



FORT PLAIN FREE LIBRARY
ANNUAL
REPORT
2025



Shh! This is a Library!

You may have heard the above cliché in reference to libraries—and, if you've visited the Fort Plain Free Library recently, you may also know that it's wildly outdated. Sure, we *do* have quiet spaces available (as the tutors, students, and other patrons working and studying here can attest). But on any given day, our library is a place where you can hear *many* noises, including:

Kids blowing giant bubbles and performing other science experiments at Camp Curiosity (a new program for students ages 8 to 13, so successful that we brought it back for a second run during our Summer Reading Program).

The sounds of several different instruments drifting out of our music room, where we offer free music lessons (and if you're here in the evening, you may also hear the practice sessions of our Library Ensemble, which had its first public performance at last year's Winter Open House).

Lively debates and passionate opinions at our book discussion group (which just saw its highest attendance ever in January, after more than a year of reading and discussing a new book every month).

Ideas and inspiration shared by participants in Kids of Earth, a new student-led group focusing on how kids can practice conservation in their communities.



And that's only a small sample of the programs offered here, which also include debates and discussions at the Philo Cafe, paint-along events for all ages, afternoons devoted to Lego building and cookie decorating, and much more. Beyond the boundaries of the library itself, we've been delighted to continue visiting the preschool classes at Harry Hoag Elementary School, and to participate in last summer's Water Music New York Festival (where we created a special set of trading cards honoring the Erie Canal's 200th birthday). We were also proud to host a food drive in November, collecting donations to benefit the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry here in Fort Plain.



In all the noises of our library, we're privileged to hear the sounds of a vibrant community: people looking for things to do, sharing their knowledge and passions with one another, and fostering a love of reading in the next generation. The talent, joy, and excitement that can be found in Fort Plain are abundant when spending a day in the library. We're proud to be a place where the people of our community can flourish.

There is, of course, another sound that can often be heard at the library: questions and comments from patrons who've come to visit. And while almost all of this feedback is positive, there is one bittersweet phrase we occasionally hear, usually uttered by patrons who are surprised and delighted to find a library like ours in Fort Plain: "I didn't even know this place was here!"

Clearly, this will not do. Our goal for 2026 is to make sure that everyone knows we're here, and that they also know what a wonderful community we're a part of. We hope you'll help us spread the word—and as always, we'll see you at the library.



– The Fort Plain Free Library
Staff & Board of Trustees

FORT PLAIN FREE LIBRARY NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

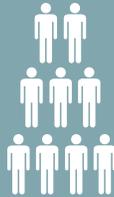
2025



14,040
ANNUAL VISITS



303
CLASSES
&
EVENTS



4,034
CLASS & EVENT
ATTENDANCE



40,000 +
MATERIALS IN
COLLECTION



22,941
BOOKS &
MATERIALS
CIRCULATED

HOW DO WE STACK UP?

Check out just a few of the programs at our library!



01

ACCESS TO OUR LIBRARY'S COLLECTION OF BOOKS, DVDS, MAGAZINES, AUDIOBOOKS, AND MORE

02

DELIVERY OF ITEMS FROM EVERY LIBRARY IN THE MOHAWK VALLEY LIBRARY SYSTEM AND SOUTHERN ADIRONDACK LIBRARY SYSTEM

03

PUBLIC SPACES FOR MEETINGS, INDEPENDENT WORK, AND COMMUNITY-RUN PROGRAMS

04

PRINTING, FAXING, COPYING, AND SCANNING SERVICES

05

GAMES, CRAFTS, TOYS, PUZZLES, AND INSTRUMENTS AVAILABLE AT THE LIBRARY FOR PATRON USE

06

E-BOOKS AND E-MAGAZINES ACCESSIBLE FROM THE COMFORT OF HOME

07

A WELCOMING SPACE FOR ALL MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY TO SPEND TIME

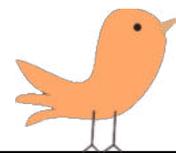
08

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN, ADULTS, & FAMILIES, INCLUDING STORY TIME, FAMILY NIGHTS, SUMMER READING PROGRAM, MUSIC LESSONS, BOOK DISCUSSIONS, ART CLASSES, TEEN CLUB, TUTORING, LIBRARY ENSEMBLE, AND MORE...

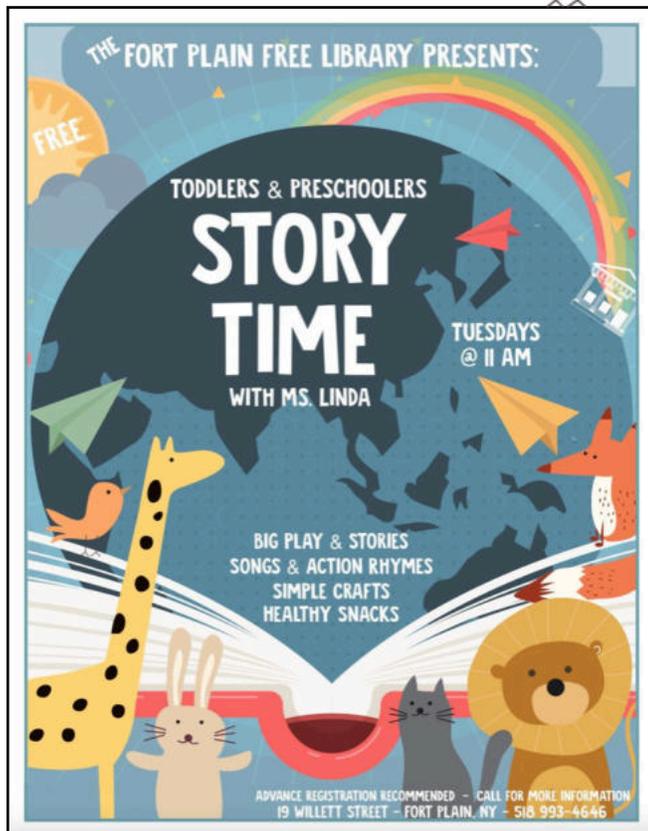
Weekly Morning Story Time

Ms. Linda

Every Tuesday - year round



Led each week by Linda Kellett, Story Time is a program featuring interactive stories, crafts, and songs for toddlers and preschoolers. Through imaginative art projects, sing-alongs teaching basic sign language, and access to a wide variety of educational toys (along with many more activities), this program offers children a chance to develop social skills and learn new concepts via creative play.



In addition to the structured portion of Story Time, a wide variety of open play activities—including blocks, marble runs, wooden train sets, letter and picture puzzles, and more—allow children of various ages to learn and explore new concepts at their own pace.



(Above) Participant in our story time proudly shows off painted pumpkin. (Left) Story time takes a pause for a group photo!





