

**Library Board of Trustees
Meeting Agenda
May 20, 2025 at 7 p.m.
Hudson Area Public Library
700 1st Street, Hudson WI 54016**

Finance Committee and regular LBOT meeting
May 20, 2025 06:45 PM Central Time

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82784729276?pwd=doEYRNXXHXfi5tbUUE6eLkZi9DxyJ6H.1>

Meeting ID: 827 8472 9276
Passcode: 750369

Find your local number:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kdpMHav0pS>

1. Call to order, roll call, certification of quorum, certification of compliance with WI open meeting laws and public records laws, introduction of visitors and guests.
2. Citizen Comments
3. Approval Organizational Meeting Agenda

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING ITEMS – ACTION ITEMS:

- Election of Library Board of Trustees Officers
 1. President
 2. Vice President

*2024-2025 President: Paul Berning
2024-2025 Vice President: Bryan Wells*

- Nomination and Approval of Library Board Committees
 1. President's appointment: Finance
Confirmation vote by Trustees
 2. President's appointment: Policy & Personnel
Confirmation vote by Trustees

*2024-2025 Finance Committee: Bryan Wells, Gerry Klecker, Chad Wiertzema
2024-2025 Policy and Personnel Committee: Barb Peterson, Jim Dalluhn
Bill Fehrenbach*

- Meeting dates and times
Current dates and times:
*Third Tuesday of the month
6:45 p.m. Finance Committee
7 p.m. Regular Board Meeting*

- Trustee Participation and Voting: Remote Open Meetings

Current: Remote/electronic participation and voting approved for Trustees for

open meetings only with the stipulation that the Trustee's camera must be turned on.

- Review and approve 2026 library hours and closures
- Record meetings for River Channel

REGULAR MEETING:

4. ACTION ITEM: Approval of Consent Agenda Items

- *Approve regular meeting agenda*
- *Disposition of minutes from the prior board meeting(s) and of any intervening special meetings*
- *Acceptance of expenditure report*
- *Approve Finance Committee's recommendation to pay bills*

5. Presentations:

- *Friends of the Library*
- *Library Foundation*

6. Updates and reports

- *President's updates*
- *City of Hudson updates*
- *Hudson School District updates*

7. Committee updates

- *Policy and Personnel*
- *Finance*
- *AI*

8. Director's Report

- *Presentation of monthly report and statistics*
- *Director's report & updates*

9. PRESENTATION: Christopher Mick Lead the Way

10. PRESENTATION: Summer Reading Program

11. Discussion: Director's Report Items

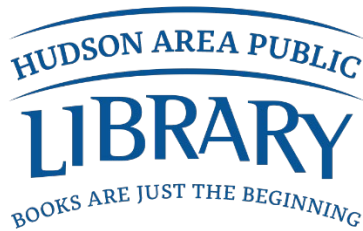
12. Future agenda items

13. Adjourn

Next meeting: June 17, 2025

Board of Trustees Members: Paul Berning, Jim Dalluhn, Rich O'Connor, Barbara Peterson, Bryan Wells, Bill Fehrenbach, Gerry Klecker, Chad Wiertzema, Sammi Dittloff.

NOTE: Some Agenda items may be taken up earlier in the meeting, or in a different order than listed. Upon reasonable notice, an interpreter or other auxiliary aids will be provided at the meeting to accommodate the needs of the public. Please contact the Library Director at 715-386-3101 ext. 305.



2026 HOLIDAYS AND CLOSURES

Topic: Library schedule for holidays and closures. Library adopts the same holidays as the city.

Recommendation: Motion to approve the holiday and closure schedule as presented.

Background: The closures are based on the library's traditional approach to holidays, including when holidays fall on weekends. Sunday hours will begin the first weekend of October and end the weekend before Mother's Day in May. Hours remain the same: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Thursday. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday.

January 1—New Year's Day

January 19, 2026—Martin Luther King Jr. Day

April 3, 2026—Good Friday

April 5, 2026—Easter Sunday

April 27, 2026 – Bi-Annual Staff Training Day

May 25, 2026—Memorial Day

July 4, 2026—Fourth of July

September 7, 2026—Labor Day

October 12, 2026—Bi-Annual Staff Training Day/Indigenous Peoples Day

November 26—29, 2026—Thanksgiving / Day after Thanksgiving
(11/28 and 11/29 will be an unpaid closure)

December 24—27, 2026—Christmas Holidays
(12/26 and 12/27 will be an unpaid closure)

December 31, 2026—New Year's Eve



**Hudson Area Public Library
Library Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2025**

- 1. Call to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Paul Berning. Roll call, certification of quorum, certification of compliance with WI open meeting laws and public records laws, introduction of visitors and guests.**

Board members present: Paul Berning, Barb Peterson, Gerry Klecker, Bryan Wells, Sammi Dittloff, Jim Dalluhn, Bill Fehrenbach (zoom)

Board members absent: Chad Wiertzema, Rich O'Connor,

Staff: Jamie Smith, Shelley Tougas

Visitors: Susie Gilbert

- 2. Citizen Comments**

None

- 3. ACTION ITEM: CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Wells to approve consent agenda items a-d

Second by Klecker

Discussion: None

Vote Taken: MOTION CARRIED - 7 Ayes/0 Nays

- 4. Presentations**

Friends of the Library: Tougas mentioned that the Friends' book sale will run April 28th-May 4th

Foundation: Klecker and Gilbert reported that city council will be voting on whether to commit the 700 1st Street building as the permanent home of the library.

