

AGENDA
Board of Library Commissioners
of the City of Grand Rapids

June 17, 2025 – 5:15 pm
111 Library Street NE – Board Room

Our Purpose

To reflect and connect our community to trusted
resources and each other.

Our Mission

Inspiring opportunity, connection, and innovation.

1. Roll Call
- A, E 2. Approval of Minutes of the Special and Regular Board Meetings on April 29, 2025
3. Board Comments
4. Committee Reports
 - a. Legislative
 - b. Policy
 - c. Board Retreat
- E 5. Staff & Foundation Reports
 - a. Library Director's Report
 - i. GRCM Collaboration
 - ii. GRPL + GREIU Collective Bargaining
 - b. Financial Report
 - c. Foundation Update
6. Old Business
 - a. Backstage Library Works Project Update
7. New Business
8. Information Items
 - a. Media Index
 - b. Staffing Report
 - c. Statistical Report for April 2025
- E 9. Grand Rapids Employees Independent Union
- E 10. Agenda Items for the Regular Board Meeting on July 29, 2025
- E 11. Public Comments
12. Adjournment

A – Action Item

E – Enclosure

* – Special Meeting

Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids

Regular Meeting Agenda Calendar

January

- Election of Board Officers (A)
- Review of Committee Assignments
- Foundation Board Appointment by Board President
- BoLC Policy Manual Approval (A)
- Attendance Record from Previous Year (E)
- Voluntary Commitment to Serve (E)

February

- ALA Midwinter Conference Report
- Budget Information Review (E)

March

- Director Evaluation Documents (E)
- Budget Approval (A)

April

- Director Evaluation (*)

May

June

July

- ALA Annual Conference Reports

August

- Year End Reports (E)

September

October

- Summer Reading Program Evaluation (E)

November

- Policy Review Committee Update
- Nominating Committee Appointment

December

- Approval of Meeting Schedule (A)
- Closing Calendar (A)
- BoLC Policy Manual Updates (E)

Committee Meeting Calendar

January

- GRPL Foundation Representatives

February

March

April

- GRPL Foundation Representatives

May

June

July

August

- GRPL Foundation Representatives

September

October

- Budget Review Committee
- Policy Review Committee

November

December

- GRPL Foundation Representatives
- Nominating Committee for Board Officers



MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

April 29, 2025 | 3:30 pm*

111 Library St NE | Board Room

Anderson called the meeting to order at 3:38 pm.

1. ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:

Rachel Anderson, Kelly Boston, Justine Bryant,
Kathryn Dilley, Lauren Woolsey

Board Members Absent:

Bryan Holt (with notice), Kevin Peterson (with
notice)

Administration Present:

Lindsay Laplow, John McNaughton, Patrick Beatty

Staff Present:

Public Present:

2. DIRECTOR REVIEW

MOTION: By Commissioner Woolsey, supported by Commissioner Boston, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids agree to go into closed session pursuant to Section 8(1)(a) of the Open Meetings Act, at the request of Library Executive Director John McNaughton, for the purpose of performing his employment evaluation.

ACTION: ROLL CALL VOTE AYES: Anderson, Boston, Bryant, Dilley, Woolsey

Motion passed.

The Board moves into Closed Session.

MOTION: By Commissioner Bryant, supported by Commissioner Woolsey, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids agree to go into open session.

ACTION: ROLL CALL VOTE AYES: Anderson, Boston, Bryant, Dilley, Woolsey

Motion passed.

The Board moves into open session at 4:24 pm.

McNaughton requests an 8% bonus of his FY25 salary for his retirement fund.

The Board discusses and agrees to propose a 7% bonus.

MOTION: By Commissioner Anderson, supported by Commissioner Woolsey, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids agree to provide a bonus of 7% of FY25 salary to Library Executive Director John McNaughton.

ACTION: AYES 5 – 0

Motion passed.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments.

4. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: By Commissioner Bryant that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:26 pm.

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

April 29, 2025 | 5:15 pm

111 Library St NE | Board Room

Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm.

1. ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:	Rachel Anderson, Kelly Boston, Justine Bryant, Kathryn Dilley, Lauren Woolsey
Board Members Absent:	Bryan Holt (with notice), Kevin Peterson (with notice)
Administration Present:	Robert Adcock, Megan Biggins, Natalie Drew, Lindsay Laplow, John McNaughton, Jen Vander Heide; Patrick Beatty
Staff Present:	Erin Hart, Wyatt Lardie, Aubrey Wagg
Public Present:	Steven Assarian, GREIU; Jax Johnson; Joshua Vissers, Rapidian/Documenters

MOTION: By Commissioner Woolsey, supported by Commissioner Bryant, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids add an action item to approve the Legislative Committee making updates and working with the GRPL Communications Department on the document communicating Board meetings to the public to the New Business portion of the current agenda.