Each Tuesday's hour-long session features activities designed to build skills in early reading, math literacy, hand-eye coordination, and small motor control. This year, in addition to Sam's ukulele playing, library staff also introduced simple American Sign Language gestures into the musical portion of our program!



School Visits

Ms. Linda



(Above) A group of visiting first-graders says hello to Mr. Jacob at the circulation desk.



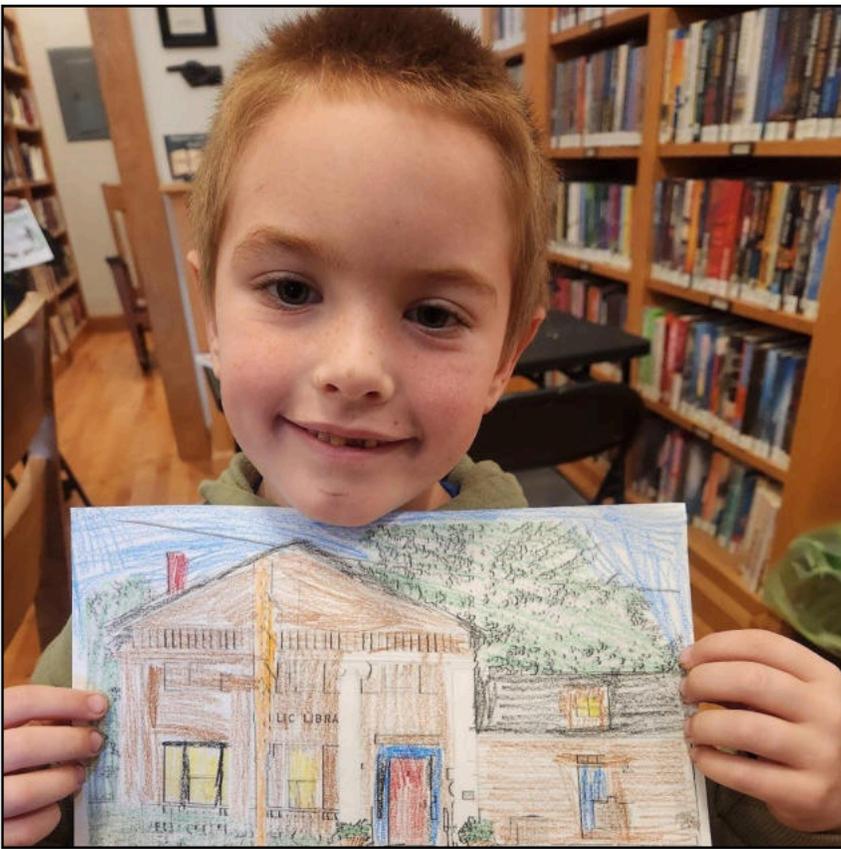
Bi-monthly First Grade Programs at the Library

Our collaboration with the Harry Hoag School's first grade classes consists of interactive programs with a focus on library literacy skills (for example, learning the difference between fiction and nonfiction). Every other month, the classes are bussed to the library for a half hour of instruction and fun. Each session consists of a story and/or activity such as the introductory tour and scavenger hunt, the creation of a class book, and a final culminating program during which students get an invitation to get their own library cards.

The goal is to make the students and their families aware of all the public library has to offer. We want to make the library a destination: a place to learn, to have fun, to meet people with similar hobbies and interests, to gain access to a wealth of information and materials, and to develop a lifelong love of reading.

We appreciate the school's and teachers' willingness to partner with us in both of these educational programs!





(Above) The first-grade classes always bring their artistic talents during visits to the library! (Below) Ms. Linda and a group of preschoolers at Harry Hoag Elementary School show their handmade creations. Picture source: www.facebook.com/FortPlainCentralSchoolDistrict/



Monthly Pre-K Story Time Programs at the Harry Hoag School

Each month, we visit the Harry Hoag School's pre-kindergarten classes for half-hour story time programs. Each educational, interactive program consists of a story, songs, action rhymes, and an age-appropriate craft. The goal is to spark a love of reading.

The activities are engaging and fun, but they also foster the development of early literacy and cognitive skills such as eye-hand coordination, visual perception, motor coordination, color identification, and more. The collaborative partnership with the school allows us to introduce the students to the Fort Plain Free Library, creating a positive (and hopefully lasting) impression about what we have to offer.



Monthly Night Story Time

Mrs. Young & Mrs. Fredericks

October — April



The Fort Plain Free Library
19 Willett St • Fort Plain NY 13339 • 518-993-4646

Evening Storytime!

Led by Ryann Young
with Lori Fredericks

THURSDAY, APRIL 10TH
5:30 - 6:30 PM

Stories, games, crafts & songs for children ages 3 & 4!

Space for this program is limited, so preregistration is required.
Please call the library at 518-993-4646 to register!

Ryann Young and Lori Fredericks returned to the library this year with their Evening Storytime program, offering games, crafts, stories and songs for children and their families!



The Fort Plain Free Library
19 Willett St • Fort Plain NY 13339 • 518-993-4646

Evening Storytime!

Led by Ryann Young
with Lori Fredericks

OCTOBER 22ND
5:30 - 6:30 PM

Stories, games, crafts & songs
for children ages 3 - 5!

Space for this program is limited, so preregistration is appreciated!
Please call the library at 518-993-4646 to preregister!



The Fort Plain Free Library
19 Willett St • Fort Plain NY 13339 • 518-993-4646

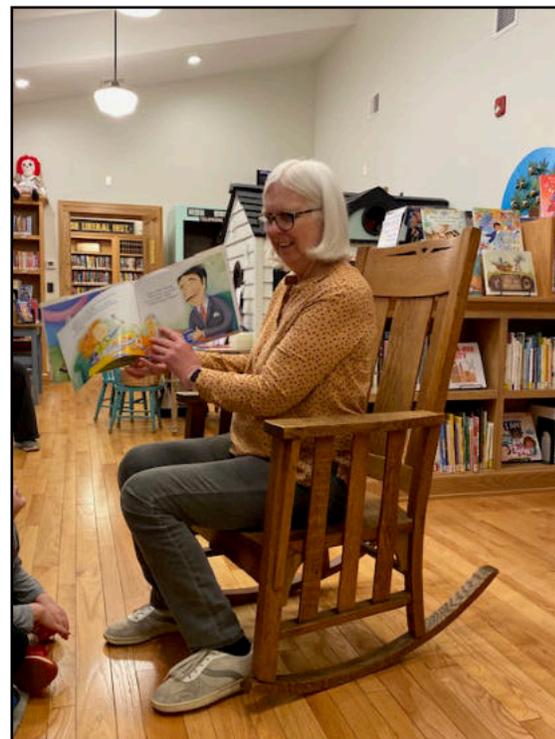
Evening Storytime!

