

FOUNTAINDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

May 21, 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/CPN84qB3zjs>

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call of Trustees**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Approval of Agenda**
4. **Minutes for Approval**
 - a. Board Meeting – April 16, 2026
 - b. Executive Session – April 16, 2026
5. **Comments from the Public**
6. **Friends of the Library**
7. **New Business – Action Items**
 - a. Approval of Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Staff Health Insurance
8. **Library Projects**
9. **Correspondence**
10. **Treasurer’s Report**
11. **Bills for Approval**
 - a. Bills Paid Report – May 2026
 - b. Bills Payable Report – May 2026
12. **Director’s Report – April 2026**
13. **Unfinished Business**
14. **Reports**
 - a. Building
 - b. Finance
 - c. Strategic
 - d. Internal Board Operations
15. **Agenda Building for Next Meeting**
16. **Announcements**
17. **Adjournment**

May 2026 Agenda Background

Paul Mills

7. New Business – Action Items

- a. Approval of Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Staff Health Insurance

Please see the included memo for an in-depth review.

Suggested Motion: Motion to fund the allocation for insurance at \$10,750 per eligible employee for those employees selecting health insurance and to fund an allocation of \$500 for those employees who do not select health insurance but wish to select dental, vision, life or AFLAC products.

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
FOUNTAINDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT
WILL AND DUPAGE COUNTIES, ILLINOIS
HELD APRIL 16, 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, April 16, 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 Marcelo Valencia, Kathryn Spindel, Sarah Siska, Meraj Alam, Jim Daunis Jr. and Celeste Bermejo.

ABSENT

Trustee Bobby Armstrong

Trustee Armstrong was out of town for work and was unable to attend the meeting in person.

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, Jennie Mills, Ron McGrath and Bill Rieser.

APPROVAL OF TRUSTEE PARTICIPATION IN APRIL 16, 2026 BOARD MEETING BY MEANS OTHER THAN BEING PHYSICALLY PRESENT

President Bermejo reported that per Section 7 of the Open Meetings Act, she and Board Recorder Juanita Lennon received a written request from Trustee Bobby Armstrong to attend the April 16, 2026 Board Meeting by means other than being physically present. Trustee Armstrong wrote that due to his work obligations, he could not attend the Board Meeting this evening in person. Bermejo noted that employment purposes is one of the allowable reasons under the Open Meetings Act to request attendance and participation by means other than being physically present. Bermejo further reported that per Board Bylaws in Article III, Section 8, the trustees who are physically present shall determine by majority vote whether a trustee who is not physically in attendance may participate by other means – in this case, Zoom. If the vote is in favor, the trustee may vote on matters before the Board.

A motion to approve the Trustee Bobby Armstrong's request to participate in the April 16, 2026 Board Meeting by other means other than being physically present was made by Daunis, seconded by Valencia.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Armstrong

AGENDA APPROVAL

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

A motion was made by Daunis, seconded by Alam.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING – MARCH 19, 2026

The minutes of the board meeting held March 19, 2026 were presented. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Spindel, seconded by Valencia. Minutes were approved as read.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Bill Rieser, Treasurer from the Friends, presented a report for the Friends Spring Book Sale. The grand total for the three-day sale was \$3,040.30. The Friends have put a callout for donations as their book inventory has dwindled from the sale.

Rieser also mentioned that the Friends have received 83 free book coupons to date from the Children's Winter Reading Challenge.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Bear Construction Co. Bid for 2026 Interior Lighting Replacement Project

Ron McGrath from Tria Architecture reviewed the two bids that were received. McGrath recommended Bear Construction Co.'s bid as the lowest responsible bidder. McGrath also noted that the Board may elect to reject all bids and re-bid in the Fall. Discussion ensued regarding the options.

A motion to approve Bear Construction Co. Bid for the 2026 Interior Lighting Replacement Project for \$1,226,159 was made by Valencia, seconded by Alam.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

Approval of Request to Travel for Trustees to Attend 2026 American Library Association Annual Conference in Chicago, IL: June 25–29, 2026

Mills reported that a request for trustees to attend a national conference requires Board approval.

A motion to approve the request to travel for Trustees to attend the 2026 American Library Association Annual Conference in Chicago, IL: June 25–29, 2026 was made by Valencia, seconded by Spindel.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

LIBRARY PROJECTS

Executive Director Mills announced that the new digital sign has been connected and is operational. The remaining stonework will be completed next week. The sign height has to be adjusted before the stonework is installed.