No comments.

ACTION: AYES 5 – 0

Motion passed.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING ON MARCH 25, 2025

MOTION: By Commissioner Bryant, supported by Commissioner Boston, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting of March 25, 2025.

No comments.

ACTION: AYES 5 – 0

Motion passed.

3. BOARD COMMENTS

Boston states that she visited the Redford District Township Library and suggests that the Board visit as well.

Anderson thanks Peterson and Bryant for attending the Mayor Monday that was hosted at the Main Library.

Woolsey states that she liked the Power of Poetry Showcase and is looking forward to the documentary about poetry in Grand Rapids.

Dilley comments that she attended former Library Commissioner Deb Bose's memorial service last weekend. McNaughton adds that it was nice. Boston thanks McNaughton for sharing her obituary with the Board.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Legislative

Woolsey states that they met and are keeping up a calendar of the events for Grand Rapids elected officials. Boston asked if the Legislative Committee is sharing all of the events with the Board. Woolsey answers yes.

Woolsey adds that a first draft of the language inviting the public to Library Board meetings will be voted on in New Business.

b. Policy

Anderson comments that the Policy Committee should meet with McNaughton over the Summer.

c. Board Retreat

Boston asks if the Board would like a second Board Retreat. Woolsey asks to table this until all Library Commissioners are present.

5. STAFF & FOUNDATION REPORTS

A. Library Director's Report

i. GRCM Collaboration

McNaughton states that GRPL and the City have finished their portions of the MOU and the Children's Museum is still working on their portion, which is due May 1.

ii. GRPL + GREIU Contract Negotiations

McNaughton states they have met 3 times and they are currently discussing economics. Their next meeting is May 6.

Anderson comments on the story of 120 people learning how to crochet at the GRPL program.

Boston comments on how important weeding books are to keep collections updated.

Anderson states that the Friends of the Library Book Sale went well this past weekend. McNaughton agrees and says that it was very successful.

B. Financial Report

Adcock states that GRPL is in a good position with just a couple months left of the fiscal year.

C. Foundation Update

GRPL Foundation President Dan Poortenga sent the following statement: "The Grand Rapids Public Library Foundation is pleased to have approved nine grant requests totaling over \$135,000 last week to the library! This funding will support the Poet Laureate, Hispanic Heritage, and Native American Heritage programs. It will also allow for the purchase of more eBooks and local history materials, and cover the majority of the annual payment for the Grand Rapids Press Historical Archives database. The GRPLF Board is appreciative to library staff for the detailed grant requests and evaluations that were submitted."

6. OLD BUSINESS

None.

7. NEW BUSINESS

MOTION: By Commissioner Woolsey, supported by Commissioner Bryant, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids approve the Legislative Committee to make updates and work with the GRPL Communications Department on the document communicating Board meetings to the public.

Woolsey discusses that the big focus for this document will be the City Commission Night Out in July. She explains that the purpose of the document is so the public can show up to Library Board meetings at the right time. She adds that the Legislative Committee will work with the Library Director of Communications to finalize the document.

Anderson asks what size the document will be. Woolsey answers.

The Board decides they will list library Commissioner names only on 8 ½ X 11 documents.

Boston suggests changes to grammar.

Anderson suggests that the Library adds a wayfinding sign in the lobby for Board meetings.

ACTION: AYES 5 – 0

Motion passed.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Media Index

No comments.

B. Staffing Report

No comments.

C. Statistical Report for March 2025

Bryant gives kudos to the staff making community connections.

9. GRAND RAPIDS EMPLOYEES INDEPENDENT UNION

No comments.

10. AGENDA ITEMS FOR REGULAR BOARD MEETING: MAY 27, 2025

Anderson states that she will not be present at the May meeting.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jax Johnson comments in support and encouragement of having a hand out for information about Board meetings.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: By Commissioner Bryant that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:38 pm.



Our Mission

Inspiring opportunity, connection, and innovation.

Our Vision

The Grand Rapids Public Library is key to a dynamic, creative, livable city where people come together to learn and be heard.

