

FOUNTAINDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

June 18, 2026 | 7 p.m.

300 West Briarcliff Road | Bolingbrook | Margaret J. "Peggy" Danhof Board Room

View the meeting online via YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/live/7_fO2Nsqa-8

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call of Trustees**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Approval of Agenda**
- 4. Minutes for Approval**
 - a. Board Meeting – May 21, 2026
- 5. Employee Recognition**
 - a. Christopher Halvorsen – 25 Years
- 6. Comments from the Public**
- 7. Friends of the Library**
- 8. New Business – Action Items**
 - a. Approval of Fiscal Year 2027 Updated Salary Structure
 - b. Approval of Fiscal Year 2027 Standard Merit Increase
 - c. Approval of Fiscal Year 2027 Working Budget
 - d. Approval of Ordinance 2026-2 – Ordinance Transferring Funds to the Special Reserve Fund
- 9. Library Projects**
- 10. Correspondence**
- 11. Treasurer's Report**
- 12. Bills for Approval**
 - a. Bills Paid Report – June 2026
 - b. Bills Payable Report – June 2026
- 13. Director's Report – May 2026**
- 14. Unfinished Business**
- 15. Reports**
 - a. Building
 - b. Finance
 - c. Strategic
 - d. Internal Board Operations
- 16. Agenda Building for Next Meeting**
- 17. Announcements**
- 18. Adjournment**

June 2026 Agenda Background

Paul Mills

8. New Business – Action Items

- a. Approval of Fiscal Year 2027 Updated Salary Structure

Please see the included memo for more information regarding this recommendation.

Suggested Motion: Motion to approve the updated Fiscal Year 2027 Salary Structure.

- b. Approval of Fiscal Year 2027 Standard Merit Increase

Please see the included memo for more information regarding this recommendation.

Suggested Motion: Motion to approve standard merit increase of 3% to 4% for Fiscal Year 2027 and to approve a standard merit bonus of 3%, to 4% for Fiscal Year 2027 for staff at or over their position's maximum salary. The level of the merit increase and the merit bonus requires reaching the appropriate score in the performance evaluation system in order to be granted.

- c. Approval of Fiscal Year 2027 Working Budget

Please see the included memo for more information regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Working Budget.

Suggested Motion: Motion to approve Fiscal Year 2027 Working Budget.

d. Approval of Ordinance 2026-2 – Ordinance Transferring Funds to the Special Reserve Fund

This ordinance authorizes the transfer of \$1,000,000 from the General Fund to the Special Reserve Fund. We would have sufficient funding in the General Fund to meet the levels recommended by our Fund Balance Policy.

Suggested Motion: Motion to approve Ordinance 2026-2 – Ordinance Transferring Funds to the Special Reserve Fund.

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
FOUNTAINDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT
WILL AND DUPAGE COUNTIES, ILLINOIS
HELD MAY 21, 2026
BOLINGBROOK, ILLINOIS**

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Fountaindale Public Library District, Will and DuPage Counties, Illinois was held in the Margaret J. "Peggy" Danhof Board Room, 300 West Briarcliff Road, Bolingbrook, Illinois on Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 7 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by President Celeste Bermejo.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called by recorder, Juanita Lennon, and a quorum was established.

PRESENT

Present at roll call were Bobby Armstrong, Marcelo Valencia, Kathryn Spindel, Sarah Siska, Jim Daunis Jr. and Celeste Bermejo.

ABSENT

Trustee Meraj Alam

Trustee Alam informed President Bermejo that he was running late.

Trustee Alam enters the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

FOUNTAINDALE STAFF PRESENT

The following staff was present: Paul Mills and Juanita Lennon.

Nancy Korczak was present online.

PUBLIC PRESENT

The following public was present: Jody Hargett and Jennie Mills.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Bermejo asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

A motion was made by Siska, seconded by Daunis.

AYES: Armstrong, Valencia, Spindel, Siska, Daunis, Bermejo

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Alam

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING – APRIL 16, 2026

The minutes of the board meeting held April 16, 2026 were presented. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Spindel, seconded by Daunis. Minutes were approved as read.

AYES: Armstrong, Valencia, Spindel, Siska, Daunis, Bermejo

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Alam

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION – APRIL 16, 2026

The minutes of the Executive Session held April 16, 2026 were presented. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Daunis, seconded by Valencia. Minutes were approved as read.