The Children's Services shelving project is moving along quickly and may be completed much earlier than anticipated.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

BILLS FOR APPROVAL

Bills Paid Report – April 2026

Bills paid for the month of April in the amount of \$95,617.10 was presented for approval. A motion to approve was made by Sanuis, seconded by Valencia.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

Bills Payable Report – April 2026

Bills payable for the month of April in the amount of \$218,323.09 was presented for approval. A motion to approve was made by Spindel, seconded by Daunis.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – MARCH 2026

Mills reported that the Public Library Association Conference was very informative.

Mills shared that he attended several presentations given by Sam Helmick, the American Library Association President. Helmick will be the keynote speaker at the first Pinnacle Conference in August.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

REPORTS

Building

None.

Finance

None.

Strategic Plan

None.

Internal Board Operations

None.

AGENDA BUILDING FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The staff health insurance renewal will be on the agenda next month. Mills and Human Resources Manager, Elena Flores, are working with the District's broker on different options.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Daunis commented that the scavenger hunt in the Children's Services Department was very well done.

The Bolingbrook Community Closet Spring Pop-up this week was very successful, and the organization was able to clothe about 500 people.

Lastly, Daunis announced that the Bolingbrook Community Closet has been approved as a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization. Among the Board members are Trustee Daunis, Jen Daunis, Trustee Alam, and Trustee Siska.

The Valencia Boxing Foundation Benefit Gala will be on Tuesday, May 5 at the Bolingbrook Golf Club.

Fountaindale will once again host a State of Illinois Employment Job Fair on Wednesday, July 29.

Trustee Valencia will celebrate his 5th wedding anniversary later this month.

The Board wished Trustee Alam a happy birthday.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Spindel, seconded by Siska, to enter Executive Session at 7:43 p.m. for Personnel 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."

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

A motion was made by Valencia, seconded by Alam, to return to Open Session at 8:22 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMPENSATION ADJUSTMENT

A motion to approve the Executive Director compensation adjustment of a 3% merit increase, five additional vacation days and a \$8,000 bonus to be paid during the current Fiscal Year 2025/2026 for Executive Director Paul Mills was made by Valencia, seconded by Siska.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. was made by Valencia, seconded by Alam.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

Approved: _____
Robert Armstrong, Secretary

Celeste M. Bermejo, President

Memorandum

From: Elena Flores, Human Resources Manager

To: Board of Trustees

Subject: Employee Health Insurance Renewal for 2026/2027

Date: May 21, 2026

History

- 2022/2023 - Total increase for medical 3.55% and dental increase by 0%.
 - Board approved annual allocation: \$7,000
- 2023/2024 - Total increase for medical 5.94% and dental increase by 0%.
 - Board approved annual allocation: \$7,300
- 2024/2025 - Total increase for medical 12% and dental increase by 2.5%.
 - Board approved annual allocation: \$8,200
- 2025/2026 - Total increase for medical 14.03% and dental increase by 10%.
 - Board approved annual allocation: \$9,200

Background

- Current Medical and Dental coverage is with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois
- The current number of total eligible full-time employees are 62
- An allocation of \$500.00 is available for those employees who do not elect medical coverage, allowing the employee the opportunity to select dental and/or vision products. Family coverage is available at the employee's expense
- Employees also have an option of additional health plans for an additional cost

Discussion

According to the HR Source 2025 Library Survey, the average percentage of premium paid by a library for single coverage HMO from 77 area libraries participating is 83.9%

Medical Renewal

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois (BCBSIL) issued an initial renewal with a 34.1% increase. Ashton Harnung, Account Executive with Marsh McClennan Agency, worked with the underwriters to revise the renewal bringing it to a 30.21% increase in overall renewal rates. The District appreciates Ashton's actions on behalf of our organization. The District will continue to offer the same five medical plans for employees, ensuring continuity of coverage and provider access.

Dental Renewal

BCBSIL proposed a 12.5% increase to the District's current dental plans. After further review, the District elected to transition dental coverage to Mutual of Omaha. This change is expected to generate an 8% cost savings while maintaining comparable plan design and coverage levels for employees.

Vision Renewal

Vision coverage, currently provided through EyeMed, reflected no rate increase at renewal. However, the District has chosen to transition vision coverage to Mutual of Omaha. This transition supports consolidation of ancillary benefits under a single carrier, improving administrative efficiency and providing a more streamlined experience for employees.

Life and AD&D Renewal

Basic Life and AD&D coverage, currently provided through Dearborn Group, will transition to Mutual of Omaha. The annual premium will decrease from \$7,828 to \$3,518, generating meaningful cost savings for the District. This change also supports the District's goal of consolidating ancillary benefits under a single carrier to streamline administration. The District will continue to provide employer-paid Life and AD&D insurance for all benefit-eligible employees.