Led by Ryann Young
with Lori Fredericks

JANUARY 15TH
5:30 - 6:30 PM

Stories, games, crafts & songs
for children ages 3 & 4!

Space for this program is limited, so preregistration is required.
Please call the library at 518-993-4646 to register!



BOOK CLUB

At the library

Led by the library's own Jacob Trahan, our Book Club is an opportunity to read and discuss a new book together every month, alternating between novels and nonfiction. Whether you loved the book, hated the book, or didn't even manage to finish the book, everyone is encouraged to give their perspective—and we've found that diverse opinions make for the best discussions! We've also found that having a group to read with is a wonderful way to explore genres and subjects you might otherwise have missed, and to develop a deeper appreciation for books outside your comfort zone. Copies of the latest Book Club title are always available to borrow at the library, so we hope you'll join in too!

The Fort Plain Free Library presents
Book Discussion

**NOW IS NOT
the TIME
to PANIC**

By Kevin Wilson

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10TH • 2 PM

"[A] tender, moving novel by an author who understands how truly bizarre ordinary life is." — *Ann Charles, Washington Post*

The Fort Plain Free Library
18 Willard St. • Fort Plain, NY 13329 • 518-993-4844

The Fort Plain Free Library presents
Book Discussion

**ASTROPHYSICS
for People in a Hurry**

By Neil deGrasse Tyson

"Introduce professors, historians and those of us, accessible...reading Astrophysics for People in a Hurry is both a learning and entertaining experience." — *BookPage*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH • 2 PM

The Fort Plain Free Library
18 Willard St. • Fort Plain, NY 13329 • 518-993-4844

The Fort Plain Free Library presents
Book Discussion

**NEWS
OF THE
WORLD**

By Paulette Jiles

FRIDAY, MARCH 14TH • 2 PM

"[A]n adventure story, filled with danger and justice, a western, meticulously researched and rendered, and a true historical page-turner with plenty of visual scenes of compassion, romance, beauty, and power." — *National Book Foundation*

The Fort Plain Free Library
18 Willard St. • Fort Plain, NY 13329 • 518-993-4844

The Fort Plain Free Library presents
Book Discussion

**The
Wager**

A tale of SHIPWRECK,
MUTINY, and MURDER

By David Grann

FRIDAY, APRIL 11TH • 2 PM

"The beauty of *The Wager* unfolds like a great sail... One of the finest nonfiction books I've ever read." — *The Guardian*

The Fort Plain Free Library
18 Willard St. • Fort Plain, NY 13329 • 518-993-4844

The Fort Plain Free Library presents
Book Discussion

Featuring the #1 novel by Colson Whitehead

**HARLEM
Shuffle**

FRIDAY, MAY 9TH • 2 PM

"A sensibly clever romp... This book is a blast that will make you think." — *The Guardian*

The Fort Plain Free Library
18 Willard St. • Fort Plain, NY 13329 • 518-993-4844

The Fort Plain Free Library presents
Book Discussion

**THE
FEATHER
THIEF**

Beauty, Obsession, and the Natural History Heat of the Century

FRIDAY, JUNE 13TH • 2 PM

"One of the most peculiar and memorable true-crime books you're ever likely to read." — *Christian Science Monitor*

The Fort Plain Free Library
18 Willard St. • Fort Plain, NY 13329 • 518-993-4844

Book Discussion

**The Remains
of the Day**

By Kazuo Ishiguro

"An intricate and dazzling novel." — *The New York Times*

FRIDAY, JULY 11TH • 2 PM

The Fort Plain Free Library • 18 Willard St. • Fort Plain, NY 13329 • 518-993-4844

The Fort Plain Free Library presents
Book Discussion

**A FEVER IN THE
HEARTLAND**

THE KU KLUX KLAN'S PLOT TO TAKE OVER AMERICA,
AND THE WOMAN WHO STOPPED THEM

BY TIMOTHY EGAN

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8TH • 2 PM

"High stakes, ample suspense and sweeping historical phenomena made vivid through the dramatic actions of individual victims and heroes." — *The Washington Post*

The Fort Plain Free Library
18 Willard St. • Fort Plain, NY 13329 • 518-993-4844

The Fort Plain Free Library presents
Book Discussion

**THE
BOTANY
OF DESIRE**

A PLANT'S-EYE VIEW OF THE WORLD

OCTOBER 10TH • 2 PM

"A whimsical, literary romp through man's perpetually frustrating and always unpredictable relationship with nature." — *Los Angeles Times*

PORT PLAIN FREE LIBRARY
18 Willard St. • Fort Plain, NY 13329 • 518-993-4844

The Fort Plain Free Library presents
Book Discussion

**Watership
Down**

SEPTEMBER 12TH • 2 PM

"Spellbinding... Marvelous... A fast tale of suspense, hot pursuit and daring-do." — *Chicago Tribune*

The Fort Plain Free Library
18 Willard St. • Fort Plain, NY 13329 • 518-993-4844

The Fort Plain Free Library presents
Book Discussion

**THE
BEAN
TREES**

By Barbara Kingsolver

NOVEMBER 14TH • 2 PM

"The *Bean Trees* is the work of a visionary... It leaves you open-mouthed and smiling." — *Los Angeles Times*

The Fort Plain Free Library
18 Willard St. • Fort Plain, NY 13329 • 518-993-4844

The Fort Plain Free Library presents
Book Discussion

**IN THE
GARDEN
OF BEASTS**

Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin

DECEMBER 12TH • 2 PM

"By far [Erik Larson's] best and most enthralling work of nonfiction history." — *New York Times*

The Fort Plain Free Library
18 Willard St. • Fort Plain, NY 13329 • 518-993-4844

What are those sounds?

The Library Ensemble is an open community band where anyone, of any instrument, is welcome to join us every 1st and 3rd Wednesday Evenings. We play a variety of songs, many of which are custom arranged for the ensemble. The flexibility in arrangements truly allows the ensemble to accept all instruments at all playing levels. The goal of the Ensemble is to provide a space for those who want experience the joy of playing music in a group setting and to give back to the community through musical performances.



Now Accepting Members!



The Library Ensemble

A community band at the
Fort Plain Free Library!

Every 1st & 3rd
Wednesday
6 - 7:30 pm



LIBRARY MUSIC LESSONS

The Fort Plain Free Library offers free music lessons every Wednesday from 3-5pm hosted by Sam, a trained k-12 music educator. These free lessons are available for anyone in the community who wants to try a new instrument, learn another, improve reading skills, or further the mastery of their current instrument. The goals of our music lessons are to develop music literacy, strengthen the joy and appreciation of listening and playing music, and to strengthen a way to connect with your community.