AYES: Armstrong, Valencia, Spindel, Siska, Daunis, Bermejo

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Alam

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Jody Hargett shared a Friends update with the Board. The Friends are pleased to be receiving many donations. The Friends' Board approved a new position. The new volunteer position will be responsible for stocking the Friends' Nook on the first floor. They will also be creating seasonal collections featuring items such as gardening, Black History Month, etc. Jean Walsh volunteered for this new position. Once again the Friends will be selling children's books at the Ice Cream Social.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Staff Health Insurance

Mills discussed the research completed by the library's broker. The recommendation is to retain the current medical plans and transfer dental, vision and life insurance to Mutual of Omaha.

A motion to approve funding the allocation for insurance at \$10,750 per eligible employee for those who select health insurance and funding the allocation of \$500 for those employees who do not select health insurance but wish to select health insurance but wish to select dental, vision, life or AFLAC products was made by Valencia, seconded by Daunis.

AYES: Armstrong, Valencia, Spindel, Siska, Daunis, Bermejo

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Alam

LIBRARY PROJECTS

Executive Director Mills commented that the punch list for the new monument sign has been created and work is continuing on addressing those items. This list may not be completed until after the new fiscal year starts. Facilities Manager Tasos Priovolos and our architect team met with the contractor for the lighting project. Mills reported that the punch list for the Children's Services shelving project is progressing.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report for April, 2026 was presented by Treasurer Spindel and will be filed for audit.

BILLS FOR APPROVAL

Bills Paid Report – May 2026

Bills paid for the month of May in the amount of \$73,437.08 was presented for approval. Motion to approve was made by Valencia, seconded by Daunis.

AYES: Armstrong, Valencia, Spindel, Siska, Daunis, Bermejo

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Alam

Bills Payable Report – May, 2026

Bills payable for the month of May in the amount of \$526,578.31 was presented for approval. Motion to approve was made by Siska, seconded by Daunis.

AYES: Armstrong, Valencia, Spindel, Siska, Daunis, Bermejo

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Alam

Trustee Alam entered at 7:13 p.m.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – APRIL 2026

Mills reported that the annual kick-off event for Summer Adventure, the Ice Cream Social will take place on Tuesday, June 2. All Trustees are invited to attend and pass out ice cream.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

REPORTS

Building

None.

Finance

None.

Strategic Plan

None.

Internal Board Operations

None.

AGENDA BUILDING FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Trustee Valencia shared that Santa Dewey would like to partner with the library in October to have photos with Santa for Christmas cards. Mills said that staff would follow up.

The library is preparing to host the State of Illinois Employment Job Fair on Wednesday, July 29.

The library is also hosting a Legislative Town Hall on Tuesday, July 8 at 6 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Valencia shared that several of his Valencia Boxing students went to the Illinois Junior Olympic Boxing Tournament and Julian Murillo won the Illinois State Championship.

Trustee Alam shared that his son graduated from PreK.

The Board now has a standing invitation to attend the Bolingbrook High School graduation ceremony.

Executive Director Mills commented that next week the Bolingbrook Rotary Club will be out cleaning up Rotary Park.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m. was made by Daunis, seconded by Alam.

AYES: Armstrong, Valencia, Spindel, Siska, Alam, Daunis, Bermejo

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

Approved: _____
Robert Armstrong, Secretary

Celeste M. Bermejo, President

Date: June 18, 2026
From: Paul D. Mills
To: Board of Trustees
Subj: Salary Structure for Fiscal Year 2027

The draft salary structure proposes to increase the maximum value for each grade by 3%. Additionally, the draft salary structure proposes increasing the minimum rate for grades 15-50 by \$0.25 per hour.

The proposed new maximum value allows for continued growth opportunities for our staff who have remained in their positions long term, while the proposed increase to the minimum for grades 15-50 will support recruitment and retention efforts for our entry-level positions.

Date: June 18, 2026
From: Paul D. Mills
To: Board of Trustees
Subj: Merit Increase Memo for Fiscal Year 2027

To maintain the appropriate separation of pay grades on the District's salary structure, and to remain competitive for recruiting purposes, it is recommended that current staff continue to be evaluated annually and those eligible for merit increases receive pay adjustments upon their anniversary date.

For the fiscal year 2026-2027, based upon overall performance evaluation scores, merit increases will generally be awarded in the amounts of 3% to 4% of current salary.

It is possible for staff members to earn more or less than these amounts depending upon their evaluation score.

It is also recommended that staff who are over their maximum salary be eligible for a merit bonus, equivalent to the merit increase earned, as listed above. It is possible for staff members to earn more or less than this standard bonus amount depending upon their evaluation. This bonus would not be added to their salary.

Date: June 18, 2026
From: Paul D. Mills
To: Board of Trustees
Subj: Working Budget for Fiscal Year 2027

The proposed working budget for Fiscal Year 2027 (July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027) is included in the Board Packet and I would like to highlight several areas.

