



**Board of Trustees**  
October 20, 2025 4 pm  
**MINUTES**  
Regular Meeting –Walker Room

Trustees: S. Overbey, S. Rodgers, A. Wilbourn, R. Qualls, C. Davis, H. Bradberry  
Staff: D. Johnson, C. Moody, T. Ball, S. Palmer, W. Fitzgibbon, H. Robideaux, K. Lehman, C. Dennis, S. McClure, J. Askins, P. Burchett, S. Herrera, G. Allen, M. Hurley, R. Graves, N. Burgess, J. Curry, K. Eaton, B. Lee, K. Toman-Razo, J. Porras, A. Taylor  
Legal: P. Elmore  
Public: M. Rice, B. Hollander, B. Bostick, K. Black, M. Scharfenberg, J. Zawislak

*Our mission is to strengthen our community and empower our citizens through free and public access to knowledge.*

- I. Call to Order: S. Overbey called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.
- II. Roll Call
- III. Minutes: Approval of minutes from August 18, 2025: **R. Qualls moved to approve the minutes from Aug 18. S. Rodgers seconded the motion. All voted AYE.** The minutes were approved.
- IV. Swearing in of Trustee Hope Bradberry by Judge John Threet
- V. Reports
  - A. Key Upcoming Events: Allergy-friendly Be(A)ware Halloween extravaganza, author D. Eggers on November 18, hot cocoa for the Lights in the Ozarks lighting ceremony, and a Diné woven tapestries event.
  - B. Mission Moment: Combined with Informational item e.
  - C. Library Administration
    1. Management Reports
      - a. Performance Measures: Physical items continue to be checked out. iCard holder numbers are now counted more accurately. Partnership programs offer fewer events yet remain well-attended.
      - b. Strategic Plan progress August – September 2025: Several genealogy programs are provided for the public. Staff have performed 826 notarizations in 2025 so far. The Bookmobile has 20 stops and interacted with 1,924 people in August and September.
    2. Financial reports: Collected 60% of projected revenue. Expenses are 64%, under budget in materials/supplies and services/charges. Costs have been



lower than expected and planned spending hasn't happened yet. Personnel costs are 60% of expenditures and anticipate ending the year slightly under budget. Staff continue to manage spending carefully.

3. Informational

- a. Downtown Master Plan update: B. Bostick, Long Range Planning/Special Projects Manager, gave a presentation about the City of Fayetteville's updated Downtown Plan. They are tabling at events and businesses, and there's an online platform to solicit feedback from the community.
- b. Legislation updates: FPL's attorneys have filed a response to the Attorney General's appeal, and the Foundation filed an amicus brief for individual rights and expression. If there is an appeal reply, it will be the 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court's decision if they wish to hear oral arguments.
- c. Deli space: Handshake's goal is to be open Dec 1, with prior soft openings. FPL is cancelling their alcohol permit to allow Handshake to receive theirs, hopefully by opening. FPL does not sell alcohol but could contract a third party for an event. The teaching kitchen will not be impacted by Handshake, though they are renting an oven.
- d. Land lease update: The Foundation Finance Committee doesn't have anything yet for the Board of Trustees.
- e. True Lit report: This was the 12th year of the True Lit program in partnership with FPS, Fayetteville Public Education Foundation, and UA Creative Writing Department. There were 3,096 attendees. Events included keynote authors, writing workshops, publishing panels, and special story times for children.
- f. Staff & professional development: S. Ruiz promoted to Outreach Coordinator; C. Boland and L. Frieden attended the Mid-America Folklorist Gathering; A. Taylor received the PACE certification.
- g. New staff & recognition: There are 111 total employees and 5 new hires - 3 building services workers, 1 volunteer assistant, and 1 Communication Director. November 6 is the all-staff In-Service Day.

- D. Fayetteville Public Library Foundation monthly report: Be(A)Ware, Giving Tuesday in November, hosting D. Eggers reception, and Crisis Pint Night every Thursday in October.
- E. Friends of the Fayetteville Public Library: National Friends of the Library Week. Booksale on Saturday, November 29 with gift-wrapped books - "Give the Gift of Reading."

