

ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025



Mission Statement

The Ruth Enlow Library uses its collection, programs, services, and technology to transform its community:

- By championing literacies and lifelong learning,
- By bringing people and groups together; and
- By promoting democracy and civic engagement

Board of Trustees

Christian Mash, President
Fred Fox, Vice-President
Tina Buckel
Alison Sweitzer, Secretary
Nancy Brady
Clint Bradley
Karen Malecki, Treasurer

Director: Thomas Vose

Our Values

- I. Equal access for all
- II. Intellectual freedom
- III. Lifelong learning
- IV. Reliability of information
- V. Fostering democracy
- VI. Diversity
- VII. Social responsibility
- VIII. Privacy
- IX. Service
- X. Stewardship of public resources
- XI. Collaboration

Total Circulations

204,460
(-4.7%)
Adult: 112,206
Juvenile: 89,597
In-house: 6,553
(+12.9%)
Electronic: 43,829
(+5.9%)

Materials Collection

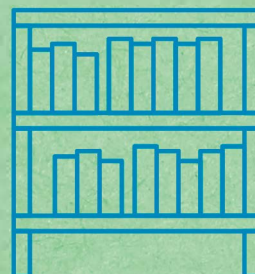
91,947 Physical items
(-0.7%)

NUMBER OF PROGRAMS:

833
(-0.7%)

PROGRAM ATTENDANCE:

19,346
(+0.1%)



Summer Reading Club 2024

767 Participants Registered
(566 Kids, 201 Adults)
3,263 Books Read
37 In-Person Programs
1,518 Attendees Combined
283 Log Completions





DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



This year saw a lot of high points, capped off by groundbreaking for the new and long-anticipated Friendsville Library! Work is well underway on that, and by the next time this report is compiled we should have a lovely new facility there. In the meantime, our great staff have been able to partner with the Senior Center for temporary quarters - while we don't have the space we're used to for collections we are able to keep programs going thanks to them!

There's a lot more to celebrate than just that, however! Our Friends of the Library partnered with Our Town Theater this year to put on a play in the library, "Murder by the Book," which ran for two sold-out nights. We also put together our first ever escape room activity in partnership with Broad Ford Elementary based on the book "Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library," which was a lot of fun for both staff and participants. Our Summer Reading Club, as the statistics show, hit new highs in participation, completions, and (best of all) books read. And our Classics Buttons program was named Project of the Year by the Maryland Library Association - by now we have given out thousands to readers in the community!

We were also proud to be able to complete our Chromebooks partnership with Garrett County - in the end we gave out over 1,500 Chromebooks to households throughout our community, doing our part to help close the digital divide. In other digital news, the Western Maryland Regional Library designed a new and dynamic website for us this year that we hope our community enjoys as much as we do! Meanwhile in Kitzmiller, Diane's efforts led to the creation of a new Kitzmiller Community Garden which has borne (literal) fruit that she gives out to folks in the community - we've been able to hold a lot of gardening classes thanks to it and thanks to our friends at the Master Gardeners. We also joined up this year with the Arts Council's Passport Program, becoming a passport site and getting the passport books into the hands of a lot of people countywide. And I'm sure that many will celebrate our Board voting to make the Library fine-free to kick off this new year - late fees are now a thing of the past!

The year ahead has a new building to look forward to, as well as our new Library Academy programs, trivia, more Summer Reading, gaming events, new and exciting things to check out, and a Battle of the Books in development for Garrett County's kids - we can't wait to see what's in store!

Year in Review

Number of Library Visits -

113,089 (-4.7%)

13,619

Active Borrowers (+2.7%)

Reference Questions Answered -

113,089 (+11.6%)

1,213

New Library Cards (-3.2%)

% of County with Active Cards -

113,089

