



**Board of Trustees Meeting
Welsh Room, Greece Public Library
September 16, 2024, 5:00 PM
Agenda**

- I. PUBLIC COMMENTS** Corcoran
- II. ACTION ITEMS**
1. Minutes of prior meeting Corcoran page 3
 2. Claims Hasselwander page 5
 3. Monroe County Capital Improvement Program (CIP)
2026-2031 Request Hasselwander page 7
 4. Recommendation for NYS Library Construction
Grant Funding Smathers page 7
 5. Nominating Committee Corcoran page 8
- III. REPORT/DISCUSSION ITEMS**
1. Liaison to Rochester Public Library Board Stockman
 2. Liaison to Rochester Regional Library Council Knapp
 3. Liaison from Friends & Foundation of the RPL Borgus
 4. Staff Reports
 - a. Director's Report Uttaro page 8
 - b. MCLS Services Smathers page 8
 - c. Central Library Services Clasper page 16
- IV. OTHER BUSINESS**
- V. ADJOURNMENT**

**Next Meeting:
Monday, October 21, 5:00 p.m.
Central Library of Rochester and Monroe County**



**Meeting of the MCLS Board of Trustees
Board Room, Rundel Memorial Building
August 19, 2024
Minutes**

- Trustees Present:** Gary Brandt, Kimberly Brown, Christopher Corcoran, Peter Knapp, Amy Moffitt, Mack Smith, Jr., Suzanne Stockman (quorum present)
- Trustees Excused:** Alinda Drury, Emily Hessney Lynch, Marjorie Shelly
- Trustees Unexcused:** Erick Stephens
- Staff and Guests:** County Law Office Liaison, Keana Williams; County Administration Liaison, BJ Scanlon; staff members, Debi Mansour, Jennifer Smathers, Patty Uttaro

Call to Order

Mr. Corcoran called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m., welcomed trustees, staff, and guests, and confirmed a quorum was present.

Public Comments

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

Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the June 17, 2024, meeting was APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

Claims

On behalf of Ms. Hasselwander, Ms. Uttaro reviewed the financial claims with the trustees and offered to answer questions.

Ms. Moffitt arrived at 5:06 p.m.

After a brief discussion, Dr. Knapp MADE A MOTION to approve the financial claims as presented. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MCLS Consortia Application Approval, NYSED Construction Grant

Ms. Smathers reviewed the item with the trustees and offered to answer questions. Dr. Knapp MADE A MOTION to approve the consortia grant application for the NYSED Division of Library Development for the construction projects described, inclusive of two locations (Sully Branch Library and Frederick Douglass Community Library). THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Clearpath HR Solutions Professional Services Agreement (Uttaro)

Ms. Uttaro reviewed the item with the trustees and offered to answer questions. Mr. Brandt MADE A MOTION to approve a professional services agreement with Clearpath HR Solutions, LLC for an amount not to exceed \$4,950 through December 31, 2024. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Rochester Public Library (RPL) Liaison

Ms. Stockman reported that the RPL Board received approval of an amendment to their charter allowing the Board to add four trustees for a total of fifteen. Ms. Uttaro added that the RPL Board was especially interested in finding trustees from the northern and western parts of the city. The RPL Board heard reports about the vacant County Historian position, the temporary relocation of the Maplewood Branch library, and the plans for a trip to Washington D.C. with a group of teens through the Safe to be Smart program. They also approved a revised Open Meetings policy, a library store agreement with the FFRPL, a library trust fund allocation for fiscal year 25, and annual operating agreements.

Rochester Regional Library Council (RRLC) Liaison

Dr. Knapp reported that the RRLC Board has not met since his last report.

Director’s/Central Library Report

Ms. Uttaro offered to answer questions about the written report. She reported on the new digital equity initiative with Monroe County. The MCLS will receive \$3.1 million over the next two years to deliver digital literacy classes, increase the number of MiFis circulated in the system from 400 to 1000, and other digital equity programming. The classes will include the option for participants to keep a computer after completion of a series—the proposal is budgeting for one thousand computers. Jen Byrnes will be promoted and will be the project manager for this initiative. There will also be a new position created to manage the MiFi program through the Reynold’s Media Center. Additionally, Literacy Rochester will be paid to provide digital navigators across fourteen library locations throughout Monroe County. In response to a question about the additional staff positions, Ms. Uttaro projected that the positions will be added into the budget and the persons hired will stay on with the library after the grant funding expires.

MCLS Office

Ms. Smathers offered to answer questions about the written report. She reported that the theme for National Library Card Sign-Up month in September is based on a collaboration with the TRANSFORMERS franchise, “Libraries—More Than Meets The Eye.” Staff in the MCLS office are working on social media content to go with this theme.

Next, she reported that the MCLS was not affected by the national CrowdStrike computer outage in July. Finally, Ms. Smathers reported about the library vanity license plates available through the Department of Motor Vehicles and the disbursement of funds to libraries statewide from their proceeds. Ms. Stockman suggested the library put information online about the availability of these vanity plates.

Other Business

Mr. Corcoran reported that there have been approximately ten applications evaluated for the Director’s position. Several did not meet the minimum qualifications for the position, but three candidates have had preliminary interviews over Zoom. The deadline to apply was extended to August 31, and additional applications are coming in.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Patricia Uttaro, Secretary

**MONROE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
FINANCIAL CLAIMS 2024**

MONTH	DAY	CLAIM VO	VENDOR	DESCRIPTION	EXPENDED	REMARKS
7	22	2000622505	11105181- Rochester Public Library		\$ 94,944.60	LLSA 2024-25 90%
7	22	2000622508	11105398- MENDON PUBLIC LIBRARY		\$ 2,526.30	LLSA 2024-25 90%
7	22	2000622524	11106907- PARMA PUBLIC LIBRARY		\$ 4,503.60	LLSA 2024-25 90%
7	25	2000622481	11102081- GATES PUBLIC LIBRARY		\$ 10,811.70	LLSA 2024-25 90%
7	25	2000622504	11105162- HENRIETTA PUBLIC LIBRARY		\$ 13,080.60	LLSA 2024-25 90%
7	30	200622477	11101918- OGDEN FARMER'S LIBRARY		\$ 5,926.50	LLSA 2024-25 90%
7	30	2000622496	11103615- BROCKPORT SEYMOUR LIBRARY		\$ 5,596.20	LLSA 2024-25 90%
7	30	2000622507	11105288- EAST ROCHESTER		\$ 2,601.00	LLSA 2024-25 90%
7	30	200622257	11106122- NEWMAN RIGA LIBRARY		\$ 1,551.60	LLSA 2024-25 90%
7	31	200622476	11101777- HAMLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY		\$ 199.75	2024-25 LOVE YOUR LIBRARY
7	31	200624179	11102058- CHILI LIBRARY		\$ 199.75	2024-25 LOVE YOUR LIBRARY
7	31	2000622481	11102081- GATES PUBLIC LIBRARY		\$ 199.75	2024-25 LOVE YOUR LIBRARY
7	31	2000622492	11103572- PITTSFORD LIBRARY		\$ 199.75	2024-25 LOVE YOUR LIBRARY
7	31	2000623940	11103615- BROCKPORT SEYMOUR LIBRARY		\$ 199.75	2024-25 LOVE YOUR LIBRARY
7	31	200622496	11103746- PENFIELD LIBRARY		\$ 10,953.00	LLSA 2024-25 90%
7	31	200624475	11103746- Penfield Public Library		\$ 199.75	2024-25 LOVE YOUR LIBRARY
7	31	200623945	11104404-GREECE PUBLIC LIBRARY		\$ 199.75	2024-25 LOVE YOUR LIBRARY
7	31	200622497	11104449- RUSH LIBRARY		\$ 199.75	2024-25 LOVE YOUR LIBRARY
7	31	2000622504	11105162- HENRIETTA PUBLIC LIBRARY		\$ 199.75	2024-25 LOVE YOUR LIBRARY
7	31	2000623948	11105181- Rochester Public Library		\$ 199.75	2024-25 LOVE YOUR LIBRARY
7	31	2000622507	11105288-East Rochester Public Library		\$ 199.75	2024-25 LOVE YOUR LIBRARY
7	31	200624251	11105346- Webster Public Library		\$ 199.75	2024-25 LOVE YOUR LIBRARY
7	31	2000622508	11105398- MENDON PUBLIC LIBRARY		\$ 199.75	2024-25 LOVE YOUR LIBRARY
7	31	2000622246	11105432- BRIGHTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY		\$ 199.75	2024-25 LOVE YOUR LIBRARY
7	31	2000623954	11106034- SCOTTSTVILLE LIBRARY		\$ 199.75	2024-25 LOVE YOUR LIBRARY
7	31	200622257	11106122- NEWMAN RIGA LIBRARY		\$ 199.75	2024-25 LOVE YOUR LIBRARY
7	31	2000623142	11106907- PARMA PUBLIC LIBRARY		\$ 199.75	2024-25 LOVE YOUR LIBRARY
8	1	2000622246	11105432- BRIGHTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY		\$ 10,314.00	LLSA 2024-25 90%
8	1	2000622514	11106034- SCOTTSTVILLE LIBRARY		\$ 1,608.30	LLSA 2024-25 90%