VI. New business

- A. Consent items



1. Approve scholarship application for Erin Tollet: **R. Qualls moved to approve the scholarship application. A. Wilbourn seconded the motion. All voted AYE.** The motion passed.
  - B. Discussion items
    1. 2024 Audit: The Library received an unmodified opinion, which is the best rating that can be received. There were a few minor internal control deficiencies, which is normal for a business with a small staff size. **H. Bradberry motioned that the Board approve the audit as presented. C. Davis seconded the motion. All voted AYE.** The 2024 Audit was approved.
    2. Update on 2026 Budget process: Staff are finalizing health insurance costs, but the carriers need claims data to provide quotes. This has not arrived yet; however preliminary numbers look promising. FPL will absorb as much of the cost it can afford without passing it on to staff. **R. Qualls moved to accept the staff recommendation of authorizing the Executive Director to approve the final carrier agreements. C. Davis seconded the motion. All voted AYE.** The motion carried.
    3. Catastrophic Leave Policy update: **R. Qualls moved to approve the catastrophic leave policy. S. Rodgers seconded the motion.** There was some discussion about the verbiage surrounding maternity leave, FMLA, and allowances within the policy. **All voted NO.** The motion failed to pass. **R. Qualls motioned to accept it with the modifications that were discussed as far as any condition, credible FMLA means sufficient. A. Wilbourn seconded the motion. All voted AYE.** The motion carried.
    4. December meeting: Staff requested to change the December Board of Trustees meeting to Monday, December 1. **H. Bradberry motioned that we hold our December meeting on Monday, December 1 at 4:00 to review the budget. R. Qualls seconded the motion. All voted AYE.** The December meeting has been moved to the first Monday in December.
  - VII. Public Comment: Public comment was given.
- Adjournment: R. Qualls moved to adjourn the meeting. S. Rodgers seconded the motion. The meeting ended at 5:12 PM.



# Key Upcoming Events

## Tim Ernst – 50th Anniversary Book & Slideshow Presentation

Wednesday, December 3, 5pm

Photographer Tim Ernst will present his latest book, *Arkansas Nature Photographer: My 50th Anniversary*, which features new photos taken from 2022 to 2025. Books will be available for sale and signing before and after the slideshow presentation, which will begin at 5:30pm.

## Pearl's Books Local Author Fair

Saturday, December 6, 12–4pm

Chat with local authors and find the perfect book to get signed as a special gift for a loved one (or yourself!) Featured local authors include Jeremy Billingsley, Talya Tate Boerner, Gustav Carlson, Tom Hapgood, Nancy Hartney, David Holcomb, Angie Johnson, Peggy Konert, Susan Ligon, Madi Love, Kay Pritchett, Taylor Smith, and Cindy Quayle.

## Family Gingerbread House Decorating – Community Library Display \*

Sunday, December 7, 1pm

Bring candy and the whole family to decorate a gingerbread house that will be displayed in the library throughout December! FPL will provide the cardboard houses and icing. Registration (one per family) is required.

## Stuffed Animal Lock-In \*

Friday, December 12, 9am – 4:45pm (drop-off)

Drop your stuffed animal off at FPL for a lock-in! The stuffed animal will spend the evening having fun at the library and you'll get picture updates all evening via text! Registration is required.

## CFI Family: DIY Smart Holiday Ornament \*

Thursday, December 18, 5:30pm

You'll assemble and decorate a smart holiday ornament that glows with customizable lighting effects in this hands-on, family-friendly class. Registration is required.

## Beginner's Hand Embroidery Workshop with Visiting Artist Aimee Ray

Sunday, January 18, 2pm

Our first Visiting Artist of 2026, Aimee Ray, will help you learn the basics of hand embroidery! We'll cover supplies, techniques, and a variety of stitches that you can use to embellish clothing, bags, other craft projects, or artwork. Aimee Ray's work will be on display in the Lucky Day Lobby from January 5 through March 30.

