



**LAKE FOREST LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**Lake Forest Library, 360 East Deerpath Road, Lake Forest, IL 60045**  
**Kasian Room, Lower Level**  
**Tuesday, September 16, 2025, 6:30 pm**

The Lake Forest Library provides members of the public present at the meetings with an opportunity to participate in the meeting. No prior registration is necessary. The meeting agenda and materials are available on the Library website. The meeting's minutes are available on the Library website after they are approved by the Library Board of Trustees. Current and past meeting information, including recordings, is available at: [Board Meetings & Minutes | Lake Forest Library](#)

**Agenda**

1. Welcome and Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. President's Remarks
4. Trustee Comments
5. Call for Additions to the Agenda
6. Opportunity for the Public to Address the Board
7. Correspondence Report and Patron Comments
8. Consent Agenda (omnibus vote on matters 8(a) - 8(c):
  - a. Approve September 16, 2025 Agenda
  - b. Approve August 19, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
  - c. Approve August 2025 Financial Report
9. Building Committee:
  - a. Exterior Courtyards Restoration - Update
  - b. 1931 Historic Rooms Revitalization – Update
10. Lake Forest Reads One Book/One Community Program
11. City of Lake Forest Community Spotlight on Library – October 6, 2025
12. Library Operations Report – August 2025
13. Executive Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1): The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity.
14. Approval of actions recommended in Executive Session.
15. Unfinished Business
16. New Business
17. Adjournment.

**Upcoming Meeting: Regular Board Meeting – Tuesday, October 21, 2025, 6:30 pm.**

Special meetings may be called at any time with proper notice pursuant to the Library's bylaws. Individuals with disabilities who require certain accommodations in order to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting, or who have questions regarding the accessibility of the meetings or the facilities are requested to contact the Library Director at 847.810.4602 promptly to allow the Library to make reasonable accommodations.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT AT BOARD MEETINGS POLICY**

The Illinois Open Meetings Act provides in Section 2.06 that at meetings of public bodies, "any person shall be permitted an opportunity to address public officials under the rules established and recorded by the public body." 5 ILCS 120/2.06(g).

The Board of Trustees welcomes public participation. This policy provides the following rules and guidelines for public participation at its meetings.

Individuals attending board meetings must conduct themselves with respect and civility toward others. Abusive, profane, threatening, or harassing language and/or personal attacks will not be permitted. The Board President or presiding officer may prohibit further comment at the meeting by a speaker whose remarks violate this rule.

Public comments are permitted during the time designated on the Board of Trustees meeting agenda, unless otherwise directed by the Board President.

The Board President determines the order in which speakers will be recognized.

When recognized by the Board President, the speaker should begin by stating his or her name and address.

Public comments will ordinarily be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker. The Board President shall have discretion to modify this time limit, as well as to limit repetitive comments.

Members of the public will not be allowed to speak a second time until all members of the public who wish to speak have been allowed to do so. The Board President will determine whether second public comments will be permitted, and if so, the appropriate amount of time for public discussion, and will end public comment at his/her discretion.

Board members are not obligated to respond to comments from the public. Issues requiring possible action by the board may be added to a future meeting agenda, and issues that can be addressed by library administration will be noted.

A copy of these guidelines will be placed next to the sign-in sheet made available to members of the public at the entrance to board meetings.

Petitions or written correspondence directed to the board shall be presented to the board by the Board President or Secretary at the next regularly scheduled board meeting.

Minutes are a summary of the board's discussion and actions. Speaker requests to append written statements or correspondence to the minutes are not favored. Generally, written materials presented to the board will be included in the library's files rather than in the minutes. The Board President shall have the authority to determine procedural matters regarding public participation not otherwise defined in these guidelines. *(Approved by the Library Board of Trustees January 9, 2018.)*



# NEWS

## LAKE FOREST

# City may issue \$19M in bonds to finance new police station

Vote on bids gets pushed back; Deerpath intersection to close

By Daniel I. Dorfman  
Pioneer Press

City officials are moving ahead with plans to finance a new police station, even as a vote on construction bids has been delayed.

At a Sept. 2 City Council workshop, Finance Director Katie Skibbe outlined a proposal to issue \$19 million in bonds and draw \$6 million from city reserves to fund the renovation of 1925 Field Court in the Conway Park office complex. The city purchased the vacant building last year for \$3.5 million with the intent of converting it into police headquarters. Renovation costs are currently estimated at \$25 million.

Since the 1960s, Lake Forest's police and fire departments have shared space at a building in the 200 block of Deerpath Road. Skibbe projected that issuing \$19 million in bonds would result in a \$210 property tax increase over three years for a home valued at \$1 million. She cautioned, however, that the impact could be higher if construction bids exceed expectations.

City Manager Jason Wicha noted the other major capital project requiring debt financing in the near future would be a new recreation center, replacing the current facility at 400 Hastings Road.

"This would effectively eliminate building a rec center before 2032," Wicha said.

Mayor Stanford "Randy" Tack added that because renovating an existing office building is expected to cost less than constructing a new facility, the city should ultimately be able to finance both projects within the next several years.

The City Council had planned to vote on construction bids at its Sept. 15 meeting, but the vote has been tentatively postponed to Oct. 6. City spokeswoman Dana Olson said contractors requested more time to prepare detailed cost estimates.

Separately, the city is projecting an \$8 million expense to renovate the current Deerpath Road building into a fire department-only facility. Olson said a design analysis for that project is now underway.

Separately, the City Council directed the staff to create a set of parameters for temporary uses of Market Square in the city's downtown for private groups.

"It provides clarity for staff rather than doing it at our discretion," Wicha said.

Community Development Director Catherine Czerniak said the city doesn't get many requests for use of the space, but described the creation of parameters as a "pre-emptive" move.

Czerniak sensed the guidelines would include the requirement of groups obtaining a special-use permit, duration of the event, use of the area by one group at a time and installation limitations.

"We really don't want people sticking things into the ground. Our crews work very hard to maintain the green space," Czerniak said.

She emphasized the city can not regulate content at an event.

"Once we approve one group or individual, we can not prohibit another group or another individual," Czerniak said.

The City Council appeared to agree on the need for parameters.

"We need to have a policy at some level so that staff knows how to respond to requests," Tack noted.

Czerniak stated afterward the City Council was scheduled to address the issue at its Sept. 15 meeting.

A high-profile temporary use of Market Square occurred in 2020 for a Black Lives Matter rally following the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

City Council members also received an update on the replacement of the Waveland Park Pavilion.

The city wants to replace the existing pavilion that is now enclosed with an open air building with amenities include a water bottle station, fireplace, and updated bathrooms.

The city budgeted \$950,000 for the new structure but the lowest of the four bids came in at approximately \$1.36 million, including 10% for contingency funds, according to Assistant Public Works Director James Lockefer.

With aldermen appearing split on whether to proceed with the new pavilion despite the costs of the bids or to hold off, they opted to formally vote on the lowest bid at an upcoming meeting and then decide how to proceed.

Lockefer said the vote could occur as early as the Sept. 15 meeting.

After the meeting, the city announced the entire intersection at Deerpath Road and Oakwood Avenue would be closed to vehicular traffic Sept. 15-28 in another phase of the ongoing massive rehabilitation of Deerpath Road in downtown Lake Forest.


The closure will allow crews to install new storm sewers and improve the intersection for enhanced pedestrian safety and drainage.

The city closed the intersection of Deerpath and Western for some time in August for similar improvements.

The overall Deerpath rehabilitation project is scheduled to be completed by the end of October, Olson said.