**MONROE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
FINANCIAL CLAIMS 2024**

MONTH	DAY	CLAIM NO	VENDOR	DESCRIPTION	EXPENDED	REMARKS
8	2	2000622174	11101606-GEVA THEATER	VIP PASS	\$ 1,200.00	
8	2	2000622490	11103128- ROCHESTER REGIONAL LIBRARY C	EDL HUB CONNECTION 7/1/24-6/30/25	\$ 2,200.00	
8	2	2000622490	11103128- ROCHESTER REGIONAL LIBRARY C	RRLC MEMBERSHIP DUES 7/1/24-6/30/25	\$ 2,185.00	
8	2	200623980	11109903-OVERDRIVE	MATERIALS-HOLD	\$ 3,344.59	MULTIPLE EBOOKS/AUDIOBOOK
8	2	200623980	11109903-OVERDRIVE	MATERIALS-HOLD	\$ 307.97	MULTIPLE EBOOKS/AUDIOBOOK
8	5	200623631	11102541-UNIQUE MANAGEMENT	2024 MATERIAL RECOVERY	\$ 1,266.30	JULY 2024
8	5	200062290	11108746- SUSAN B ANTHONY HOUSE	VIP PASS	\$ 1,000.00	
8	5	2000622582	11120051-New York State Parks	EMPIRE PASS- NEW	\$ 160.00	2 ADDITIONAL FOR BRIGHTON
8	5	2000622582	11120051-New York State Parks	EMPIRE PASS REPLACEMENT	\$ 17.00	BRIGHTON
8	5	2000622582	11120051-New York State Parks	EMPIRE PASS REPLACEMENT	\$ 17.00	FAIRPORT
8	5	2000622582	11120051-New York State Parks	EMPIRE PASS RENEWAL- CENTRAL	\$ 70.00	
8	8	2000623116	11103572- PITTSFORD LIBRARY		\$ 8,503.20	ILSA 2024-25 90%
8	13	2000623216	11127026- HOMELESS TRAINING INSTITUTE		\$ 1,869.00	ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP
					\$ 189,953.21	



TO: MCLS Board of Trustees
FROM: Patricia Uttaro, Director
DATE: September 16, 2024
SUBJECT: Monthly Report–September 2024

Action Items

Monroe County Capital Improvement Program (CIP) 2026-2031 Request (Hasselwander)

The MCLS has two category submissions for the upcoming CIP cycle:

Automation

This capital program focuses on annual costs associated with software and hardware maintenance, as well as the MCLS' business continuity planning (Uninterrupted Power Supply System, backup server hardware) & storage and archival needs. Several MCLS costs for large network equipment expenses are lower (firewall, etc.) based on E-rate eligibility for up to 85% reimbursement. We are requesting annual support of \$190,000.

This results in a total six-year cost of \$1,140,000 and will be requested as part of the upcoming County CIP process.

Fleet Replacement

MCLS delivery includes daily pickup and drop-off of library material returns, requests/holds, and interoffice mail. The MCLS fleet consists of three box trucks that run three static routes averaging 62 miles per day to 32 library locations, as well as special service support for library material outreach services and special collection partners such as The Strong. Based on previous operating lease and use history, the fleet will be replaced every five years, with the cost of new vehicles offset by trade-in valuation at the point of sale. We are requesting \$280,000 for replacement in 2029, moving out one additional year due to the delays in receipt of current fleet replacements (two deployed in late 2023, one in 2024). The next cyclical allocation will occur in 2033.

The total CIP request for 2026-2031 will be \$1,420,000.

Board Action Requested: Approve the 2026-2031 County CIP Request.

Recommendation for NYS Library Construction Grant Funding (Smathers)

Each year, the MCLS is awarded a set amount of funding to allocate to member libraries for eligible construction projects. This year, the construction program received an increase that makes \$1,757,857 available for MCLS. All 7 applications received may be allocated grant funding at their requested amount.

The recommended allocations are:

1. Chili Public Library: \$3,859 towards a total project of \$7,718 to install an ADA-compliant door for the children's room.
2. Irondequoit Public Library: \$60,710 towards a total project of \$121,420 for the children's library programming space.
3. Seymour Public Library: \$93,500 towards a total project of \$187,000 for plumbing and toilet room renovation.
4. Lincoln Branch of RPL: \$223,560 towards a total project of \$248,400 for a new roof.

5. Central Library, RPL: \$500,000 towards a total project of \$6,000,000 for the Rundel building's masonry.
6. Maplewood Branch of RPL: \$776,508 towards a total project of \$6,000,000 for its renovation.
7. MCLS system application \$99,720 towards a total project of \$110,800 for energy-efficient lighting at the Sully and Douglass Branches of RPL.

Board Action Requested: Approve the recommended allocations of library construction funds.

Nominating Committee(Corcoran)

President Christopher Corcoran proposes trustees Marjorie Shelly, Chair; Gary Brandt, and Peter Knapp serve on the Nominating Committee for 2024-25.

Board Action Requested: Elect trustee Shelly as the chair of the Nominating Committee and trustees, Brandt, and Knapp as members.