Recommendation

In response to increased medical premium rates, it is recommended that the District raise its per-employee contribution from \$9,200 to \$10,750. This adjustment maintains consistency in the District's share of benefit costs relative to the prior year. It is recommended that the \$500 allocation for employees waiving medical coverage be continued, as it adequately covers the cost of single dental and/or vision coverage.

This valuable benefit continues to play a key role in supporting recruitment and retention efforts. The proposed funding will cover the following percentages for single medical, dental, and vision coverage:

<i>Medical Plans</i>	<i>2025/2026</i>	<i>Proposed 2026/2027</i>	<i>Employees Covered</i>
HMO	100.00%	100.00%	20
PPO Select \$500	93.98%	82.90%	19
PPO Select \$1000	96.31%	84.98%	10
PPO+	78.25%	67.67%	10
HDHP/ HSA	84.19%	72.87%	0

Out of the 62 benefit eligible staff, 3 staff members have currently waived participation in the District's group medical plan. If qualifying circumstances change, they may enroll during the year.

Suggested Motion

Motion to fund the allocation for insurance at \$10,750 per eligible employee for those employees selecting health insurance and to fund an allocation of \$500.00 for those employees who do not select health insurance but wish to select dental and/or vision products.

April 2026 Monthly Board Report

Executive Director (Paul Mills)

Children's Shelving Project

The revamped area of our Children's Department is open for our patrons! We are very happy with the results, and we had a tremendous cross-departmental team lead the effort to make this project a reality. We are in the punchlist stage of this project with the vendor and anticipate wrapping that up soon.

Monument Sign Project

Our monument sign project is complete! The new sign is operational, and we have already heard feedback from patrons that they learned about programs we offered through displays on the sign. We are also in the punchlist stage of this project as well.

Deputy Director (Nancy Korczak)

Highlights

This month, the Public Services Department was busy starting the month with Spring Break. The Children's department hosted some great programs and a scavenger hunt and used the first week of the month to prep our regular visitors for the upcoming construction. It was great to see the work many of our departments did to make the Children's shelving a success. Our Children's staff have already received many compliments about the new shelving.

Our Circulation Department also did a great job this month when we received very short notice that our provider for license plate stickers was changing. Our Circ Manager was able to work with the new company, our Finance department and his staff to ensure our patrons saw no disruption in service.

Adult & Teen Services Report (Debra Dudek)

Department Summary

- The department debuted a staff curated Reader's Advisory Spreadsheet to provide on-demand reading recommendations at the service desks
 - Staff are contributing recommendations for physical items which are in our current collection
- Staff continued to restock and print off tax forms for patrons as needed
- 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, and Mental Health Awareness Month, National Poetry Month, and Climate Fiction

Adult Programming Highlights

- Get Gardening was the first large-scale event of the calendar year and garnered 70 attendees
- Our library received a grant from the Music Performance Trust Fund to host the Sam Burns Duo on April 26 to host a free performance for Jazz Appreciation Month
 - The concert attracted 27 attendees
- The department completed craft examples and most of the Fountain newsletter copy for Fall 2026
- Top Programs - Get Gardening (70), Lawyers in the Library (45), Cooking with Chef Maddox: Great Picnic Cuisine (39), Senior Social: History's Mysteries (31), Genealogy Club: Divorce in America (30), Sam Burns Jazz Duo (27), and R&B Line Dancing (25)

Teen Programming Highlights

- Teens continue to complete their volunteer hours for the year and completed 160 Teen Volunteer Book Recommendations
- The Vortex hosted its 2nd Annual Teen Rubber Duck Decorating Contest with 19 ducks on display. The winner received a \$25 Target gift card for a bedazzled beach-themed duck
- Spring Break Fest provided a great line up of programs including Beaded Bookmarks, Art Lab, and Game On!
- In conjunction with the Outreach department, Randi attended Brook Middle School's annual College & Career Fair to discuss library jobs, education and careers with over 400 teens
 - Teens received giveaways such as custom pinback buttons, bookmarks, and drawstring bags
- Top Programs - Teen Volunteering: Book Recommendations (164), Teen Rubber Duck Contest (28), Question of the Week (22), Early Release Craft (17), Early Release Movie: Coraline (12), Teen Movie Friday: SpongeBob Movie (11), and Anime Afternoon (10)

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 92% of their coursework and is on schedule to graduate early

Children's Services (Joyce Arellano)

Department Summary

- The Children's Services shelving project is nearly complete. The new shelves look wonderful! The space feels brighter and invites patrons to explore. The activity panels are a lot of fun. We can't wait for children and families to see the new space and re-discover our amazing collections.