## Bring Your Own Book (BYOB) Club

Saturday, January 24, 11am

Join us in 2026 for a new book club experience! Each month, we will provide a prompt, and you can pick any book that fits that criteria or genre to read for the upcoming meeting and to share with the club. **BYOB Club will meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 11am.** January's prompt is "BookTok." Read a book that you've heard about on TikTok or other social media platforms and come ready to discuss!

## Super Saturday: Mömandpöp!

Saturday, January 31, 10am

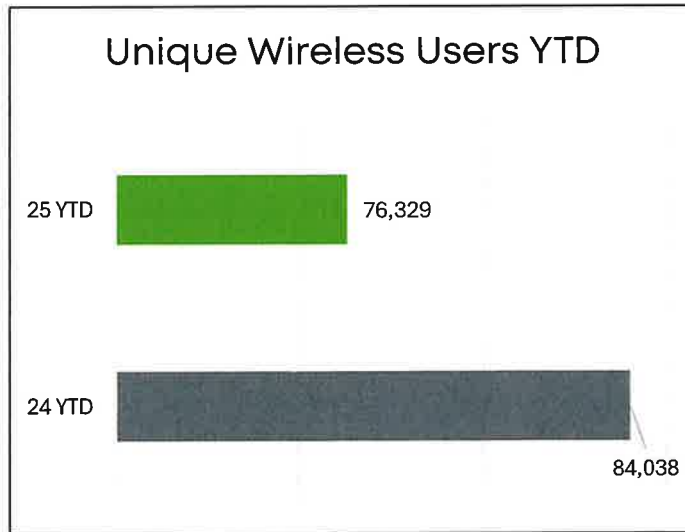
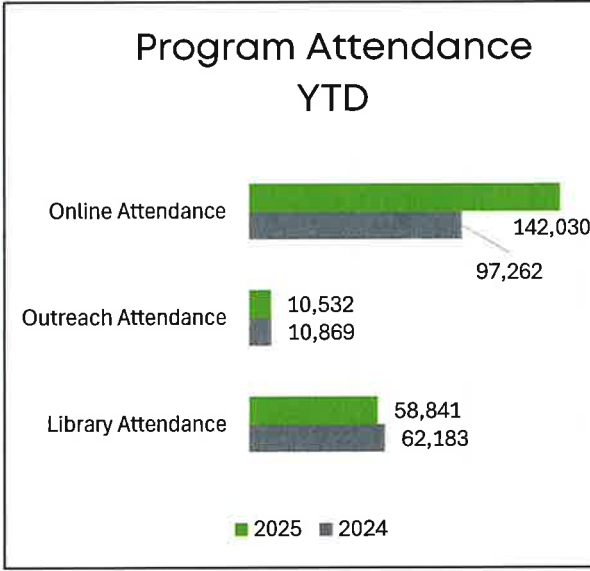
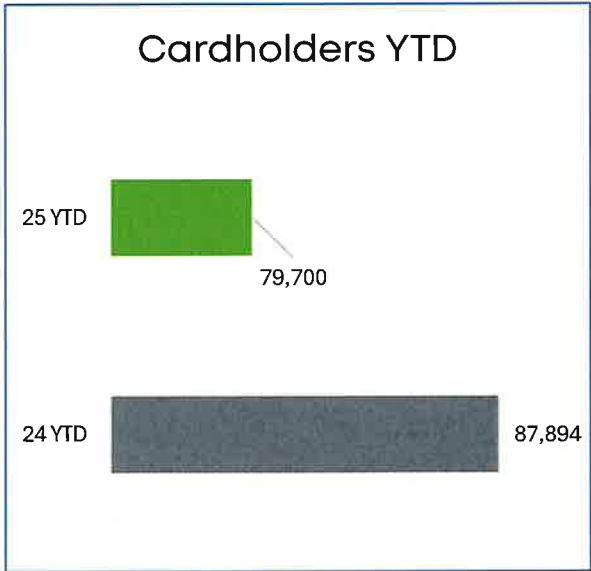
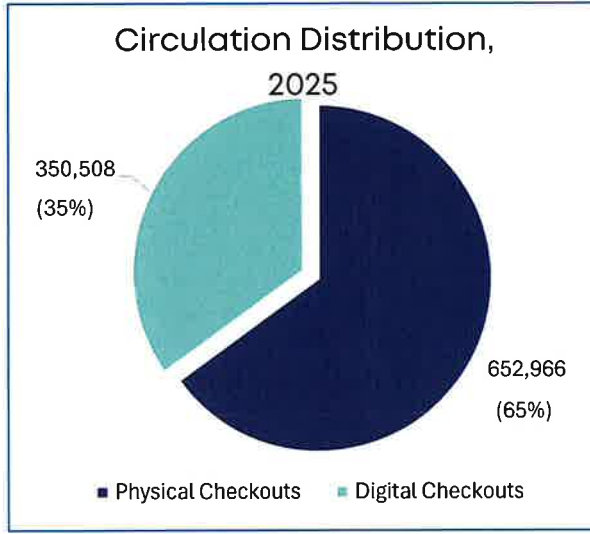
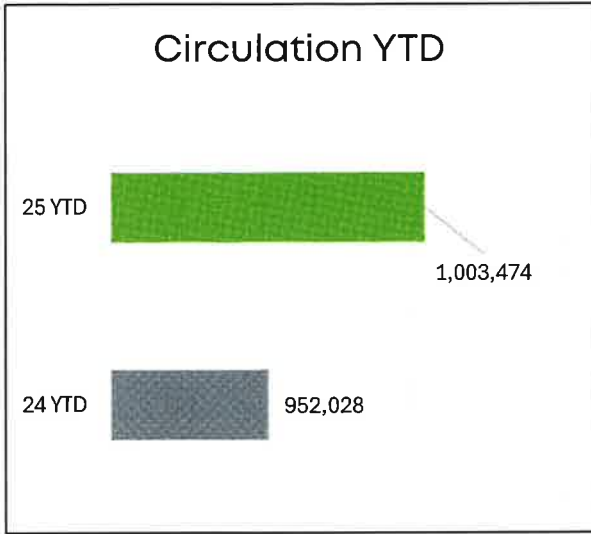
Award-winning songwriters Virginia Ralph and Bobby Matthews will perform music that combines creative movement with using your imagination.