Strategic Framework Project Updates

APRIL & MAY 2025

LOOKING OUTWARD

Understanding Our Community

- GRPL staff attended the following outreach events where we shared library resources and events, offered library card sign-ups, and promoted the Library with giveaways:
 - Health Fair at Mt. Mercy Apartments
 - Health Fair at Creston Plaza Apartments
 - Spring Break storytime & crafts at the Grand Rapids Public Museum
 - Muffins with a Special Person at Campus Elementary
 - Workforce Readiness at LINC UP
 - Earth Day Family Night at New Branches Charter Academy
 - Career Talk at University Prep Academy
 - Dia del Niño at the Hispanic Center of West Michigan
 - Resource Fair at Alger Middle School
 - Arbor Fest with Friends of GR Parks
 - Community Cleanup After-Party with the West Grand Neighborhood Association
 - TRIO Parent Resource Night
 - Michigan Library Advocacy Day
 - Clean Slate Expungement Fair
 - Mental Health & Wellness Fair
 - Small Business Resource Fair
 - Field Day at the Early Learning Center
 - Ice Cream Social at La Escuelita
 - Picnic in the Park at Sigsbee Park
 - Grand Rapids Neighborhood Summit
 - Kent ISD's Laugh & Learn
 - Enrollment Night at Buchanan Elementary
 - Youth Summer Connect at Linc Up

Strategic Framework Project Updates

- On April 17, the Small Business Resource Center was host to SpringGR Emprende, a Spanish speaking entrepreneurship education program from SpringGR. The Business and Career Librarian was able to teach the class in Spanish thanks to translation from Maria Erazo, the program's leader and educator. The class covered all the resources we have here at the library, as well as research tips for different stages of business planning.
- A patron who the Resource Navigator had been working with for several weeks around housing and employment was excited to provide an update that they recently attained both.
- There were three situations in which patrons experienced suicidal ideation during the month of April. The circumstances were different for each situation, but all involved multiple staff members responding in a calm, empathetic, and pragmatic way while very effectively working together. Patrons were able to connect with timely resources in all three situations.

CREATING INSPIRING SPACES & EXPERIENCES



- Artist and Adult Services Manager Nic Coppernoll led *Introduction to Abstract Portraits* at the Main Library. This two-hour program began with Nic explaining how drawing contour lines of a subject without picking up the drawing instrument *and* without looking at the paper can increase skill by training the eye to draw what it sees. After a quick demonstration, all twenty attendees practiced drawing each other using continuous contour lines. Nic then shared examples of abstract portraits. Patrons spent the majority of the time creating their own portraits to take home.

Feedback of the event was exceptional, with

those in attendance sharing how grateful they were for the class and requesting that we have more art classes. One couple drove from Holland just for the event; another was visiting and wrote in the class survey, *"We are here from Baltimore Maryland & this was an amazing way to spend part of our trip to GR!"* One patron wrote, *"This was a phenomenal class. Nic was an excellent instructor and we had so much fun! Please do more of these."*



Several patrons couldn't attend due to capacity limitations, but 5 of those people (who had not known each other prior) decided to sit at a table and create artwork together!

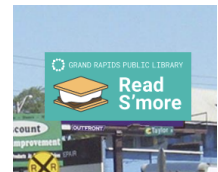
Strategic Framework Project Updates

- The Youth Services Department at the Main Library has had our Mamava lactation pod for almost one year. This past quarter, we doubled our usage from the previous quarter.
 - During Spring Break, all of our locations were taken over by little ones and their grown-ups exclaiming joyfully about Bluey (an Australian cartoon about a Blue Heeler and her friends and family). Each location had a character seek and find, a photo op with Bluey and Bingo, and some fun crafts. Throughout the week, staff across the system were sharing fun and heartwarming moments overheard in the children's areas. Here are a few fun stories from some of our locations:
 - *More Spring Break busy-ness! It continues to be such a joy to watch kids excitedly do the Bluey Seek & Find. Shouts of "it's Bingo!" and "I found Pom-Pom!" echoing through the department. Also "It's Chilli...she was on the door the whole time!"* - Main Library
 - *One kiddo kept saying, "teamwork makes the dream work!" while completing the Bluey Seek & Find with others. Another patron let us know that her son who is autistic loves Bluey and would love to participate in our Bluey activities, however he gets intimidated by large crowds/other kids. They said, "it's really nice for people who don't travel for break to have something like this to do."* Seymour Branch
 - *Hearing kiddos call out for the Bluey characters as they do the Seek & Find is peak cuteness. You'll just hear "Muffiiiiiiin! Aunt Trixiiiiie!" in the stacks as they look around.* - Van Belkum Branch
 - *Adults and little ones have been dressing up as "grannies" and having their picture snapped alongside Bluey and Bingo. Feedback from both adults and kids about the Spring Break programming has been very positive. One little patron (about 4 years old) excitedly ran up to Jason and repeated several times, "I need a hint" as he worked on the Seek & Find.* - West Leonard Branch
 - *The Bluey Seek & Find activity was a huge success all week. One young patron wanted to do it a second time cause that's his thing!* - Yankee Clipper Branch
 - Led by the Communications Department and a core team, a self-service point signage project was completed. This project uncovered root-cause navigation challenges across the system and the findings from the root-cause navigation challenges informed the creation of enhanced, bilingual design solutions for key self-service points to ensure a more intuitive patron experience.
- In addition, the project resulted in the following:
- **Privacy Solutions:** Privacy enhancements at select branch locations (GN, GS, GO) to improve public spaces and provide a better staff experience when off-desk.
 - **Signage Index:** A guide for staff detailing the approved signs available throughout the system, including best practices for posting these signs to ensure optimal visibility.
 - **Promotional Posters, Stands, & Guidelines:** Posters & updated holders (replacing wooden easels) are deployed across the system to highlight library offerings. Fresh posters are added annually and locations are encouraged to rotate displays monthly for neighborhood-specific engagement.
 - **Passive Programming Templates:** Templates for use across the system.