- 5. Updates/Reports**

President: none

City of Hudson: none

School district: Dalluhn reported that the school referendum passed and this will help with their budget issues.

6. Committee Updates

Policy and Personnel: Peterson reported that she and Berning met with Tougas to go over her performance review and 2025 professional goals.

Finance: Wells said they had their meeting and approved bill payment.

AI Library Integration: Dittloff said the committee met and discussed a scheduling option called Shifts that is part of the Microsoft suite. They believe this would help with the time-consuming task of scheduling library staff and will further discuss its tools and capabilities.

Library Operations and Facility Structure: Klecker said the committee met and agreed that current library staffing will work well to operate the building into the near future.

7. Director's Report

The written report was presented by Tougas. This report can be found in the LBOT packet dated 4/15/2025.

8. PRESENTATION/BOARD DEVELOPMENT: Federal Library Funding

Tougas presented a slide show with an overview of the impact on HAPL of the federal government's executive order to dismantle the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The impact will likely affect the Interlibrary Loan service of which Wisconsin is the 2nd largest requestor in the country. In 2024, HAPL requested 178 ILLs. This service may have to be reduced, covered by HAPL, or come at a cost to patrons. Another potential impact to HAPL is the cost of staff development that may have been covered by federal funding or through a federal grant. IFLS also counts on this funding to provide technical support and other resources to libraries in our system.

9. DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION: Director Goals

Tougas read her two goals aloud.

Motion by Peterson to approve

Second by Klecker

Discussion: Peterson stated that expectations and goals of the library director should not change mid-year but rather should be the expectation from the start of the new year. Any further changes to the director's job description will need to be done to take effect in 2026.

Vote Taken: MOTION CARRIED - 7 Ayes/0 Nays

10. UPDATE: Trustee Appointments

Tougas stated that everyone who is a current trustee will be so another year.

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

None

12. Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn at 7:54pm by Dalluhn

Second by Fehrenbach

Vote Taken: MOTION CARRIED – 7 Ayes/0 Nay

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Smith

Monthly Expenditure Statement
April 30, 2025
Hudson Area Public Library

Acct Code	Object Description	Budget w/ grants	MTD	YTD	Balance	%YTD
240-55111	Library					
Personnel						
121	Full-Time	\$ 482,916	\$ 37,163	\$ 162,122	\$ 320,793	34%
125	Part-Time	\$ 376,225	\$ 27,968	\$ 127,280	\$ 248,945	34%
151	FICA	\$ 65,724	\$ 4,894	\$ 21,884	\$ 43,841	33%
152	WRS	\$ 48,365	\$ 3,693	\$ 16,513	\$ 31,852	34%
154	Health Insurance	\$ 92,000	\$ 7,520	\$ 30,080	\$ 61,920	33%
Personnel Total:		\$ 1,065,230	\$ 81,239	\$ 357,879	\$ 707,351	34%
Contractual Services						
212	Legal Services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
213	Professional Services	\$ 15,500	\$ 1,250	\$ 5,000	\$ 10,500	32%
216	IFLS Ops	\$ 54,421	\$ -	\$ 54,421	\$ -	100%
217	IFLS Courier	\$ 2,700	\$ -	\$ 2,700	\$ -	100%
225	Telephone	\$ 4,200	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,200	0%
249	Contract Maint.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
294	Programming: Adults	\$ 5,000	\$ 570	\$ 2,486	\$ 2,514	50%
295	Programming: Children	\$ 25,000	\$ 3,360	\$ 6,226	\$ 18,774	25%
298	Maint. Agmts / Leases	\$ 9,000	\$ -	\$ 36	\$ 8,964	0%
299	Other Contract Services	\$ 14,748	\$ 5,393	\$ 6,315	\$ 8,433	43%
Contractual Services Total:		\$ 130,569	\$ 10,573	\$ 77,184	\$ 53,385	59%
Supplies & Expenses						
311	Postage	\$ 950	\$ 9.78	\$ 63.17	\$ 887	7%
312	Office Supplies	\$ 10,000	\$ 236.64	\$ 2,400.91	\$ 7,599	24%
324	Memberships	\$ 2,000	\$ 30.00	\$ 175.00	\$ 1,825	9%
326	Advertising	\$ 600	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 600	0%
338	Staff Development	\$ 3,600	\$ -	\$ 2,920.71	\$ 679	81%
	Furnishing	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
339	Travel / Conferences	\$ 1,500	\$ 376.32	\$ -	\$ 1,500	0%
396	Technology	\$ 9,000	\$ 81.93	\$ 1,661.12	\$ 7,339	18%
399	Activity Supplies	\$ 3,000	\$ 734.67	\$ 457.63	\$ 2,542	15%
Supplies & Expenses Total:		\$ 30,650	\$ 1,469	\$ 7,679	\$ 22,971	25%
Collection						
395	Books	\$ 70,500	\$ 6,378	\$ 24,893	\$ 45,607	35%
397	Periodicals	\$ 4,900	\$ 656	\$ 1,402	\$ 3,498	29%
398	Audio-Visual	\$ 8,000	\$ 175	\$ 2,166	\$ 5,834	27%
	Digital Resources	\$ 1,300	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Collection Total:		\$ 84,700	\$ 7,209	\$ 28,461	\$ 56,239	34%
Fixed Charges						
510	Workers Comp	\$ 1,600	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,600	0%
511	Public Liability	\$ 1,400	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,400	0%
513	Public Officials	\$ 1,800	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,800	0%
517	Property Insurance	\$ 3,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,000	0%
519	Unemployment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
532	Occupancy Agreement	\$ 90,000	\$ 7,500	\$ 30,000	\$ 60,000	33%
Fixed Charges Total:		\$ 97,800	\$ 7,500	\$ 30,000	\$ 67,800	31%
812	Furniture and Furnishings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
829	Other Repair and Improvements	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Capital Expenses Total:				\$ -		Remaining
Total Expenditures		\$ 1,408,949	\$ 107,990	\$ 501,202	\$ 907,747	64%
%of Year Completed						33%