Revenue (excluding \$3,246,800 for the bonds) for the forthcoming fiscal year is projected to be \$11,781,080.00. This is broken down into these categories

\$11,098,383.00 Property Taxes

\$682,698.00 (Interest, Personal Property Replacement Tax, Fees for Copying, Faxing, Printing, and Per Capita Grant)

Additionally, the proposed budget would utilize existing funds for capital projects.

\$5,260,000.00 Fund Balance and/or Reserve Fund for Capital Projects

Interest income continues to be a challenging variable and the draft budget takes a conservative approach to this source of revenue. I am also projecting a decrease in Personal Property Replacement Tax from the state based on the state budget sources I follow. This draft budget also proposes using our fund balances and/or reserve funds for the capital projects in the Special Reserve Project line below.

The Special Reserve Projects line will fund the following Facilities projects: the 3rd Floor and Meeting Room phase of our lighting project which the Board approved in this current fiscal year, controller replacement for specific building equipment, additional safety hardware for cleaning and maintenance of the glass box in the lobby, and potential lobby and automated materials handling (amh) projects. This line will also

fund the following remainder balances from the current fiscal year that have not been fully paid out – parking lot, monument sign, and Children’s shelving.

Our payroll service is expected to increase as we look for a new vendor that can automate more procedures and save staff time.

This draft budget shows a significant increase in Children’s Programming as we wish to invest more there for our younger patrons.

Our salaries line reflects a proposed merit increase of 3% to 4%.

The insurance benefit plan line is up significantly as our health insurance renewal saw a 18% increase for medical for the HMO Plan.

The IMRF line is decreasing as our employer rate will be decreasing from 6.29% in the calendar year 2025 to 4.82% in the calendar year 2027. I am also budgeting conservatively for this line item as the volatility in the markets may impact IMRF’s investment revenue. IMRF issues a final rate in November and it’s possible we may see a change from the preliminary rate we received in May.

The Building Maintenance line is up as costs for materials and services continues to rise.

Our liability insurance lines and our workers compensation lines all reflect increases. LIRA is anticipating workers compensation costs to rise in particular over the next several years.

Our utility lines (gas, electric, water) all reflect significant increases as we anticipate costs to continue to go up.

ORDINANCE 2026-2

ORDINANCE TRANSFERRING FUNDS TO THE SPECIAL RESERVE FUND

WHEREAS, the Fountaindale Public Library District, Will and DuPage County, Illinois, is a public body created and existing under the laws of the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 75 ILCS 16/30-90, the Board of Library Trustees may authorize the transfer from one appropriation of any amount specified to any other object or purpose; and

WHEREAS, such a transfer requires the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of all the trustees present and voting; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Fountaindale Public Library District believe, and hereby declare, that it is in the best interests of the Library District to transfer certain funds, as hereinafter provided; and

WHEREAS, the General Fund/Operating Fund surplus account has a legal appropriation for transfer to the Special Reserve Fund for fiscal year 2026; and

WHEREAS, the transfer of funds from this account to the Special Reserve Fund is a lawful transfer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES OF THE FOUNTAINDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT, WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION ONE: The recitals set forth hereinabove shall be and are hereby incorporated in this Section One as if said recitals were fully set forth herein.

SECTION TWO: The unexpended balances of the proceeds received from annual public library taxes (General Fund/Operating Fund), the sum of \$1,000,000 shall be transferred to the Library District's Special Reserve Fund to fund future Capital Needs as defined in the Special Reserve Plan.

SECTION THREE: Any policy, resolution, or ordinance of the Fountaindale Public Library District that conflict with the provisions of this ordinance shall be and is hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION FOUR: This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and approval in the manner provided by law.

PASSED THIS 18th day of June, 2026.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

APPROVED THIS 18th day of June, 2026.

Celeste M. Bermejo
President, Board of Library Trustees

ATTEST:

Robert Armstrong
Secretary, Board of Library Trustees

May 2026 Monthly Board Report

Executive Director (Paul Mills)

Pinnacle Library Cooperative (PLC) Update

I will be serving as PLC's representative to the Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS) Consortia Committee for the upcoming fiscal year. The Consortia Committee is charged with investigating and recommending ways to improve consortial cooperation and services in our state to better serve all of our residents.

Deputy Director (Nancy Korczak)

Highlights

Our public services departments spent the month of May finalizing touches for our Summer Adventure program, which kicked off on June 1st. On the first day of the program, we had 368 participants sign up for Summer Adventure, this summer is off to a great start.

