

# A YEAR IN REVIEW

May 2022–April 2023

[www.lakeforestlibrary.org/annual](http://www.lakeforestlibrary.org/annual)



*May 2022 through April 2023 was a blast at Lake Forest Library. The year was full of highlights!*

- ▶ We hosted wonderful people and authors including Captain Jim Lovell (pictured above), Marie Benedict for Lake Forest Reads, and Ursula Pike for Read Between the Ravines.
- ▶ We added new collections and materials to borrow including Lake Forest Authors, Accessibility items, laptops for in-library use, and Wi-Fi hotspots.
- ▶ We were designated a 4-Star Library by *Library Journal*.
- ▶ We provided numerous events in support of the community-wide Native Voices initiative.
- ▶ We added modern technologies including RFID, streamlined security gates, self-checkout machines, and a 3D printer.
- ▶ We made infrastructure improvements including a new boiler and chiller.
- ▶ We benefitted from the interim leadership of David Seleb, who took over from Catherine Lemmer in January 2023.
- ▶ The Board approved moving forward with repair and restoration of the dome, with work officially beginning in March 2023.

*At the beginning of our new fiscal year in May 2023, we welcomed Ishwar Laxminarayan as our new Executive Director. Please enjoy his letter on page 15 that looks ahead to the Library's bright future!*



**152,782**  
patron visits



**6,180**  
cardholders



**10,394**  
new physical items  
added



**12,413**  
computer uses



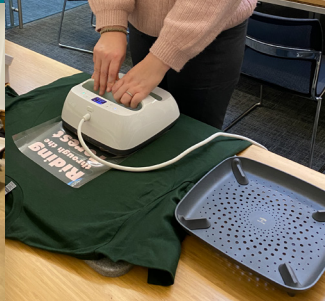
**288,584**  
physical items  
borrowed including  
**162**  
DVD2GO movies



