



## City Library Report: May 2024

René Battelle, Administrator for Public Services

### Branch Libraries

#### May Recap

- ❖ Our programs have been getting a lot of press attention lately. For the Memory Café, I was interviewed by Mary Beth Roach for the July issue of *55 Plus* magazine, Kate and I participated in an episode of “Bridge Street” on June 6, and FOCL interviewed me for a piece about the Memory Café in their fall newsletter. In addition, Paine’s program on creating a charcuterie board caught the attention of the American Library Association’s *American Libraries* staff, and they contacted Celeste with some questions about the program for a write-up in their next issue.
- ❖ Betts Branch Manager Laura was asked by a member of the local NY State Teachers Retirement Association to attend their quarterly meeting as a guest speaker. Laura spoke to 17 retired teachers about initiatives, materials, and assistance available at OCPL. She even got to help one retired teacher celebrate her 99th birthday! The group was very interested in all the libraries have to offer, and thanked Laura for the presentation and the packet of information she brought.
- ❖ With the weather warming up, many branches have started sprucing up the grounds and hosting gardening programs. Hazard partnered with Cornell Cooperative Extension for a program on container gardening, which is perfect for small spaces such as the city lots on the Westside and Tipperary Hill. Over on the Near Westside, Mundy partnered with the Onondaga Audubon group for an Urban Bird Walk at Woodland Reservoir on June 8, as well as planning twice-weekly gardening days in partnership with the Syracuse Land Bank. In July, Teen Librarian Charlie will host gardening-related programs including leaf painting, watercolor, stepping stones, and clay gnomes.

#### Coming Up

- ❖ We had a great meeting about introducing a new Mental Health Backpack initiative. A group of librarians is helping me research and put together backpacks for children, teens, and adults to check out at any branch. In June, we are meeting with Tyler from the Health Department for advice on topics and additional resources for further exploration.
- ❖ It’s time once again for Soule’s annual Strawberry Social! This event will take place on June 25 from 5:30-7:00pm on the library lawn. In addition to strawberries and ice cream, there will be a used book sale, sidewalk chalk art, live music from R&B group The Meditations, and registration for the Summer Reading Program.
- ❖ We are heading into another busy Summer Reading Program. Central and all the city branches are preparing programs on this year’s theme of “Adventure Begins at Your Library”. For example, Petit is offering lots of great events for children and teens including Make Your Own Ice Cream Sundae, Summer Slime Party, Animal Myths Busted with the Zoo, Mini Glow-in-the-Dark Paintings, and Sewing Stuffed Mushrooms. Find out about these and all of our events at <https://www.onlib.org>

# Branch Statistics\*

2023	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Visits	18524	17284	24266	24657	22743	28434	27133	28914	25278	27486	24079	19856	288654
Total Circulation	33525	30659	36735	31211	32308	34145	36366	37279	32904	34147	30811	33298	403388
Physical Circulation	27684	25339	31028	25477	26297	28054	29706	30529	26397	26792	23745	25485	326533
Digital Circulation	5841	5320	5707	5734	6011	6091	6660	6750	6507	7355	7066	7813	76855
Computer Use	2943	2135	3588	3999	3276	3846	4146	4009	3439	3932	2707	2741	40761
Reference	4810	4471	5987	5210	4804	4904	4526	4660	3423	3895	2294	2354	51338
Programs	134	125	156	178	147	144	212	174	126	152	126	124	1798
Program Attendance	872	1130	1642	1870	1474	2448	2372	1862	1119	1672	1152	786	18399
2024	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Visits	23248	25113	22406	32312	27630								130709
Total Circulation	37014	32428	35141	33633	35338								173554
Physical Circulation	28606	23299	27062	25901	27233								132101
Digital Circulation	8408	9129	8079	7732	8105								41453
Computer Use	3242	2751	3583	4222	3910								17708
Reference	3518	5201	7178	5856	5420								27173
Programs	112	130	182	235	177								836
Program Attendance	1020	1263	1670	2326	1719								7998
% Change 2023-2024	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Visits	26%	45%	-8%	31%	21%								
Total Circulation	10%	6%	-4%	8%	9%								
Physical Circulation	3%	-8%	-13%	2%	4%								
Digital Circulation	44%	72%	42%	35%	35%								
Computer Use	10%	29%	0%	6%	19%								
Reference	-27%	16%	20%	12%	13%								
Programs	-16%	4%	17%	32%	20%								
Program Attendance	17%	12%	2%	24%	17%								

\*Due to a discrepancy in the way some of the program numbers were counted in the early months of last year, there were inaccuracies in my reporting. These numbers have been corrected to reflect an accurate count of in-house programs and attendance at branch libraries.





## Board Support

- ❖ Attend a library program at least once this year. We have some great programs coming up that are large annual offerings at our branches, such as Soule's Strawberry Social, Petit's big book sale during the Westcott Cultural Fair, and the Light a Candle for Literacy event that kicks off from Beauchamp Branch Library. Attending events gives you the opportunity to see the branch and meet some of the staff. You can find these and other great programs on our website at <http://www.onlib.org>
- ❖ Check out a book by a FOCL author. The 2024/25 series features book selections for every taste, including National Book Award Winner Justin Torres's *Blackouts*; crime writer William Kent Krueger; and Young Adult author Angie Thomas, whose debut novel *The Hate You Give* was made into a feature film in 2018.
- ❖ Library advocacy isn't just reserved for special days – it can happen in every day conversations. Help us spread the word about our resources, like recommending an upcoming program or encouraging your friends to check out our collection before they opt to buy the latest bestseller. Thank you for all you do to support our work!