Programming Highlights

- A patron sent a lovely email with feedback on our weekly Sensory Storytimes presented by Children's Services Specialist, Rachel. The email said, "Hi Ms. Rachel. Thank you so much for always, thank you for your patience, your kindness, your diligence, your compassion and thank you for your beautiful smiles. Sensory Storytime is an experience my children have grown to love and look forward to in their own way. We really love the ambiance, the lighting is just perfect as it quite mimics a sensory room with the assortment of toys and the serene atmosphere is super welcoming for all ages and it allows the children and everyone to enjoy the moment and absorb the book readings in their own way. Given that raising children with some neurodivergence comes with its own form of complexities on a daily basis, the sensory storytime session proves a space and moment for everyone to literally take a deep breath."
- Children's Services presented 98 active programs this month including My Little Soda Pop (Isabel), American Girl Tea Party (Rosemary and Rachel), Earth Day Flowers (Andi), Paint-Along Painting (Chris), Sewing with Sashiko (Adrienne), Ozobot Coding Club (Soko), We

Dig Fossils (Sarah), Dolly Party-on (Jordan and Annalise) and Preschool Prep at the Library (Christina and Isabel).



Department Statistics

- 1,882 patrons attended CSD's 98 active (synchronous) programs.
- 481 patrons participated in 6 passive (asynchronous) programs.
- 339 babies, toddlers and preschoolers are participating in 1000 Books Before Kindergarten. 19 new children signed up this month, and 3 children completed the program.
- 561 children are participating in Reading Dragons & Friends. 19 new children signed up this month.
- 768 reference questions were answered.
- 840 directional questions were answered.
- 13 one-on-one instruction sessions were completed.

Circulation Services (Jacob Luce)

Department Summary

- The Children's shelving project was completed. The Circulation Manager, Associate Manager, Aides, some Collection Services staff and some Children's Services staff all pitched in to help shelve the large amount of carts of materials that had been returned during the shelving project. Balancing and shifting of the collection also took place prior to the opening of the Children's area.
- 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 April. The Aides have cleaned Large Print and World Language on the 3rd floor. The cleaning for the 3rd floor shelving is now complete. Starting in May the Aides will continue cleaning, starting with the 2nd floor Young Adult collection.
- License plate sticker renewal through SSLT ceased April 15th. The Circulation Manager and Deputy Director located a new license plate sticker company, ELS. The start of the service was set up in coordination with ELS to coincide with the ending of SSLT, so there would be no lapse in the license plate sticker renewal service for our patrons.
- The Circulation Manager and Assistant Manager attended ELS license plate sticker renewal training. The Assistant Manager developed license plate sticker renewal training materials based on the new ELS website. The Assistant Manager successfully trained all the Circulation Specialists and Lead Specialists on the new ELS website.
- The AMH had its annual routine maintenance completed on April 30th.
- Throughout the month, the following Circulation staff helped pull pick lists: Jorie (6).
- The average number of adults visiting the library during the month of April was 23,349; the average number of Children visiting was 2,090.

Department Statistics

- 176 new library cards were issued in person, 19 of those being reciprocal borrower cards, 41 patrons signed up for library cards online.
- 173 license plate stickers were renewed, a 30% increase from April 2025.
- 360 patrons utilized our Drive-Thru.
- 1,797 items were checked out through Drive-Thru.
- 813 items were checked out through the On-site Lockers.
- 136 items were checked out through the BRAC Lockers.

Collection Services (Christina Theobald)

Department Summary

- Kelly Haras joined the Library and the Collection Services Department this month. Kelly is our new Collection Services Librarian and will be doing collection development for Adult books and audiobooks. We're so happy to have Kelly on our team!
- The Children's Shelving Project went into full swing this month. In early April, the left half of the Children's Services Area was partitioned off as we worked to empty the old shelves and install brand new shelving for the Picture Books, Easy Readers and Juvenile AV collections. Joyce, Tasos, Jake and Christina effectively worked together to consult with the architects, shelving installers and the moving company to implement the new shelves. Additionally, staff from CSD, Circulation, Facilities and the Collections Department have successfully collaborated to accomplish several tasks and moving parts of the project. Melissa and Sabrina in Communications are working on collection signage which will soon be added to make the area complete. We plan to reopen this side of CSD in early May and are two weeks ahead of schedule!
- In late March/early April, Christina traveled to the Public Library Association Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She attended several informative sessions, including *Creating Inclusive Collections for Patrons with Disabilities*, *Middle Management in the Grey: Strategies for Success in Public Libraries*, *MHOT or Not: a Materials Handling Operations Team for Libraries* and *e-Obsessed: Manage Resources, Expectations and Demand for Libby Lovers*. Christina spoke with library vendors and toured the exhibits. She received updates from Amazon regarding their upcoming EDI functionality and talked with Library One about their plans for acquiring Baker & Taylor's Titlesource 360 ordering platform. Additionally, Christina attended the Library Journal's Author Event and listened to several authors speak about their new books. Overall, the PLA Conference was a valuable experience and a great learning and networking opportunity.