**100,852**  
digital resource &  
database uses



**931**  
Media Lab sessions  
& tech tutorials



**273,325**  
Wi-Fi sessions



**23,772**  
questions answered  
by your Librarians



**105**  
activities & kits  
enjoyed by  
**14,272**



**169,957**  
digital items  
borrowed



**692**  
events  
enjoyed by  
**13,423**



**5,649**  
items returned  
to the West Train  
Station Book Drop



# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS & SUPPORTERS

## \$10,000+

The Buchanan Family Foundation

## \$500-\$9,999

The Dick Family Foundation

James J. and Louise R. Glasser

## \$1-\$499

Estate of Rita M. Bark

Mary F. and David D. Grumhaus Fund

Nancy Hamming,  
*in memory of Dr. Edward Hamming*

Larry and Dawn Neal Charitable Fund

Ann Therese Palmer and Robert T. Palmer

## Book & Other Gifts

Dr. Barbara B. Mooney  
*Copy of Sound and Scent in the Garden*

Lake Forest & Lake Bluff Coterie,  
*in memory of Hollis (Hobby) Shank*

Lake Forest & Lake Bluff Coterie,  
*in memory of Tica Heyworth Marquardt*

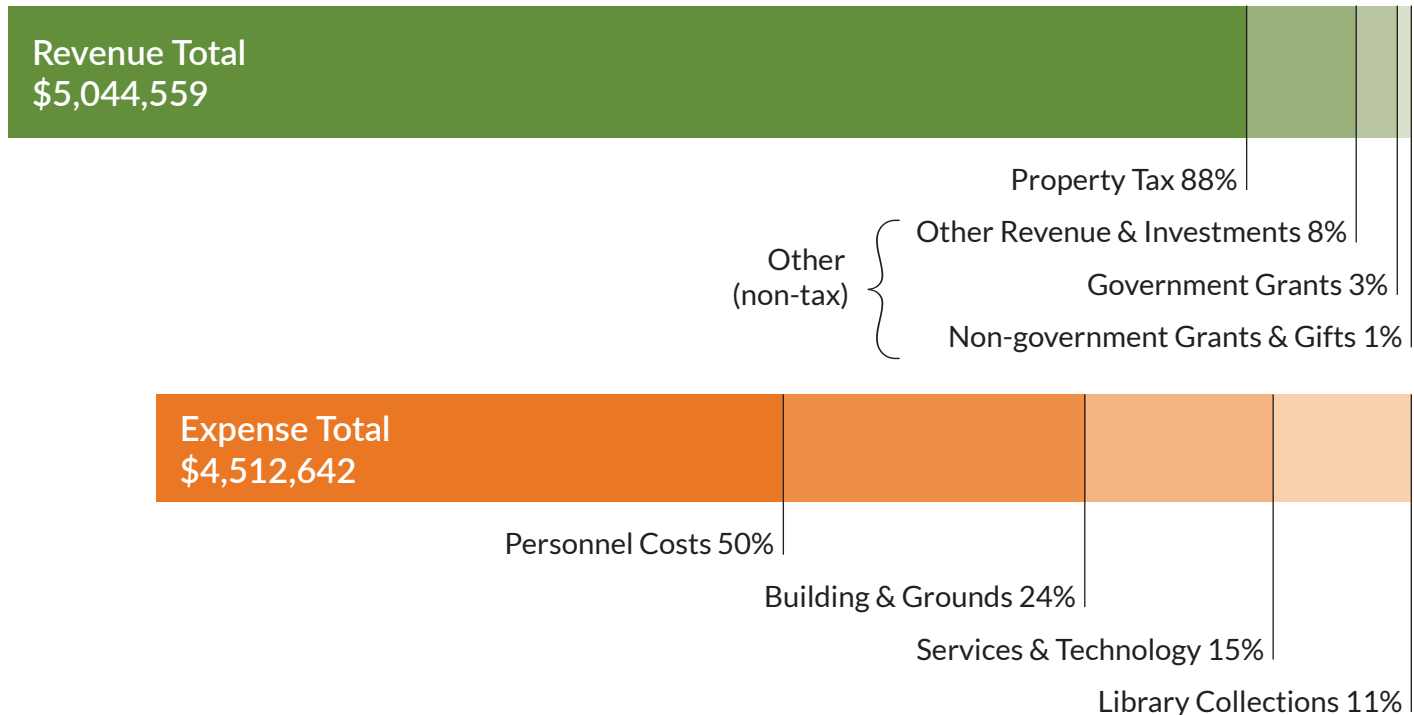
Nancy Hamming,  
*in memory of Dr. Edward Hamming*

Keith & Camille Stohlgren,  
*in memory of Barbara E. Hanlon*

Margaret Tomaselli  
Annual subscription to *Fra Noi*

*Gifts made to the Lake Forest Library Foundation endowment to secure the future of Lake Forest Library are reported separately. For information on the Foundation, please visit [www.lflibraryfoundation.org](http://www.lflibraryfoundation.org).*

## FY2023 FINANCIALS



# LAUNCHING NEW BEGINNINGS

*Dear Lake Forest Resident,*

Greetings. Hope you all had a wonderful summer! We are delighted to announce that we have completed the work to repair and restore the Library's historic dome. You will now be able to see the dome in all its glory without any tarp or scaffolding to mar its beauty.

I am deeply honored and humbled to be your Library's Executive Director. The last twelve months have presented us with several challenges as we emerged from a major international pandemic. I salute all my colleagues who ensured that the Library functioned so efficiently during a period of transition at the Library. And I would also like to sincerely thank our Board of Trustees, the Friends of Lake Forest Library, the Lake Forest Library Foundation, the City of Lake Forest, and all our community residents for your continuing support.

The current fiscal year is already off to a great start. We are delighted and hugely encouraged by the large

number of residents who have attended our events for all ages. Several hundred residents gathered to celebrate the Library's 125th Family Fest Birthday Bash on July 8! Our staff is continually busy hosting book discussions, presenting storytimes, and teaching technology classes. It is especially gratifying for us to see the delight on the faces of our residents during these events and to hear your positive comments.

The Library also has much to look forward to in the near future. We are excited to unveil our very first mobile app this fall. With it, patrons will have access to their own digital library card, Library collections and events, and more, anywhere and anytime.

We now must turn our attention to determining what our role and place is in the Lake Forest community. We are eagerly awaiting the results of the City's Community-Wide Survey that also asked residents to share their experience with library services. We

plan to conduct a formal strategic planning process to identify key priorities for the next few years. While we have a beautiful library building, it has several longstanding infrastructure issues such as limited accessibility, an unreliable elevator, and lack of spaces for collaboration and quiet study, meetings, and dedicated play areas for children. As I travel around the state and visit other libraries, I am struck by the many facility enhancements that public libraries have made to respond to changing user needs and to make their libraries more attractive for their residents. Your input will be critical during this process! So, please stay tuned for further developments.

I welcome an opportunity to meet with any resident and have a conversation about how Lake Forest Library can best meet your needs. Please reach out to me by emailing [ishwar@lakeforestlibrary.org](mailto:ishwar@lakeforestlibrary.org) or calling 847-810-4602. We look forward to serving you! *–Ishwar Laxminarayan*



**THANK YOU ALL  
FOR ATTENDING OUR  
125TH FAMILY FEST  
BIRTHDAY BASH  
ON JULY 8!**