Scan the QR code to learn more about how to sign up for free music lessons!



Music Lessons at the Fort Plain Free Library!

Free to the Public!
Recommended Ages 8 & Up

Lessons will be half hour time slots
Wednesdays from 3pm - 5pm
Sign-ups for lessons are required

www.fortplainfreelibrary.com

518-993-4646

Sign-up on our website
or over the phone!

Fort Plain Free Library - 19 Willett Street, Fort Plain NY

-  Piano
-  Guitar
-  Voice
-  Percussion
-  Brass
-  Woodwinds
-  Strings
-  Theory & More!

Science in the library

John Laffan (better known to many of our patrons as "Captain Science") brought interactive science experiments featuring magnets, bubbles, static electricity, and much more to the library this year as part of a new program: Camp Curiosity! The initial ten-week run of Camp Curiosity was so successful that we brought it back for our Summer Reading Program, which concluded with Captain Science demonstrating a rocket-powered wagon ride!

Fort Plain Free Library
Presents
Camp Curiosity
with Captain Science
AGES 8 - 13

Are you curious?
Creative? Inventive?

Join us at the library on select Tuesdays from 3:30 pm - 5 pm to explore, experiment, and discover exciting science phenomena!

sign Up Today!

Week 1: February 25
Don't Tip Over!
Are we defying gravity or are we putting it to the test? Come solve balancing puzzles and activities with us!

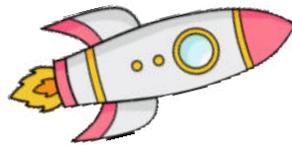
Week 2: March 4
Did You Hear That?
What is sound? How do we make different sounds and pitches? Come to the library and make some noise with us!

Week 3: March 11
Charge! You'll be shocked by what you discover!
What is static electricity and how do we create it? Join us for an electrifying experience!

Week 4: March 25
Magnet Mania
What makes magnets attract and repel? How do we use this in everyday technology? Come build your very own magnetic motor!

Science Kits & Electrifying Activities

More dates and details on the back!



The Fort Plain Free Library presents:
Camp Curiosity!

Join us at the library on select Tuesdays for science experiments, puzzles, and interactive activities--plus your chance to collect a brand new set of library trading cards!

This week: Léon Foucault, inventor of the gyroscope!

Next week's card: ???

LÉON FOUCAULT CS

CAPTAIN SCIENCE CARD

Léon Foucault was a French physicist who named the gyroscope. In 1852 he created a gyroscope which was sensitive enough to detect the Earth's rotation. His earlier experiments with the pendulum proved that the Earth rotates on its axis.

BALANCE

Fort Plain Free Library
100 N. Main St.
Fort Plain, NY 12034
607.535.2222
www.fortplainlibrary.org

A Colorful Summer

This year's Summer Reading Program featured art, science, music, and more! Just a few highlights: creating artwork in the style of Eric Carle; painting along as a group with Bob Ross; blowing gigantic bubbles at Camp Curiosity; and creating original music with Ms. Sam. (Plus: the return of our library trading cards, which encouraged kids to collect them all by reading books, attending programs, and completing challenges at the library!)



SUMMER

Library Adventures!

July 8th - August 1st

Programs for all ages, featuring art, music, science experiments, and more! Plus: your chance to earn a brand new set of library trading cards!

Full schedule at:
fortplainfreelibrary.org

The poster features a central illustration of a beach scene with a sun, palm trees, a sailboat, and a beach chair. Surrounding this are several library trading cards with various titles like 'Paint with Scissors', 'The Bicentennial', and 'Story Hour'. A purple guitar icon is positioned at the bottom right of the poster.



Color
With
MUSIC

Tuesdays in July
3 - 4 pm

Learn how to make music that's uniquely you! Try out unusual instruments, make and record your own beats and songs, and play along to music as part of a group!

Ages 10 & up

A graphic of a vinyl record with the word 'Color' written in a colorful, bubbly font across the top and 'With MUSIC' written in white across the bottom. The record is surrounded by musical notes.



PAINT
With
Scissors!

Wednesdays in July
2 - 3:30 pm

Learn the stories of famous artists, then create your own masterpiece in their style!

Ages 5 - 12

A graphic of a paint palette with the word 'PAINT' in pink and 'With Scissors!' in purple. The palette is surrounded by colorful paint splatters and scissors.



CHILL
//
ART

Fridays in July
4 - 5 pm

Create new crafts and art projects each week! Featuring relaxed vibes and lots of room for self-expression.

Ages 10 - 18

A graphic of a vinyl record with the words 'CHILL // ART' written in yellow across the top. The record is surrounded by musical notes.



Scan the QR code to take a look back at our program line-up from this past summer!



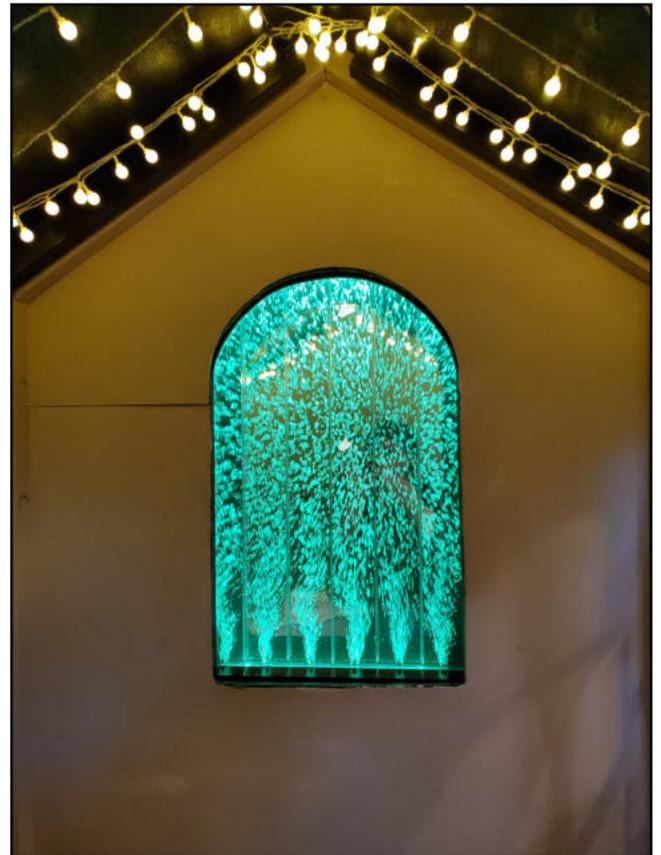


Bring on the SPECTRUM

The bubble wall, liquid floor tiles, and other new sensory items in our children's room were generously donated by **Bring on the Spectrum**, a nonprofit dedicated to enhancing the lives of neurodiverse children, young adults and adults in the greater Capital Region. We are grateful for their assistance in making our children's room a more welcoming, fascinating, and inclusive space!