Our Ice Cream social was a great success with about 2,000 attendees. Our patrons had great fun getting free ice cream, visiting the bookmobile, climbing the park district's wall and riding the train. We also had great sign-ups for Summer Adventure during the event.

Adult & Teen Services Report (Debra Dudek)

Department Summary

- The department staff began adding titles to the new Reader's Advisory Spreadsheet to provide on-demand reading recommendations at the service desks
 - Staff are contributing recommendations for physical items that are in our current collection
- Recruitment process to fill the vacant programming librarian and programming specialist positions was completed successfully
 - New staff will join the department later in June
- Computer Commons experienced an increase in assisting patrons with resume writing, job searching, and general printing assistance this month
- Study room usage has remained consistent
- Staff created book displays featuring Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Month, Spring Entertaining, Summer Scares, and Microhistories

Adult Programming Highlights

- Summer Adventure decorations, book displays, prize books, and other final preparations were completed
- Author Fair blog posts featuring all thirty guest authors completed
- Programs booked and confirmed through December 2026
- AANHPI programs were very popular and successful this month
- Top Programs - Senior Social: Pullman Palace Car Strike (41), Cooking with Chef Maddox: Summer Compound Salads Explored (38), Sushi Made Easy (30), R&B Line Dancing (22), and Genealogy Club: American Battle Monuments Commission (20)

Teen Programming Highlights

- Summer Adventure decorations were created to add castle elements to the Vortex over the summer

- Prize items, prize books, and other final preparations were cleaned and are ready for patrons in the Vortex study rooms
- Randi attended the Brooks Family Reading Night on May 11 with the Outreach team. Attendees connected with library events, resources, and programs
- Love on a Leash brought four adorable dogs during school finals week
- Anime Afternoon continues to bring in a consistent group of students
- Top Programs - Teen Volunteering: Book Recommendations (57), Paws & Unwind with Love on a Leash (22), Question of the Week (19), STEM Explorers (12), Early Release Craft (9), and Beaded Spider (8)

Department Statistics

- Four students are currently enrolled in our program
- One student is currently working on their prerequisite coursework
- Three students continued their enrollment in Career One High School and have completed over 65% of their coursework
 - One student has completed 96% of their coursework and is on schedule to graduate early

Children's Services (Joyce Arellano)

Department Summary

- After about a month of construction, the east side of the Children's Services Department reopened to the public in early May. There are still a few endcaps to fix and signage to install before the entire shelving project is completed, but the new space looks amazing! Patrons had wonderful feedback to share with our team including:
 - Our library "should be nationally recognized and award-winning!"
 - "I looked over at my kids, and ALL THREE of them were flipping through books and looking at books on their own. 10 out of 10. You guys did a great job. All of this was very thoughtfully planned out."



- It is really nice to see children interacting with the new space. Children's Services staff have observed children browsing the collections and enjoying the interactive activity panels. We have also seen children and grownups reading together in the pass-thru seating nooks, and we even saw one grownup and child using the pass-thru for their tutoring session! Many thanks to the Circulation, Collection Services, Communications and Facilities teams for working with us to create this beautiful, new space for our community. Photos are courtesy of 3Branch, the company that designed the activity panels.

Programming Highlights

- Children's Services offered special events for a number of large initiatives including Village of Bolingbrook's annual Kindness Day; Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander Heritage Month and Children's Safety Week (which featured presenters from the Philippine Nurses Association of Illinois, Chicago Children's Advocacy Center, Arrayscape Gaming and Flood Brothers.)



Department Statistics

- 716 patrons attended CSD's 34 active (synchronous) programs.
- 957 patrons participated in 7 passive (asynchronous) programs.
- 343 babies, toddlers and preschoolers are participating in 1000 Books Before Kindergarten. 8 new children signed up this month, and 4 children completed the program.
- 580 children are participating in Reading Dragons & Friends. 19 new children signed up this month.
- 849 reference questions were answered.
- 800 directional questions were answered.
- 17 one-on-one instruction sessions were completed.

Circulation Services (Jacob Luce)