Report & Discussion Items

MCLS Director Patricia Uttaro is reporting

Recommended Reading & Viewing

- Security Incidents Rise in Canadian Libraries - <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/public-library-security-incidents-1.7302588>
- Big Five Publishing Houses, Author John Green Sue Florida Over Book Bans - <https://www.cfpublishing.org/education/2024-08-30/the-big-five-publishing-houses-john-green-sue-florida-over-book-bans>
- Alaska's Public Libraries Sound Alarm - <https://alaskapublic.org/2024/09/06/alaskas-public-libraries-sound-alarm-over-abrupt-loss-of-state-grant-funds/>
- Libraries Evaluating or Planning for AI Integration - <https://www.researchinformation.info/news/60-libraries-evaluating-or-planning-ai-integration-report> This is something that both MCLS and RPL leadership should be thinking about and incorporating in the next strategic plans.

MCLS Member Libraries

Jennifer Smathers reporting

August saw summer reading programs wrapping up across the system as well as National Book Lovers Day and National Bookstore Day. MCLS member libraries responded to a call for help from the American Red Cross during the August blood shortage crisis to promote the need for blood donors. Look for additional blood drives at libraries in September.

A multi-library video feature for September's National Library Card Sign Up Month was created and filmed, to be debuted next month on social media across MCLS.



Brighton Memorial Library

Thank you to the patron who shared this great picture of a chipmunk listening to the Owl's rooftop story time in our fairy garden. With summer coming to an end, we think chippy will miss our Sunshine and Storytimes outside with Ms. Elissa.



Chili Public Library

The instrument petting zoo at Chili was a hit! With no registration required participants were able to get up close and personal with a wide range of instruments and representatives from the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra.

East Rochester Public Library

The new Infinity Gaming Table debuted August 1. It is located on the 2nd floor of the library by the teen area. Patrons of all ages are welcome to game with it. Thank you to Assemblymember [Jen Lunsford](#) for securing the funds for this table. We are the only library in MCLS that has one—maybe even the WORLD! More games will be added regularly; the following games are currently available:



- | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Trivial Pursuit | Connect Four | LIFE | Sorry |
| Battleship | Chess | Checkers | Backgammon |
| Hungry Hippos | Operation | Scrabble | Word Search |
| Kid's Coloring | Clue | Candyland | Memory |
| Monopoly | Chutes & Ladders | Yahtzee | |

Fairport Public Library

Another spectacular summer Gazebo Concert Series is a wrap. Musical memories were made possible through the incredible partnership between Perinton Recreation and Parks and the library. Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who joined us at Kennelley Park to enjoy these summer concerts. We're grateful for the music, the fun, and the vibrant community spirit!



Gates Public Library

The library participated in International Geocaching Day, a unique celebration that brings together outdoor enthusiasts and adventure seekers every year on the third Saturday of August.

The Gates Public Library has its own Geocache/Letterbox hybrid program. The starting clue is outside the library on a flag stand in the garden area. This first clue will lead you to more clues within the library, and at the end of your "hunt" you will be rewarded with a small prize. There are some tricky clues along the way, plus you will discover the many different areas with the library. This geocache/letterbox takes place entirely inside the library (except for the first outside clue).

Greece Public Library

We were excited to participate in the Greece Central School District's Back to School Bash last evening! Here's to the beginning of a great school year, and we hope to see you all at the library! For anyone who wants children to learn together at home, the library launched newly updated homeschool kits. They include games, activities, and

other supplemental materials to encourage learning together. The kits are for grades K-5 and are categorized by subjects. These kits can be used to supplement the Charlotte Mason curriculum, Classical Education, or any other homeschool program.

Hamlin Public Library

Featuring items from the MCLS shared collection, the Big Game Day Summer Finale program was a lot of fun. Special thanks to Sensei Scott for sharing his ninja skills activity and the Lions Club for handing out snacks. It was a great ending to a fun and fabulous summer!

Henrietta Public Library

The 2024 Tiny Art Show went on display in August. 331 canvases are featured in this year's show. Come spot your canvas at the library

Irondequoit Public Library

August 20th the library hosted A Death Café, a confidential, group-directed discussion of death with no agenda, objectives, or themes. The purpose of a Death Cafe is to bring the taboo subject of death out into the open and “to increase awareness of death with a view to helping people make the most of their (finite) lives.” It is a discussion group rather than grief support or a counselling session. Volunteer facilitators have been hosting Death Cafes around the world since 2011. This session talking about death, while celebrating life, was facilitated by Jennifer Sanfilippo.

Mendon Public Library

The stats are in from Summer Reading 2024, and we've had another record-breaking year! Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make Summer Reading 2024 the best one yet. Thanks go to the Kiwanis for providing the Kona Ice truck at our closing party. Featuring adventure map drawing, vinyl LP spin art, henna, and more, the party was the greatest end for summer reading events.

Newman Riga Library

Folks were able to stop by and view the Community Art Show in August, especially during the Churchville Walkabout. One online visitor noted, “Love it! Looks so good!”



Parma Public Library

August was full of art at the library. The tiny art show opened, teens enjoyed Henna at the end of summer reading party, and we couldn't believe the beautiful creations from our patron artists. Staff barely had time to share our favorite books on National Book Day.



Penfield Public Library

Library staff had a lovely time seeing more of our fabulous community at the Town of Penfield health fair - it was the perfect thing to reinvigorate us for the hustle and bustle of the new school year. 😊



Pittsford Community Library

- All ages were invited to be en garde and try the Olympic sport of fencing on Saturday, August 24, in our Fisher Meeting Room. Attendees learned about the history of the sport, the equipment. They even tried out basic footwork and moves with foam swords. The Rochester Fencing Club has a record of achievement producing national, collegiate, world, and Olympic champions.
- Even without those fencing moves, the Kraken had a blast at the break-in-box event. Thanks to everyone who helped release the kraken!



Rush Public Library

Kids of all ages were encouraged to bring a blanket or chair and join us for a concert with Jaclyn Breeze, a Rochester-based flutist and composer. The half-hour concert on the library lawn featured three newly commissioned pieces to accompany classic fairy tales.

Seymour Library

Our first book tasting was filled with snacks, laughs, and plenty of satisfied readers. Librarians offered their expert opinions as book sommeliers. This event was filled with options to satisfy any reader's palate! If you liked Goosebumps as a kid, here's an adult version! If your child has read through all of Percy Jackson and is jonesing for something just like it, we've got options that will scratch the itch! We look forward to seeing more patrons the next time we offer a bookish menu.



Webster Public Library

This Ken's job is books This Barbie's job is books
The Webster Chamber of Commerce popped by the library's Facebook post to note that "with Books, Barbie and Ken are never bored."

