared to a capacity crowd of 400 people. 230 of those attending waited in line for over an hour for the book-signing portion of the evening. An additional 180 people participated via live stream, and more than 60 people watched the recording within the first day. This event could not have been possible without the funding received from Senator Brouk. Audience members came from many different Monroe County neighborhoods; many of whom said they had never been to the Penfield Public Library before. Events like this unite our MCLS patrons and help us all in our advocacy efforts.



LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S CORNER: EMILY CLASPER

*TRUSTEE CALL TO ACTION*

NYLA is calling on library advocates everywhere to contact Governor Hochul and urge her to sign the Freedom to Read Act (S.1099/A.7777) today! <https://app.oneclickpolitics.com/campaign-page?cid=pLyz0Gi2nfumjiN97lxNx>

EveryLibrary has partnered with CivicMail to provide an easy way to send physical postcards to government officials regarding issues that matter to you. See their [Book Banning postcard campaign](#) to try it out!

*RECOMMENDED READING*

LAist: [LA County libraries forced to end digital lending services after FCC decision](#)

*Publishers Weekly*: [For Banned Books Week 2025, Literary Orgs and Allies Determine to Make Noise](#)

*Times Union*: [Instead of librarians, schools staff libraries with teachers, aides— or close them](#)

WBUR: [Libraries are public health hubs](#)

*IMPORTANT DATES*

**October 24:** Staff Day, all RPL locations closed, no delivery to member libraries

**October 27, 11:00:** In District Advocacy Meeting with Assemblywoman Clark. 500 Helendale Rd. Ste 90 Rochester, NY 14609

**October 29, 11:00:** In District Advocacy Meeting with Assemblywoman Lunsford. 317 Main St, East Rochester, NY 14445

**October 30, 10:00:** In District Advocacy Meeting with Assemblywoman Andrea Bailey. 5977 E. Henrietta Rd., Rush, NY 14543

**October 30, 12:00–3:00:** [RRLC Member Event & Celebration](#). Kate Gleason Auditorium, Central Library.

**October 31, 9:30:** In District Advocacy Meeting with Assemblyman Manktelow. Online meeting

**November 5–8:** NYLA Conference. Saratoga Springs

**November 6, 4:15:** In District Advocacy Meeting with Senator Helming. Online meeting

**November 11:** Veterans' Day, all RPL locations, East Rochester, Greece, Irondequoit, Ogden, Parma, and Scottsville libraries closed.

**November 12, 6:00:** County Legislature Meeting

**November 23, 2:00:** Screening of [The Librarians](#), followed by panel on Book Bans. Avon Park Theater, 71 Genesee St, Avon, NY 14414

*UPCOMING LIBRARY PROGRAMMING*

[Find Upcoming Library Programming Here](#)

*DIRECTOR’S SITE VISITS*

<b>September</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>March</b>
Lincoln Branch	Newman Riga	Penfield Public Library
<b>August</b>	<b>June</b>	Henrietta Public Library
None	Fairport	Rush Public Library
	<b>May</b>	Sully Branch
	Brighton Memorial Library	Arnett Branch
	Mendon Public Library	Chili Public Library
	Parma Public Library	<b>February</b>
	Pittsford Community Library	Charlotte Branch
	Winton Branch Library	Maplewood Community Library
	<b>April</b>	<b>January</b>
	Ogden Farmers’ Library	Frederick Douglass Comm. Library
	Irondequoit Public Library	Lyell Branch
	Phillis Wheatley Community Library	Monroe Branch

*DIRECTOR’S UPDATES*

In September, I had the pleasure of speaking at Cloverwood Senior Living in Pittsford, where I gave a talk on Book Bans and Challenges to a truly wonderful group of lifelong library supporters. Opportunities like these, often made possible through the Friends & Foundation of RPL (FFRPL), are so valuable because they keep our library-loving community informed and engaged with the issues shaping the future of an institution they care so deeply about. Each time I visit, I’m reminded how profoundly libraries have touched people’s lives, as attendees share personal stories that highlight the lasting impact of access, inclusion, and the freedom to read.

I’ve also been serving as a regular contributor to the City and County Joint Homelessness Committee, bringing the library’s perspective to the table by sharing real stories and insights from the unhoused individuals who rely on our libraries every day. These discussions have been essential in strengthening our collective understanding of community needs and ensuring that compassion remains at the center of our public service.

Meanwhile, the MCLS Directors’ Council continues important conversations about how we can better collaborate and deliver efficient, equitable service across the county. Our recent work has focused on reducing eBook and eAudiobook hold times through OverDrive, refining cataloging practices to improve access to our growing “Library of Things,” and providing communication options for patrons who may not have access to text or email notifications. Each of these efforts reflects our shared commitment to making the library experience accessible and responsive to everyone we serve.