Strategic Framework Project Updates

- **Wall Hanging Literature Racks:** Racks at all locations to hold GRPL booklets, minimizing “visual clutter” on table tops.
- The Communications Department in partnership with Librarian Erin Antes, launched an eNewsletter to patrons who signed up for a library card via the Mobile Library’s route last year in order to help inform our community of this season’s route.
- The Communications Department collaborated with the Information Services Department to update Check Out Station screens across the system after identifying that they are a primary point of confusion for patrons. The monitors now indicate that they are touch screens and feature a custom design to differentiate them from other monitors.
- The Communications Department has completed this year’s Summer Reading campaign—one of our largest annual projects. The campaign includes bilingual booklets, yard signs, banners, billboards, streaming and cable videos, social media reels, webpages, graphics, eNewsletters, coloring sheets, posters, display signs, digital ads, stickers, prizes, and more. With strong staff support hand-selling the program, this effort plays a key role in helping the library meet its engagement goals each year.



TRANSFORMING OUR CULTURE

- The Patron Services Department collaborated with the Community Support & Safety Department to provide a new training for Library Pages related to patron behavior after identifying a need in existing Library Page training. 15 Library Pages at the Main Library opted into receiving this training, which highlighted patron rule-breaking behaviors that staff may see during their shift and how to appropriately respond to them. In the future, this training will be provided during the onboarding process for all new Library Page staff.
- Spring Staff Day was a large success this year. The trainings staff received at Spring Staff Day on May 14 were *Know Your Rights*, provided by the City of Grand Rapids Office of Oversight and Public Accountability, and *Resiliency*, provided by Dr. Sarah Reed. During the Connect & Recharge portion of the day, staff had an opportunity to play board games, complete puzzles, interact with the miniature service horse Freckle Butt Fred from Little Horses Big Smiles, as well as meet with their departments as a whole team. A few comments from staff regarding their favorite parts of the day were:
 - *“Getting to connect with staff members from other locations.”*

Strategic Framework Project Updates

- *"...I also really liked the resiliency training and even if I didn't feel like it was groundbreaking for me in particular, it's always good to be reminded of coping mechanisms."*
- *"Connect & Recharge. Initially the unstructured time made me anxious, but it turned out to be the perfect way to end the day and spend time with other staff that didn't feel pressured."*
- *"Freckle Butt Fred was the highlight of my week."*
- *"Best Staff Day yet. Great pace. I loved having lots of time to relax in our public spaces with people from all over GRPL. Great food. Good presentations."*

Grand Rapids Public Library

March – April 2025 Media Index

Media Mentions by Topic

Programs	0	Digital Media	13
General	11	Television	0
GR History Center	2	Radio	0
Staff/Board	0	Print publications	0
GRPL Foundation	0		
Outreach	0	Total number of mentions:	13

Key Articles and Interviews

- [City of Grand Rapids turns 175 years old - Wood Radio](#)
- [Grand Rapids to celebrate 175th birthday | The Rapiidian](#)
- [City Celebrates 175 Years with Year-Long Festivities - Grand Rapids Magazine](#)
- [Grand Rapids kicks off 175th anniversary with year-long celebrations and community events](#)
- [GRIFFINS TO HOST FAN APPRECIATION NIGHT - Grand Rapids Griffins](#)
- [10 family-friendly activities for spring break 2025 around Grand Rapids - MLive.com](#)
- [Buy books for 50 cents at West Michigan library's annual book sale - MSN](#)
- [Ultimate Guide to Free Outdoor Movies in Grand Rapids This Summer - WGRD](#)
- [Sales, spring and school buses: What to do in West Michigan this weekend | WOODTV.com](#)
- [Todd's Weekend Adventures April 26-27, 2025](#)
- [Michigan library working to rescue thousands of stories from gathering dust - mlive.com](#)
- [Grand Rapids Public Library unveils new digital newspaper archive - FOX 17](#)
- [GRPL's New Tool = Free Time Machine for Digging Up Grand Rapids Lore & Old-School Finds](#)

Social Media Comments

Partner - Videos

- omg my two favorite things! supporting the library AND local artists!!! (Deos Ballet - Partnership)