Daniel I. Dorfman is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

**THE SENIOR** Sp Live I




**Michael Chiklis**

**Wed, September 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**@ 7:00pm**


**Wayfarer Theaters**  
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## SELECTED PATRON COMMENTS AUGUST 2025

- My daughter loved the wonder book, Riley Rye! She actually started an investigator business and had a nearly similar advertising flyer that the character did. I'd love any other suggestions you have that are similar. I didn't see any other ones available in the series, if this exists!
- Patron suggested we put a railing up on the East sidewalk because it is a tripping hazard. He said he's emailed the Library several times with only 1 response from Ishwar. I told him that we do take accessibility into consideration and gave him both Ishwar's and Heidi's cards. I also told him that we are happy to run a book out to his car for him when it is on the holds shelf.
- Loved this library and living in Lake Forest because of it.
- We love the Library! You made my day!
- Thank you for helping me find the Ballpark Mysteries series for my son!
- Patron LOVED the Exploration Kit Outdoor Adventures Kit. Said her children had a lot of fun (even though one part of kit didn't work!) and thanked us for offering these kits.
- Patron was told from the post office that the LF library does passports no, the library does not offer passport services but informed them about other libraries that do.
- Patron commented how helpful and great Ming was during their media lab appointment.
- Patron and her husband commented how nice our Library is and what a wonderful selection of books we have. They also emphasized how nice and friendly Circulation staff is. They are back after living in Sarasota, FL and mentioned the poor book selection and being told by staff they don't pay attention to the NY Times bestseller lists. Both are avid readers and I warmly welcomed them.
- I finished my last library concerts of the summer over the weekend and I am back at my desk, looking back fondly at the WONDERFUL summer that I had.....including my return visit to the Lake Forest Library!

The concert was exactly what I wish every concert would be.....more like a big family play group than a performance. I loved watching the moms, dads and grandparents singing and playing with the children. Many of those families are, obviously, already used to that sort of participation from library story time.....which makes it all the more fun for all of us! The concert was a celebration of that same sort of engagement!

So.....thank you SO MUCH for continuing to make my music a part of your story time programming and thank you for inviting me back to Lake Forest to sing and play!  
Jim Gill - Music Play for All Young Children

- Professor Coleman from Lake Forest College stopped in today to let us know her students will be coming in to sign up for library cards (they start classes this Thursday 8/14). They are required to sign up for a library card so they can use the Linked in Learning database. Many sign up online, but some will be coming in to sign up. She just wanted to give us a heads up and let us know how much she appreciates us and how wonderful the Linked in Learning database is.
- A family told me they'd just moved here and didn't have all of their things moved in yet, so they came to the library and were very impressed by the selection of items to keep their kids entertained (books, exploration kits, crafts). "This children's library is one of the best we've ever seen!"
- My sons are excited to join this library--they can read the Greek in the murals!
- This library is one of the reasons I moved here. The murals look so beautiful.
- The "Busy Bags" (Exploration Kits) were a huge hit with our 2-year-old grandson from Los Angeles.
- This is one of the best children's libraries that I have ever seen!
- Patron was annoyed that the seating in front of the front door was not available during construction. Felt she didn't have time to give opinion on construction process before it had already started.
- Patron was having trouble with our current parking situation because of the construction going on, and she wishes it was easier to access and use for people who are older or with disabilities.
- This {holds shelf} is the best system ever!
- Lake Bluff resident commented on the Children's and Teen collections: You have the best curated collections!
- Patron was trying to fill out "contact us" form on the website to provide a comment regarding the courtyards but was frustrated with the CAPTCHA test that was repeatedly not working and not allowing him to submit the form. I apologized for the issue, explained the CAPTCHAs were necessary to prevent spam submissions, and provided him with Ishwar's email address so he could send in his comment directly. I also let him know I would pass along the error to our communications team so they could double check the form and make sure it is working correctly.
- Patron asked if we could cushion gates leading into the children's section with pool noodles or something similar--her son walked into them and hit his head, and she was concerned.

- A senior patron commented that it was very difficult to find parking with the spaces blocked off for equipment.
- This library is so beautiful. I tell my friends every time I see them!
- I've lived at Lake Forest Place for four years, and I just learned of Lake Forest place book delivery from the Lake Forest Library. I really enjoy it!
- Lake Bluff patron noted what A good selection of movies we have.
- So many great things at the library!

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**Lake Forest Library Board of Trustees**  
360 E. Deerpath Road, Lake Forest, IL, 60045

Tuesday, August 19, 2025  
*Regular Meeting*

CALL TO ORDER

President Jackson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order on August 19, 2025 at 6:30 pm in the Kasian Room, at Lake Forest Library.

ROLL CALL

Trustees present: President Josh Jackson, Vice President JoAnn Desmond, Trustee Jim Clifton, Trustee Garth Pearson, Trustee Robert Shaw, Trustee Vince Sparrow, Trustee Heather Strong, Trustee Emily Van Bel. A quorum was present.

Library Staff present: Ishwar Laxminarayan, Executive Director, Heidi Krueger, Assistant Director, Jim Lee, Facilities Manager, Kate Buckardt, Adult Services Manager, Lorie Rohrer, Youth Services Manager, Leo Hamza, Business Manager, John Lacson, Media Lab Assistant.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Jackson expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve as President and spoke about his reasons for joining the library board. He is looking forward to his new position.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustee Johnson shared positive feedback from a conversation with two young patrons at a mayoral event about tech kids as well as the library in general.

Trustee Desmond, as the liaison between the Library Board and Friends of the Lake Forest Library Board offered updates on their latest board meeting. She highlighted their upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary planning as well as commending Jim Lee for his efforts in assisting the Friends' materials relocation ahead of the library courtyard construction project.

Trustee Strong highlighted the Vinci Hamp presentation held with the Lake Forest Preservation Foundation and also mentioned the strong public turnout at the recent special building committee meeting earlier in the month.

Trustee Shaw discussed his work with Trustee Desmond on a special committee addressing central business district long term planning.

Trustee Pearson praised the library staff for smoothly moving the Summer Reading party indoors. He cited the very strong turnout for the event and the positive response from patrons of the event.

CALL FOR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

#### OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Kate Buckardt introduced *The River We Remember* by William Kent Kruger, November's featured author. Trustee Clifton asked how book selections are made and Buckardt explained staff collectively choose and there has been a recent focus on Midwest authors.

Lorie Rohrer provided trustee Van Bel with a bag of goodies in anticipation of the new addition to her family.

#### CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

Director Laxminarayan referenced the patron comments, citing positive remarks about the children's section as well as several positive remarks about Young Adult programming.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

A motion to approve all meeting minutes and the consent agenda was made by Trustee Desmond and seconded by Trustee Johnson. The vote was approved unanimously by all trustees in attendance.

#### BUILDING COMMITTEE

##### **Exterior Courtyard Rehabilitation- Phase I**

Trustee Strong reported that demolition and initial work has been completed alongside successful material salvaging. The sculptures in both courtyards were crated and will be safely stored for the duration of work. Trustee Strong provided an update to the construction timeline with hardscape work slated to be complete by early 2025 and still on track for all landscape work to be done in Spring 2026. Trustee Strong also mentioned an upcoming meeting with the Historic Preservation Committee that will be held next month where the Building Committee will present the new landscape designs for approval.

##### **1931 Historic Room Revitalization**

The contract with Vinci Hamp Architects has been signed and walk throughs completed. Trustee Strong highlighted the programming sessions Vinci Hamp held with the library staff for their input and thoughts. The next step in the process will be a schematic design schedule and deliverables. Trustee Strong mentioned that public and community partner meetings will follow. President Jackson praised Philip Hamp's presentation at the Preservation Foundation meeting. Trustee Shaw inquired about any involvement with the Garden Club. Trustee Van Bel responded that there is involvement from the Garden Club, most recently with the library's issuance of an RFP for a grant from the Garden Club. Trustee Van Bel noted there would be more to report on this at a later date. Trustee Johnson raised concern about mismatched brick on the east courtyard.

##### **Action Item- WJE Construction Administration Services proposal**

Trustee Strong summarized the proposal highlighting the need for extensive post-drawing work including archival record sets. Trustee Strong made a motion to approve the proposed \$82,000.00 fee, \$62,000.00 of which is set for WJE with GBA fees of \$20,000.00 and authorizing the Executive Director to sign the proposal. The motion was seconded by Trustee Shaw. The motion was approved unanimously by all trustees in attendance.