Department Summary

- During the end of the month, Circulation staff was busy preparing for the Ice Cream Social event that kicks off Summer Reading. As well as getting ready for the anticipated influx of materials being checked out, placed on hold and returned during the Summer Reading months.
- The Aides have been doing a great job cleaning the shelves since this task was incorporated into their workflow; shelf cleaning has continued for the month of May. The Aides started cleaning the shelves on the 2nd floor. They have finished cleaning the shelves in the Vortex as well as the Young Adult Graphic novel shelves. The Aides have started on and continue to clean the Young Adult Nonfiction shelves.
- The Associate Manager coordinated with the Facilities Maintenance Manager and the Collection Services Manager to have Aides pull Children's materials from the shelving area where work is being completed for phase 1 and phase 2 of the shelving end cap panels.
- The Associate Manager worked with the Aides to ensure that all reshelving, shifting and rebalancing of Children's materials was completed before the Children's department reopening and debut of the new shelving.
- The Associate Manager and a Lead Specialist conducted the biannual Aide training session in May. It was a good opportunity for the Aides to work together as a team and also review the best shelving practices. The feedback that was received from the Aides was positive and they especially liked the shelving trivia that was incorporated into their training.
- Monthly AMH cleaning was conducted by Circulation staff.
- Circulation Aide Mary has informed us that she will be retiring in June. Circulation staff are so happy for her and will miss her once she retires.

Department Statistics

- 149 new library cards were issued in person, 13 of those being reciprocal borrower cards, 47 patrons signed up for library cards online.
- 172 license plate stickers were renewed, a 10% increase from May 2025.
- 373 patrons utilized our Drive-Thru.
- 1,831 items were checked out through Drive-Thru.
- 957 items were checked out through the On-site Lockers.
- 173 items were checked out through the BRAC Lockers.

Collection Services (Christina Theobald)

Department Summary

- The new children's shelving debuted this month! We have received several positive comments from patrons and staff. The new lower shelving greatly increases accessibility for patrons and provides improved sightlines for safety and security. The shelving also showcases our collections in front-facing shelves, enhancing browsing and discovery of our library materials. There are also fun activities for kids to play with on select endpanels and cushioned seating embedded within the shelves. We collaborated with Communications to produce collection signage, which Brett and Katie installed later in the month. Many thanks to Circulation, Facilities, Children's, Communications and Collection Services Departments for their hard work to make this dream a reality!





- We added a new eResource called **Lote4Kids**, which is a collection of digital picture books in over 100+ languages. Lily provided a demonstration of the new eResource at this month's Collection Usage Committee meeting.
- Brett facilitated the 2027 Awards Nominee books and ensured they were made available and on display by early May.
- Lily and Christina attended the PinDigital Committee meeting hosted at the Shorewood-Troy Library. Officer elections were held for the upcoming fiscal year, and Lily will be taking on the position of Chair. Lily's main duties will include running meetings, preparing the agendas and weekly ordering of digital materials selected by the committee members.
- Liz has been working to transition particular workflows from the Polaris Staff Client to the Leap web environment. Liz met with our Pinnacle Director to troubleshoot printer settings. The proper settings have now been established for the Collection's Leap workstation, ensuring all staff can print call labels in Leap moving forward.
- Christina, Liz, Lily and Kelly attended the RAILS Collection Development Networking meeting. Christina and Lily attended two webinars on the Palace Project app. Christina also attended a webinar called *Leading with Purpose: The Coaching Approach*. Chris and Isabel completed a two week course called *Focus on Cataloging Realia*. This month Kelly completed her green sheet orientations, having attended orientations for CSD, Outreach and Studio 300.

Department Statistics

- 3,616 new items were added to the collection.
- 4,596 old and worn items were withdrawn from circulation.
- 237 incoming interlibrary loans were processed for our patrons.
- 222 outgoing interlibrary loans were shared with other libraries.
- 337 items were repaired, 358 invoices were paid and 303 boxes were opened.
- 7.2% of collection is considered "dead", defined as items not circulated in 2 years. We are under the standard recommendation of less than 10% dead.
- 5.7% of collection is considered "grubby", defined as having circulated 75 times or more. We are under the standard recommendation of less than 10% grubby.

Collection Highlights

- 17% increase in digital circulation compared to last year.
- Digital circulation was 27% of the library's total circulation, which is the highest percentage to date.
- Juvenile Nonfiction and Studio 300 equipment experienced the highest positive circulation growth, with 318 more circs in each collection and 13% and 18% increases compared to last year.
- Following in circulation growth was Adult and YA Video Games, collectively garnering 321 more circs compared to last year.
- Juvenile World Languages and Magazines also experienced significant positive circulation growth.
- The most popular collections in May were Picture Books, Movies & TV, Adult Fiction and Adult Nonfiction books.
- 2,152 circs were yielded from a total of 38 displays. The most popular Lobby displays were the *Gardening* and *Movie Binge Box* displays. The most popular Children's displays were *1,000 Books Before Kindergarten*, *Kindness Day* and *Trucks*.
- 63 circs were garnered from Teen Book Bundles, the highest monthly circs yet!
- The most popular adult fiction books were *A Woman's Place* by Danielle Steel, *Chasing the Clouds Away* by Debbie Macomber and *Dear Debbie* by Freida McFadden.
- The most popular adult nonfiction books were *The Let Them Theory* by Mel Robbins, *Famesick: a Memoir* by Lea Dunham and *Happy Plants: 100 things to grow to make you smile and how to make them happy too* by Zia Allaway.
- The most popular Juvenile books were *Dog Man: Big Jim Believes* by Dav Pilkey and *K-Pop Demon Hunters: the official deluxe junior novelization* by Jessica Yoon. The most popular picture books were *It's My Bird-Day!* by Mo Willems, *Copycat* and *Bluey: Bingo*.
- The most popular teen books were *Sunrise on the Reaping* and *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* by Suzanne Collins, and *Good Girl, Bad Blood* by Holly Jackson.
- The most popular movies were *Send Help*, *Mercy*, *Shelter*, *Solo Mio* and *Wuthering Heights*.