- Christine Jason published a new issue of her newsletter, with this issue entitled, *Time to Read a Good Book*.
- Isabel completed a two week course on cataloging 3D objects and also attended two webinars, *Critical Cataloging and Librarianship Today* and one focusing on the cataloging of comics and graphic novels. Bini attended the webinar *Meeting People Where They Are: Human-Centered Service in Today's Libraries*. Christina attended the webinars *An Introduction to Passive Reader's Advisory*, *Adult Selection Essentials with Ingram iPage* and *Practical Tips for Improved Digital Accessibility*.

Department Statistics

- 2,916 new items were added to the collection.
- 2,240 old and worn items were withdrawn from circulation.
- 184 incoming interlibrary loans were processed for our patrons.
- 184 outgoing interlibrary loans were shared with other libraries.
- 361 items were repaired, 334 invoices were paid and 227 boxes were opened.
- 8.7% of collection is considered "dead", defined as items not circulated in 2 years. We are under the standard recommendation of less than 10% dead.
- 4.1% 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

- 19% increase in digital circulation compared to last year.
- Digital circulation was 26% of the library's total circulation.
- Studio 300 equipment experienced the highest positive circulation growth, with 288 more circs and a 15% increase compared to last year.
- Following in circulation growth was YA Graphic Novels, garnering 249 more circs and a 22% increase and Juvenile Nonfiction with 218 more circs and a 6% increase.
- Young Adult Video Games and Juvenile Graphic Novels also experienced significant positive circulation growth.

- The most popular collections in April were Picture Books, Movies & TV, Adult Fiction and Juvenile Nonfiction books.
- 2,069 circs were yielded from a total of 33 displays. The most popular were *Spring Holidays & Seasons* and *Get Gardening* with 302 and 153 circs.
- The most popular adult fiction books were *The Night We Met* by Abby Jimenez, *In Five Years* by Rebecca Serle and *Project Hail Mary* by Andy Weir.
- The most popular adult nonfiction books were *Nobody's Girl: a memoir of surviving abuse and fight for justice* by Virginia Roberts Giuffre, *Skinnytaste: high protein; 100 healthy, simple recipes to fuel your day* by Gina Homolka and *La Lucci* by Susan Lucci.
- The most popular Juvenile books were *Dog Man: Big Jim Believes* and *Dog Man: a Tale of Two Kitties*, both by Dav Pilkey and *Wings of Fire: the graphic novel volume 9* by Tui Sutherlandby. The most popular picture books were *It's My Bird-Day!* and *Elephants Cannot Dance* by Mo Willems.
- The most popular teen books were *Sunrise on the Reaping* and *Catching Fire*, both by Suzanne Collins and *Barron's ACT Study Guide Premium 2025* by Brian Stewart.
- The most popular movies were *Greenland 2: Migration*, *Mercy*, *Hamnet*, *The Housemaid* and *Marty Supreme*.

Circulation by Branch

*Half of the Children's collections were unavailable in April due to the shelving project.

Branch	Apr 2025	Apr 2026	Change	% Changed
Building	45017	34298	-10719	-23.81%
Outreach	6673	6509	-164	-2.46%
Studio	1859	2149	290	15.60%
Digital	12614	15010	2396	18.99%
Totals	66163	57966	-8197	-12.39%

Digital Collection Usage

Digital Platform	Apr 2025	Apr 2026	Change	% Changed
Palace Project	214	91	-123	-57.48%
Freegal Music	522	1284	762	145.98%
Hoopla	3465	4329	864	24.94%
Kanopy	351	512	161	45.87%
Libby	7739	8462	723	9.34%
PressReader	323	332	9	2.79%
Totals	12614	15010	2396	18.99%

Displays





Communications (Melissa Bradley)