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Library Board of Trustees

Summer at the library

The 2025 Summer Reading Program – Color Our World – runs June 5 to August 1. The official launch party is Thursday, June 5. We'd love to have volunteers from the board help with the event.

Some changes we implement during the summer:

- PJ Storytime and the monthly Sensory Room both take breaks during the summer.
- We have large outdoor storytimes every Wednesday at Weitkamp Park instead of the usual schedule. These extended storytimes include additional activities such as music and movement, yoga and bubble-blowing.
- Every Wednesday we set up the Rec Room in 219.
- We have baby playdates every Tuesday.
- Librarian Chris Mick does STEM activities after each of our “big” entertainment/education programs.

Hudson Expo

We had two booths at the Chamber's annual Expo—one for the library and one for the Golden Rule. Overall attendance was lighter this year, probably because the event was held during the first weekend with pleasant weather. Our booth had a Star Wars theme. We had prize drawings and giveaways, and kids enjoyed playing with the wind tunnel. The Chamber does an amazing job with this event. We're thrilled to be part of it.



New Library Documentary

PBS has just released a new documentary called *Free for All: The Public Library*. The description: *Free for All: The Public Library* tells the story of the quiet revolutionaries who made a simple idea happen. From the pioneering women behind the “Free Library Movement” to today’s librarians who service the public despite working a contentious age of closures and book bans, meet those who created a civic institution where everything is free, and the doors are open to all.

It's also available through premium subscriptions on Hulu and YouTube TV.

Follow up: Federal Funding for Wisconsin

According to the Department of Public Instruction, Wisconsin has received half of the expected funding from the Library Services and Technology Act. The total received: \$1.6 million. The timeline for the remaining half is unknown. The LSTA funding supports interlibrary loan, technology, staff development and other resources for Wisconsin's public libraries.

Program Statistics for April

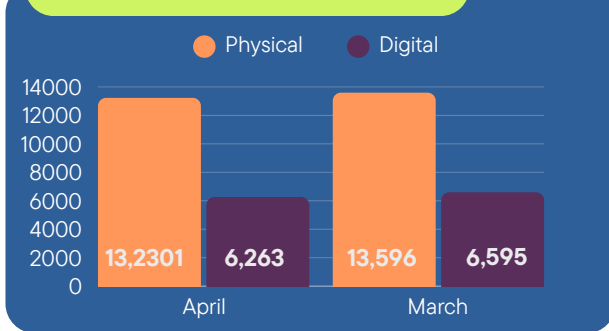
April			
Overview			
Programs		Participants	
Total	58	Total	1523
Young Child (0-5)	27	Young Child (0-5)	533
Child (6-11)	9	Child (6-11)	626
Young Adult (12-18)	5	Young Adult (12-18)	24
Adult (19+)	12	Adult (19+)	108
General Interest (all ages)	5	General Interest (all ages)	232
Self-directed activity	20	Self-directed activity	1176

Year In Review			
Totals			
Programs		Participants	
Total	195	Total	5630
Young Child (0-5)	69	Young Child (0-5)	1411
Child (6-11)	31	Child (6-11)	2322
Young Adult (12-18)	23	Young Adult (12-18)	224
Adult (19+)	51	Adult (19+)	547
General Interest (all ages)	21	General Interest (all ages)	1126
Self-directed activity	85	Self-directed activity	4219