Circulation by Branch

**Due to the CSD Shelving Project, half of the Children's collections were unavailable until May 5th.*

Branch	May 2025	May 2026	Change	% Changed
Building	41319	38747	-2572	-6.22%
Outreach	3896	3276	-620	-15.91%
Studio	1754	2073	319	18.19%
Digital	13568	15906	2338	17.23%
Totals	60537	60002	-535	-0.88%

Digital Collection Usage

Digital Platform	May 2025	May 2026	Change	% Changed
Freegal Music	650	2119	1469	226.00%
Hoopla	3751	4255	504	13.44%
Kanopy	497	445	-52	-10.46%
Libby	8264	8644	380	4.60%
Palace Project	208	95	-113	-54.33%
PressReader	198	348	150	75.76%
Totals	13568	15906	2338	17.23%

Displays





Communications (Melissa Bradley)

Department Highlights

- Our Google Ads had 22,267 impressions and 2,418 clicks.
 - Campaigns with the most impressions:
 - Kanopy: 8,608 impressions; 792 clicks
 - Facebook: 3,733 impressions; 753 clicks
 - Digital Media: 3,071 impressions; 305 clicks
- We auto-renewed 233 library cards with Patron Point.
- We scheduled, wrote/edited and published 15 blog posts.
- Melissa met with the photographer from 3Branch to photograph the new Children's Services shelving.
- Melissa and Sabrina attended the ILA Marketing Forum's Mini Conference.
- Steven continued working with IT and Communico to implement the Stripe integration for the forthcoming self-checks.
- Melissa and Sabrina designed and printed the new Children's Services shelving signage.
- The Communications team worked all month long to launch Summer Adventure. We created several marketing pieces, built the programs in READsquared, updated the website and more.
- Sabrina completed all of the marketing materials for Summer Adventure, including the reading logs, elevator wraps, TV slides, spot the knight clue sheet, display signs and much more. She also created materials for the Ice Cream Social, Children's Safety Week, Outreach and Collection Services.





Media

- [The Patch](#) mentioned us in their Kindness Day coverage.

Social Media Metrics

Facebook

- 51 new followers
- 47,086 content views
- 2,372 page visits
- 608 engagements (likes, comments, clicks, saves & shares)

Instagram

- 8 new followers
- 6,313 content views
- 4,540 reel views
- 285 post engagements (likes, comments, saves & shares)

TikTok

- 55 new followers
- 9,598 content views
- 131 page visits
- 964 post engagements (likes, comments, favorites & shares)

YouTube

- 4 videos & 3 shorts published
- 19 new subscribers (2,168 total)
- 7,569 content views
- 290.3 hours of watch time
- 43,424 impressions (video thumbnails shown to viewers)

Email Marketing Metrics

MailChimp Blogs:

- 2,956 subscribers
- Average open rate: 16.77% (industry average is 29.5%)
- Average click rate: 0.86% (industry average is 2%)

Patron Point:

- Average open rate: 63.72% (industry average is 29.5%)
- Average click rate: 9.86% (industry average is 2%)

Facilities Operations (Tasos Priovolos)

Department Summary

- We continue to work with the general contractor to finalize a few punch-list items on the new monument sign. This is expected to be completed in the next few weeks.
- The punchlist items and some minor corrections to the shelving in the Children's Department are being completed. This project, along with punch-list items should also be completed in the next few weeks.
- We continue to work with the parking lot project contractor to address some soil settling and replacement of some shrubs that didn't survive the winter.
- Our irrigation system has been repaired and restored in the areas that were changed during the parking lot and drainage project.
- Working with the architect and general contractor to order the parts needed for the 2026 Lighting project which is scheduled to begin later this year.
- Along with other staff, met with our architects to discuss possible design changes to the 1st floor lobby area.

Zendesk

In May, 52 new maintenance tickets were created, and 53 new or existing tickets were completed.