#### LIBRARY CALENDAR REVISIONS

Director Laxminaryan reviewed the proposed library closures calendar. He proposed the following changes and additions: to remove the late opening on August 6<sup>th</sup>, to add a full in-service day for safety training of August 29<sup>th</sup>, and to remove the December 5<sup>th</sup> half-day-in-service. He also asked for approval to make decisions for library closures (as needed) in consideration with the Library Board president. Trustee Desmond made a motion to adopt the calendar as proposed and to authorize the Executive Director and Board President to approve closures as needed. The motion was seconded by Trustee Sparrow. The motion was approved unanimously by all trustees in attendance.

#### OPERATIONS REPORT

Director Laxminaryan noted programming in travel, history and food continues to be popular with patrons. He also highlighted the Media Lab and all of their successful work- notably their drone building program for grades 3-7. Hotspots remain a top checkout, and the new “Hot Takes” book display has shown to be successful. Director Laxminarayan noted AI integration with the introduction of ChatGPT on public use computers. Director Laxminarayan praised the Technical Services staff for their procurement and logistics efforts, and he also complimented the facilities team in their management of logistics throughout recent construction challenges.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

#### NEW BUSINESS

None.

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 pm.

Next Schedule Meeting: Regular Board Meeting, Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 6:30 pm.

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Emily Van Bel, Secretary  
Submitted for approval by the Board on September 16, 2025



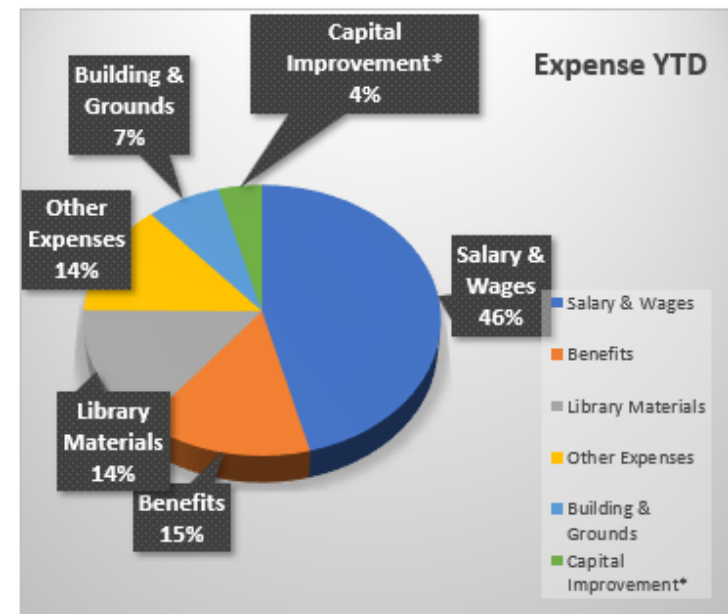
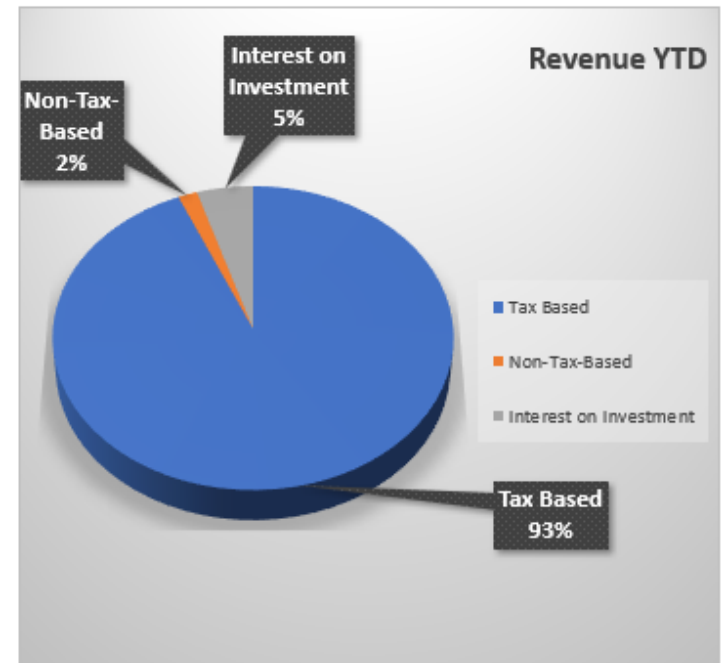
**FY2026 Revenue & Expenditure Statement**  
**August - 2025 (Month 4)**

| Revenues                       | YTD Actual       | YTD Budget       | Annual Budget    | Budget Realized |
|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Tax Based                      | 2,930,482        | 2,915,275        | 5,180,869        | 57%             |
| Non-Tax-Based                  | 50,988           | 24,333           | 73,000           | 70%             |
| Gifts & Grants                 | 5,775            | 3,333            | 10,000           | 58%             |
| Library Generated              | 9,822            | 8,000            | 24,000           | 41%             |
| Friends of Lake Forest Library | -                | 20,000           | 60,000           | 0%              |
| Interest on Investment         | 150,609          | 116,667          | 350,000          | 43%             |
| <b>Total Revenues</b>          | <b>3,147,676</b> | <b>3,087,608</b> | <b>5,697,869</b> | <b>55%</b>      |

| Expenses                      | YTD Actual       | YTD Budget       | Annual Budget    | Budget Utilized |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Salary & Wages                | 691,351          | 774,219          | 2,322,657        | 30%             |
| Benefits                      | 221,881          | 282,475          | 847,424          | 26%             |
| Library Materials             | 217,389          | 250,000          | 750,000          | 29%             |
| Other Expenses                | 203,587          | 297,366          | 892,098          | 23%             |
| Contractual Services Library* | 93,557           | 136,733          | 410,200          | 23%             |
| Other*                        | 110,030          | 160,899          | 482,698          | 23%             |
| Building & Grounds            | 107,828          | 133,132          | 399,395          | 27%             |
| Capital Improvement*          | 62,939           | 1,233,333        | 3,700,000        | 2%              |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>         | <b>1,504,976</b> | <b>2,970,525</b> | <b>8,911,574</b> | <b>17%</b>      |

| Reserves                         |                     |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Reserve - Capital Improvements   | 3,000,000           |
| Reserve - Technology Improvement | 500,000             |
| Capital Equipment                | 500,000             |
| Fund Balance - Unassigned        | 4,751,256           |
| <b>Total Reserve Amount</b>      | <b>\$ 8,751,256</b> |

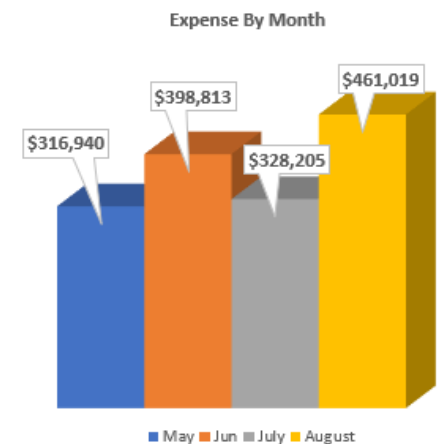
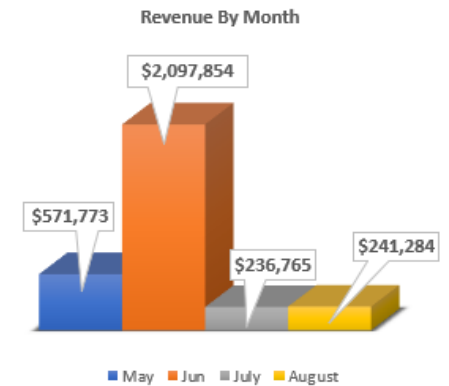
\*Detail on pages 4 & 5 of the report





