

2025-2026 ANNUAL REPORT

The
Ruth Enlow Library
of GARRETT COUNTY



Community + Opportunity

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Christian Mash, President
Jennifer Theriot, Secretary
Jeff Fratz
Alison Sweitzer, Treasurer
Nancy Brady
Clint Bradley
Karen Malecki

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



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.



TOTAL CIRCULATIONS

209,012 (+2.2%)

Adult 110,332

Juvenile 95,679

In-house 6,258 (-4.5%)

Electronic 42,075 (-4.0%)



MATERIALS COLLECTION

92,189 (+0.3%)

Physical Items

11,640

Virtual Items



NUMBER OF PROGRAMS:

935 (+12.2%)



PROGRAM
ATTENDANCE:
19,105 (-1.2%)

SUMMER READING CLUB 2025

621 Participants Signed-up
(531 Kids, 90 Adults/Teens)

2,085 Books Read

46 In-Person Programs

1,390 Attendees Combined

213 Log Completions





DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



IT HAS been another busy, fulfilling year for the Ruth Enlow Library - and looking back, a year that has seen some transformative changes.

FIRST and foremost, of course, is the construction of the new Friendsville Library, slated to open in August, 2026. This building will, I hope, symbolize not just the value of libraries and education in Garrett County, but also a revitalization for the town of Friendsville, which has seen many other great new projects in recent years. With this new 5,500 square foot building with its meeting room, study room, reading porch, engaging children's area, teen space and more, we hope to be able to provide an entirely new level of service to the community. And this project wasn't completed in a vacuum - many agencies and people, from the State Library to our elected officials, from the Friends to the Quilters to the Board and our community partners - all made it happen, and we look forward to a grand opening bringing all of those people and more together to celebrate what they made possible.

THE LIBRARY also held its first-ever Battle of the Books this year, in partnership with our schools, as well as the Allegany County Library System and its schools - it was a two-county effort, supported by our ever-amazing Friends as well as the Children's Literature Center at Frostburg State University. We had a great turnout and a lot of fun, and hope to build on it in the years ahead to make it an annual tradition - one that helps create lifelong readers for both counties!

WE ALSO passed some significant milestones this year! Over 130 kids have completed the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program, and we've given out over 2,500 Classics Buttons to the public - as I write this, I'm informed that one patron is even closing in on the 100 button mark! We've also registered almost 1,200 new cards this year and, improbable as it may sound, that puts our active user base (people who have used a card in the last three years) at precisely 50% of the County's population on the nose!

OF COURSE, we've had plenty to offer them as well, in addition to our materials and services! This year we were proud to hold Library Academy programs for emerging adults, great gardening programs in collaboration with Maryland Extension, our increasingly popular Culinary Connections Cookbook Club in Friendsville, our great Storytimes and class visits, our pub trivia in two locations during the winter, great craft programs, Retro Gaming Challenges, book clubs, Legos, Legal Aid, Dungeons and Dragons, new puzzle competitions and so much more!

WE'RE PROUD to serve our communities, and can't wait to see what the next year has in store!



YEAR IN REVIEW

**NUMBER OF
LIBRARY VISITS - 112,108** (-0.9%)

**ACTIVE BORROWERS -
14,185** (+4.2%)

**REFERENCE QUESTIONS
ANSWERED - 14,840** (-5.3%)

**1,184
NEW LIBRARY CARDS!** (-2.4%)

**% OF COUNTY WITH
ACTIVE CARDS - 50.0%**