- So excited about this partnership between Deos Contemporary Ballet and **Grand Rapids Public Library** (Deos Ballet - Partnership)
- This is so cool!!! Can't wait to enjoy this partnership (Deos Ballet - Partnership)
- What a fabulous idea!!!! Wow! How cool! (Deos Ballet - Partnership)
- Awesome! I have always wanted to see a ballet. (Deos Ballet - Partnership)
- All excellent recs!!! 🔥 (WYCE LaRae)
- Great musical taste! ❤️❤️❤️ (WYCE LaRae)
- Knowledge! 🔥 (WYCE LaRae)

Staff - Videos

- I am so glad that he and his newspaper are getting recognition!! (Michigan State News - Feature)
- How cool is this?? 😎 Check out GRAAMA Advisory Board member drjelks & the grpubliclibrary staff & this amazing find! (Michigan State News - Feature)
- Oh woah, that's awesome!! Hope other issues have been saved and are donated in the future! 🙌 (Michigan State News - Feature)
- wow!! lets hear it for historic preservation!!!! (Michigan State News - Feature)
- Great story! Thank you for preserving important parts of history like this!!! (Michigan State News - Feature)

General

- My grandchildren love going to the Grand Rapids Public Library weekly.
- Do you do this at all the branches? I heard there is a game thing starting at Yankee Clipper???? (Community Game Night)
- Sounds great wish I could go. Please get me a copy of his talk! (Author Talk with Varian Johnson)
- Nice, I will be there early. I can't wait 😊👍❤️ (Introduction to Crochet)
- Will there be another class offering? (Introduction to Crochet)

- It's Spring Break for me. Where else would I be besides grpubliclibrary ? ❤️❤️📖
- Hello! I researched on your website first but wasn't able to find anything.. do you have plans for upcoming gardening events?
- That pop of color is beautiful 😍 (Yankee Clipper Vinyl Install)
- Be there soon. Don't tell my boss 🧩🎮 (New Video Games added to Collection)
- Packing our Switch now and making a pit stop on the way to a park 🏃 See you there @grartmuseum (New Video Games added to Collection)
- An absolute win for the library (New Video Games added to Collection)
- Is there any sort of service I can pay for to resurface my personal CDs?
(Collection Services Mending Video)
- This is so perfect. I would love to see it expanded. Maybe local schools through the help of the library staff could help organizations like the Humane Society set up sessions where students actually read to the dogs who are looking for homes. Not only would it be beneficial to the students and the dogs, but if they published the readings, could also be a means of finding homes for those dogs based on little video clips of the readings. (Tales & Tails - Read to Therapy Dogs)
- Is it possible to bring this program into a school classroom!?! (Tales & Tails - Read to Therapy Dogs)
- ... oh dear ... that's too dangerous for me - I'll need a van to get back home! 😊
(Book Sale)
- Do you offer a teacher discount? (Book Sale)
- What does this have to do with the library? (Introduction to Abstract Portraits)
- Intro to Self Portrait class at my favorite GRPL branch with one of my favorites was a hit! We tried drawing a continuous line of ourselves and then had all the things to play with: water color, acrylic, oils, and more. My only regret was not being able to bring Nic's drawing of me home. So fun! (Introduction to Abstract Portraits)

- Friends don't let friends walk without a library card. 🌟 **#TheMoreYouKnow**
- the Grand Rapids Public Library is alive and well it only seeks to enrich the lives of all citizens living in the area. I applaud them!
- I may have missed national library week but there's never a wrong time to express love and appreciation for libraries! I honestly don't know what I would do without libraries, and they need our support now more than ever ❤️
- I recognize many of those kids pictured! This is one of my favorite events each year 🎉 Thank you GRPL! (Author Talk with Varian Johnson)
- Hi! How do I sign up to volunteer for the next Friends of the Library sale?

Grand Rapids Public Library April – May 2025 Media Index

Media Mentions by Topic

Programs	18	Digital Media	21
General	2	Television	0
GR History Center	3	Radio	2
Staff/Board	0	Print publications	0
GRPL Foundation	0		
Outreach	0	Total number of mentions:	23

Key Articles and Interviews

- [Grand Rapids Public Library](#) offers free summer reading programs - WZZM 13
- Free summer programs coming to [Grand Rapids Public Library](#) | wzzm13.com
- Writers group seeking members | News | [grandrapidsmn.com](#)
- Morning+ | [wzzm13.com](#)
- Bored this summer? Read, earn prizes from your local **library** - MSN
- May is recycling action month: See the recycling process firsthand | The Ravidian
- Free summer events at Grand Rapids libraries include art, gardening classes - MLive.com
- Register for the 2025 Summer Reading Club | WOODTV.com
- Bored this summer? Read, earn prizes from your local **library** - WOODTV.com
- The 30 things everyone should do at least once **in Grand Rapids**, according to Tripadvisor ratings
- Learn to paint, take photos at free **GRPL** workshops | WOODTV.com
- Morning Buzz: May 23, 2025 - FOX 17
- The GPRL to offer two free art workshops during the month of June - WOOD Radio
- **Grand Rapids** approves \$735 million budget, adds 22 **city** positions - FOX 17
- **Grand Rapids Public Library** hosting AAPI Heritage Month events | wzzm13.com
- Morning Buzz: May 19, 2025 - FOX 17
- **Grand Rapids** to recognize restoration efforts behind 7 historic buildings - WOODTV.com
- Stop the Summer Slide | West Michigan 2025 summer reading programs | wzzm13.com