**FY2026 Revenue & Expenditure Statement**  
August - 2025 (Month 4)

| Revenues                        | May              | Jun                | July              | August             | YTD                | Budget               | Budget Realized |
|---------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Tax Based                       | 534,505          | 2,084,237          | 189,563           | 122,177            | 2,930,482          | 5,180,869            | 57%             |
| Non-Tax-Based                   | 12,154           | -                  | 8,762             | 30,072             | 50,988             | 73,000               | 70%             |
| Gifts & Grants                  | 25               | 100                | 5,650             | -                  | 5,775              | 10,000               | 58%             |
| Library Generated               | 1,424            | 4,464              | 1,690             | 2,244              | 9,822              | 24,000               | 41%             |
| Friends of Lake Forest Library  | -                | -                  | -                 | -                  | -                  | 60,000               | 0%              |
| Interest on Investment          | 23,665           | 9,053              | 31,099            | 86,791             | 150,609            | 350,000              | 43%             |
| <b>Total Revenues</b>           | <b>\$571,773</b> | <b>\$2,097,854</b> | <b>\$236,765</b>  | <b>\$241,284</b>   | <b>\$3,147,676</b> | <b>\$5,697,869</b>   | <b>55%</b>      |
| Expenses                        | May              | Jun                | July              | August             | YTD                | Budget               | Budget Utilized |
| Salary & Wages                  | 104,312          | 168,438            | 168,761           | 249,840            | 691,351            | 2,322,657            | 30%             |
| Benefits                        | 48,174           | 53,167             | 53,183            | 67,357             | 221,881            | 847,424              | 26%             |
| Library Materials               | 45,832           | 71,447             | 49,540            | 50,570             | 217,389            | 750,000              | 29%             |
| Other Expenses                  | 55,239           | 47,597             | 39,752            | 60,999             | 203,587            | 892,098              | 23%             |
| Contractual Services Library    | 37,841           | 12,950             | 11,542            | 31,223             | 93,557             | 410,200              | 23%             |
| Other                           | 17,398           | 34,646             | 28,210            | 29,776             | 110,030            | 482,698              | 23%             |
| Building & Grounds              | 63,384           | 14,249             | 12,749            | 17,447             | 107,828            | 399,395              | 27%             |
| <b>Total Operating Expenses</b> | <b>316,940</b>   | <b>354,898</b>     | <b>323,985</b>    | <b>446,214</b>     | <b>1,442,037</b>   | <b>5,211,574</b>     | <b>28%</b>      |
| Capital Improvement             | -                | 43,915             | 4,219             | 14,805             | 62,939             | 3,700,000            | 2%              |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>           | <b>\$316,940</b> | <b>\$398,813</b>   | <b>\$328,205</b>  | <b>\$461,019</b>   | <b>1,504,976</b>   | <b>8,911,574</b>     | <b>17%</b>      |
| <b>Excess / (Deficit)</b>       | <b>\$254,833</b> | <b>\$1,699,041</b> | <b>(\$91,440)</b> | <b>(\$219,735)</b> | <b>1,642,699</b>   | <b>(\$3,213,705)</b> |                 |



**Reserves**

\$4,751,256 - Operating cash reserve (fund balance-unassigned). The library's restricted reserves, approved, passed and adopted by the Lake Forest Library Board of Trustees on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of April 2025, currently total \$4,000,000: capital improvements (\$3,000,000), capital equipment (\$500,000), and technology (\$500,000).

**Lake Forest Library  
Financial Notes and Variance Report  
For the Month of August 2025 (Month 4) FY2026**

**Funds on Hand:** \$4,751,256 (unrestricted/unaudited).

**General Operations - Revenues**

**Property Tax:** As of August 31, the Library received \$2,930,482 in property tax distributions, which is 57% of the annual budget.

**Non-Tax-Based:** As of August 31, the Library received \$50,988 in property tax distributions which reflect personal property tax of \$22,422 and per capita grant \$28,566 which is 70% of the annual budget.

**Gifts:** As of August 31, the Library received \$5,775 as gifts and grants, which is 58% of the annual budget.

**Library-Generated:** As of August 31, the Library received \$9,822 in Library generated income. This income is from copiers, other revenue such as CCS and miscellaneous fees, which is 41% of the annual budget.

**Interest on Investment:** As of August 31, the Library received \$150,609 in interest on investment which is 43% of the annual budget.

**General Operations - Expenditures**

**Salaries, wages, and benefits:** As of August 31, \$691,351 for salaries and wages: 30% of FY budget; \$221,881 for benefits: 26% of FY budget. \$126,063 for medical insurance 27% of FY budget; \$51,405 for SSN: 29% of FY budget; \$37,844 for IMRF: 20% of FY budget and \$6,570 for Worker's Compensation: 110% of FY budget.

**Materials: Books, AV, and Electronic Services:** As of August 31, \$217,389: 29% of annual budget, this includes payments for periodical and database subscriptions.

**Other Operating Expenditures:** As of August 31, \$203,587: 23% of FY budget. Includes \$93,557 in library contractual services, including fourth payment of RFID lease of \$24,041 to Bibliotheca and \$110,030 for other expenses such as programs, administrative fees, office supplies, membership, and miscellaneous expenses.

**Building and Grounds:** As of August 31, \$107,828 which is 27% of the FY budget. Reflects the building insurance, contracts and service calls for building maintenance, the cleaning service, elevator, repairs and service for Boiler, HVAC, and other systems.

**Capital Improvement:** As of August 31, \$62,939 which is 2% of the annual budget. Reflects \$12,424 in technology upgrades, and \$42,615 for architectural fees related to Courtyard Design & Construction Documents

Year to Date FY2026: 17% of budget expenses; 55% budget revenues.

## Account Details

### Contractual Services Library

| Description                            | May              | Jun              | Jul              | Aug              | YTD              | Budget           |
|----------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| CCS & OCLC (Integrated Library System) | \$ 11,670        | \$ -             | \$ -             | \$ 17,997        | \$ 29,667        | \$100,000        |
| HR Consulting                          | \$ -             | \$ -             | \$ 179           |                  | \$ 179           | \$ 25,000        |
| LAN, WAV, and Support (MSP)            | \$ 2,130         | \$ 9,925         | \$ 9,929         | \$ 9,933         | \$ 31,917        | \$145,200        |
| EZ Proxy & Collection HQ               | \$ -             | \$ -             | \$ -             | \$ 1,016         | \$ 1,016         | \$ 10,000        |
| Bibliotheca                            | \$ 24,041        | \$ -             | \$ -             | \$ -             | \$ 24,041        | \$ 25,000        |
| Online/Internet (fiber)                | \$ -             | \$ 1,338         | \$ 1,363         | \$ 1,379         | \$ 4,080         | \$ 25,000        |
| Other: Web Calendar Subscription       | \$ -             | \$ -             | \$ 11            |                  | \$ 11            | \$ 50,000        |
| Technology Leased & Warranty Renewals  | \$ -             | \$ 1,687         | \$ 73            | \$ 899           | \$ 2,659         | \$ 30,000        |
| <b>Total</b>                           | <b>\$ 37,841</b> | <b>\$ 12,950</b> | <b>\$ 11,556</b> | <b>\$ 31,223</b> | <b>\$ 93,570</b> | <b>\$410,200</b> |

