

Millinocket Memorial Library Director's Report

June/July 2025

Prepared by Library Director, Diana Furukawa, for Millinocket Town Council, 7.17.25



LIBRARY UPDATES

Programs

Our annual Summer Reading Program kicked off on June 21st, and we have about 50 kids registered so far. We've offered a whole slate of special programs so far, including: Art with Amanda, Movies at the Library, a Bubble Party, Pokemon Club, and an Appalachian Trail themed story time. In addition, we are once again serving as a site for the national Summer Lunch Program, distributing 10-15 bagged lunches per day, on average.

Other recent programs have included weekly Mahjong for Beginners, Chair Yoga with Tori Gray, Baby and Me Postpartum Support Group with Maine Families, and a new Teen Grief Support Group with True Connections Behavioral Health.

Fundraising

On July 5th, we hosted an Anniversary Celebration at the library, commemorating 10 years of MML operating as a nonprofit and all of the ways we've grown since then. We estimate that about 150 people attended and have received very positive feedback about the event overall. If you missed it, photos and videos from the event are available at: www.MillinocketLib.org/mmlsjourney or on our social media pages. The event brought in about \$9,000 for the library, but more importantly, we strengthened relationships with community members and current and future donors. While it's not the type of event we'd want to do annually, we learned a lot about how to organize fundraising events, obtain business sponsorships, and tell our story to increase community engagement and support.

Facilities

With the patio project complete, we are focused on two building projects: modernizing our elevator and replacing our roof. The elevator project is scheduled to begin on September 8th with Pine State Elevator. For the roof, we're working on writing grants to supplement the \$50,000 we received from the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation late last year, with the hopes of completing the project in 2026.

Finance

The Library's 2024 990s (tax return) and independent financial reviews have been submitted and are now available on the Library's website at: www.Millinocketlib.org/reports/#financial. If Councilors or the public has questions about these reports, they are welcome to contact me at director@millinocketlib.org or 207-447-4075.

Gear Library

The Katahdin Gear Library has always been a collaborative effort between the Library and another nonprofit called the Outdoor Sport Institute (OSI), which focuses on connecting people in our region to human-powered outdoor recreation. MML has been the fiscal agent for the program since 2018, but this year we made a joint decision with OSI to have them take over the fiscal agency going forward. MML will continue to be involved with steering the direction of the gear library, but this change will streamline many of our internal processes, decrease confusion, and eliminate redundancies in terms of expenses like insurance.

Collaborative Work

In May, we renewed our contract to provide facilitated leadership to the Katahdin Collaborative for another year. Through this contract, MML staff assist the Collaborative and other partner organizations in incubating mission-aligned projects related to community health and wellness in the Katahdin Region. Initial projects have included 1) developing a regional emergency heating fund, 2) launching LGBTQ+ events and initiatives such as the Northern Maine Pride Ride, 3) reviving a regional food council, and 4) completing a system-mapping project with a graduate student to better understand where people in our area are getting stuck when trying to access key resources.

LIBRARY STATISTICS

Patrons	June 2025	May 2025	Change	June 2024	
Cardholders	3151	3101	50	2896	
Adult Cardholders	2482	2444	38	2261	
Youth Cardholders	663	654	9	634	
Millinocket Resident Cardholders	2333	2300	33	2172	
Out of State Cardholders	81	86	-5	69	

Circulation	June 2025	May 2025	Change	June 2024	
Active Cardholders	351	304	47	455	
Circulation	1114	994	120	1215	
Active Cloudlibrary Users	31	38	-7	31	
Imagination Library Users	187	185	2	188	

Program Engagement	June 2025	May 2025	Change	June 2024	
Library Website Visits	2441	2424	17	3181	
Facebook Likes	2056	2045	11	1947	
Instagram Followers	735	733	2	703	
Adult Programs	16	18	-2	7	
Adult Program Attendance	163	96	67	145	
Children's Programs	18	23	-5	15	
Children's Program Attendance	135	101	34	187	
Community Meetings	27	21	6	17	
Community Meeting Attendance	188	161	27	102	
Foot Traffic	2059	2070	-11	2560	
Library Volunteer Hours	135	149	-14	119	
Number of Reportable Incidents	2	1	1	1	

Facilities	June 2025	May 2025	Change	June 2024	
Hours Open	171	166	5	162	
Computer Sessions	286	285	1	304	
Public Meeting Room Use	182	165	17	121	
EV Charges	1	6	-5	5	
Wifi Connections		No data- router issue			742