Finance (Jennie Nguyen)

Highlights

- **Fiscal Year 2027 Budget** - The Finance Manager collaborated with the Executive Director to review, update and finalize the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The working budget report will be presented to the board of trustees at the June 18, 2026 board meeting for approval.
- **2026 Year End Purchase Closing** - In preparation for the fiscal year end, the district managers were requested to notate the fiscal year they wish the expenditures to be allocated to as they continue to process their purchase requests. Budgets will be reviewed and budget amendments will be submitted by the district manager, as needed.
- **BS&A Training** - 05/28/2026: BS&A software training was provided by Finance to the new HR Specialist, Lauren Schertz. An overview of the software and was trained on how to create and submit requisitions for the HR department.

Human Resources (Elena Flores)

Staffing

New Hires

- Lauren Schertz - Human Resources Specialist - 5/11

Open Positions

- Studio Services Specialist - Candidate Selected
- Adult and Teen Services Specialist (2) - Candidates Selected
- Adult Services Programming Librarian - Accepting Applications

Departures

- Nicholas Mitchel - Adult Services Programming Librarian - 5/6

Special Projects

- Partnered with our health insurance Broker, MMA, to prepare for open enrollment in June. This included updating all of the marketing materials and the online enrollment platform.

Information Technology (John Matysek)

Highlights

- During the month of May, 79 new help desk tickets were created by FPLD staff, and 75 new or existing tickets were solved by IT staff.
- Worked with Facilities to have multiple additional power outlets installed in the workbench areas in the IT staff workroom.
- Met with vendor TDI Vertical for a status update concerning the upcoming project to upgrade the library's Windows based servers and underlying VMware software to the latest recommended versions.
- Updated Microsoft Windows on all library servers.
- Updated the underlying VMware vSphere system software on the main network server.
- Updated the most popular utility software on all Windows based patron computers.
- Along with Jose Robles, Ben Jansen, and Aidan Bennett, configured and deployed a computer for patron use in the Local History room to view microfilm documents.
- Continued working with vendor TDI Vertical to discuss options on reconfiguring the library phone system to provide specialized call handling capabilities for Studio 300.
- Along with Jose Robles, Ben Jansen, and Aidan Bennett, completed configuration and deployed a new mini PC for use on the Bookmobile to power digital signage on both the internal and external displays.

Outreach Services (Tana Petrov)

Department Summary

- This month, the Outreach team focused on collecting materials from local schools and promoting the Summer Adventure Program and Ice Cream Social. Along with book talks, we brought puppets and demonstrated technology devices for students, including Launchpads, STEAMboxes, and WhaZoodles.
- Outreach staff attended several professional development opportunities this month, including the Reaching Forward Conference and the B'Long (Bookmobile and Library Outreach Networking Group) meeting.
- We worked on our upcoming Story Strolls at Bulldog Park, discussed our outdoor summer programs at Annerino Community Center, reviewed Summer Adventure Program procedures, and attended a ReadSquared refresher training.
- Outreach and Teen Services represented the library at Brooks Middle School Family Night, which featured guest author Pedro Martín, author of *Mexikid*. He gave a presentation, and families had their books signed afterward.
- We attended the Taste of Bolingbrook event. We brought cookbooks and giveaways: aprons, whisks, spice kits, and “foodie” coloring sheets and crayons.
- The vehicles received their bi-annual preventative maintenance through Odyne, TransChicago, and Mercedes-Benz. In preparation for upcoming summer events, all three vehicles were professionally cleaned, the Bookmobile and Van stairs were lubricated, and routine safety and fluid checks were completed.

Programming Highlights

- On May 2nd, we celebrated Comic Book Day on the Bookmobile at our regular Target community stop. Over 50 people attended and enjoyed free comics, buttons, magnets, and Dog Man posters, and checked out book bundles.

- Both of the Outreach senior book clubs are going well. At Heritage Woods, the group continued to enjoy the “Bring Your Own Book” format. StoryPoint book club will be discussing the book called, “The Maid’s Secret” by Nita Prose.
- On May 16th, in addition to Kindness Day, we hosted our Fairy Garden Party at the Promenade in the parking lot of Macy’s and we also used their lobby. Activities included a fairy dust necklace craft, fairy tattoos, a fairy name activity, bubbles, flower bucket games, treat bags, and a scavenger hunt. The Promenade provided three Disney fairies, whose performers engaged wonderfully with attendees. Almost 300 people attended and 60 Kindness Bags were distributed.



- The theme for the Ashbury’s location was “Celebrate Everything Peanut Butter,” featuring a Reese’s Pieces guessing game with a jar of Reese’s Pieces as the prize. We are happy to report we’ve built a group of regular patrons at this stop.