### Others

| Description               | May              | Jun              | Jul              | Aug              | YTD               | Budget            |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| NEW STRATEGIC INITIATIVES | \$ -             | \$ 11,209        | \$ -             | \$ -             | \$ 11,209         | \$ 100,000        |
| ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES   | \$ 2,382         | \$ -             | \$ 4,764         | \$ 2,382         | \$ 9,527          | \$ 30,000         |
| PERSONNEL RECRUITMENT     | \$ -             | \$ -             | \$ -             | \$ 61            | \$ 61             | \$ 1,000          |
| TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT    | \$ -             | \$ 1,314         | \$ 3,675         | \$ 2,621         | \$ 7,611          | \$ 30,000         |
| EMPLOYEE TUITION          | \$ -             | \$ -             | \$ -             | \$ -             | \$ -              | \$ 10,000         |
| MEMBERSHIP DUES           | \$ 1,545         | \$ (17)          | \$ 825           | \$ 300           | \$ 2,653          | \$ 11,000         |
| MEETINGS & EXPENSE REIMB  | \$ -             | \$ -             | \$ -             | \$ 332           | \$ 332            | \$ 2,500          |
| LEGAL                     | \$ -             | \$ -             | \$ 2,363         | \$ -             | \$ 2,363          | \$ 100,000        |
| AUDITING SERVICES         | \$ -             | \$ -             | \$ -             | \$ 8,087         | \$ 8,087          | \$ 9,000          |
| PROGRAMS & SERVICES       | \$ 10,006        | \$ 16,733        | \$ 15,556        | \$ 13,816        | \$ 56,110         | \$ 152,400        |
| ONLINE BANKING FEES       | \$ 276           | \$ -             | \$ 281           | \$ 555           | \$ 1,112          | \$ 2,200          |
| INSURANCE - LIABILITY     | \$ 1,650         | \$ 5,148         | \$ -             | \$ -             | \$ 6,798          | \$ 10,648         |
| TELEPHONE                 | \$ 41            | \$ 41            | \$ 41            | \$ 42            | \$ 166            | \$ 5,000          |
| OFFICE SUPPLIES           | \$ 377           | \$ 105           | \$ 39            | \$ 304           | \$ 825            | \$ 15,000         |
| POSTAGE                   | \$ 995           | \$ 47            | \$ 290           | \$ 1,130         | \$ 2,461          | \$ 7,150          |
| VENDING BEVERAGES         | \$ 127           | \$ 67            | \$ 376           | \$ 146           | \$ 717            | \$ 6,000          |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>\$ 17,398</b> | <b>\$ 34,646</b> | <b>\$ 28,210</b> | <b>\$ 29,776</b> | <b>\$ 110,030</b> | <b>\$ 491,898</b> |



**Contractual Service Building**

| Description           | May             | Jun           | Jul             | Aug             | YTD             | Budget           |
|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Water Treatment       | \$ 184          | \$ -          | \$ -            | \$ 552          | \$ 736          |                  |
| Alarm System          | \$ 2,850        | \$ -          | \$ -            | \$ 248          | \$ 3,098        |                  |
| Inner Security System | \$ -            | \$ -          |                 |                 | \$ -            |                  |
| Rose Pest             | \$ 107          | \$ 282        | \$ 114          | \$ 114          | \$ 617          |                  |
| AED (CINTAS)          | \$ -            | \$ 667        | \$ 1,109        | \$ 707          | \$ 2,483        |                  |
| Off-site Storage      | \$ -            | \$ -          | \$ -            | \$ 42           | \$ 42           |                  |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>\$ 3,141</b> | <b>\$ 949</b> | <b>\$ 1,223</b> | <b>\$ 1,662</b> | <b>\$ 6,975</b> | <b>\$ 25,000</b> |

**Building & Grounds**

| DESCRIPTION              | May              | Jun              | Jul              | Aug              | YTD               | Budget            |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| CONTRACTUAL SERVICE      | \$ 3,141         | \$ 949           | \$ 1,223         | \$ 1,662         | \$ 6,975          | \$ 25,000         |
| WATER                    | \$ 510           | -                | \$ -             | \$ 661           | \$ 1,172          | \$ 10,000         |
| JANITORIAL SERVICES      | \$ 2,999         | \$ 2,999         | \$ 2,999         | \$ 2,999         | \$ 11,996         | \$ 49,500         |
| JANITORIAL SUPPLIES      | \$ 380           | \$ 1,886         | \$ 1,175         | \$ 979           | \$ 4,420          | \$ 25,000         |
| MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT | \$ 1,830         | \$ 2,038         | \$ 1,444         | \$ 2,637         | \$ 7,949          | \$ 60,000         |
| BUILDING MAINTENANCE     | \$ 791           | \$ 1,135         | \$ 1,495         | \$ 3,303         | \$ 6,723          | \$ 120,000        |
| GROUNDS MAINTENANCE      | \$ 1,828         | \$ 2,259         | \$ 4,413         | \$ 5,205         | \$ 13,706         | \$ 50,000         |
| INSURANCE                | \$ 51,904        | \$ 2,983         | \$ -             | \$ -             | \$ 54,887         | \$ 59,895         |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>\$ 63,384</b> | <b>\$ 14,249</b> | <b>\$ 12,749</b> | <b>\$ 17,447</b> | <b>\$ 107,828</b> | <b>\$ 399,395</b> |

**Capital Improvement**

| Description         | May         | Jun              | Jul             | Aug              | YTD              | Budget             |
|---------------------|-------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Capital Equipment   | \$ -        | \$ -             | \$ -            |                  | \$ -             | \$ 600,000         |
| Technology Upgrade  | \$ -        | \$ 1,300         | \$ 4,219        | \$ 6,905         | \$ 12,424        | \$ 250,000         |
| Capital Improvement | \$ -        | \$ 42,615        | \$ -            | \$ 7,900         | \$ 50,515        | \$2,850,000        |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>\$ -</b> | <b>\$ 43,915</b> | <b>\$ 4,219</b> | <b>\$ 14,805</b> | <b>\$ 62,939</b> | <b>\$3,700,000</b> |

## Library Operations Report August 2025

### Adult Services



Our second annual Plant Swap was successful with over 100 plants (and potted trees) finding new homes. Several Lake Forest College students found a little greenery for their dorm rooms.



Lydia joined Choosri and Tori at Lake Forest College to welcome new students and sign them up for Library cards. This is always a successful event and gives our staff a chance to speak directly with the students about our numerous resources. Several professors over the years have assigned work that the students need our databases to complete. This year we had a professor stop in to let us know that their students are required to sign up for a library card so they can use the *Linked in Learning database*.

Lydia attended Digipalooza in Cleveland. She enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about their coming updates, and she was able to speak directly with our representative. This conference is for public, academic and corporate libraries, partner libraries of OverDrive and users of Libby, the Library reading app and Kanopy, the Library streaming app.

The Memory Cafe continues to attract a regular group of patrons. Chair Yoga was the activity this month and the members participated enthusiastically.

We hosted our first fall session of Great Decisions and have been finalizing our programs for the winter newsletter.

The Library hosted the trustees of the Lake Forest Preservation Foundation in the Friends Reading Room. Phil Hamp from Vinci Hamp gave a presentation of the plans to refresh the original 1931 areas of the library. There were a few questions about the design and much interest in the coming plans for the refresh. They then adjourned to the Kasian Room for their board meeting.

### **Media Lab**

The Library continues to strengthen its role as a hub for digital learning and exploration, offering programs and resources that meet community members wherever they are in their technology journey.

Middle school students had the chance to get creative in **Intro to 3D Printing for Grades 5–8**, a workshop that introduced the basics of 3D design and gave participants the thrill of watching their ideas take shape on the library's 3D printer. For adults seeking support with everyday technology, **Drop-in Tech Tuesday** remains a steady favorite, providing personalized, one-on-one assistance in a welcoming setting.

Our popular, recurring workshop series **Increase Your iPhone Expertise** continues to draw community interest. Each session offers practical tips on making the most of iPhones, from adjusting settings and exploring accessibility features to managing photos and streamlining daily tasks.

We also launched **Tech Talk Café**, a new program that invites community members to gather in a relaxed, conversational environment to share questions, insights, and experiences about technology. The café-style format fosters dialogue and peer learning, making technology feel approachable and social.

Beyond programs, the Library is proud to announce a new addition to our **TakeOut Tech Collection: a smart telescope**. This innovative device allows patrons to explore the night sky with ease, combining astronomy with cutting-edge technology. Whether used by families, hobbyists, or curious learners, the smart telescope opens new opportunities for discovery well beyond the Library's walls.

