

Millinocket Memorial Library Director's Report

July/August 2025

Prepared by Library Director, Diana Furukawa, for Millinocket Town Council, 8.12.25



LIBRARY UPDATES

Programs

This year's Summer Reading Program has been full to the brim with special events, including trail and animal-themed story times, workshops with University of Maine 4H and the Maine Discovery Museum, and art programs with Amanda Albanese and our intern, Makenna Johnson. This summer, we hosted the National Summer Lunch Program and have distributed over 350 lunches so far— a decrease from last year due to decreased service dates of the program.

Operations

In July alone, we had eight reportable incidents, the majority of which were related to youth behavior or safety. We've had to tighten our youth behavior procedures at times and involve parents to address these issues. An aspect of the problem relates to unattended children. Our policy currently allows unattended children ages 10 and up, but this can be very hard to enforce, so it may be worth reconsidering in the future.

Due to an issue with our door counter, we don't have precise data about the use of our extended hours on Tuesday evenings during the summer. However, anecdotally, they have not been super busy. We have attempted to schedule other programs during Tuesday evenings to increase awareness of the hours, but we may want to reassess our strategy for next year. On the bright side, having substitute clerks has made Circulation Desk scheduling easier on Tuesdays and otherwise.

Facilities

We are collaborating with the Town of Millinocket to submit a Community Action Grant proposal to the state of Maine that includes the remaining funds needed for our roof replacement project, along with improvements to other town-owned buildings.

The elevator modernization project is slated to begin on September 8th and take 3-4 weeks to complete. During this time, the elevator will be out of commission, so we will need to assist some patrons with accessing materials from downstairs and are planning to provide Zoom options for as many downstairs meetings and programs as possible.

Finance

We are continuing to work with Flaherty's Financial Services (FFS) for bookkeeping and accounting. Going forward, their scope will be more limited to reconciliation, but initially they have assisted with a few financial clean-up items and have been very helpful in revising our financial procedures to be more efficient and effective.

Help Desk

Starting in late August, we're once again hosting weekly heating assistance sign-up sessions with Penquis, in an effort to get community members registered before the winter months. Due to staffing changes and budget cuts, Penquis will only be able to come for four weeks this year, and all appointment slots have already been filled. However, Penquis recently added an online registration option, so through the Help Desk, we will be able to assist people in completing the online application themselves.

LIBRARY STATISTICS

Patrons	July 2025	June 2025	Change	July 2024
Cardholders	3148	3151	-3	2896
Adult Cardholders	2473	2482	-9	2261
Youth Cardholders	667	663	4	634
Millinocket Resident Cardholders	2336	2333	3	2172
Out of State Cardholders	91	81	10	69
Circulation	July 2025	June 2025	Change	July 2024
Active Cardholders	397	351	46	455
Circulation	1484	1114	370	1215
Active Cloudlibrary Users	36	31	5	31
Imagination Library Users	187	187	0	188
Program Engagement	July 2025	June 2025	Change	July 2024
Library Website Visits	2303	2441	-138	3181
Facebook Likes	2066	2056	10	1947
Instagram Followers	741	735	6	703
Adult Programs	12	16	-4	7
Adult Program Attendance	252	163	89	145
Children's Programs	27	18	9	15
Children's Program Attendance	171	135	36	187
Community Meetings	26	27	-1	17
Community Meeting Attendance	150	188	-38	102
Summer Lunches Distributed	285	59	226	310
	<i>No data- counter issue</i>			
Foot Traffic		2059	N/A	2560
Library Volunteer Hours	166	135	31	119
Number of Reportable Incidents	8	2	6	4
Facilities	July 2025	June 2025	Change	July 2024
Hours Open	183	171	12	174
Computer Sessions	410	286	124	304
Public Meeting Room Use	197	182	15	121
EV Charges	26	1	25	5
Wifi Connections	<i>No data- router issue</i>			742