

Millinocket Memorial Library Director's Report

March/April 2025

Prepared by Library Director, Diana Furukawa, for Millinocket Town Council, 4.19.2025



LIBRARY UPDATES

Operations

The Library's board has approved additional operating hours for the summer months; we will be open until 8pm on Tuesdays from May 19th through August 29th, which is an additional 4 weeks of evening hours compared to 2024. As our staffing and budget allows, we hope to be able to expand evening hours in future years to better accommodate all community members.

We're excited to partner with a statewide program called Manpower to hire a couple of teen interns this summer. Over the past few years, we've been able to provide eight internships for local youth, providing a supportive environment for them to learn essential customer service skills and explore their career interests.

Due to a March executive order, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is currently being dismantled. The IMLS provides funding to the state of Maine to subsidize shared library services like interlibrary loan and Cloudlibrary (our ebook platform) and to provide essential support and consulting for libraries. Cuts are already beginning to occur at the state level, which could increase costs for MML to continue to access these services in the future.

Programs

Recent programs have included hands-on technology workshops on cybersecurity and graphic design, our nature-based play group for young kids, our biweekly postpartum support group, a library easter egg hunt, and community birding walks.

Upcoming programs include a free workshop on business planning for artists/makers and creative entrepreneurs, our monthly "Mending Meet-up", a Celtic heritage night, and a series of drawing and painting classes for kids.

Facilities

After our plans fell through in 2024, we have found a new contractor to take on our patio and drainage project this year. Starting in May, Whitney Martin will be regrading the land behind our Children's Room to slope away from the building and putting in an attractive brick patio on top. This should provide more functional space for outdoor programs and help address some of our recurring drainage issues. The patio and regrading work will be paid for using a combination of our capital reserve funds, and grants and donations received for this project.

Fundraising

We are planning an Anniversary Celebration to commemorate 10 years of being a nonprofit on July 5th from 2-4pm. The event will include music, family activities, library tours, storytellers, and speakers, and we hope it will serve as much as an open house as a fundraiser. I encourage the Town Council and the public to attend.

I submitted a \$400,000 grant request to the Sewall Foundation back in February, and we expect to officially hear back from them by the end of April.

Gear Library

Thanks to the Outdoor Sport Institute's grant writing efforts, the gear library will be able to update its fleet of bikes this spring! We are considering a couple options for the old bikes, including launching an "Earn a Bike" program or doing a used gear sale.

LIBRARY STATISTICS

Patrons	Feburary 2025	March 2025	Change	March 2024	
Cardholders	3048	3059	11	2821	
Adult Cardholders	2398	2406	8	2197	
Youth Cardholders	650	651	1	619	
Millinocket Resident Cardholders	2270	2275	5	2114	
Out of State Cardholders	83	83	0	67	

Circulation	Feburary 2025	March 2025	Change	March 2024	
Active Cardholders	400	384	-16	404	
Circulation	1013	1070	57	1205	
Active Cloudlibrary Users	37	30	-7	37	
Imagination Library Users	188	187	-1	182	

Program Engagement	Feburary 2025	March 2025	Change	March 2024	
Library Website Visits	2474	2776	302	1875	
Facebook Likes	2028	2038	10	1886	
Instagram Followers	718	720	2	689	
Adult Programs	7	12	5	5	
Adult Program Attendance	27	83	56	73	
Children's Programs	9	13	4	13	
Children's Program Attendance	35	69	34	72	
Community Meetings	16	20	4	13	
Community Meeting Attendance	101	152	51	111	
Foot Traffic	1919	1975	56	2083	
Library Volunteer Hours	148	169	21	107	
Number of Reportable Incidents	5	1	-4	0	

Facilities	Feburary 2025	March 2025	Change	March 2024	
Hours Open	145	158	13	154	
Computer Sessions	211	243	32	250	
Public Meeting Room Use	147	150	3	165	
EV Charges	0	4	4	1	
Wifi Connections	<i>No data- router issue</i>				724