Together, these programs and resources reflect the library's commitment to empowering our community with tools and experiences that make technology both accessible and inspiring.



## Youth Services



Julie Bachinger (above, pictured left) started working at the Lake Forest Library on Monday, August 18, 2025. Julie will be ordering all the nonfiction materials and hosting STEAM programs.

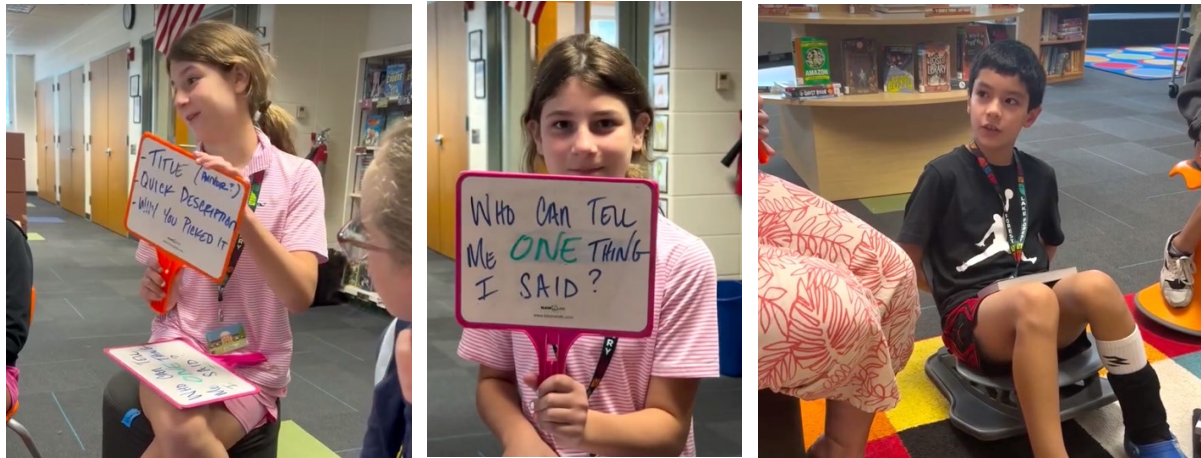
Reading 1000 books seems like a big task! However, we had 12 finishers so far in 2025 of the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program. Our finishers display (above, pictured right) is back up in the Children's Library Foyer to encourage new readers to sign up.



A special guest appeared at Fun on the Lawn: Sand Play! The children were creative with their sand art designs.

The Youth Services Staff hosted four Family Storytimes at the Library, and nine Storytimes at Dearhaven Childcare and Learning Center.

## Young Adult Services



Emmy visited the Deer Path Middle School summer school students for book talks to encourage students on their summer reading assignments. Almost every student took home a library book and some even gave book talks of their own. She worked with the Executive Functioning students on pairing book reports to active listening activities. It is always fun to be invited to DPM's summer school program!

Emmy was once again invited to participate in the Best Books Committee for Young Adult Literature from *School Library Journal* and began her committee work this month! She will work with a team of 3 other librarians to read relevant titles and compile a list of the 25 Best Books published in 2025.

The Teen Tie Dye Party which was cancelled in July due to weather managed to sneak in a successful event just before another huge thunderstorm blew in. Other programs we had this month include Magic the Gathering, Chess Club, and our Grab 'n' Go kit for Morse Code Jewelry.

## Facilities

On Wednesday, August 8, Hill Mechanical Group was onsite to install a new pulley on the Kasian Room air handler in an effort to reduce noise.

Modern Media Tech was onsite Wednesday August 8, to install a new multi-view camera covering the east parking lot and relocate another existing camera on the northeast side of the parking lot. These cameras help cover blind spots and safeguard the Courtyard building materials, ensuring they are always under surveillance.

On Monday, August 18, American Sprinkler arrived onsite at 7:30 am to modify and eliminate the Courtyard sprinkler zones, upgrade the existing system, and install a new control panel.



On Tuesday, August 19, T.J. Door Services was onsite to troubleshoot the inner vestibule door at the front entrance, which was not opening. The door is now fully operational.

On August 27, Pasquesi Plumbing was onsite to repair the east side bathroom flow valve, which had been inoperable. The bathroom is now fully functional.

NIR Roofing was onsite Thursday, August 21 at 11:00 am and they addressed the roof leak in the area of the Audio Room. The repair was completed, and no additional leaks have been detected.

## **Circulation**

Back to school! As we do every year, the Library was part of the welcome day at Lake Forest College. Lake Forest College has a day for businesses and student activity groups to present our services to the new students arriving for the new semester. This year we were able to sign up 71 new students for cards. In addition, we activated many of the students' cards for the current school year. We also promoted the convenience of the Library as a place to study or do research.

Preparations were made to successfully run the Library during the addition of the Vernon Area Public Library District patrons and items to the CCS consortium. This was the first instance of a new member being added to the consortium since the installation of the new vending machine at the train station, so we experienced a few bumps and starts. Overall, the loading of Vernon was a success, and we are thrilled to have them in the system. It offers yet another library our patrons can search for information or titles.

## **Collections**

We have a new reader-friendly digital subscription to *Wall Street Journal* which gives patrons access to current papers, as well as WSJ products like newsletters, in a familiar online layout that includes pictures, charts, etc. We have also continued our subscriptions to two separate databases for the historical issues of WSJ and a research database covering contemporary issues for researchers.

## **Staff In Service Day**

City of Lake Forest Police department officers provided a stimulating presentation on Emergency Preparedness for library staff on August 29. They outlined several scenarios and offered suggestions on handling various emergencies depending on the circumstances involved. Staff was very engaged and asked several questions of the police officers. Following the presentation, teams of staff went on a scavenger hunt throughout the building to identify safety equipment and other supplies that they might need in the event of a challenging situation.

Media Lab staff led a presentation on the challenges and opportunities presented by Artificial Intelligence technologies. Attendees came away with a better appreciation of the several ways patrons could use AI and tips on not sharing personal information or using it for health-related questions. The day concluded with a tour of the Media Lab tools and equipment and a

demonstration of the several electronic databases by our Reference Staff. Overall, a day well spent with nourishing food, team building and stimulating conversations!

### **Notes on Digipalooza Conference - Lydia Frank**

I recently attended the Digipalooza Conference presented by OverDrive (the parent company of Libby and Kanopy), which was focused on digital resources such as eBooks and eAudiobooks. As a much smaller conference than ALA, it gave attendees the chance to provide feedback directly to OverDrive staff as well as plenty of opportunities to network with other librarians and hear directly from them about what they are trying with digital resources in their communities. Although the challenges facing libraries in terms of unfair eBook pricing from publishers and long wait times for patrons were acknowledged (see last bullet point for CEO Steve Potash's remarks), introductory remarks from OverDrive staff indicated that there would be no discussion of specific pricing information since it was proprietary. Nevertheless, there were plenty of interesting discussions to be had. Some presentation highlights are below:

- Strategies for expanding literacy: using publishers' decodables collections available for purchase as eBooks to support literacy. Some feel that kids should only learn to read through physical/paper books, but we can also support literacy by leveraging screens that are already being used in schools, at home, etc. Requires staff training and buy-in to help educate parents about digital resources that support early literacy.
- Presentation on maximizing digital resources provided practical ideas on how to be strategic with your eBook budget while trying to reduce wait times for holds. Both number of checkouts and average wait time are important metrics when evaluating digital collections. Several libraries presented specific and concrete things they have been doing that have and haven't worked.
  - Specifically, presenters discussed how eBooks can be available for purchase in different lending models (one copy one user; metered access by checkouts or by time; cost per circ). Through being strategic about which lending model you purchase for which title, it can help your budget stretch further and help reduce wait times. All options are not available for all titles, so it is very title-dependent, and presenters acknowledged it can be time-intensive to manage.
  - Other strategies included marketing digital materials alongside their physical counterparts within the building (see images at end of report for examples of how we are already successfully utilizing this strategy), how to streamline and manage patron requests, and how to leverage the "Lucky Day" collection to help reduce wait times. The "Lucky Day" collection is a feature we already utilize, which consists of extra copies of popular titles that do not accept holds—a first-come, first-serve/"skip the line" model that works essentially the same as our new physical Hot Picks collection.
  - Several of the presenters that spoke were solely digital content librarians managing e-content for their library/consortium, and therefore have more time to dedicate to trying different strategies, but I will be reviewing my notes from this

presentation carefully to think about anything that we might be able to implement at Lake Forest. I was able to touch base with our OverDrive account manager briefly while at the conference but am planning to meet with her this fall to talk through some potential options.