As we approach New York State Library Advocacy Season, we’re preparing for several in-district meetings with our state legislators. While our talking points remain consistent—sustained funding, fair eBook licensing, and support for media literacy—this year we’re especially emphasizing the importance of passing the Open Shelves Act, vital legislation that would protect public libraries across the state from costly and politically motivated materials challenges. Together, these priorities ensure that New York’s libraries can continue to stand as open, trusted spaces for learning, connection, and discovery.

*~Emily*

*CENTRAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE: SARAH LEHMAN*

The Art of the Book Exhibit is currently open in Harold Hacker Hall for its 14th year. The exhibit will run until November 15th. A reception was held in Harold Hacker Hall on September 17th. This year the display also includes art from Donald Hyatt (Walking Scroll), one of the librarians from the Art and Lit Division. Finally, as part of the display this year, the exhibits team created a colorful 'selfie station' complete with crepe paper flowers for visitors to use. The flowers are absolutely stunning!



I continue to work with Deputy Director BJ Scanlon and the Health and Safety Committee to review our current response plans for fires and building evacuation. We have two fire drills planned for the end of October: one for the Rundel Building and one for the Bausch and Lomb building. I look forward to implementing these new plans in real time.

The Local History Division hosted a new iteration of Spooky Stories in the Stacks! On Thursday, September 18, the library held its first in-person "Spooky Stories in the Stacks" since 2019. The revived program, led by Brandon Fess and Alicia Gunther, was a massive success! 96 people went on the tour—and it was reported that another 100 or so had to be turned away! Feedback from both the staff involved and people on the tour was overwhelmingly positive, to the point that our end-of-night discussion was about how much we need to expand the event next year.



Finally, the programming team will begin working on Central-wide programming for National Library Week in April. We received a request from WXXI to partner for a screening of 'The Librarians' in April to coincide with National Library Week. The programming team will begin with focusing on building-wide programming for National Library Week (4/19–4/25) to culminate at the end of the week in a screening of the film in the Kate Gleason Auditorium.

~Sarah

*MCLS OFFICE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE: JENNIFER SMATHERS*

September in the MCLS Office is a time of seasonal changes. Outreach events start to slow down after Flower City Comic Con, construction applications for the next fiscal year are officially submitted to the NYS Library Division of Library Development, and locations are assigned for the Amerks Reading Power Play events.

Non-construction consultation requests from member library directors uptick as they are finally able to breathe at the end of the summer programming marathon and prepare for a fall full of board meetings. September topics included: How to handle conflicting board personalities, municipality departments misunderstanding the construction funding rebate must go back to the library, and how best to handle social media flame wars. (Hint: don't feed the trolls and in this case the community response handled it nicely.)



On the administrative side, the MCLS office has been assisting Central Library with workflow analysis in Acquisitions and Cataloging. Emily Forbes applied her background in business procurement to help create a more efficient acquisitions ordering system, using Carl and adding barcodes to the system at an earlier stage. Her wholistic and logical approach to acquisitions work will be missed now that she has a full-time Librarian Trainee position.

Technical Services cataloged the 5 new VIP Pass explorer kits, created by the MCLS Office and funded by an RRLC grant, for patrons to use while visiting the following VIP locations: Sonnenberg Gardens & Mansion, Rochester Museum and Science Center, Corning Museum of Glass, Memorial Art Gallery, and George Eastman Museum.

*~Jennifer*

Town Libraries				
	Sep-25	Sep-24	+/-	%
Brighton	49,973	49,207	766	1.6%
Seymour	11,965	12,231	(266)	-2.2%
Chili	21,005	20,360	645	3.2%
East Rochester	4,117	3,957	160	4.0%
Fairport	55,615	54,487	1,128	2.1%
Gates	20,101	20,960	(859)	-4.1%
Greece	50,972	50,156	816	1.6%
Hamlin	4,648	4,817	(169)	-3.5%
Henrietta	41,993	41,295	698	1.7%
Irondequoit	38,833	40,370	(1,537)	-3.8%
Mendon	9,520	9,959	(439)	-4.4%
Newman Riga	2,155	2,033	122	6.0%
Ogden	11,573	12,022	(449)	-3.7%
Parma	7,799	7,699	100	1.3%
Penfield	39,626	37,451	2,175	5.8%
Pittsford	49,872	48,051	1,821	3.8%
Rush	2,612	2,210	402	18.2%
Mumford	631	665	(34)	-5.1%
Scottsville	2,943	2,733	210	7.7%
Webster	38,586	40,245	(1,659)	-4.1%
<i>Towns Subtotal</i>	<i>464,539</i>	<i>460,908</i>	<i>3,631</i>	<i>0.8%</i>
<i>RPL Subtotal</i>	<i>78,910</i>	<i>76,141</i>	<i>2,769</i>	<i>3.6%</i>
<b>MCLS Total</b>	<b>543,449</b>	<b>537,049</b>	<b>6,400</b>	<b>1.2%</b>