Department Statistics

- 3246 listeners attended booktalks
- 3200 outreach checkouts
- 919 preschoolers attended storytimes
- 761 items retrieved from the off-site book drops
- 726 reference questions answered
- 568 visitors to the outreach vehicles
- 15 home-delivery patrons were served
- 10 volunteer hours completed

Studio 300 (Jacinto Gonzalez)

Department Summary

In May, we spent time doing equipment testing and in-house repairs. The department focused on both hands-on patron engagement and behind-the-scenes equipment maintenance and upgrading.

A major highlight this month was the success of in-person programming having higher attendance, including Film Club and Open Mic Night. Patrons continued to show strong interest in creative and hands-on programming formats.

Staff also did major technical work with the continued rollout and testing of the Xtool laser cutter, alongside ongoing embroidery training and audio equipment troubleshooting.

Key department highlights and trends:

- Continued testing of Xtool laser cutter system
- Embroidery training and production work across staff
- Audio equipment repair and maintenance (MOTU interfaces)
- Continued integration of:
 - Equipment cards
 - Kit verification
 - Studio workflow documentation improvements
- 6 candidates interviewed for Studio position; new hire selected
- Multiple one-on-one patron sessions across:
 - Audio production and podcasting
 - 3D printing and file troubleshooting
 - Photoshop and design software
 - Embroidery and machine digitizing

Programming Highlights

Film Club (In-Person Screening)

Adriana hosted the first in-person Film Club of the year, featuring *The Princess Bride*.

- 30-minute post-film discussion
- Good patron feedback requesting more in-person screenings
- Plan to repeat in-person format annually

Open Mic Night

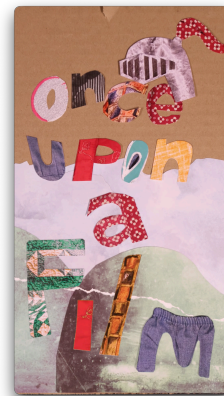
Jack hosted a successful return of Open Mic Night, responding to ongoing patron requests to bring the program back.

- Good participation and positive feedback will continue open mic quarterly

ShortHaus + Film Programming Development

Ruth continued hosting ShortHaus club and supported promotion for the upcoming Short Film Competition.

- Marketing campaign development for film competition



- Stop-motion promotional content tied to Summer Reading

Anatomy of Writing Series & Writers Programming

Connor continued the Anatomy of writing series

- “Villains” writing program hosted with strong engagement
- Guest speaker Andi from CSD talked about middle-grade writing to the writers group
- Writers Group preparing for second anthology, with submissions already received

Vacuum Former Teen Collaboration Program

Mark led a Teen and Studio collaboration using the vacuum former to build model planes.

Department Statistics

- **152** circulating equipment checkouts
- **8 programs** with **56 total attendees**
- **196** patrons used the audio booths
- **96** used the general conference rooms
- **41** used podcast studios
- **120** used video suites
- **263** Computer sessions

Fountaindale Public Library May 2026 Statistics

Membership

- Active cardholders: 40,084
- New cardholders: 194
- Total visits: 27,037

Circulation

Building	Outreach	Lockers	Digital	Total
39,863 (66.4%)	3,103 (5.2%)	1,130 (1.9%)	15,906 (26.5%)	57,966

Interlibrary Loan

- Items received for patrons: 237
- Items sent to other libraries: 222

Collection

- Total physical items owned: 206,789
- New physical items added: 3,616

Programming

Programs Offered

Children	Teens	Adults	Cross-Departmental	Online	Total
188	27	46	0	4	265

Programming Attendance

Children	Teens	Adults	Cross-Departmental	Online	Total
5,340	195	497	0	7,569	13,601

Reference

Directional Questions	Reference Questions	One-on-One Sessions
2,407	3,244	290

Spaces

Meeting Room Usage	Study Room Usage	Studio Room Usage
77	471	194

Technology

Wireless sessions	Computer usage	Website visits
17,485	2,767	31,825

Social Media

Facebook Likes	Instagram Followers	TikTok Followers
6,503	2,239	1,746

Comparisons

Comparison	This Year	Last Year	% Change
Circulation	60,002	60,537	-0.88%
Visitors	27,037	23,566	14.73%
Cardholders	40,084	33,974	17.98%
Room Bookings	804	846	-4.96%
Reference Questions	3,244	3,226	0.56%
Computer Usage	2,767	2,991	-7.49%
Wi-Fi	17,485	17,629	-0.82%
Programs	13,601	18,945	-28.21%