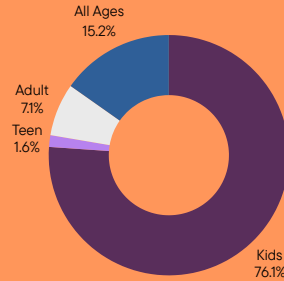
Hudson Area Public Library

APRIL 2025 DATA & REPORT

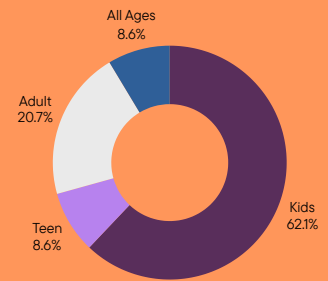
Total Circ.: Feb. 2025 & March 2025



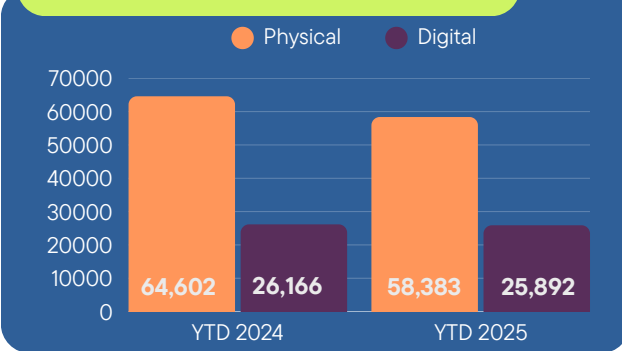
Program Attendance April 2025



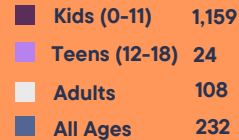
Number of Programs April 2025



Total Circulation: YTD 2024 & YTD 2025



Program attendance by age



Number of programs by age



600

Items Added



121

New Patrons



2,472

WiFi Sessions

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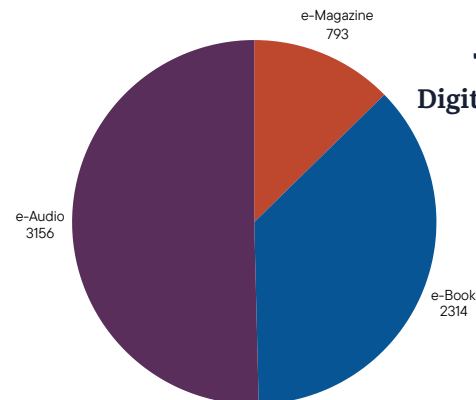
Summer Reading Kickoff Thursday, June 5 • 10:30-12:30

Kids can sign up for the Summer Reading Program at any time, but "launch day" is too much fun to miss! We'll have Little Blue's Traveling Zoo at the park. In the building: giveaways, treats and fun activities.

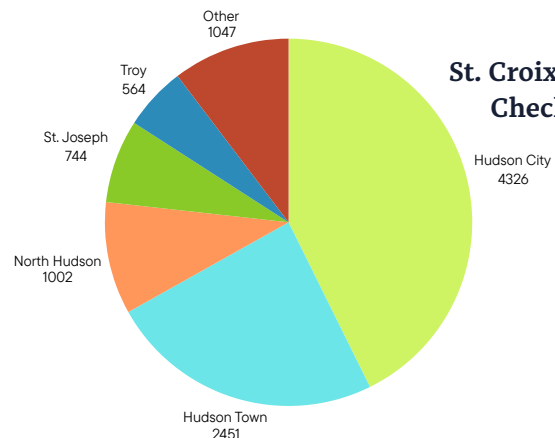
www.hudsonpubliclibrary.org



Types of Digital Checkouts



St. Croix County Checkouts



Hudson Area Public Library Statistics Summary

Apr-25

Circulation									
Comparisons YTD			Comparisons by Month			Library Visitors YTD			
	2024	2025		2024	2025	2024	2025		
Physical Materials:	62,402	186,120	Physical CKO	12,125	13,230	33,022	102,189		
Digital Materials:	25,130	72,972	Check-ins	12,872	11,758	Monthly Visitors			
Total All Circulation:	87,532	259,092	Renewals	3,574	3,096	2024	2025		
% Physical Materials	71.29%	71.8%	Total Physical Circ	15,699	16,326	8,829	8,373		
% Digital Materials	28.7%	28.2%	Digital Circulation	6,002	6,263				
			Total Circulation	21,701	22,589				
New Patrons YTD			New Patrons by Month			Cardholders			
2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	Jan. 1 2025	10,478		
537	517	118	121	0	9	Current	10,110		**
Technology Use YTD			Meeting Room Use			Volunteer Hours			
	2024	2025		2024	2025	Monthly	95.75		
Pharos	814	822	Monthly	260	253	Year to Date	397.25		
Wi-Fi	9,506	8,424	YTD	919	900				
Year-to Date	10,320	9,246							
Programming									
YTD Programs		Monthly Comparisons							
2024	2025	Programs Held		2024		2025			
220	195	Young Child (0-5)				27			
		Child (6-11)				9			
YTD Program Attendance		YA (12-18)		7		5			
2024	2025	Adult (19+)		9		12			
5,736	4,219	Drop-in		10		5			
		Totals:		64		58			
Self Directed Activities 2025		Attendance		2024		2025			
MTD	YTD	Young Child (0-5)				533			
20	85	Child (6-11)		1009		626			
Self Directed Attendance 2025		YA (12-18)		34		24			
MTD	YTD	Adult (19+)		83		108			
1,176	4,219	Drop-in		539		232			
		Totals:		1665		1523			