MCLS Office Updates

Jennifer Smathers reporting

In August, preparations for the next round of NYSED Construction grant applications kick into high gear. Applications were due to the system from member libraries by August 15. Many questions arise during the application process, from timing of board-signed assurances to what type of projects actually qualify (spoiler alert: land acquisition without a new build involved does not count.) Member library directors contact the MCLS office for these answers and more. Late in the month, Governor Hochul signed bill **A.9076-A** into law as Chapter 241 of the Laws of New York 2024. This new legislation expanded State Aid for Library Construction eligibility for public libraries located in economically disadvantaged communities, removing the previous distinction between economically distressed and economically disadvantaged communities. This immediately impacted the MCLS system application for an energy-efficient lighting project at Douglass and Sully Branches that now qualifies for 90% grant funding with 10% match funding. The complete text for Bill A.9076-A can be found here:

<https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2023/a9076a>

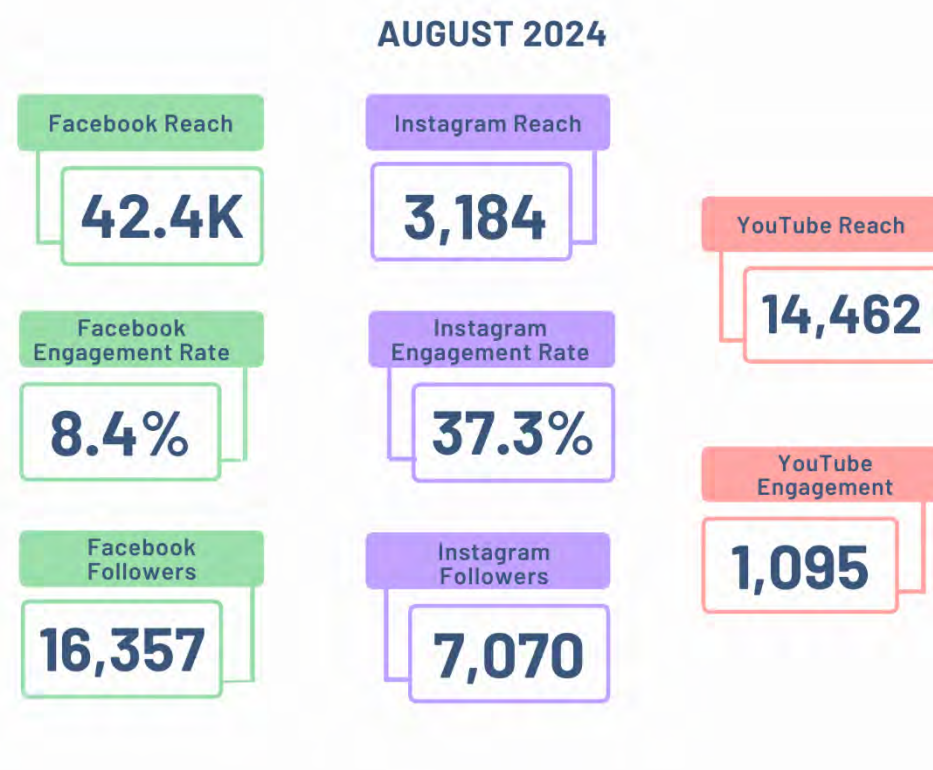


Other activities

Amanda Vargas-Dixon developed a booklist for the "Young Frankenstein" show at Geva Theatre and attended a "Rochester Fringe" venue manager meeting.

Alicia Gunther and Vargas-Dixon visited 2 "VIP Pass" partner locations (Susan B Anthony House and The George Eastman House) for marketing purposes.

Social Media



Outreach Department, Maren Kyle reporting

The Outreach Department staff had the pleasure of attending the Salute to Seniors event at Ontario Beach Park. The weather was excellent, which contributed to the festive atmosphere. Many people stopped by our table and took time to comment on how enjoyable the day was. Many seniors took advantage of the books and books on CD we were giving away. Others wanted to pick our brains about certain authors and titles that were featured. During the day, we were delighted to have visits from family members accompanying family. Former RPL employees stopped by to say hello and chat about how things were going these days at Central. Current Outreach patrons visited our table too. It was great to see them out and about relishing the beautiful day. We took advantage of the opportunity to talk and plan possible collaborations with other agencies' staff. The discussions were enthusiastic and left us all looking forward to working more together. Another enjoyable part of the day was letting people who stopped by our table know how the Outreach Department could assist them or their loved ones with having library materials brought to them through our in-home deliveries. Attendees were quite pleased to know that the library offered such outreach services and thanked us for passing the information on to them.



In-Home Library Service

Outreach staff selected and distributed library materials to 17 in-home patrons:

- 14 patrons received a home delivery of library materials (197 items total)
- 3 patrons received a cartridge loaded with digital audiobooks from the NYS Talking Book and Braille library by mail (51 titles total)

Library Stations/Micro Collection Lending Service

- 14 library stations served.
- 884 items distributed.
- Special requests were filled for 8 sites.

Corrections and Reentry Support

- Outreach staff fulfilled 3 requests for physical “Making Moves” reentry resource packets.
- “Making Moves” webpage received 60 total pageviews.

Other Outreach

Wes Becker presented a well-received discussion on ways to reduce barriers from a criminal record to twenty residents of the House of Mercy. Topics included demonstrating evidence of rehabilitation, crafting a personal statement, and the importance of understanding what is on your RAP sheet — as well as a variety of educational, job training, local reentry organizations, legal and health-related resources available locally.

Meetings & Training

Becker organized a training session with Colleen Shea from Goodwill Vision Services. She came to the Central Library on August 16th during our third-Thursday training time and shared info regarding assistive technology for the visually impaired with staff from Outreach, Business, and the Tech Center.

Children’s Center, Tonia Burton reporting

Programs

- The Children’s Center staff continued summer reading programs including a program on sword fighting, science adventures, and an end-of-summer ice cream truck party. The Children’s Center had many drop-in

visits from summer camps. Library staff worked together to keep children entertained by doing crafts, playing, and using computers and the Nintendo Switch.

- Miranda Hazen had one more Making Adventures craft program where kids made their own bottle cap magnets using old, discarded comics and bottle cap sized epoxy stickers.
- Hazen also built a Big Maze out of the big blue building blocks that Children's was keeping for City Rec for the last year or so. Kids and families enjoyed finding their way through and finding the small prizes hidden throughout!



- MCLS offered a system-wide reading incentive program called The World of Work. Children were encouraged to read and fill out an entry form for every book they read. Each member library had the option of participating and choosing one winner to receive tickets to the game and talk with Naomi Silver, Red Wings president, CEO and COO of the team. Silver talked about her job and all the other positions beyond baseball players that are needed in the baseball industry.

One mom was so excited when she received the call about tickets. She shared that her family were not able to go on vacation this summer so this would give them something great to remember from 2024.

When the Dubois Family arrived, Natalie hugged me and insisted we take a photo. Since they entered at the Penfield Library and Julie Rapp was there, she joined in. After the game, Mrs. DuBois sent Burton this email:

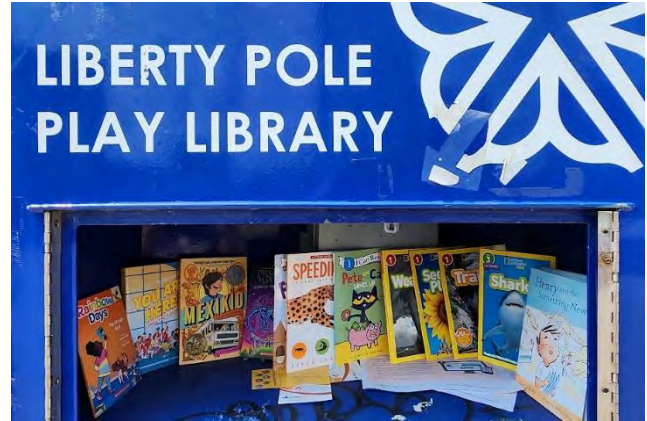
We want to say Thank you again for such a wonderful thing your organization does for our Monroe County Families! Autumn is so excited to go to the Red Wings game tomorrow and take her whole family! It means a lot to us to see how happy you make our children. It's above and beyond! We are thankful to have such fun libraries to take the kids to and to be given a fun outing for our family is an unexpected gift! We appreciate all your organization continues to do for our communities. Please share our appreciation with your staff. - Natalie DuBois



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- The Annual National Night Out was held at different locations around the city. Burton was joined by Natalie Soto (Lincoln) and Becca Rodriguez (Central Summer Support Staff) at International Plaza. Families played Minute to Win It to win books.