- [Morning Buzz: May 15, 2025 - FOX 17](#)
- [Students preserve stories of Vietnam War survivors - **Rapid Growth Media**](#)
- [Events & activities for Mother's Day weekend - FOX 17](#)
- [West Michigan library to host free community hike this weekend - MLive.com](#)
- [Dizzybird Records to celebrate 11 year anniversary | The Rapidian](#)

Social Media Comments

Partner - Videos

- Thanks 🙏 for including me (GRHC – Michigan State News)
- Love learning this history wow! And a pleasure to see familiar faces including @drjelks ✨ (GRHC – Michigan State News)
- I am so glad that he and his newspaper are getting recognition!! (GRHC – Michigan State News)
- Oh woah, that's awesome!! Hope other issues have been saved and are donated in the future! 🙌 (GRHC – Michigan State News)
- wow!! lets hear it for historic preservation!!!! (GRHC – Michigan State News)
- You are amazing ...thank you for beautifying our city !!!❤❤❤ (Eddit Shaffer - GRHC Mural)

Staff - Videos

- this is everything i've ever wanted from the historical group. The library rocks (New Digital Newspaper Tool)
- Congratulations Julie! (New Digital Newspaper Tool)

General

- Does the Leonard branch sell their old magazines?
- Do you take items from the public? I have a brass sign from union high school 1948 that I'm not sure what to do with I don't want it to end up being scraped but not sure what to do with it I got it when I work on the building renovation into condos
- You guys have sheet music?! Is there a section at the main library to browse offerings?

- I ❤️ GRPL 🤝 (National Library Week - Get Involved)
- Friends don't let friends walk without a library card. 🌟 #TheMoreYouKnow (National Library Week - Get Involved)
- I may have missed national library week but there's never a wrong time to express love and appreciation for libraries! I honestly don't know what I would do without libraries, and they need our support now more than ever ❤️ (National Library Week)
- Intro to Self Portrait class at my favorite GRPL branch with one of my favorites was a hit! We tried drawing a continuous line of ourselves and then had all the things to play with: water color, acrylic, oils, and more. My only regret was not being able to bring Nic's drawing of me home. So fun!
- This may be a dumb question, but do I have to have a library card to be able to purchase books from the sale? (Book Sale)
- Oof. Please pick any other day of the year. Today is Indie Bookstore Day! (Book Sale)
- Hi! How do I sign up to volunteer for the next Friends of the Library sale? (Book Sale)