** reduction due to annual patron record cleanup

Hudson Area Public Library

Circulation Statistics		January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Year-to-Date
Check-outs														
		2018	13,266	12,994	16,153	14,102	15,400	19,450	18,509	17,830	13,527	13,869	13,289	179,828
		2019	14,754	13,485	15,567	13,828	12,865	16,711	18,359	16,262	12,420	13,610	12,570	171,257
		2020	13,321	12,959	7,285	990	3,005	3,496	8,169	9,461	8,752	8,613	8,736	93,012
		2021	8,636	9,333	11,147	9,429	7,955	13,175	12,805	11,320	6,425	3,423	3,548	100,570
		2022	6,666	6,908	9,020	8,699	8,052	13,128	13,582	14,057	9,615	10,421	9,660	118,549
		2023	11,473	10,028	12,934	10,398	9,524	13,887	14,631	13,859	10,567	10,667	10,271	136,356
		2024	11,986	11,592	12,448	12,125	11,433	14,623	14,250	13,340	9,679	11,011	10,614	142,521
		2025	11,211	11,156	9,818	10,134								42,319
Check-ins														-
		2018	12,303	12,771	15,258	14,669	14,220	17,791	18,773	18,539	14,420	14,490	13,087	178,301
		2019	13,108	13,381	15,053	14,514	13,619	13,745	18,230	17,816	13,092	13,836	12,354	171,056
		2020	12,297	12,798	6,163	232	3,567	5,104	7,995	6,777	7,931	7,422	6,380	82,478
		2021	6,064	6,930	8,246	9,436	8,539	10,618	11,893	12,201	7,124	5,405	5,279	96,599
		2022	4,913	6,637	8,532	8,441	8,527	10,608	13,493	13,034	10,594	9,873	10,430	114,464
		2023	9,634	10,019	12,031	11,008	10,680	11,037	13,948	14,976	11,538	10,824	10,841	135,939
		2024	10,293	10,814	11,570	12,872	11,176	13,099	14,573	13,792	10,548	11,008	10,730	140,778
		2025	10,288	10,445	11,463	11,758								43,954
Renewals														-
		2018	5,371	5,333	8,729	6,698	6,807	7,936	6,803	5,884	5,275	5,090	4,693	73,208
		2019	4,850	4,521	5,202	5,155	4,378	4,506	6,292	5,414	4,557	4,896	4,637	59,074
		2020	4,192	4,058	2,404	92	84	805	3,344	3,071	3,319	3,219	3,324	31,788
		2021	4,113	4,156	4,676	4,262	3,952	4,160	4,758	4,937	1,290	535	1,229	40,091
		2022	2,405	2,658	3,760	3,475	3,558	3,571	4,362	4,184	3,466	3,758	3,275	42,098
		2023	3,504	3,331	3,944	3,725	3,458	3,532	4,422	4,377	3,697	3,791	3,826	44,561
		2024	3,509	3,377	3,791	3,574	3,698	3,671	4,463	4,031	3,140	3,564	3,441	43,599
		2025	3,325	3,285	3,778	3,096								13,484
Total Physical Circulation		January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	-
		2018	18,637	18,327	24,882	20,800	22,207	27,386	25,312	23,714	18,802	18,959	17,982	253,036
		2019	19,604	18,006	20,769	18,983	17,243	21,217	24,651	21,676	16,977	18,506	17,207	230,331
		2020	17,513	17,017	9,689	1,082	3,089	4,301	11,513	12,532	12,071	11,832	12,060	124,800
		2021	12,749	13,489	15,823	13,691	11,907	17,335	17,563	16,257	7,715	3,958	4,777	140,661
		2022	9,071	9,566	12,780	12,174	11,610	16,699	17,944	18,241	13,081	14,179	13,235	160,647
		2023	11,473	14,923	16,392	15,850	14,891	18,155	18,672	17,717	13,376	14,802	12,374	183,065
		2024	15,495	14,969	16,239	15,699	15,131	18,294	18,713	17,371	12,819	14,575	14,055	186,120
		2025	14,536	14,441	12,596	13,230								54,803
2024-2025 Increase / decrease		(959)	(528)	(3,643)	(2,469)	(15,131)	(18,294)	(18,713)	(17,371)	(12,819)	(14,575)	(14,055)	(12,760)	(131,317)
Digital Circulation		January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	
		2018	3,625	3,424	3,781	3,455	3,531	3,589	3,890	3,737	3,591	3,539	3,433	43,131
		2019	4,021	3,631	3,956	3,729	3,943	3,983	4,318	4,251	3,927	4,089	3,958	47,784
		2020	4,213	3,911	4,316	4,914	5,044	5,034	5,041	4,704	4,471	4,359	4,150	54,430
		2021	4,800	4,773	5,246	4,558	4,611	4,696	4,922	5,061	4,655	4,575	4,488	56,966
		2022	5,245	4,172	5,000	4,742	4,811	4,971	5,104	4,998	4,673	4,723	4,482	57,562
		2023	5,387	4,836	5,346	5,184	5,366	5,376	5,869	5,685	5,542	6,152	6,118	66,968