(Above) Kids and adults alike enjoy stepping on these colorful sensory floor tiles to see the different color swirls they can create!

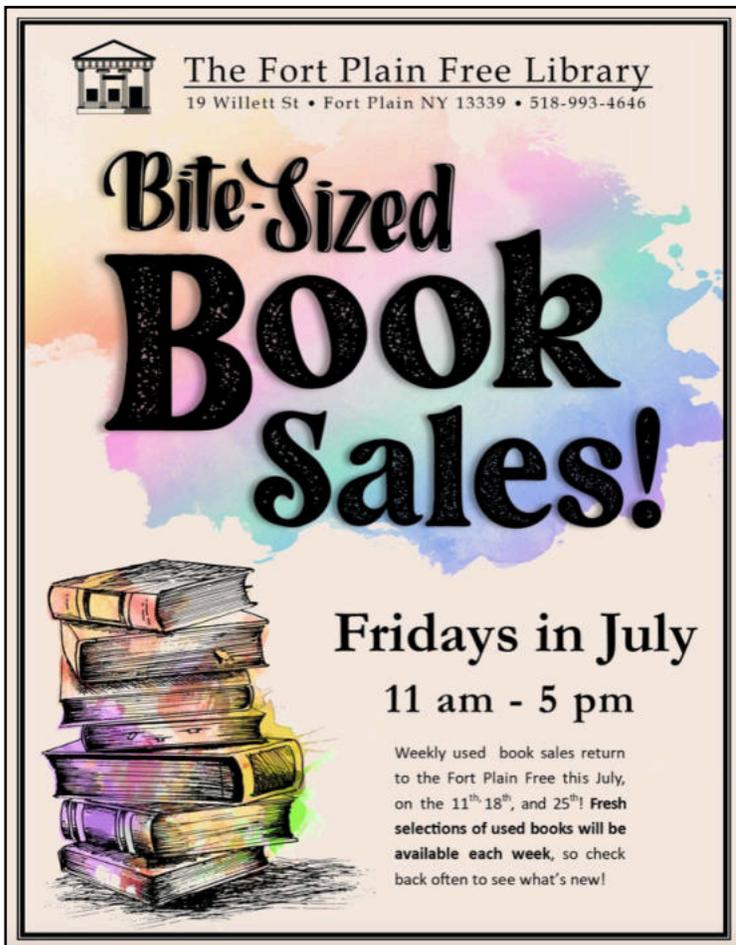


Scan the QR code to learn more about Bring on the Spectrum and their services!



BOOKS, PLANTS, COOKIES AND MORE.....

Held every spring and fall, our annual book sales are both the library's biggest fundraisers and a chance to catch up with a ton of our patrons at once! Each sale involves sorting through thousands of donated books (and pricing hundreds of rummage sale items), a massive undertaking made possible only through the efforts of our volunteers. Whether carrying crates (so many crates), tallying prices, or simply greeting patrons at the door, their cheerful and unflagging assistance makes every book sale feel like a celebration!

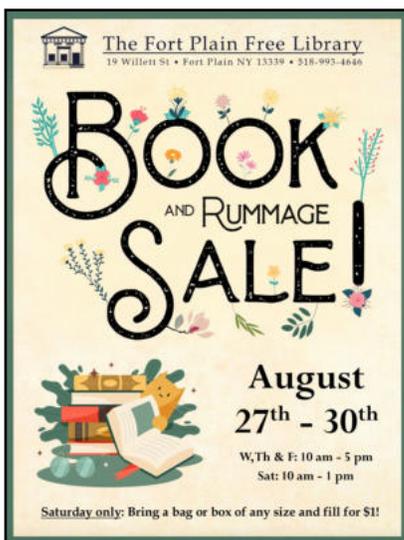


Library book sales are not just a great selection of books you can buy, they are an opportunity to find inspiration, explore new ideas, find the perfect book for a loved one, and connect with others (like your library staff and volunteers!).



(Left) Liberty volunteers donate plants they start from seed every year for our spring Plant, Book, & Rummage sale. (Right) Two book sale enthusiasts who came prepared with their own book bag!

There have been many occasions when the library is in need of extra hands, another pair of eyes, or an expert of something specific, and we have been extremely fortunate to have many of our calls to action met. Whether in plain sight, or behind the scenes, the act of volunteering at our library is always appreciated and can significantly improve our ability to dedicate more time and energy to library services and programming.

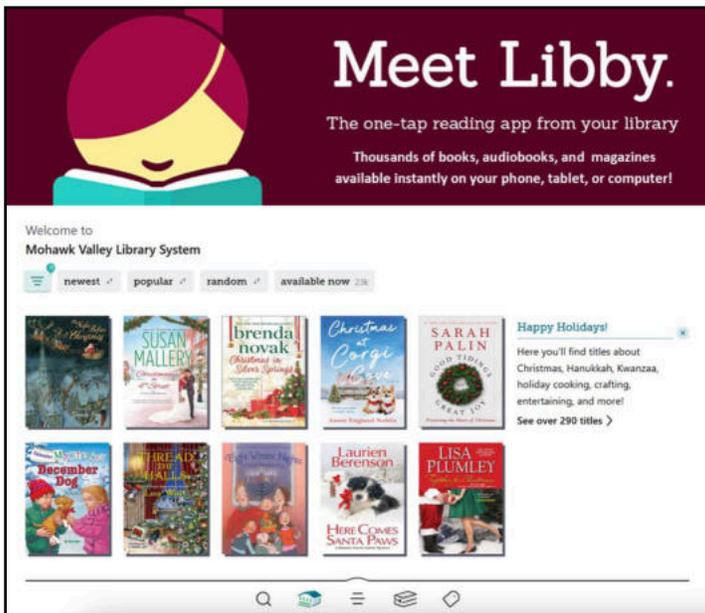


(Bottom Right) Volunteers step in to help library staff with the task of cleaning over 100 plastic totes that were dropped off at the library. What did these totes contain? Interesting that you should ask! You will find out in six more pages.



Mohawk Valley Library System

In addition to our own collections, library patrons can access many other resources through the Mohawk Valley Library system: ebooks and other digital materials via the Libby app; homeschool resources through Educate Station; memory care kits featuring resources and activities for those with dementia and their families; collections of children's books available as part of the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program; and more!



NOW AVAILABLE:

Memory Care Kits



Books, activities, and resources for individuals living with Alzheimer's and dementia (as well as for their caretakers and loved ones)

Each Memory Care Kit contains a variety of activities, books, and informational pamphlets, as well as suggestions for electronic resources. Questions or comments? Contact mvlis@mvlis.info, or call 518-355-2010.