STAFFING REPORT

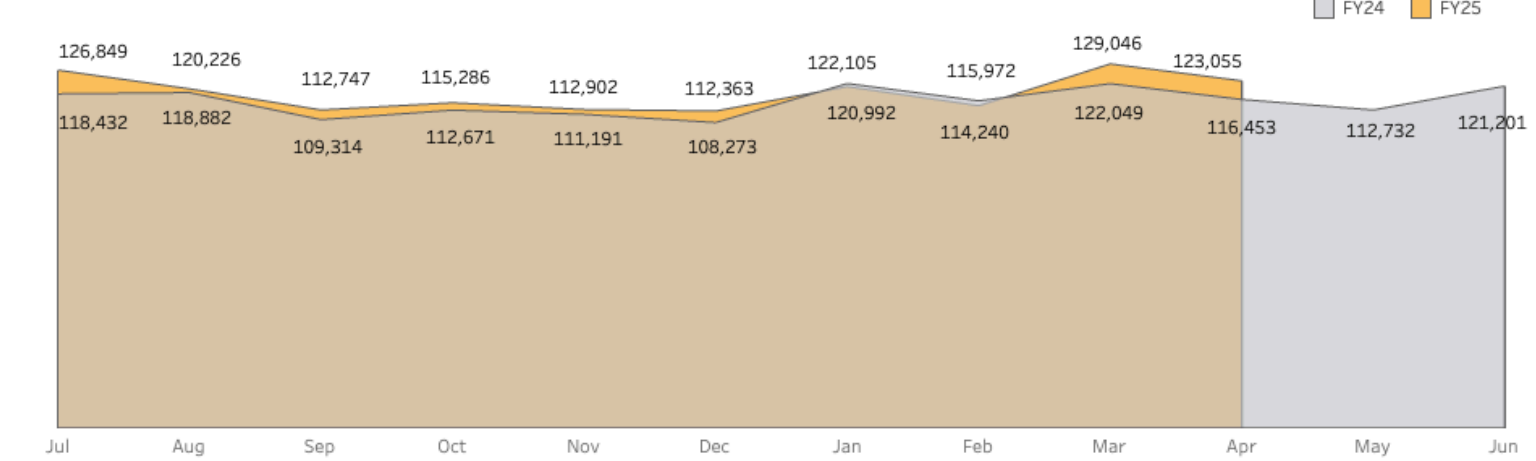


April 2025 - June 2025

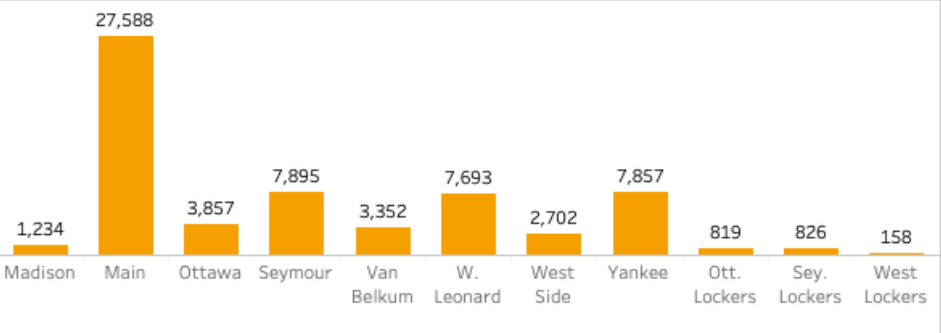
NEW HIRES						STAFF ANNIVERSARIES		
EFFECTIVE	POSITION	LOCATION				POSITION	TIME	
None						Katie Visner	Library Page	31 years
						Doug Kyle	IS Assistant Manager	27 years
						Brian Hall	Library Assistant II	10 years
						Steve Vado-Nieto	Library Assistant II	10 years
						Lori Gebhart	Library Assistant II	8 years
DEPARTURES						Karen Moore	Library Assistant II	8 years
Ana Drown	4/27/2025	Librarian II	South Region			Oz Perez Rios	Librarian II	8 years
Elijah Olsen	5/19/2025	Library Assistant II	South Region			John McNaughton	Executive Director	7 years
Darwyn Anderson	5/20/2025	Library Custodian	Main Library			Bruce Smolenski	Library Assistant II	7 years
						Sam Krepel	Library Assistant II	4 years
						Erin Antes	Librarian I	3 years
OPEN POSITIONS						Andrea Infante	Library Assistant II	3 years
						Ann Neff-Rohs	Director of Collections	2 years
Librarian IV (1)	Library Assistant II (2)	Library Custodian (1)				Jamie Wasilchenko	Library Assistant II	2 years
Library Help Desk Technician (1)	Librarian I (1)					Merlyn Milzarski	Library Page	2 years
						Victor Puhy	Library Assistant II	2 years
TOTAL TURNOVER FY25*			MONTHLY TURNOVER*			Andrea Ball	Library Page	2 years
						Tim Castillo	Library Page	1 year
						David Sturgeon	Facilities Manager	1 year
All staff	8.07%	13 people	All staff	1.86%	3 people	Jillianne Carrasco	Office Assistant II	1 year
Part-time staff	6.21%	10 people	Part-time staff	1.24%	2 people			
Full-time staff	1.86%	3 people	Full-time staff	0.62%	1 person			

*Does not include retirements

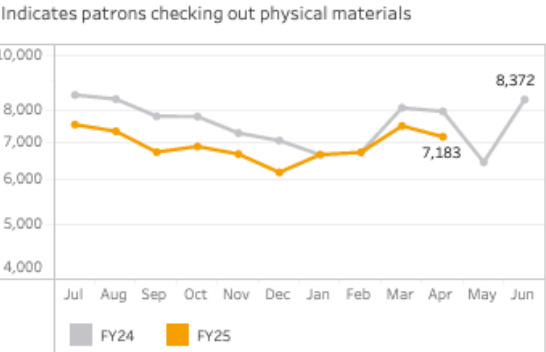
Items Borrowed by Fiscal Year and Month (includes both physical and digital items)