	2024	6,455	6,053	6,620	6,002	6,327	6,011	5,876	5,981	5,882	5,833	5,900	6,032	72,972
	2025	6,919	6,115	6,595	6,263									25,892
	2024-2025 Increase / decrease	464	62	(25)	261	(6,327)	(6,011)	(5,876)	(5,981)	(5,882)	(5,833)	(5,900)	(6,032)	(47,080)
Total Digital & Physical Circulation														
		21,455	20,556	19,191	19,493	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80,695
	% of Circulation Physical	67.8%	46.5%	66.6%	62.5%	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	199.1%
	% of Circulation Digital	24.4%	20.3%	26.1%	24.3%	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	71.3%
Materials Statistics														
	Items Borrowed	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Year-to-Date
	2025	3,060	2,953	2,159	2,767									10,939
	Items Loaned													
	2025	4,343	3,751	5,328	4,521									17,943
	Items Added													
	2025	608	509	473	600									2,190
Technology Use														
	Pharos	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Year-to-Date
	2018	696	765	872	826	807	838	837	882	745	850	690	560	9,368
	2019	659	581	754	775	740	701	710	807	615	728	605	561	8,236
	2020	654	609	287	-	-	-	109	115	111	109	98	99	2,191
	2021	108	97	130	106	114	217	215	249	126	-	-	-	1,362
	2022	186	227	249	252	246	221	226	295	265	256	272	225	2,920
	2023	283	292	421	290	200	211	219	208	223	170	182	179	2,878
	2024	200	190	204	220	212	206	201	218	208	225	193	170	2,447
	2025	207	195	198	222									822
Wireless														
	2018	4,877	5,100	5,553	5,508	5,687	6,475	6,347	5,992	4,807	5,860	5,627	4,724	66,557
	2019	5,799	1,012	4,690	5,378	6,005	5,977	4,410	4,529	3,927	4,247	3,750	3,333	53,057
	2020	4,127	3,969	2,804	1,286	2,060	5,250	7,607	7,017	5,939	5,767	5,793	5,866	57,485
	2021	4,898	4,514	5,220	5,184	5,961	6,764	7,377	7,867	5,796	4,375	3,577	3,539	65,072
	2022	2,504	2,309	2,475	2,556	1,777	2,693	3,414	3,003	3,039	2,698	2,386	1,885	30,739
	2023	1,992	1,886	2,169	2,331	2,828	3,296	3,177	2,787	2,679	2,485	2,808	2,608	31,046
	2024	2,527	2,405	2,323	2,251	2,501	2,431	2,681	2,540	2,239	2,384	1,943	2,078	28,303
	2025	2,031	1,799	2,122	2,472									8,424
Proctoring Services														
	2018	3	3	0	2	1	7	6	1	0	4	4	2	33
	2019	-	4	4	-	3	8	7	6	2	6	4	4	48
	2020	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	1	1	1	13
	2021	1	2	-	2	1	2	3	1	2	-	-	-	14
	2022	1	0	0	0	0	3	5	2	0	0	0	0	11
	2023	1	0	0	0	0	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	7
	2024	0	-	-	-	2	1	4	3	4	2	2	2	20
	2025	2	2	3	2									9
Patron Statistics														

Visitors	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Year-to-Date	
	2018	8,678	9,559	10,858	9,757	9,958	13,025	13,214	12,023	10,750	10,525	8,843	9,765	126,955
	2019	13,007	9,265	11,314	10,123	10,576	14,388	13,254	11,994	10,765	11,757	9,241	9,016	134,700
	2020	11,254	9,832	5,983	-	-	-	2,346	2,825	2,362	2,146	2,268	2,299	41,315
	2021	2,184	2,398	2,990	2,686	3,192	5,752	5,784	5,908	2,441	-	-	-	33,335
	2022	2,949	3,661	4,549	4,639	4,761	5,677	6,264	6,551	4,983	5,299	5,393	4,716	59,442
	2023	6,169	6,231	7,445	6,690	6,756	9,108	9,123	7,944	6,880	6,855	6,754	6,103	86,058
	2024	8,364	7,931	7,898	8,829	7,152	10,843	10,604	9,962	7,291	8,505	7,782	7,028	102,189
	2025	7,943	7,675	8,974	8,373									32,965
Monthly Average 2025	7,943	7,809	8,197	8,241	8,241	8,241	8,241	8,241	8,241	8,241	8,241	8,241	8,241	32,965
Days Open 2025	29	28	30	28										29
Daily Average 2025	274	274	299	299	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
New Patrons	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Year-to-Date	#DIV/0!
	2018	83	74	73	103	141	174	127	134	92	87	82	78	1,248
	2019	126	87	130	126	90	217	147	99	85	91	73	75	1,346
	2020	104	106	56	19	26	29	50	47	52	38	62	44	633
	2021	44	57	46	34	52	156	141	99	74	25	27	22	777
	2022	88	98	94	107	124	222	144	114	96	73	96	50	1,306
	2023	145	99	119	123	119	250	179	195	125	111	98	77	1,640
	2024	163	131	125	118	120	204	146	126	95	101	109	79	1,517
	2025	123	121	152	121									517
Curbside Services	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Year-to-Date	
	Patron Pick-ups 2020	0	0	0	92	962	1197	501	357	376	347	311	344	4487
	Patron Pick-ups 2021	351	310	329	249	105	65	65	32	372	1071	988	991	4928
	Patron Pick-ups 2022	86	49	45	55	34	28	32	22	36	29	19	17	452
	Patron Pick-ups 2023	26	29	27	17	25	24	24	18	17	20	11	13	251