Department Highlights

- Our Google Ads had 24,727 impressions and 2,733 clicks.
 - Campaigns with the most impressions:
 - Kanopy: 9,044 impressions; 843 clicks
 - Website Discovery: 3,646 impressions; 389 clicks
 - Digital Media: 3,477 impressions; 369 clicks
- We auto-renewed 161 library cards with Patron Point.
- We scheduled, wrote/edited and published 10 blog posts.
- Steven trained new staff on blogging and Communico.
- The Communications team met with Randi and Aysha to develop a plan for the Ultimate Book Nerd Reading Challenge launching next year.
- Melissa and Steven hosted two Staff Picks filming sessions.
- Melissa and Sabrina attended the ILA Marketing Forum's Virtual Mini Conference.
- Melissa and Sabrina met with Children's Services, Collection Services and Circulation to determine what signage was needed for the new Children's Services shelving.
- The new outside marquee is finally up and running. Melissa and Sabrina implemented their digital signage plan and created new slides to run on it.
- Melissa continued securing Summer Adventure sponsorships.
- Sabrina finalized the summer issue of *The Fountain*. She also created collateral for Summer Adventure, National Library Week, AANHPI Month and Kindness Day. She created a new 12-page Reading Dragons reading log in both English and Spanish.



Summer ADVENTURE

ONCE UPON A READ

June 1-July 31

<p>SIGN UP!</p> <p>Use your Fountaindale Public Library card to register online, at the library or on the Bookmobile.</p> <p>All ages can participate!</p> <p>Sign up and log your activities with READiscovered!</p>	<p>EARN POINTS!</p> <p>Complete and log your activities by July 31.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read or listen to a book for 30 minutes Read or listen to a new author or genre Read or listen to a staff pick Visit the Bookmobile Attend a library program Color, craft or make something Explore Studio 300 Spot the night each week Visit a park, museum or community event Checkout Challenge: check out five items Play a game Make up your own activity 	<p>GET PRIZES!</p> <p>Collect your prizes and earn entries into our grand prize drawings when you reach 25 and 50 points.</p> <p>Looking for more fun? Log 75 points to earn a bonus grand prize drawing entry!</p>
--	--	--

FOUNTAINDALE fountaindale.org/summer STAY CONNECTED

READING DRAGONS & FRIENDS

Name: _____

Grade: _____

NATIONAL LIBRARY OUTREACH DAY

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2-4 P.M.

Celebrate National Library Outreach Day in front of the library with our Bookmobile! Enjoy music and storytimes, make a basket and spin the wheel to win free books and cool prizes! Meet our Outreach team and learn about our services, such as Home Delivery Service, resources for teachers and students, special programs, Memory Care Kits and more!

HAPPY AANHPI MONTH!

fountaindale.org/aanhpi

Media

- [The Patch](#) mentioned us in their coverage of the Coffee with the Chiefs event.

Social Media Metrics

Facebook

- 43 new followers
- 29,787 content views
- 1,667 page visits
- 358 engagements (likes, comments, clicks, saves & shares)

Instagram

- 7 new followers
- 3,884 content views
- 3,227 reel views
- 203 post engagements (likes, comments, saves & shares)

TikTok

- 44 new followers
- 6,431 content views
- 144 page visits
- 761 post engagements (likes, comments, favorites & shares)

YouTube

- 13 new subscribers (2,152 total)
- 9,225 content views
- 308.8 hours of watch time
- 45,126 impressions (video thumbnails shown to viewers)

Email Marketing Metrics

MailChimp Blogs:

- 2,961 subscribers
- Average open rate: 20.83% (industry average is 29.5%)
- Average click rate: 1.03% (industry average is 2%)

Patron Point:

- Average open rate: 57.49% (industry average is 29.5%)
- Average click rate: 14.06% (industry average is 2%)

Facilities Operations (Tasos Priovolos)

Department Summary

- The monument sign project was completed this past month. We are currently working through walk-thrus and issuing punch-list items for some minor corrections to the sign.
- Now that the weather is slowly starting to warm up, we are working with the parking lot project contractor to address some soil settling and replacement of some shrubs that didn't survive the winter.
- The new shelving in Children's was installed. We will soon be working with the architect and contractor for a final walk-thru and punchlist review.
- Working with our landscaping irrigation contractor to schedule restoring our irrigation system which was removed during the parking lot and storm sewer project. This work should be completed sometime in May.
- Finalized the scope and design for the 2026 Lighting project and completed a public bidding for this project.
- We completed our annual fire sprinkler and fire/life-safety system inspections. These inspections are coordinated with the fire department and assures that all parts of the fire sprinkler and fire/life-safety system will function correctly in the event of a fire.

Zendesk

In April, 63 new maintenance tickets were created, and 60 new or existing tickets were completed.

