



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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BUDGET VOTE & TRUSTEE ELECTION

THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2025 | 9AM-9PM
SARATOGA SPRINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY
H. DUTCHER COMMUNITY ROOM

A LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTOR

As I write this, today is National Library Workers Day, which happens each year on the Tuesday of National Library Week. It is a day to recognize the service library workers across the country provide to their communities and each other.

“Library work” encompasses many different types of jobs, in multiple types of organizations. Locally, some of those organizations include our public libraries, schools, BOCES, and local colleges and universities; the Southern Adirondack Library and Mohawk Valley Library Systems, who provide shared services to public libraries across seven counties; and the New York State Library Division of Library Development (DLD), who administer state-wide programs to support summer reading, provide access to news and research databases, and administer efforts like the Public Library Construction Grant Program, from which the Saratoga Springs Public Library has benefited greatly.

Nearly all of the funding for the workers at the DLD comes from the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS). This federal agency works with libraries, and their funding, as approved by Congress, comprises about .004% of the federal budget. You might know that IMLS is one of the agencies that has been gutted by a recent Presidential Executive Order, as a cost-cutting measure. While it is still unclear what direct impacts such a cut might have on our operations, the indirect impacts are certain to be great if the cuts are not restored.

Much of our upcoming fiscal year will be devoted to replacing our aging elevator. Most of the funding for that project was anticipated to come from a New York State Public Library Construction Grant. While the funding for that grant program is part of the state budget, the future of workers at DLD puts the status of those funds in question.

On this National Library Workers Day, I would like to thank not only you, our community, for your support, but all of my colleagues who work to make Saratoga Springs Public Library safe, clean, comfortable, and welcoming. These individuals continue to provide quality programs, services, and collections that regularly earn recognition far beyond our local community. For example, many of our recent initiatives have gained local, regional, and national acclaim, including our “Neurodiversity Club” for young people, our “Read to Recovery” collection of free books and resources on addiction and grief recovery, and our “Memory Care Creative Writing Groups” for older adults. Similarly, we continue to be a national leader on library sustainability issues.

We have been privileged to repeatedly earn the support of our community for our operations, and are grateful for your continued trust. Your support, expressed by a vote in the Library Budget Vote and Trustee Election on April 24, and membership in the Friends of the Saratoga Springs Public Library, makes these vital and important services possible. Your support for the services of the greater network of library services can be expressed by contacting your state and federal representatives with stories about the importance of libraries in our communities.

With gratitude,



A. Issac "Ike" Pulver, Library Director



TRUSTEE CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Heather Crocker

Heather Crocker is the Deputy Commissioner of Finance for the City of Saratoga Springs, where she oversees the Finance and Information Technology departments, and is actively involved in the city's Climate Smart Task Force. An educator for many years, she is passionate about the role that libraries play in supporting strong communities. Heather has served on the Board of Trustees of the Saratoga Springs Public Library since 2020, and is the current Vice-President.



Terry Diggory

Terry Diggory has been a resident of Saratoga Springs since 1977. He retired as Professor of English at Skidmore College in 2010. He currently serves on the Board of Directors at LifeWorks Community Action and as co-coordinator of the Saratoga Immigration Coalition. Terry is our current Board Secretary and has served as a Trustee since 2020.



HOW DID YOUR LIBRARY SERVE THE COMMUNITY IN 2024?

- Library users borrowed 474,254 items.
- Cardholders downloaded or viewed 94,944 e-books, e-audios, and streaming movies.
- Library staff prepared, presented, and hosted more than 2,680 program sessions for 27,799 participants of all ages, including 723 one-on-one sessions devoted to adult basic education, digital literacy, and English Language Learning.
- 1,716 people attended English Language Learning classes and tutoring sessions with library staff and volunteers.
- Library staff made 471 visits to individual homebound residents, senior housing sites, and school classrooms, reaching and serving 6,372 people in locations outside of the library.
- 269,810 people visited the library in 2024.
- Librarians answered 43,213 reference questions.
- Users logged 59,393 sessions on library computer and wireless services.
- In 2024, library meeting rooms were booked by non-profit community organizations or used on a walk-in basis 944 times.



SARATOGA SPRINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FY2025-2026

	FY2024-2025	FY2025-2026
Books	\$180,000	\$160,000
Magazines & Microfilm	\$30,000	\$27,000
Electronic Resources	\$160,000	\$170,000
Computer Software	\$10,000	\$10,000
Audio & Visual Materials	\$50,000	\$40,000
Supplies	\$47,000	\$50,000
Postage	\$10,000	\$11,000
Miscellaneous & Bank Charges	\$21,000	\$10,500
Insurance	\$75,000	\$75,000
Heat	\$12,000	\$15,000
Electricity	\$100,000	\$125,000
Phone & Internet	\$20,000	\$20,000
Sewer Tax	\$10,000	\$10,000
Repairs & Maintenance	\$100,000	\$120,000
Equipment	\$85,000	\$80,000
Conferences & Training	\$30,000	\$30,000
Professional Services	\$80,000	\$80,000
Printing	\$10,000	\$10,000
Program Expenses	\$65,000	\$75,000
Automation	\$115,000	\$115,000
Capital Projects	\$800,000	\$500,000
Retirement	\$350,000	\$450,000
Social Security	\$270,000	\$260,000
Health Insurance	\$793,500	\$872,850
Disability Insurance	\$5,000	\$3,000
Salaries	\$3,433,608	\$3,350,000
TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET	\$6,862,108	\$6,669,350
Income Other Than School District Levy	\$1,499,095	\$1,225,982
Required from School District Levy	\$5,363,013	\$5,443,458