- Presentation on artificial intelligence encouraged people to play around with it: Talk less, experiment more (especially with patron programs). Using generative AI is a skill that has to be developed like any other, and something staff need to learn to do in order to teach patrons. Presenters focused on the need for experimenting and providing practical examples for both patrons and staff. Presenters noted that today's AI isn't perfect, but we have to start using it now anyway; can't wait for perfection. Some libraries are starting up staff round tables/discussion sessions. Others are crafting new workplace policies around AI and how it can/can't be used for various work tasks.
- Discussion on the future of streaming video: the current proliferation of streaming services can be hard for people to navigate but we can expect this to be the new normal. Kanopy (offering streaming movies and documentaries through the library) can provide a free alternative to some of the more mainstream services.
  - OverDrive staff indicated Kanopy is now working with MGM, Warner Bros, Columbia, HBO, Paramount, and other studios to try and license more contemporary titles through the app. Currently their focus is on classics, world language films, indie films, Criterion Collection, Great Courses, etc. The big streaming services are not likely to work directly with libraries to license content but may work with Kanopy and then by extension libraries will get access to that content. No real details or timeline here, but something to keep an eye on for the future. More contemporary films may make the Kanopy app more appealing to some patrons.
  - Reminder that almost everything on Kanopy has public performance rights included and can be utilized for programming. Staff also indicated that they are looking for greater integration of Kanopy content into Libby at some point in the future—not sure yet what that will look like.
- Jason Reynolds (YA author) and Julia Whelan (audiobook narrator) were the keynote speakers; both gave excellent presentations and spoke highly of the impact libraries have had on their lives.
  - Whelan discussed her thoughts on artificial intelligence and audiobook narration: “We can replicate the experience but we chose not to replace it.” She is optimistic and thinks that there is a place for both AI and human narration—that people still crave human connection and we don't have to choose one or the other. Citing examples such as electricity—candles and fireplaces didn't disappear with the advent of lightbulbs. There can be room for both technologies.

- Several roundtable discussions with libraries of similar size to ours provided additional opportunities to hear directly from other librarians about what is and isn't working in their communities. More discussion on how to leverage different eBook licensing models to stretch budgets and reduce wait times. Several people spoke about the "notify me" tag option in Libby, and provided feedback to OverDrive staff about the desire to improve this feature to allow staff to close the loop when someone uses it to request a title. Currently no way to let patron know if we are not purchasing a title or if it is available elsewhere.
- New features will be rolling out in Libby soon; I will send out an email to staff once those are live.
  - Holds suspension will be changing—in an effort to reduce wait time for patrons, OverDrive looked at the impact of unwanted and suspended holds. Now instead of suspending holds for a certain amount of time of the patron's choosing, holds will be suspended until you manually go in and unsuspend them. This way patrons will not be offered the hold again until they are ready for it. Suspended holds will automatically lapse after 1 year.
  - New "inspire me" feature is coming which is an AI powered book recommendation feature. Seems similar to the NoveList database we already subscribe to, but embedded within the app. Attendees at the conference were given a preview of this feature; librarians I spoke to about it were all a little skeptical of how useful patrons will find this feature, but hard to know for sure until it's rolled out to everyone.
- CEO Steve Potash is looking forward: long term, the company is looking at ways to advocate with publishers, authors, and agents for fair, reasonable eBook pricing for libraries.
  - Thinking about how OverDrive might be able to leverage the (anonymized) data and insights collected from Libby app usage with publishers to help them build their customer base if (and only if) they give libraries more favorable eBook licensing terms. The company collects a lot of data about how patrons interact with authors, genres, and series, and is exploring how to use that data as a bargaining chip to pressure publishers into providing fair eBook pricing and terms for libraries.
  - The company is aware of the difficulties in maintaining digital collections under the current licensing terms with publishers and is hoping to get to a future in which all titles have a "reserve" copy held by the library that will never expire. He was light on the details of exactly how the company plans to accomplish this, so it will be interesting to see whether this works and whether publishers are willing to negotiate more with libraries.

One of the strategies discussed at some presentations was how to market digital materials alongside physical materials. Our Communications department has already been promoting our e-resources in a variety of ways:



For large author events such as Lake Forest Reads, signs with QR codes to the digital versions of the book are included in our displays alongside copies of the physical books (above). Bookmarks of popular apps for eBooks, magazines, and more are also displayed at all service desks; this is one of the top 5 items the Communications team needs to reprint and restock due to its ongoing popularity (below, front of bookmark left, back side right).





## SELECTED UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, September 25, 2025, 6:30pm–7:30pm      Zoom

*From Uptown Girls to Downton Abbey*

Anglophile and author Claire Evans will take us back to the late 1800s, when cash-strapped lords, viscounts, and dukes of Great Britain shifted their focus from hunting foxes and pheasants to more lucrative targets: cash-flush Gilded Age American socialites who were willing to trade their family's money for an ancient title and an often chilly reception into the British aristocracy.

Thursday, October 2, 2025, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm      Kasian Room

*The Battle of Midway*

Kelly Duffs, Deputy Director of The Museum of the American Sailor, will lead a presentation on the decisive Battle of Midway and explore the far-reaching impact of this American victory.

Monday, October 6, 2025, 6:30 pm

City Hall

*Library featured as Community Spotlight*

Tuesday, October 7, 2025, 6:30pm–8:00pm      History Center of Lake Forest Lake Bluff

*The New Civic Path: A Visit from Rich Harwood*

Rich Harwood is founder of the Harwood Institute and author of *The New Civic Path: Restoring Our Belief in One Another and the Nation*. Rich has worked for more than 35 years to innovate and develop a new philosophy and practice of how communities can solve common problems, create a culture of shared responsibility, and deepen people's civic faith.

Tuesday, October 14, 2025, 6:30pm–7:45pm

Kasian Room

*Women Spies in WWII*

The year is 1942, and as the free world crumbles beneath Hitler's jackboot, Churchill's Secret Army begins recruiting women to infiltrate occupied France. The women spies, who come from all walks of life, agree to serve in the French Resistance. Learn about the adventures of these unimaginably brave women who did not know if they would ever see their families again. This event is part of *Lake Forest Reads*, our One Book, One Community program.