Finance (Jennie Nguyen)

Highlights

- New Auto License Sticker Processing Vendor - Finance worked with the Circulation Department in setting up the new auto license sticker processing company, Electronic License Service, approval parameters with the Library's bank. The transactions would be automatically approved and be posted to the bank account. The previous processing company, SSLT, no longer provides this service as of April 15, 2026.
- FOIA Requests - The Library had received four FOIA requests.

Human Resources (Elena Flores)

New Hires

- Kelly Haras - Collection Services Librarian - 4/20

Open Positions

- Human Resources Specialist - Candidate Selected
- Studio Services Specialist - Accepting Applications
- Adult and Teen Services Specialist - Accepting Applications

Departures

- Ericka Wagner - Studio Services Specialist - 4/21

Information Technology (John Matysek)

Highlights

- During the month of April, 59 new help desk tickets were created by FPLD staff, and 62 new or existing tickets were solved by IT staff.
- Met with vendor TDI Vertical to discuss logistics for an upcoming project to upgrade the library's Windows based servers and underlying VMware software to the latest recommended versions.
- Along with Jose Robles, Ben Jansen, and Aidan Bennett, updated all of the cart based laptops used for library programs to the latest version of the Deep Freeze security software.
- Along with Joyce Arellano, attended a webinar demonstrating the capabilities of the Playaway Launchpad Quest product, a touchscreen tablet aimed at middle school aged children, and how it might benefit Fountaindale patrons.
- Worked with vendor TDI Vertical to upgrade the software/firmware of the library's Cisco edge switches on all four floors to the latest recommended version.
- Attended a webinar from vendor Barracuda about Google Workspace security and what Barracuda products can provide for the same.
- Along with Jose Robles, Ben Jansen, and Aidan Bennett, began configuring a new mini PC for use on the Bookmobile to power digital signage on both the internal and external displays.
- Met with vendor TDI Vertical to discuss options for reconfiguring the library phone system to provide specialized call handling capabilities for Studio 300.
- Along with Jose Robles, Ben Jansen, and Aidan Bennett, updated the Acceptable Usage Policy on all patron computers.

Outreach Services (Tana Petrov)

Department Summary

- On April 16, we attended Brooks College Fair with Teen Services. We had nearly 400 reference questions related to working in the library (424 attendees).
- On April 23, we attended Tibbott's STEM event. We brought puzzles, 3D pin art board, Etch-A-Sketch, and magnetic tiles as STEM activities (256 attendees).
- On April 24, we attended the Holi Mela event at Annerino. We displayed books about Holi, kites and India. We had a craft where kids would color on ziploc bags with watercolor markers, spritz it with water, and then place the paper on the bag. This resulted in color bursts all over the paper. It was fun to see the kids' reactions when they pulled their papers up (220 attendees).
- On April 24, we attended the Park District's Touch-A-Truck with the Library Express Van. We brought along giveaways, 3D Bookmobile cut-outs, display materials, coloring sheets, and other promotional items. We answered reference questions, assisted patrons, and checked-out quite a few books from the collection and our truck book display (518 attendees).



- Throughout the year, specialty carts have been created to bring to senior facilities, using items from the Outreach collection as well as materials that have been placed on the DOA list. Patrons who check out materials from the cart are eligible to enter a prize drawing. For the spring-themed cart, there were 11 participants and 34 entries for the drawing.

- This year marked the 10th anniversary of the Battle of the Books at VVSD, where a staff member attended as a judge. Pioneer Elementary School took first place.

Programming Highlights

- At Ashbury’s Bookmobile stop the theme for April was “Earth Day Fun” and we handed-out plantable wildflower seed circles. These programs have been helping us to get more patrons at Ashbury’s Bookmobile stop.
- On April 22, we celebrated National Outreach Library Day with a special event featuring the Bookmobile. Patrons learned about outreach and participated in prize giveaways, trivia, button making, storytime and more (160 attendees).



Department Statistics

- 6373 outreach checkouts
- 3068 listeners attended booktalks
- 1683 visitors to the outreach vehicles
- 1199 reference questions answered
- 888 items retrieved from the off-site book drops
- 696 preschoolers attended storytimes
- 8 home-delivery patrons were served
- 6 volunteer hours completed

Studio 300 (Jacinto Gonzalez)

Department Summary

Staff continued supporting patrons in AV equipment and the makerlab while also working on organizational projects designed to improve workflows, accessibility, and patron support.