FPL Performance Report: October 2025

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	25 YTD	24 YTD	CHANGE
<b>Circulation</b>	98,124	90,759	99,901	94,714	96,941	106,702	114,089	106,100	96,821	99,323	0	0	1,003,474	952,028	5.40%
Physical Checkouts	62,354	59,298	65,686	61,820	61,357	71,494	76,920	69,778	61,434	62,825	0	0	652,966	655,240	-0.35%
Digital Checkouts	35,770	31,461	34,215	32,894	35,584	35,208	37,169	36,322	35,387	36,498	0	0	350,508	296,788	18.10%
<b>Reference Queries</b>	4,911	4,100	4,409	4,770	4,560	6,244	6,341	5,149	4,031	4,295	0	0	48,810	65,218	-25.16%
<b>Total Collection Size</b>	357,391	357,419	358,210	358,895	360,402	361,003	360,794	360,169	360,799	360,359	0	0	0	356,271	-100.00%
Physical Collection	281,911	282,110	282,484	282,797	283,865	284,294	283,977	283,136	283,786	283,410	0	0	283,410	280,688	0.97%
Digital Collection	75,480	75,309	75,726	76,098	76,537	76,709	76,817	77,033	77,013	76,949	0	0	76,949	75,583	1.81%
<b>Total Items Added</b>	2,478	2,953	3,701	3,169	2,248	3,898	2,107	3,602	2,519	2,705	0	0	29,380	20,143	45.86%
<b>New Card Registrations</b>	1,166	888	922	809	913	1,013	1,080	1,144	893	833	0	0	9,661	10,844	-10.91%
<b>Cardholders</b>	90,492	91,238	89,018	89,429	90,370	89,264	88,864	89,455	79,954	79,700	0	0	79,700	87,894	-9.32%
<b>Visits</b>	36,955	38,421	43,436	45,726	46,960	45,503	46,379	44,761	47,585	49,670	0	0	445,396	340,442	30.83%
<b>Library Programs</b>	152	146	177	155	112	158	153	99	133	182	0	0	1,467	2,132	-31.19%
Library Attendance	3,354	3,796	5,763	5,292	3,503	9,809	7,922	3,913	7,037	8,452	0	0	58,841	62,183	-5.37%
Outreach Attendance	383	365	736	2,108	876	2,079	244	1,550	360	1,831	0	0	10,532	10,869	-3.10%
Online Views	5,850	4,954	6,702	7,948	11,263	10,998	7,753	6,996	9,186	70,380	0	0	142,030	97,262	46.03%
<b>Meeting Room Usage</b>	136	135	189	101	127	134	127	124	154	175	0	0	1,402	1,680	-16.55%
<b>Study Room Usage</b>	987	1,112	1,121	1,235	1,043	1,064	1,134	1,117	1,226	1,271	0	0	11,310	9,769	15.77%
<b>Event Center Usage</b>	6	10	20	17	9	26	13	7	17	26	0	0	151	189	-20.11%
<b>Teaching Kitchen Usage</b>	20	30	28	34	14	8	8	19	30	27	0	0	218	265	-17.74%
<b>CFI Room/Suite Usage</b>	443	428	515	466	457	453	594	568	490	537	0	0	4,951	4,949	0.04%
<b>Volunteers</b>	340	353	348	361	386	393	408	410	409	399	0	0	399	343	16.33%
Volunteer Hours	1,261	1,085	1,449	1,328	1,458	1,465	1,449	1,393	1,365	1,606	0	0	13,859	11,054	25.38%
<b>Computer Sessions</b>	2,346	1,983	2,523	2,395	2,290	2,624	3,229	3,017	2,758	2,267	0	0	25,432	25,849	-1.61%
<b>Holds Filled</b>	4,466	3,983	4,154	4,143	4,264	4,497	4,978	4,776	4,896	4,629	0	0	44,786	38,087	17.59%
<b>eFPL Usage</b>	53,429	49,975	46,563	43,251	43,924	45,040	43,798	47,887	46,143	45,195	0	0	465,205	416,586	11.67%
Bandwidth Consumed	6,730	7,090	8,630	9,070	8,490	7,420	8,780	9,410	10,000	10,220	0	0	85,840	112,800	-23.90%
Unique Users	7,214	8,454	8,593	8,775	8,208	5,553	6,180	7,129	7,771	8,452	0	0	76,329	84,038	-9.17%

# YTD Key Performance Measures



Good afternoon,

I just wanted to send a note of thanks and say how grateful we are for this library, especially for the teen section set-up that does not allow adults past a certain point.

Both of my kids (11 years old and 15 years old) regularly meet their friends in the teen section and love it there! I'm so glad they have this fun space to hang out with their friends. As a parent, I'm especially grateful they have a safe place for only tweens/teens where they can have fun and explore their independence.

THANK YOU for giving them this amazing safe space to be with their friends!

\*

A patron stopped by the Welcome Desk to tell us that it was her first visit to the library and Jade was very helpful. She said Jade was so patient and kind and made everything easy for her. I thought you would want to know!

Thanks!

\*

Ms. Gina,

I wanted to take a moment to thank you for coordinating the teen cooking program yesterday. My children thoroughly enjoyed the activity and came home full of enthusiasm and positivity. It was a joy to see how excited they were to share what they had learned! Thank you for all the effort, care, and creativity you and your team put into making the library such a wonderful place for our community.



**RESOLUTION**

**A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED 2026 ANNUAL BUDGET AND WORK PROGRAM.**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE FAYETTEVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY:**

Section 1: That the Board of Trustees of the Fayetteville Public Library hereby adopt the Proposed 2026 Annual Budget and Work Program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sallie Overbey, President  
Fayetteville Public Library Board of Trustees

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amy Wilbourn, Treasurer  
Fayetteville Public Library Board of Trustees

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date