Thursday, October 16, 2025. 6:30pm–8:00pm

Lake Forest Open Lands

Book Discussion of "The River We Remember"

Lake Forest Reads title

**TOP TEN CIRCULATING ITEMS**  
**August 2025**

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| <b>e-Books</b> |                                   |                       |              |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| <b>Number</b>  | <b>Title</b>                      | <b>Author</b>         | <b>Circs</b> |
| 1              | <i>Great Big Beautiful Life</i>   | Henry, Emily          | 29           |
| 2              | <i>One Golden Summer</i>          | Fortune, Carley       | 21           |
| 3              | <i>These Summer Storms</i>        | MacLean, Sarah        | 19           |
| 4              | <i>Atmosphere</i>                 | Reid, Taylor Jenkins  | 18           |
| 5              | <i>The Wedding People</i>         | Espach, Alison        | 18           |
| 6              | <i>My Friends: A Novel</i>        | Backman, Fredrik      | 17           |
| 7              | <i>The River We Remember**</i>    | Krueger, William Kent | 17           |
| 8              | <i>An Inside Job</i>              | Silva, Daniel         | 16           |
| 9              | <i>Problematic Summer Romance</i> | Hazelwood, Ali        | 16           |
| 10             | <i>The Let Them Theory*</i>       | Robbins, Mel          | 16           |

\*Denotes nonfiction title

\*\*Lake Forest Reads title

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| <b>e-Audiobooks</b> |                                 |                       |              |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| <b>Number</b>       | <b>Title</b>                    | <b>Author</b>         | <b>Circs</b> |
| 1                   | <i>Great Big Beautiful Life</i> | Henry, Emily          | 30           |
| 2                   | <i>My Friends: A Novel</i>      | Backman, Fredrik      | 18           |
| 3                   | <i>Atmosphere</i>               | Reid, Taylor Jenkins  | 16           |
| 4                   | <i>Don't Let Him In</i>         | Jewell, Lisa          | 16           |
| 5                   | <i>The River We Remember**</i>  | Krueger, William Kent | 16           |
| 6                   | <i>The God of the Woods</i>     | Moore, Liz            | 15           |
| 7                   | <i>These Summer Storms</i>      | MacLean, Sarah        | 15           |
| 8                   | <i>The Housemaid</i>            | McFadden, Freida      | 14           |
| 9                   | <i>Broken Country</i>           | Hall, Clare Leslie    | 12           |
| 10                  | <i>Heartwood</i>                | Gaige, Amity          | 12           |
| 11                  | <i>One Golden Summer</i>        | Fortune, Carley       | 12           |
| 12                  | <i>The River Is Waiting</i>     | Lamb, Wally           | 12           |

\*\*Lake Forest Reads title

**TOP TEN CIRCULATING ITEMS**  
**August 2025**

| <b>Adult Books</b>        |                                 |                       |                   |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Number</b>             | <b>Title</b>                    | <b>Author</b>         | <b>Circ<br/>s</b> |
| 1                         | <i>The River We Remember</i>    | Krueger, William Kent | 20                |
| 2                         | <i>One Golden Summer</i>        | Fortune, Carley       | 9                 |
| 3                         | <i>Atmosphere</i>               | Reid, Taylor Jenkins  | 9                 |
| 4                         | <i>The Paradise Problem</i>     | Lauren, Christina     | 8                 |
| 5                         | <i>My Friends</i>               | Backman, Fredrik      | 7                 |
| 6                         | <i>Broken Country</i>           | Hall, Clare Leslie    | 7                 |
| 7                         | <i>She Didn't See It Coming</i> | Lapena, Shari         | 7                 |
| 8                         | <i>Murder Takes a Vacation</i>  | Lippman, Laura        | 7                 |
| 9                         | <i>The Anxious Generation *</i> | Haidt, Jonathan       | 7                 |
| 10                        | <i>Say Nothing*</i>             | Keefe, Patrick Radden | 7                 |
| *Denotes nonfiction title |                                 |                       |                   |
| **Lake Forest Reads title |                                 |                       |                   |

| <b>Children's Books</b>   |                                          |                   |              |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| <b>Number</b>             | <b>Title</b>                             | <b>Author</b>     | <b>Circs</b> |
| 1                         | <i>5-minute Pinkalicious Stories</i>     | Kann, Victoria    | 11           |
| 2                         | <i>Final Season</i>                      | Green, Tim        | 10           |
| 3                         | <i>Guinness World Records*</i>           |                   | 10           |
| 4                         | <i>Medusa</i>                            | Marsh, Katherine  | 8            |
| 5                         | <i>Curious George's 5-minute Stories</i> | Rey, Margret      | 8            |
| 6                         | <i>What Happened to Rachel Riley?</i>    | Swinarski, Claire | 8            |
| 7                         | <i>PJ Masks 5-minute Stories</i>         |                   | 8            |
| 8                         | <i>Simon Sort of Says</i>                | Bow, Erin         | 7            |
| 9                         | <i>Dog Days</i>                          | Kinney, Jeff      | 7            |
| 10                        | <i>The Long Haul</i>                     | Kinney, Jeff      | 7            |
| 11                        | <i>Millionaires for the Month</i>        | McAnulty, Stacy   | 7            |
| *Denotes nonfiction title |                                          |                   |              |

**TOP TEN CIRCULATING ITEMS**  
**August 2025**

| <b>Teen Books</b> |                                                |                       |              |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| <b>Number</b>     | <b>Title</b>                                   | <b>Author</b>         | <b>Circs</b> |
| 1                 | <i>Anonymous noise</i>                         | Fukuyama, Ryōko       | 10           |
| 2                 | <i>The Summer I Turned Pretty</i>              | Han, Jenny            | 6            |
| 3                 | <i>The Selection</i>                           | Cass, Kiera           | 5            |
| 4                 | <i>To All the Boys I've Loved Before</i>       | Han, Jenny            | 5            |
| 5                 | <i>Thunderhead</i>                             | Shusterman, Neal      | 3            |
| 6                 | <i>Frieren. Beyond journey's End</i>           | Yamada, Kanehito      | 3            |
| 7                 | <i>Star Wars. Out Among the Stars / Vol. 6</i> | Aaron, Jason          | 2            |
| 8                 | <i>Glass Sword</i>                             | Aveyard, Victoria     | 2            |
| 9                 | <i>Six of Crows</i>                            | Bardugo, Leigh        | 2            |
| 10                | <i>The Inheritance Games</i>                   | Barnes, Jennifer Lynn | 2            |

| <b>Nonbook Items</b> |                                              |  |              |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------|--|--------------|
| <b>Number</b>        | <b>Title</b>                                 |  | <b>Circs</b> |
| 1                    | Mobile Hotspot                               |  | 38           |
| 2                    | Children's Book Bag                          |  | 13           |
| 3                    | <i>Thunderbolts* : *The new Avengers</i> DVD |  | 12           |
| 4                    | <i>A Minecraft Movie</i> DVD                 |  | 9            |
| 5                    | <i>The Friend</i> DVD                        |  | 9            |
| 6                    | <i>Drop</i> DVD                              |  | 8            |
| 7                    | <i>The Alto Knights</i> DVD                  |  | 7            |
| 8                    | <i>The Accountant 2</i> DVD                  |  | 7            |
| 9                    | Roku – Disney+.                              |  | 7            |
| 10                   | <i>The Wedding Banquet</i> DVD               |  | 6            |

### SERVICE STATISTICS – AUGUST 2025

|                                        | August 2025                            | August 2024                    | YTD FY 2026                              | YTD FY 2025                      |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Library Visits                         | <b>13,663</b>                          | 13,703                         | <b>60,993</b>                            | 60,161                           |
| Physical Items circulated              | <b>22,620</b>                          | 22,755                         | <b>90,626</b>                            | 90,409                           |
| E-Media Circulated                     | <b>9,659</b>                           | 8,647                          | <b>38,470</b>                            | 34,364                           |
| Database Uses/Pg Views                 | <b>17,504</b>                          | 12,477                         | <b>65,269</b>                            | 53,517                           |
| Library Programs & Attendees*          | <b>41 Programs<br/>2,112 Attendees</b> | 43 Programs<br>2,755 Attendees | <b>237 Programs<br/>16,928 Attendees</b> | 198 Programs<br>14,757 Attendees |
| Media Lab, 1-on-1 Appts, and Tutorials | <b>221</b>                             | 63                             | <b>742</b>                               | 282                              |
| Reference Questions                    | <b>2,070</b>                           | 2,344                          | <b>10,428</b>                            | 9,752                            |
| New Library Cards                      | <b>182</b>                             | 211                            | <b>561</b>                               | 595                              |
| Items added to collection              | <b>852</b>                             | 1,037                          | <b>3,708</b>                             | 4,160                            |
| Items withdrawn                        | <b>1,077</b>                           | 1,591                          | <b>4,118</b>                             | 5,636                            |

\*Includes passive programs and take-home activities