- Burton and Chelsea Arnold were invited by Father Tracy to table at a community health fair event off Joseph Avenue. They gave out information about the library as well as free books.
- Burton gave out free books at Little Free Libraries around the city and at El Camino Park. Burton also joined Shalis Worthy (Lyell Library) at a Back-to-School event at school #54.



- Arnold and Margarita Chaves attended a back-to-school event at School 35. They met many families and spoke to them about all the things the library offers and gave away more free books.
- Several groups of resident physicians from University of Rochester visited the Children's Center to discuss library access for disabled patrons. They report having a positive experience in the library. Their professor noted, "*Many of the doctors described being incredibly impressed by the number of different opportunities available at the library. It felt like each group seemed to find one more resource that I was not yet familiar with.*" They also commented that "*the librarians were incredibly friendly and helpful.*" They suggested that clearer signage be considered to direct patrons to the library from the garage, and more prominent information about translation by phone services.
- Interim RCSD Superintendent Demario Strickland visited the Children's Center, ImagineYOU, and Teen Central. Burton gave him a tour of the second floor and introduced him to the staff. Mr. Strickland loved the Secret Room but was especially impressed with the A.I. Comics in ImagineYOU. He would like all RCSD seventh graders to visit Central this year and discussed his desire for the library to partner with the Parent Engagement Department during the school day to help teens not in school.

Central Library Updates

Emily Clasper reporting

- The Central Library hosted the first meeting of a joint City and County Opioid Steering Committee. Representatives from various City and County Departments attended, along with partners from community organizations and local residents impacted by the opioid crisis. Both the County and City have access to funds designated for use in education, treatment, and prevention of opioid use and abuse, and it makes

sense that both groups should coordinate efforts to ensure that these funds are put to the best use. Emily Clasper and Amy Discenza attended as members of the City Opioid Team. Clasper spoke to the group about the impact of opioid use on the libraries and the role of libraries in addressing the issue. Clasper was approached afterward by numerous people from this group who wanted to express their appreciation for the work our libraries do to help people impacted by the opioid crisis across the County.

- Emily Clasper, Jennifer Byrnes, Melissa Cobo, and Frank Russo met with representatives from the CASH Tax Assistance program to discuss potential improvements to the 4th floor office space, including reorganization of several areas to accommodate additional CASH staff. The group was able to quickly address the needs of CASH and their growing staff, with RPL facilities agreeing to help move space dividers and furniture to make the work areas more practical.
- As a member of two ALA Leadership Committees, Clasper has taken on a liaison role to encourage collaboration between the various areas of the association. Through the ALA Core Equity and Access Leadership Committee, she has assumed responsibilities as Liaison with the Technology Section. As a member of the ALA Core Tech Technology Leadership Committee, she is now the Liaison to the Emerging Technology Trends Committee and the Imagineering Interest Group. As a past Chair of the Emerging Technology Trends Committee, she is looking forward to again helping to plan and coordinate some of the most popular annual programs at the ALA Conference.
- The Central Library Department and Division supervisors are currently working on a collaborative assessment of supervisory skills and responsibilities with an eye to identifying areas for growth. Supervisors were surveyed to identify areas of supervision and management where they felt the least comfortable and in need of additional support. Over the next few months, the group will participate in a gap analysis exercise to develop a plan to improve skills and support in the areas where the group feels it is most needed.
- The team implementing the new Patron Incident Tracking System has been meeting regularly to configure the system and set up the software for use by all RPL branches. The group expects to have everything tested and ready for staff training within the next few weeks.

Arts/Literature,

Nothing new to report.

Business Insight Center (BIC), Jennifer Byrnes, reporting

Consulting

- Hours of in-depth market research/prior art searching: 50
- The Carlson Center for Intellectual Property assisted:
 - In person: 6
 - Email: 19
 - Phone:3
 - Zoom: 5
- Webpage views: 18
- Referrals to Tracy Jong (Intellectual Property Attorney): 1
- Referrals to Davis Bassett (Patent Agent): 3

Database Usage Statistics (April)

- Frost & Sullivan: Page views: 44 Value: \$162,780

- IBISWorld: Page views: 166 Value: \$87,680
- InnovationQ: Logins: 21 Searches: 151
- Mintel: Sessions: 82 Page Views: 110 Downloads: 111
- PitchBook Logins: 12
- Statista: Page views: 138 Downloads: 44

Anecdotes

- Jen Byrnes received this from a tech startup:
"This is awesome! Thank you so much!!! I learned new things from our competitor and will use the market research to answer questions from investors and accelerators. Your work is incredibly helpful."
- For Bitter For Worse, a beverage company that Byrnes has done extensive research for, has made it to the Grow-NY finals.
- MicroEra Power, a company that Byrnes has been working with for years, has been named a finalist for the QBE AcceliCITY Resilience Challenge. In collaboration with Leading Cities, the challenge is open to global entrepreneurs who have developed pioneering ideas to tackle risk, equity, and sustainability challenges in urban environments. QBE AcceliCITY is one of the Top 5 GovTech accelerators in the world. It serves as a runway for emerging urban solution providers while simultaneously reducing the risk and cost of innovation for cities. The down-selection to Top 50 stems from an original pool of 740 applicants from over 70 countries! The Smart City Track winners will receive up to \$150,000 in prize money to fund a city pilot project.
- Lily Anthony was researching patents granted for companies in the Rochester NY area and came across a patron that the Carlson Center for Intellectual Property assisted a few years ago. The United States Patent and Trademark Office granted her patent application!
- Melissa Cobo attended Don't Roll the Dice on IP: Protecting Creativity in the Tabletop World, sponsored by the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Circulation/Information, Chad Cunningham reporting

Statistics

- Curbside Pickup Appointments-1
- New Borrowers-309
- RRLC Access Cards Issued-4
- Notarial Acts-139

Anecdotes

- A Nazarath student applied for an Out of County card, not knowing that college students are eligible for cards without having to pay the Out of County fee. Circulation staff worked with her to issue her a card. She used this as a chance to come to the Central Library for the first time.
- A patron left a book from the Victor library with his Central library returns. He was glad to know we still had the book, but also interested to learn that we return items to the owning library if they get left behind.

Local History & Genealogy, Christine L. Ridarsky reporting

Programs

- The Local History & Genealogy Division's walking tours continue to be popular. In August, 67 people joined Dan Cody for the “Beyond Flour and Flowers” tour.
- Christine Ridarsky and Emily Morry collaborated with teaching artist Joanne Brokaw to teach a workshop for eight East High School teachers on creative uses of local history resources. After Ridarsky and Morry provide an overview of the Local History & Genealogy's services and collections, the group explored unsolved crimes by using our newspaper clipping files, microfilm, and ProQuest Historical Newspapers database. Lead instructional coach Kerry Meehan-Richardson followed up with an email message:



"I can't thank you enough for collaborating with Joanne and preparing pieces for us today! Our teachers are very eager to continue to collaborate with you both! I will be in touch about our upcoming conference days--hopefully when we can get a larger block of time to dig into more of what you have to offer! You will hear from us soon! Again, I can't thank you enough for today--you have re-energized our teachers to think more about how we engage our students in the thinking and with key historical resources!"



Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Ridarsky participated in a virtual Erie Canal Bicentennial Preview hosted by the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. Subsequently, she shared information about events being planned locally and statewide in 2025 with Monroe County's municipal historians and started a discussion about coordinating and jointly promoting activities being planned in each of their communities.
- Ridarsky attended the unveiling of and presentation about the Landmark Society of Western New York's Jewish Landmarks Survey at the Jewish Community Center. Ridarsky served on the project advisory committee. Two copies of the resulting publication, Jewish Landmark Survey: The History of Rochester's Jewish Community Through the Built Environment, have been added to the Local History & Genealogy Division's Collection.

- At the request of the City's Bureau of Communications and Special Events, Ridarsky met with local entrepreneur and media content producer David Mammano to discuss his forthcoming documentary film on the history of entrepreneurship in Rochester.
- Ridarsky met with former Monroe County Airport Director Rick Ikel to discuss his desire to celebrate the airport's 100th anniversary. Although there are various milestones that could be marked, he and Ridarsky agreed that the most reasonable celebration date would be in 2028, 100 years after the first airplane landed in Monroe County. Ikel is also interested in rehabilitating one of the original airport hangars for use as an aviation museum. Ridarsky advised that the centennial planning could provide an opportunity to explore the feasibility of what would potentially be a very expensive project given the hangar's current condition.
- Ridarsky and Emily Clasper met with representatives from the University of Rochester to discuss a potential collaboration to hold talks in the university's Neilly Author Series at the Central Library. The series, established in 2001 and funded by an endowment from Andrew H. and Janet Dayton Neilly, "brings a diverse range of authors to the University for talks on their process, their recent publications, and the ideas presented in their work." The university hopes to attract a broader audience for the free talks by moving them off campus and into the community. For information on past speakers, visit <https://www.library.rochester.edu/about/neilly>.

Digital Projects

- The FamilySearch scanning team continued operations in August. A total of 62 items were scanned this month. This included a few yearbooks, but as the main yearbook project is over, most of the work consisted of monographs and special collections, some of the latter being intended solely for the Rochester Public Library's use. Interesting items that were scanned included some photo albums containing images of the construction of the Rochester Subway tunnels and a hand-painted picture of a uniformed Civil War soldier.
- On August 8, we received notice from New York State Historic Newspapers that the Daily American is now live on the website. While one of Rochester's lesser-known daily papers, the Daily American is notable as having been the city's Whig newspaper in an age of highly partisan presses. The digital mount can be accessed here: <https://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/?a=cl&cl=CL1&sp=rda>.
- Two articles were posted to the Local History ROCs! blog in August:
 - "Wine, Wine, and More Wine," written by Hope Christansen
 - "Dreamland: the story of one of Rochester's earliest Amusement Parks," written by Emily Morry, who also edits the blog.

The posts received a total of 190 views in August. In addition, readers from 30 countries revisited 185 previously published posts for a total of 2,599 blog views. Read online at www.rochistory.wordpress.com.



rp0988a.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

Anecdotes

- Brandon Fess met with a potential donor to evaluate a collection of material on the Chicago Columbian Exposition of 1893 and Buffalo Pan-American Exposition of 1901 that she had inherited. While Fess doubted this material would fit the Rochester Public Library's collection development policy, taking such a meeting is an example of the informal outreach work he does regularly when approached by potential donors. Fess met Hill at the Pittsford Community Library and immediately saw that the material was not appropriate for our collections. Instead, he provided Hill with contact information for repositories in the cities where these

events occurred and encouraged her to reach out to find proper homes for what is rare and important material.

- Ridarsky and Emily Morry both assisted a visiting researcher from South Carolina, whose ancestor, Alexander Millener, was reportedly George Washington's drummer boy and is buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery. Morry helped Millener find 19th century newspaper articles about his local ancestors as well as various genealogical resources from Québec while Ridarsky connected him with people and resources in other local repositories. Millener sent thank you emails stating, "My time was well spent at the Rochester Public Library, thanks to your kind and expert support!"

Reynolds Media Center, Joseph Born reporting

Programs

- First Friday film: *Wicked Little Letters*
- August Concert Series:
 - *Still The One*
 - *Paxtor*
 - *Crossfire*
- August Movie Matinee films:
 - *Jaws*
 - *The Sandlot*
 - *Dirty Dancing*
 - *Ghostbusters*
 - *American Graffiti*
 - *In The Heights*
 - *Jurassic Park*



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

Joseph Born has discussed the upcoming addition to the Mi-Fi collection, due to the County's Digital Equity Grant, with T-Mobile reps. They are giving us a better rate on our current data service for the Mi-Fi units. We immediately received a discount from \$28.00/month to \$21.00/month. This allows us the ability to add up to another 150 Mi-Fi at the same cost we planned for 400.

Science and History, Gabe Pellegrino reporting

Programs

- Find it in the Finger Lakes Travelogue, presented by Lisa Wemett and Terry Mulee. Lisa and Terry shared the places they visited and their experiences while traveling through the Finger Lakes. This included state parks and waterfalls, places to eat and drink, art museums and historical places, and many hidden gems located in the Finger Lakes. There were 22 people in attendance, and everyone was engaged and interested in Lisa's and Terry's presentation. A



handout was provided that listed all the places Lisa and Terry talked about during their presentation to share with people who attended the program. Renee Kendrot and Melissa Manczuk from the Arts/Literature Division collaborated to plan, promote, and host this program. There were a lot of positive comments from the people who attended the program!



Outreach/Meetings/Training

- LROC (Library Resource Outreach Center) visitors continued to be busy; even with multiple cancellations, about 30 people were seen. Legal Assistance of Western New York (LawNY) saw five people during their August visit, which was good because they made a last-minute change on their date. They also tabled on the first floor. In addition, Pellegrino handled five LROC referrals through the UniteUs platform, connecting the individuals with needed help.

Technology Center, Jay Osborne Reporting

Outreach and Training

- We pride ourselves on responding fluidly to patron needs. As an example of this, Cy Shropshire hosted an outreach senior tech help event at the Wolk Senior Café at Sibley Square. Though just down the street from the library, these seniors appreciate having resources brought to them to solve transportation issues that can depend on health needs. One gentleman asked about how to block spam calls. The solution to that issue is a multi-pronged approach that requires a bit of effort and tech savvy at first, so Shropshire explained a few of the options briefly and then took down his contact information to get back to him with more. Shropshire then created a resource list for blocking spam calls that we can keep and utilize as a handout for others with this issue or to walk patrons through the process. Shropshire emailed him the resources and offered to walk him through it at the next outreach tech help event if he needs any further assistance. From what we've heard from Outreach staff that hold other events there, both the staff and the patrons are excited to have us in again to assist with any technical issues they may have with their devices. In addition, we now have a template for drop in help or class instruction on this subject when requested.