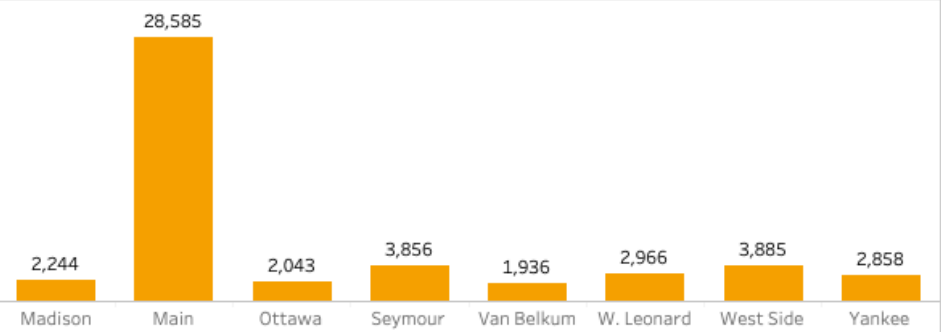
Physical Items Borrowed by Branch



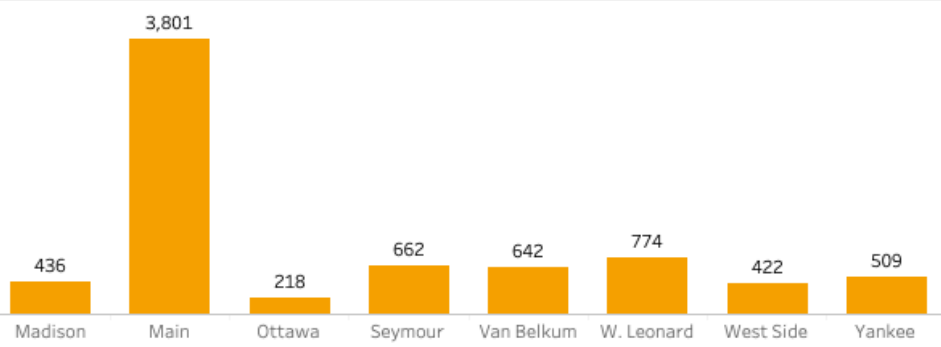
Unique Borrowers by Month



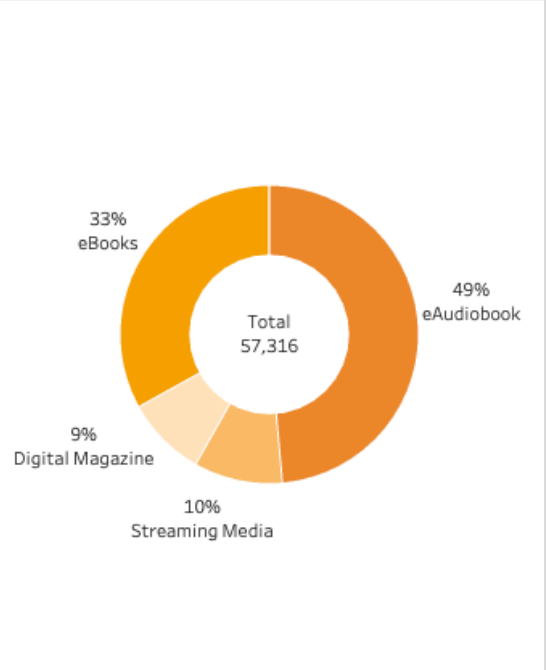
Library Visits by Branch



Public Computer Use by Branch



Digital Usage by Format



48,373

Library Visits

2025 FYTD: 445,913 ↑9%
2024 FYTD: 410,335

868

New Cardholders

2025 FYTD: 8,826 ↑5%
2024 FYTD: 8,430

123,055

Total Items Borrowed

2025 FYTD: 1,187,706 ↑3%
2024 FYTD: 1,155,342

65,739

Physical Items Borrowed

2025 FYTD: 634,792 ↓1%
2024 FYTD: 641,317

57,316

Digital Items Borrowed

2025 FYTD: 552,914 ↑8%
2024 FYTD: 514,025

53 Library Programs

4,889 program attendance

15 Outreach Events

1,663 outreach attendance

10 Classes

9 School Visits / Tours

6 1-on-1 Tech Help

19 Business Consultations

18,826

Database Page Views

164

Email Reference
Questions Answered

7,464

Public Computer Sessions

Social Media

5,048 interactions
40,812 followers
818,237 impressions

34,618

Digital Archival Items
Viewed

15,548

Physical Holds Fulfilled

81

WiFi Hotspot Checkouts

Community Connections

A selection of organizations that GRPL staff connected with this month:

- 61st District Court
- Catherine's Health Center
- Equinox
- Family Futures
- Friends of Grand Rapids Parks
- Goodwill Industries
- Grand Rapids Housing Commission
- GRPS - Campus Elementary
- Healthy Homes
- Hispanic Center of West Michigan
- Laker Educational Opportunity Ctr
- Meals on Wheels Western Michigan
- Method & Craft Consulting
- Network 180
- Welcome Plan West Michigan

Popular Titles this Month