ASK OUR LIBRARY STAFF FOR MORE INFORMATION

MOHAWK VALLEY LIBRARY SYSTEM

FORT PLAIN FREE LIBRARY



Start With Science kits promote science and reading literacy skills among children ages 4 & 5. Each kit focuses on a science theme, and includes stories, activities, and science equipment.



FREE Home School Resources for Your Family!
Pre-K through Fifth Grade

Weekly / Monthly Learning Plans & Worksheets

- ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS
- MATH
- SCIENCE
- SOCIAL STUDIES
- SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING (SEL)

Free access available @ [FortPlainFreeLibrary.org!](http://FortPlainFreeLibrary.org)



THE ARTS FACTORY TAKES UP RESIDENCE



We collaborated with the Arts Factory of Montgomery County to showcase the work of a new artist each month in 2025. It was wonderful to have some new art on the library walls, and to experience the depth and variety of artistic talent found in our area!



MAY 2025 EXHIBIT



WELCOME TO MY GARDEN

PHYLLIS LAPI

SEPTEMBER 2025 EXHIBIT



KATHY VAN LOAN

JULY 2025 EXHIBIT



WHO ARE WE?

AN INDEPENDENCE DAY OBSERVATION

TIM SHAFFER

OCTOBER 2025 EXHIBIT



DRAWN FROM LIFE

MARY BETH VOUGHT



The Arts Factory of Montgomery County, Inc. is a non-profit organization whose mission is to support, encourage and cultivate local arts, artisans and venues of the Mohawk Valley of New York State.

<https://theartsfactory518.com>

The ARTS FACTORY [TAF] WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS!

Erie Canal: Bicentennial Celebration

In celebration of the Erie Canal's 200th birthday, we teamed up with the Albany Symphony to create trading cards celebrating performers at their "Water Music New York: More Voices" festival!



Free Admission

ALBANY SYMPHONY NEW YORK STATE CANALS

MORE VOICES NY WATER MUSIC FESTIVAL

MUSIC • FOOD • FAMILY FUN • OUTDOOR CONCERTS

The library will be closed on Saturday, July 5th, as we attend the Water Music New York Festival at Fort Plain's Lock E15!

Join us at our booth from 1 to 4 pm and attend festival events to collect a themed set of trading cards!

Featuring vendors, food, and activities starting at 1 pm, opening musical acts starting at 6 pm, and a performance by the Albany Symphony Orchestra starting at 8 pm!

(Left) Artist and astronomer, Dr. Tyler Nordgren, was commissioned by the New York State Canal Corporation to design the 2025 Erie Canal Bicentennial Poster. NYS libraries were among the 100+ locations given copies of the poster to give away for free.



Scan the QR code to learn more about the Water Music Festival!

FEATURED GUESTS

THE ALBANY SYMPHONY

The Albany Symphony is expanding the enjoyment of music. Dedicated to honoring the heritage of Upstate New York, the Albany Symphony not only serve the Upstate New York, Massachusetts, and...

WATER MUSIC NY 2025

FEATURED GUESTS

TOM PORTER

Tom Porter is the founder, spokesperson and spiritual leader for the Mohawk Community of Kanatsiohareke. He has spent his life dedicated to facilitating the understanding of indigenous culture.

WATER MUSIC NY 2025

FEATURED GUESTS

ALAN MILLER

Alan Miller has been the Director of the Albany Symphony, which has performed many pieces by composers. Through his leadership, the symphony has become one of the premier symphonies in the world today!

WATER MUSIC NY 2025

FEATURED GUESTS

ERIN FOX

Erin Fox is a talented singer and songwriter. She began her career in 2015, performing her traditional songs in her native Mohawk language. She has performed at various venues and has been featured on the radio. She is currently working on her debut album.

THE BICENTENNIAL ERIE CANAL CARD

Completed in 1825, the Erie Canal is one of the greatest engineering marvels in the history of the United States. Its construction significantly expanded trade and agriculture as well as cemented New York's place in America as the Empire State. In Fort Plain, you can find its original location on Canal Street; it was moved to its current position in 1918!

AGES 0 & UP

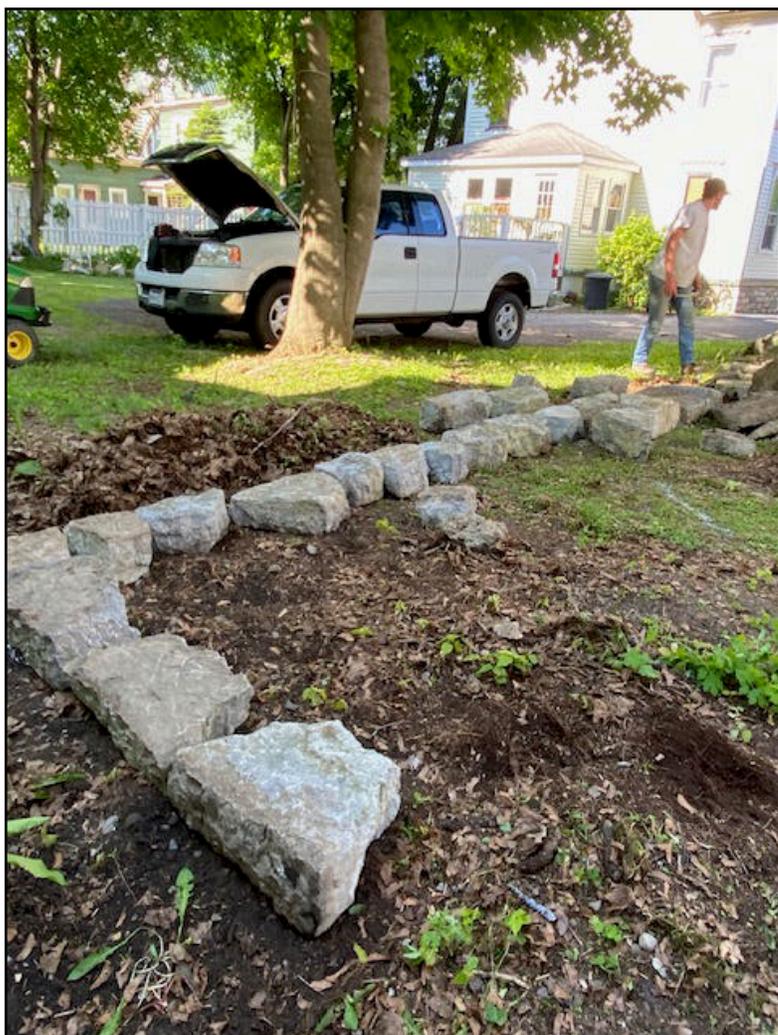
SURROUNDED BY NATURE



The first bright colors of spring emerge in library garden!