Anecdotes

- During the month of August, the Tech team has seen an increased number of patrons needing assistance uploading identifications and other papers for onboard job training. A few patrons have thanked the staff for helping them build impressive resumes and then obtaining employment. Though we face challenges at times with employers' websites, staff assure that patrons needs are met and they are able to walk away from the Tech Center with a smile on their face. The team continues to display professionalism and patience. Many patrons have thanked the library for offering programs available to the public. One morning this month, a younger patron walked through the space and noticed staff preparing to give a tour of the Technology Center to representatives from Constellation brands. He asked a few questions about the presentation and expressed how happy he was to know the library was being recognized as a critical asset to the city. He said *"I come to the Tech Center all the time. I practically grew up in this library. I have learned so much here, I don't know where I'd be if I hadn't been able to be in this place. I really consider myself to be graduate of the Rochester Public Library."*

Teen Central, Jeff Bostic reporting

Programs

- August was Esports Month, with an esports tournament held every Monday and all month long. Two events were hosted and shoutcasted by the 585Fighterz. The Fried Fish Shack sponsored the major Roblox tournament and brought full fried fish meals for every participant including a full fish, fries, and hush puppies. This program engaged and fully fed 12 teens. They were able to compete, have fun, and win prizes. There was also enough food to feed the other teens in the room who were not participating.
- Action for a Better Community's Summer Youth Employment Program continued this month. The teens of the Adolescents Inspiring through Multi-Media group finished producing their video presentation, websites, and posters. The kids of this program were taught all aspects of digital media including photography and videography. They were also able to utilize artificial intelligence. This summer they got work experience while also getting the opportunity to express themselves through digital media.
 - You can check out the website here: <https://express.adobe.com/page/8cmyE1pd1hn2a/>
 - The portfolio can be seen here: <https://jnbostic532d.myportfolio.com/>



- The group's final video can be seen here:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Z51k0ILfR2o3YhsLPBr7fv5T9qN1EBYa/view?usp=drive_link



- Teen Librarian Courtney Withey held a pop-up DIY Sticker making craft program in Teen Central. The teens who participated were enthusiastic and eager to get creative!
- Hungry teens were thrilled to have an opportunity to make (and eat!) trail mix in early August. Antoine McDonald coordinated this activity as a way to encourage the teens to choose healthy snacks and show them how easy it can be to make something nutritious for themselves. Teens have repeatedly asked the library to provide some programs focused on making food, so this was a good first step in that direction.

Anecdotes/Other

- The dedicated supporter website for the Liberators is complete. This year we hope to focus on sustainability and getting the team to a point of generating monthly income.
<https://roccitylibrary.org/spotlight/dedicated-supporter-liberators/>



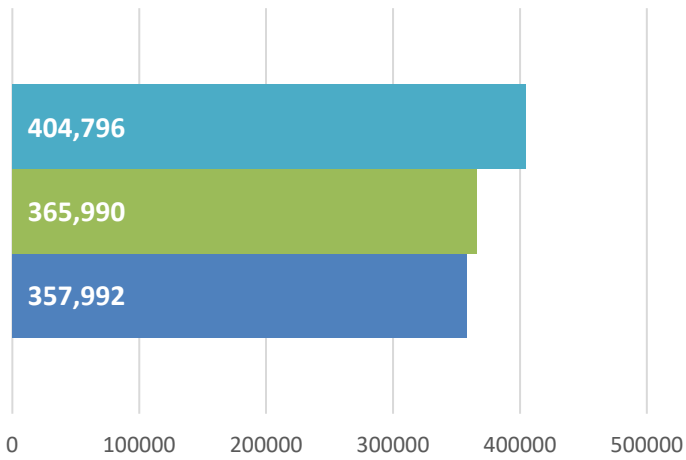
MCLS Circulation

Town Libraries				
	Aug-24	Aug-23	+/-	%
Brighton	56,095	48,293	7,802	16.2%
Seymour	14,869	13,020	1,849	14.2%
Chili	24,353	19,454	4,899	25.2%
East Rochester	4,260	3,961	299	7.5%
Fairport	68,556	57,738	10,818	18.7%
Gates	24,970	20,237	4,733	23.4%
Greece	57,686	47,811	9,875	20.7%
Hamlin	5,623	4,570	1,053	23.0%
Henrietta	49,304	41,889	7,415	17.7%
Irondequoit	44,409	37,576	6,833	18.2%
Mendon	11,618	9,063	2,555	28.2%
Newman Riga	2,530	2,343	187	8.0%
Ogden	12,925	11,860	1,065	9.0%
Parma	9,448	7,737	1,711	22.1%
Penfield	42,753	36,873	5,880	15.9%
Pittsford	55,934	47,185	8,749	18.5%
Rush	2,555	2,732	(177)	-6.5%
Mumford	968	658	310	47.1%
Scottsville	2,877	2,411	466	19.3%
Webster	48,553	40,781	7,772	19.1%
<i>Towns Subtotal</i>	<i>540,286</i>	<i>456,192</i>	<i>84,094</i>	<i>18.4%</i>
<i>RPL Subtotal</i>	<i>79,567</i>	<i>68,838</i>	<i>10,729</i>	<i>15.6%</i>
MCLS Total	619,853	525,030	94,823	18.1%