https://www.hudsonstarobserver.com/news/hudson-history-room-creates-walk-around-the-block-chronicling-the-citys-history-through-an-online/article_82accac8-cfd0-42ee-9bf4-a0bb68d5b1f2.html

Hudson History Room creates 'Walk Around the Block,' chronicling the city's history through an online tour

Jack White

Apr 30, 2025



Nancy Toll, left, and Amy Thurston, right, work away in the Hudson Area Public Library's history room. The history room includes organized historical material on the Hudson area and is located on the second floor of the public library. Kaitlyn Doolittle/Star-Observer.

Hudson¹⁹ History Room garnered enough donation support to digitize its local newspaper archives, leading to the creation of 'Walk Around the Block,' an interactive online map showing how the city has changed over multiple centuries.

Clicking on 700 1st. St., for instance, reveals the library's current location — and the services and businesses that operated at the address before it, including a boxing arena from 1914 and a warehouse once used by Arrow Building Center (a lumber/building business) from 1919-1989.

Inside the library in modern times, Amy Thurston and Nancy Toll, both friends before this, work out of the Nancy L. Hawkinson History Room, taking in old artifacts from the area and organizing documents to help local history buffs like them learn more about Hudson. Thurston is the author of the group's Facebook page, regularly posting facts and photos relevant to the area.

Before digitizing, the library and the historical society offered archival searches by year via microfilm. Now, those wanting to find archived information can search for articles using keywords, which helped Thurston and Toll create the web guide. The newspaper information dates back to 1854 — before the local paper was called the Hudson Star-Observer.

On Wednesday, a patron stopped by to donate historic photos of the Town of Troy. Thurston and Toll looked over the images in the history room, which featured pictures of the old Hudson Toll Bridge and Elks Lodge Building on its walls.

To fund the digitization effort, patrons and history fans donated thousands of dollars. Russell Nicolet, of Nicolet Law, contributed \$5,000. Thurston herself put in \$2,000. Eight other people from the community also gave donations, raising the total to \$8,145.

To get to the necessary funding goal — a little more than \$10,000 — Friends of the Hudson Area Public Library made up the rest. Microfac, Inc. then had the money necessary to organize the newspaper records into Optical Character Recognition (OCR) documents.

The 'Walk Around the Block' is not fully complete. Thurston and Toll, who volunteer their time, have covered the west side of the downtown area between 700 block and Buckeye Street, and they are working their way back up the east side currently.

The two pointed out the accessibility aspect of an online tour. People can still walk around the community and reference the map with a mobile device, but others with more limited mobility no longer have to walk the downtown area to see a tour showing its history.



Part of the 'Walk Around the Block' tour, which is now available on the library's website. Find the rest of 'Walk Around the Block' at hudsonpubliclibrary.org/history-room/ under the interactive maps section.

"This allows everybody to be able to," Thurston said.

Find the Nancy L. Hawkinson room on the second floor (elevator available to those who need it) of the Hudson Library, open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m.–8 p.m., Friday from 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Both are closed on May 26 for Memorial Day. The history room is open to the public during the library's operating hours — just sign the guest book in the room when you arrive.

Jack White

https://www.hudsonstarobserver.com/news/hudson-libraris-current-location-named-permanent-home--and-expansion-is-now-authorized/article_8e800aa4-dee3-4b2b-adf9-deedb84e1b98.html

FEATURED

PROMOTION

Hudson Library’s current location named permanent home — and expansion is now authorized

Jack White

Apr 23, 2025



The Hudson Library from the outside. Photo: Jack White/Star-Observer.

On Monday, the Hudson City Council voted in favor of a resolution to name 700 First St. as the permanent location of the Hudson Area Public Library, authorizing the library board and library foundation to proceed with plans for expansion into its existing building — to help with fundraising support for the project.