One of the department's biggest developments this month was the decision to move forward with the purchase of the Xtool P3 laser cutter after staff met with an Xtool representative for a demonstration and discussion. Staff completed the purchasing process, including account setup and tax exemption documentation, as part of the Studio's ongoing evaluation and replacement planning for aging equipment. The Xtool is an upgrade to the Glowforge. At 230 lbs, the machine is a pro-grade maker equipment that will allow patrons not only to create on flat surfaces, but with its rotary tool, they can now work on tumblers, bottles, and other cylindrical objects. It also has an improved filtration and cooling system.

Staff also did updates to the Studio 300 Orientation, including a new voiceover and transcript to improve accessibility and ensure alignment with updated policies. The revised orientation was submitted to Communications and updated in Niche Academy. Work also began on translating the Studio Orientation into Spanish to improve accessibility for additional patrons.

Programming this month focused on hands-on creative learning and film/media engagement. Our community explored embroidery, camera equipment, paper engineering, writing, and digital illustration. Staff also continued developing and refining internal trainings, including YouTube-ready Maker Trainings and updated sublimation tutorials.

Key department highlights and trends:

- 21 new equipment cards done this month for camera and equipment kits
- Continued expansion of the Studio's color-coded organization system for photography and audio accessories

- Multiple one-on-one patron sessions:
 - PRS100 embroidery techniques
 - Podcasting and audio equipment
 - Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator workflows
 - Camera equipment and lighting

Additional operational highlights:

- Xtool P3 laser cutter
- Updated Studio 300 Orientation finalized and uploaded to Niche Academy
- Maker Trainings prepared for YouTube migration
- Equipment maintenance and testing completed for audio interfaces and embroidery equipment
- Staff continued professional development through embroidery training, Adobe Illustrator learning, After Effects coursework, and equipment troubleshooting

Programming Highlights

Which Camera is Right for You?

Ruth hosted a hands-on camera workshop where patrons explored our camera options and tested equipment. Sample footage from each camera was prepared in advance to help attendees compare features and image quality.

Pop-Up Book Introduction

Jacinto introduced patrons to paper engineering techniques through a beginner-friendly pop-up book workshop. Participants learned how folds and paper structures can create dimensional effects and interactive designs.

Anatomy of Writing: Villains

Connor hosted the second session in the Anatomy of Writing series, focusing on villains and character development. Participants engaged in a discussion about villain archetypes and storytelling techniques.

Teen Button Art Free-for-All

Monica hosted a creative teen-focused program where participants explored sewing, button art, and social crafting.

Other Programs

- ShortHaus featured a discussion on filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami and preparations for the Third Annual Short Film Competition.
- Jack hosted a program demonstrating the Curio 2 vinyl cutter, showcasing how fabric sketching can support hand embroidery projects.
- Writers Group welcomed guest speaker Andi Tonnies from Children's to discuss middle-grade fiction and interactive writing exercises.

Department Statistics

- **11 programs** with **75 total attendees**
- **183** patrons used the audio booths
- **175** used the general conference rooms
- **73** used podcast studios
- **107** used video suites
- **282** Computer sessions

Fountaindale Public Library April 2026 Statistics

Membership

- Active cardholders: 40,084
- New cardholders: 194
- Total visits: 28,152

Circulation

Building	Outreach	Lockers	Digital	Total
35,634 (61.5%)	6,373 (11%)	949 (1.6%)	15,010 (25.9%)	57,966

Interlibrary Loan

- Items received for patrons: 184
- Items sent to other libraries: 184

Collection

- Total physical items owned: 208,020
- New physical items added: 2,916

Programming

Programs Offered

Children	Teens	Adults	Cross-Departmental	Online	Total
243	42	59	0	3	346

Programming Attendance

Children	Teens	Adults	Cross-Departmental	Online	Total
6,774	1,125	686	0	9,225	17,810

Reference

Directional Questions	Reference Questions	One-on-One Sessions
2,525	3,523	251

Spaces

Meeting Room Usage	Study Room Usage	Studio Room Usage
78	595	294

Technology

Wireless sessions	Computer usage	Website visits
19,753	3,313	36,691

Social Media

Facebook Likes	Instagram Followers	TikTok Followers
6,460	2,219	1,690

Comparisons

Comparison	This Year	Last Year	% Change
Circulation	57,966	66,163	-12.39%
Visitors	28,152	24,526	14.78%
Cardholders	40,084	33,837	18.46%
Room Bookings	967	874	10.64%
Reference Questions	3523	3,657	-3.66%
Computer Usage	3313	2,862	15.76%
Wi-Fi	19,753	18,540	6.54%
Programs	17,810	20,106	-11.42%