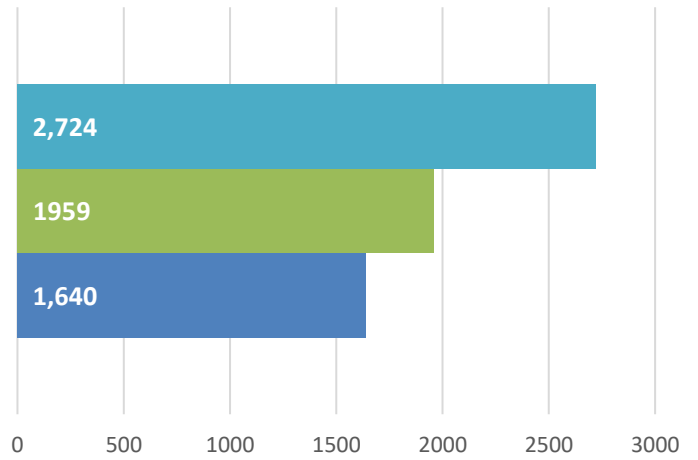
RPL Central Statistics YTD
Jan—Aug



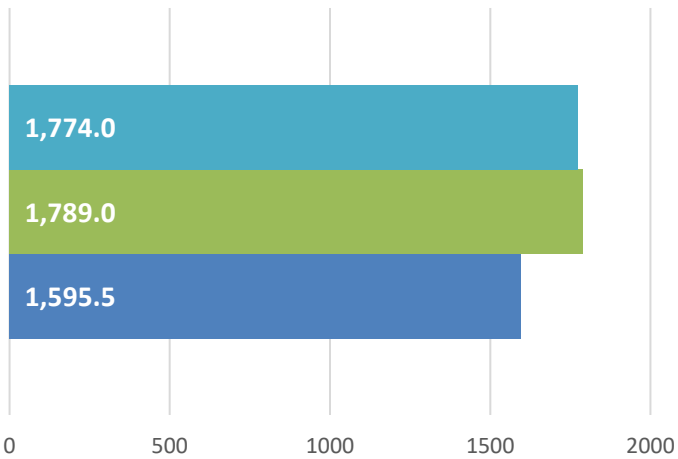
CIRCULATION



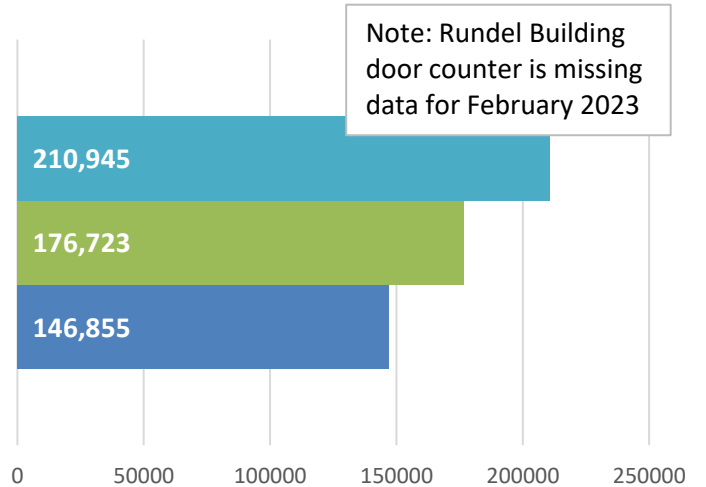
LIBRARY CARDS



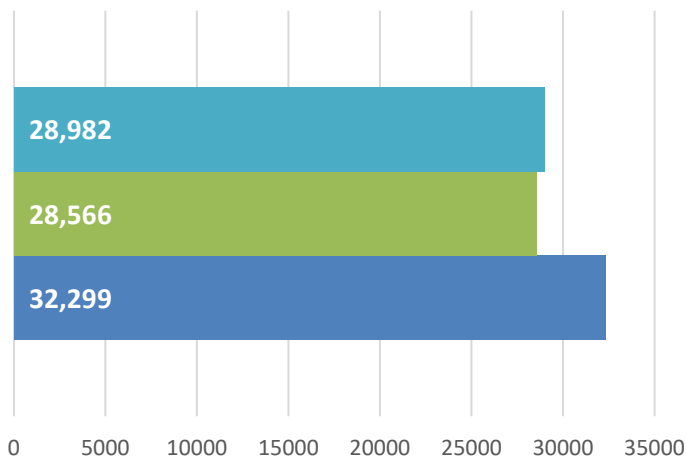
SERVICE HOURS



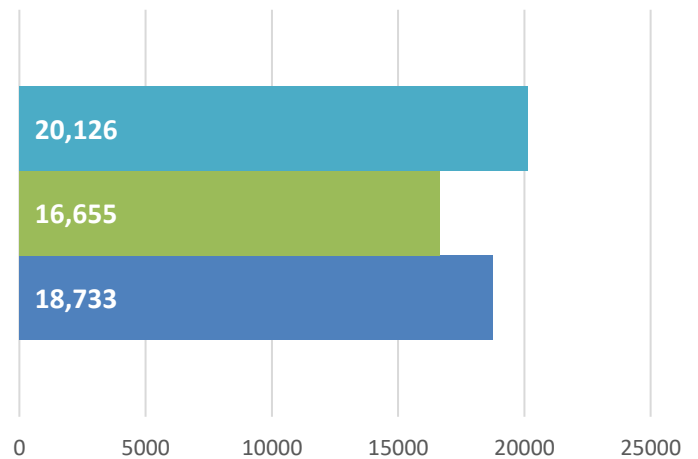
VISITS



REFERENCE QUESTIONS



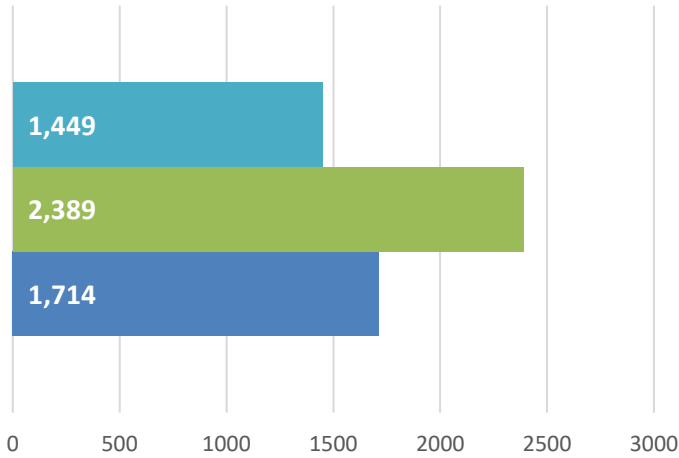
NON-REFERENCE



RPL Central Statistics YTD
Jan—Aug



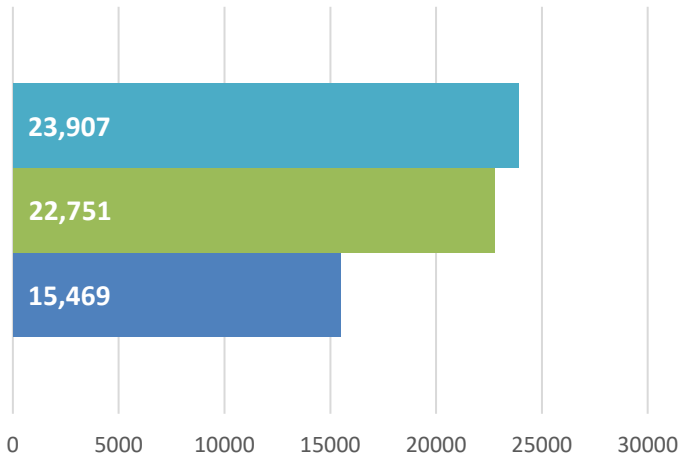
NOTARY



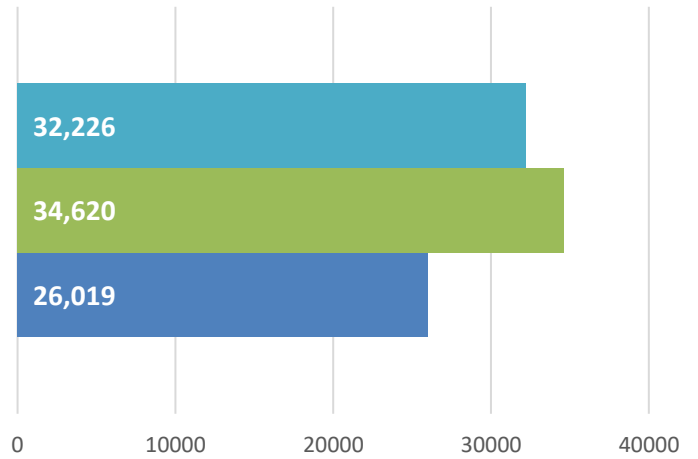
DEFINITIONS

- 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.

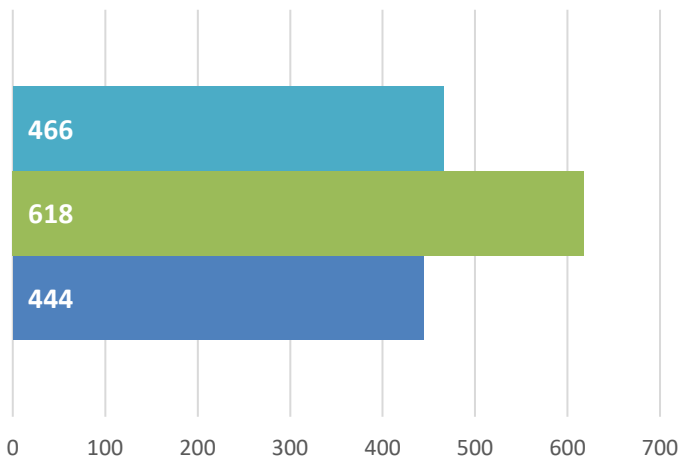
COMPUTER HOURS



WIFI USES



GROUP PROGRAMS



PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