These colorful flowers are curated by volunteer Sherri Byrne, whose tireless efforts keep our library garden blooming!



Our long-term plan to create a reading garden in the library's backyard saw major progress this year, with the creation of a new stone wall and raised garden bed!

Canajoharie-Fort Plain Garden Club



Floral arrangements donated by the Canajoharie-Fort Plain Garden Club can often be found at the circulation desk. We always look forward to seeing their designs!



Can you have too many cookbooks?

A massive book donation that arrived at our library this spring contained an unexpected surprise: more than 3,600 recipe pamphlets, compiled from communities and organizations across the country. Hoping to keep this extraordinary collection in one piece, we reached out to Kansas State University, who graciously agreed to accept these materials into their foodways collection.



Kansas State University's 'cookery collection is the largest collection of its kind that is available at a public university. Many of the cookbooks represent a specific place and time, allowing researchers insight about the socio-economic status of the cookbooks' contributors as well as what ingredients were available in that location at the time the cookbook was published.' (Source: <https://lib.k-state.edu/research-find/archives-and-special-collections/collections/cookery/>)

A Library Illustrated — 2025 in MORE Pictures



Captain Science launching himself down the bike path at our Summer Reading Program finale.



Story time friends share a book with the rest of the group.



Community yarn collection! Take or donate as you wish!

Community FOOD DRIVE!

FORT PLAIN FREE LIBRARY

All donations support the
Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry

Fort Plain Reformed Church, 165 Canal St, Fort Plain NY
Open 3rd Wednesday of each month, 10 am - Noon
For emergency food assistance, call: 518-993-4302

Useful Items:

- Boxed Mac & Cheese
- Ramen Noodles
- Canned Soup, Fruit, Meat, & Fish
- Cereal
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Chef Boyardee Products
- Pasta & Sauce

For additional food resources, visit:
montgomerycountysheriffny.com/assistance

FORT PLAIN FREE LIBRARY

Looking Light fresh MILK STREET

HUNDREDS of cooking magazines available for FREE!

High-quality cooking magazines available in bulk for your group or organization! Individual issues available to browse at the library!
Help us find homes for these items before they're recycled!

19 Willett St, Fort Plain NY • 518-993-4646 • fpfl@mvlis.info





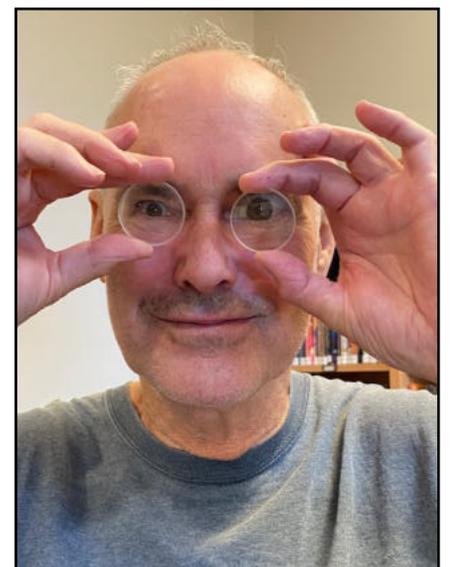
Jacob and Sam – channeling Bob Ross for the paint-a-long.



The best view in the library overlooks Haslett Park.

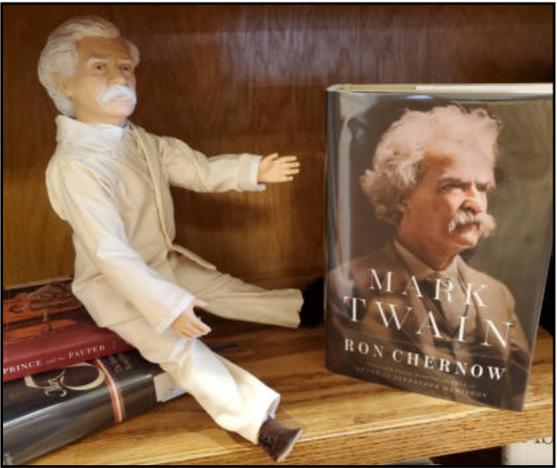


Dressed in green for St. Patty Party!

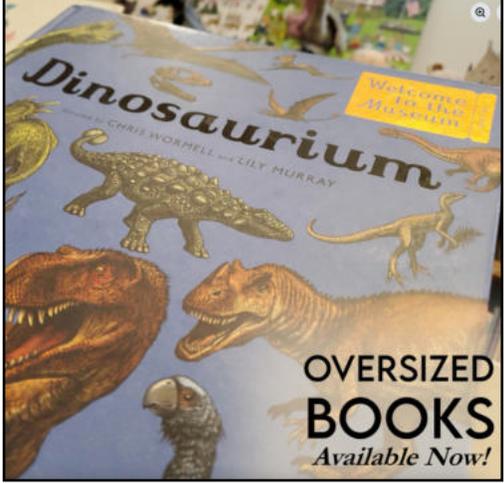


(Mid. Left) View through children's room. (Mid. Right) Beautiful handmade quilt barn pins created and donated by Liz Argotsinger. (Bottom Left) Front local history room. (Bottom Right) Captain Science showing off lenses.

What kind of books live in this corner of the library? We'll give you one guess 🤖
(In addition to our own collection of chapter books, this section of our children's room also features a brand new set of rotating fiction for kids from the [Johnstown Public Library](#), and new issues of The Week Jr. magazine! All now available to borrow with your library card 📖)



Mark Twain,
robots,
Shakespeare,
dinosaurs
and foxes –
all can be
found at your
local library!



FORT PLAIN FREE LIBRARY PRESENTS:

CAMERA CLUB

THROUGH THE LENS

COLLABORATION
SHOWCASES/WORKSHOPS
SKILLS/TECHNIQUES
INSPIRATION
PEER CRITIQUE
SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY

JOIN US @ THE LIBRARY
MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS HELD IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM
EVERY LAST TUESDAY
6 - 8 PM // MONTHLY

© 19 WILLET STREET - FORT PLAIN, NY - 518.993.4646

(Left) Meeting at the library on the final Tuesday of each month, Camera Club is an opportunity for photographers of all skill levels to show off their work, trade techniques, and learn some new tips. We look forward to seeing new contributions from our talented club members every month! (Right) Welcome sewers, quilters, knitters, crocheters, needle pointers, etc. and those who want to learn!

Join The Creative Fibers Group!

All crafters are welcome!