Though the library will still need to present an outline for the expansion and garner funding, the department gains momentum on adding more space to a public service in need of that, according to a recent assessment.

The 2024 Community & Facility Needs Assessment of the library showed that the current space — without the expansion — is just over 19,000 square feet. However, it needs around double that (40,000 square feet) to meet community needs.

Library Director Shelley Tougas gave a presentation during a library board meeting in January of last year, which showed that the library could raise its total to approximately 27,000 square feet if the police department were to leave and the library department incorporated the vacant space.

Sam Cari, president of the Hudson Area Library Foundation, spoke during Monday's city council meeting, saying that if the measure didn't get approved, it could harm the demand for donations.

"We can't go to potential donors, institutions, other foundations, ask for money to support a \$17 million project, only to have four, five or six years from now, find that we're going to get moved out to the business park or some other location."

Council member Joy Knudson provided the one dissenting vote in the final tally for the approved resolution. Knudson said the decision to make the library the permanent location seemed rushed. Others argued this process has been years in the making, given the original plan for the building and its occupying services.

In 2010, the Hudson Police Department and the library started occupying the same building the two operate in today. The city had a plan for the police to move out after five years, which would lead to the library commandeering the rest of the space.

Today, the police still reside in the shared space, but soon it will have a new facility — at 1201 Hanley Road — which has given the city council a chance to move along in a process that's taken longer than originally anticipated.

Quick hits

- Mayor Rich O'Connor made annual proclamations for Arbor Day, which is April 26, and Pollinator Month, which is in May. Hudson Daybreak Rotary and other organizations will team up to plant trees over Arbor Day weekend as well as the weekend of May 2. Last year, Daybreak Rotary started a Slow Mow Summer event — as opposed to Slow Mow May — to protect pollinators.
- The Hudson Home & Garden Club submitted an application to plant an Elm Tree in Lakefront Park to help replace the lost trees from the previous year's storms, which the council approved on the consent agenda.
- The Hudson City Council hosts its next regular council meeting on May 5.

Jack White

https://www.hudsonstarobserver.com/news/open-book-an-activity-packed-space-event-enters-hudson-librarys-orbit-on-may-10/article_91c9dbab-4cad-4962-8fb2-5eb51f91c19d.html

Open Book: An activity-packed space event enters Hudson Library's orbit on May 10

Shelley Tougas | Hudson Library Director

May 5, 2025



The Hudson Library from the outside. Photo: Jack White/Star-Observer.

Before orbiting the Earth 165 times, astronaut Duane Carey had explored the planet's surface by hitchhiking, hopping trains and riding his dream motorcycle, a Suzuki he could afford only because he juggled a full-time job in high school.

Now, the 68-year-old adventurer is coming to the Hudson Area Public Library — presumably by car — on Saturday, May 10, as part of our National Science Foundation 75th Anniversary Celebration. This activity-packed family event runs from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Carey, a Twin Cities native, attended the University of Minnesota after his post-high school travel adventures. He joined the Air Force, where he logged over 4,300 hours in 35 types of aircraft. In 1996, he was selected as an astronaut candidate by NASA. After two years of training, he worked on the technical side of NASA missions; then he piloted the space shuttle Columbia.

His Columbia crew serviced and upgraded the Hubble Space Telescope, a space-based observatory launched in 1990. The Hubble is positioned approximately 320 miles above Earth, giving scientists a clear view of space without the distorting effects caused by Earth's atmosphere.

Carey will share his personal and professional story during our Saturday celebration, which highlights the National Science Foundation's incredible work. The Foundation was formed with three main goals: promote the progress of science; advance the national health, prosperity and welfare; and secure the national defense.

Our event broadly focuses on "seeing what we can't see." Microwaves and X-rays, for example, are part of the electromagnetic spectrum, which is essentially invisible wavelengths of energy. The library will have a series of fun stations to demonstrate this concept and more.

The activity stations include another special guest, NASA Solar System Ambassador Trena Johnson, who will show the James Webb Space Telescope and its infrared detectors.

Weather²⁸ permitting, attendees can explore an outdoor kit with eclipse glasses, solar-filtered binoculars, a solar telescope and a Sunspotter. We'll also discuss light pollution and feature the NASA production "Asteroid Hunters" on the conference room screen.

The 3-D printer will be running models of the Chandra X-ray telescope. And staff will provide snacks, treat bags and prize giveaways.

Our librarians strive to simplify science and make it fun, an approach that makes our events perfect for the whole family.

Even Carey, an expert in aerospace engineering, sides with simplicity. He's flown 35 different aircraft — and a space shuttle. His favorite mode of transportation, though? A motorcycle.

Open Book is Hudson Area Public Library Director Shelley Tougas' Opinion Column with the Hudson Star-Observer. With her column, Tougas writes of happenings throughout the library and the general Hudson community. Please visit hudsonpubliclibrary.org for more.

Shelley Tougas is the director of the Hudson Area Public Library. People affiliated with area libraries, like Tougas, will now be running a column called "Open Book" in the Star-Observer each week.