

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Christian Mash, President
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Tina Buckel, Treasurer
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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



213,522 (+3.9%)
Adult 120,028
Juvenile 93,494
In-house 5,918
Electronic 35,719 (-4.5%)

MATERIALS COLLECTION

95,726 (+6.4%)
Physical Items
66,963
Virtual Items

NUMBER OF PROGRAMS:

727 (+23.2%)



PROGRAM ATTENDANCE:
15,235 (+10.9%)

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.



SUMMER READING CLUB 2022

511 People Registered
(458 Kids, 43 Teens, 10 Adults)
2634 Books Read
19 Programs
852 Attendees Combined
163 Log Completions





DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



OUR LIBRARY has seen an incredible year! We're glad to see such a great response from our community towards our programs and services, as our numbers bear out. Our patrons continue to return from COVID-imposed isolation and reconnect with the Library and with each other - we're glad to take a part in that process and gratified by the support everyone has shown for what we do! We've seen almost 11% more people showing up to our programs this year (with over 20% more at our Summer Reading events) and we're especially happy to see 16.9% more people in this year and over 21% more cards being made. Our patrons are also interacting more - we have over 15% more reference questions this year than last, and we're proud to have such an approachable, helpful and patron-focused staff to assist with them.

This year has also seen a number of new initiatives and milestones that we're proud to highlight. Thus far our "1000 Books Before Kindergarten" initiative has seen 60 completions - that represents a whopping 60,000 books that parents throughout Garrett County have read to their kids - and that doesn't take into account the many, many more that are signed up and working their way through the program!

Our partnerships with the department of Social Services and with the Lawyer in the Library program continue to make resources available to people throughout the County that otherwise might be at a loss - we're proud to bridge that gap for them.

We began a new partnership with Vagabond Taproom as well that saw a Library-sponsored Trivia Night every other Friday through the winter - it was a lot of fun, and I look forward to getting started again this October!

The Library added a new electronic resource this year - Comics Plus, which enables our patrons to download and read thousands of graphic novels, comics and manga to their devices - with collections for every age group. Give it a try!

The Classics Buttons program has expanded with another 60 titles, including many that enable kids to get involved. We'll be adding another batch of titles this fall, but we're happy to see so many people rediscovering the classics.

And that's not all by a long shot - we've had programs this year on composting, chess, zines, mahjonn, tomato gardening, gaming, mythology, crochet, and Dungeons and Dragons, and of course our usual amazing book clubs, Storytimes, STEM events and LEGO Clubs!

After years of planning and advocacy, the Library has successfully obtained a State capital grant to design a new branch for Friendsville. The process is finally underway, and we hope to break ground in 2024 on a brand new building for our Friendsville patrons!

And as we head into the new fiscal year, we have an exciting new project to occupy our time - the Library is partnering with Garrett County's IT department, who have received a grant to distribute Chromebook computers - they aim to eliminate the digital divide in Garrett County, and the Library has served as a primary distribution partner for this effort, once again in an attempt to connect people with resources.

2023 will also see the creation of a new Strategic Plan for the Library, which is currently under development with the support and feedback of hundreds of our patrons. We appreciate the input everyone has provided, and will work hard in the years ahead to justify your faith in us and make this the best possible Library for Garrett County!



YEAR IN REVIEW



NUMBER OF LIBRARY VISITS = **117,590** (+16.9%)

1,440 NEW LIBRARY CARDS! (+21.3%)

REFERENCE QUESTIONS ANSWERED = **15,274** (+15.9%)

ACTIVE BORROWERS = **16,792** (+5.9%)

% OF COUNTY WITH ACTIVE CARDS = **57.9%** (+3.3%)