Every Thursday from 12:30-2:30
at the Fort Plain Free Library

FORT PLAIN FREE LIBRARY PRESENTS:

Kids of Earth

EVERY 1ST FRIDAY * 3:30-4:30PM

MEETINGS WILL INCLUDE HANDS ON ACTIVITIES, SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS, AND ART PROJECTS TO TEACH KIDS ABOUT CLIMATE CONSERVATION!

OPEN TO ALL CHILDREN GRADES K-8 IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY!

19 Willett St
Fort Plain, NY 13339
(518)-993-4646 fpfl@mvls.info

THE FORT PLAIN FREE LIBRARY
Presents:

Cozy Cookie Decorating

Saturday
February 15th
11 am - 1 pm

Fun for the whole family!

A free event where everyone can decorate and eat cookies!
(Gluten free and Vegan options will be available!)

19 Willett Street Fort Plain, NY
518-993-4646 fortplainfreeibrary@gmail.com

THE PHILO CAFE

Join our discussion group! A respectful forum for people to share thoughts and ideas about a diverse range of topics determined by those in attendance.

1ST & 3RD THURSDAY - EVERY MONTH
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
FORT PLAIN FREE LIBRARY

the fort plain free library presents:

St. Patty Party!

3:30 to 5 pm

Friday, March 14th

Snacks and treats!
Crafts for all ages!
Basket raffle drawing!

19 Willett Street
518-993-4646

Is there a program you would like us to offer? Please feel free to share your ideas for programming, classes and events at the library.

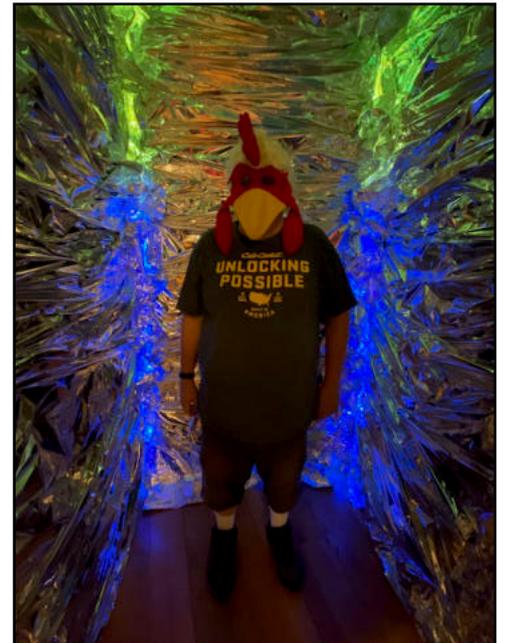
Paint Along

With Bob Ross

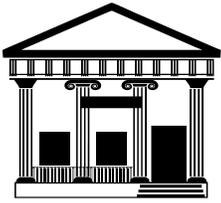
Wednesday, July 30th
6 - 7:30 pm

Follow along with an episode of *The Joy of Painting* and bring home a masterpiece! All supplies provided!

The Library is glowing



(Top Left) Whimsical colors reminiscent of aurora borealis emanate from our graphic novel and fantasy section. (Top Right) 'Don't be a stranger to a good book' beckons this illuminating sign in the children's room! (Bottom Left) Jacob from 2009 appeared in a photo booth created by library staff. (Bottom Middle) A trio of musicians serenaded library staff while posing for their band photos. (Bottom Right) Somehow a chicken also made its way into the photo booth.



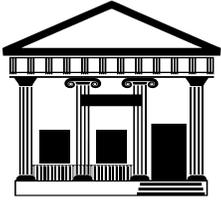
FORT PLAIN FREE LIBRARY

2025 OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

19 WILLETT STREET FORT PLAIN, NY 13339 — (518) 993-4646 — FORTPLAINFREELIBRARY.ORG

OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

<u>CATEGORIES</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>YEAR END TOTAL</u>
SALARIES & PAYROLL TAXES TOTAL	\$130,395	\$128,570.50
BOOKS (OTHER MATERIALS)	\$5,500	\$7,184.11
BUILDING MAINTENANCE		
GAS	\$3,500	\$1,823.72
ELECTRIC	\$3,500	\$3,292.09
OTHER UTILITIES	\$1,000	\$940.22
CUSTODIAL SUPPLIES	\$1,000	\$1,407.55
INSURANCE	\$6,000	\$6,267.47
MAINTENANCE/CLEANING	\$2,000	\$1,033.04
SNOW REM./LANDSCAPING	\$1,000	\$1,226.43
SECURITY	\$1,000	\$3,189.00
BUILDING MAINTENANCE TOTAL:	\$19,000	\$19,179.52
LIBRARY MISC.		
LIBRARY SUPPLIES	\$14,305	\$7,458.63
PROGRAMMING	\$14,000	\$7,966.43
ARCHIVAL SUPPLIES	\$2,000	\$0.00
TELEPHONE/INTERNET	\$4,000	\$4,867.35
POSTAGE	\$500	\$163.41
PUBLICITY	\$200	\$170.05
EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	\$3,500	\$2,835.76
LIBRARY SYSTEM FEES	\$7,000	\$5,555.90
ACCOUNTING	\$1,600	\$1,750.00
PAYROLL SERVICE	\$1,000	\$997.50
MISC./TRAVEL REIMB.	\$1,200	\$4,038.00
LIBRARY MISC. TOTAL:	\$49,305	\$35,803.03
OPERATIONAL EXPENSE BUDGET TOTAL:	\$204,200	\$190,737.16



FORT PLAIN FREE LIBRARY

2025 OPERATIONAL INCOME

19 WILLETT STREET FORT PLAIN, NY 13339 — (518) 993-4646 — FORTPLAINFREELIBRARY.ORG

OPERATIONAL INCOME

<u>CATEGORIES</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>YEAR END TOTAL</u>
LOCAL PUBLIC FUNDS		
TOWN OF MINDEN	\$3,000	\$3,000
VILLAGE OF FORT PLAIN	\$3,000	\$3,000
TAX LEVY	\$100,000	\$100,000
LOCAL PUBLIC FUND TOTAL:	\$106,000	\$106,000
SYSTEM GRANTS & STATE AID	\$10,000	11,697.20*
TRUSTS	\$32,600	\$27,788.45
GIFTS		
GRANTS	\$34,000	\$33,912.00
DONATIONS	\$7,000	\$5,761.35
FUNDRAISING	\$10,000	\$10,798.28
GIFTS TOTAL:	\$51,000	\$50,471.63
OTHER (FAX, PRINTER, ETC.)	\$4,600	\$5,391.82
OPERATIONAL INCOME BUDGET TOTAL:	\$204,200	\$201,349.10

*FUNDS FROM THE 'SYSTEM GRANTS & STATE AID' CATEGORY ARE ALLOCATED TO BE USED FOR PROGRAMMING OVER SEVERAL YEARS.

