

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024

119TH EDITION

St. Joseph Public Library
Part of *Your* Story



Mustangs Play, Eat & Read



Mad Science



Seed Library



Carnegie Library Park

MISSION, VISION & VALUES

Mission

The St. Joseph Public Library provides our community physical and virtual gathering spaces to access information, education, and recreation.

Vision

The St. Joseph Public Library offers our community a window to the past and a gateway to the future.

Values

The St. Joseph Public Library values:

ACCOUNTABILITY We are dedicated to delivering on our commitments and the sound stewardship of our taxpayer dollars.

EXCELLENCE We are courteous professionals who strive to create extraordinary experiences for our community.

EQUALITY We are free and open to all people and ideas. We treat everyone with respect and compassion.

INNOVATION We are always learning. We continually explore new ways of doing things better and doing better things.

PASSION We love the library, we love St. Joseph, and we love what we do.

TEAMWORK We build connections and celebrate the diversity of our experiences.



A young reader at the Carnegie Library.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Rosetta Ballew-Jennings – President

David Jordan – Treasurer

Joshua Bachman

Harriet Gordon

LaTonya Williams

Kyla Ward – Vice President

Tona Williams – Secretary

Bobbie Cronk

Jonht Slayden

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Mary Beth Revels – Director

Shirley Blakeney – Branch Manager, East Hills Library

Karen Schultz – Branch Manager, Washington Park Library

Audrey Sheets / Jenny Ellis – Branch Manager, Carnegie Library

Jen Wildhagen – Branch Manager, Downtown Library

Crystal Stuck – Manager, Outreach and Marketing Services

Sharon Canter – Manager, Reference Services

Misty Snider – Manager, Children’s Services, East Hills Library

Lisa Ransom – Manager, Children’s Services, Downtown Library

Kim Tullis – Manager, Technical Services Department



Misty Snider, Jen Wildhagen, and Crystal Stuck at the Public Library Association Conference.



Erika Martinez Trejo and Misty Snider at the Latinos Connect Kids Day event at Bartlett Park.

FRIENDS OF THE ST. JOSEPH PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Felicia Hawkins – President
Barb Yarbrough – Secretary
Cathy Green
Pat Sander

Annie Updegraff – Vice President
Matthew White – Treasurer
Valerie Martinez
Kenetha Weidmaier

The Friends of the St. Joseph Public Library is a 501(c)(3) organization and had 103 paid members during the fiscal year. The Friends support SJPL and the community in multiple ways. They provide funding for the Summer Reading Program. They funded four students working toward their diplomas through the Gale Excel Adult High School program. The Friends sponsor the weekly Friends Front Row Movie Series hosted by Bob Shultz. They are also an annual supporter of the Allied Arts Sculpture Walk.

The Friends raise money through memberships, sales of book bags, and by hosting book sales. In addition to traditional book sales, this year they sponsored a Boozy Book Fair held at the Angry Swede Brewing Co. The event was organized by SJPL staff member Jenna Sanders and was reminiscent of a school book fair, but for adults.

Staff members Crystal Stuck, Jessica Poet, Olivia Wildhagen-Piercy, and Mary Beth Revels all assist with the day-to-day activities of the Friends.

Pictured is an Excel Adult High School graduate with SJPL staff and shoppers at the Boozy Book Fair.



ST. JOSEPH PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

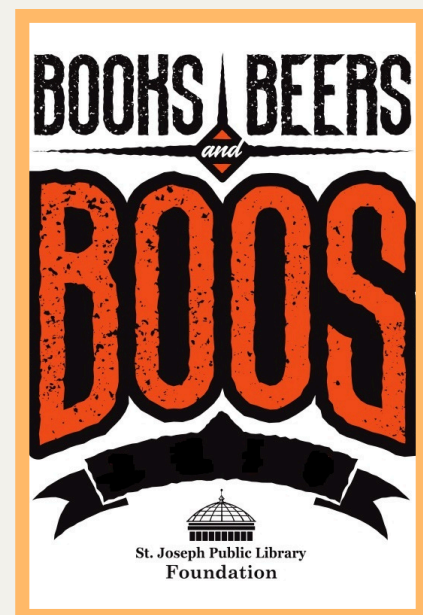
LeeAnn Leonard - President
Drew Brown - Secretary
Kathryn Hill Bahner
Whitney Lanning
David Jordan

Alison Schieber - Vice President
Nancy Nash - Treasurer
Susan Campbell
Bill McMurray
Rosetta Ballew Jennings

The St. Joseph Public Library Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization that promotes private donations to help ensure SJPL's future. The SJPL Foundation typically supports the library by funding one-time special requests. During the fiscal year, the Foundation underwrote Throwback Thursday Outdoor Movies at the Carnegie Library and funded new murals for the Children's Department at the Downtown Library.

The Foundation also provides funds to purchase pet and animal-related books for the East Hills Library, thanks to Laura Hutton Memorial donations that have funded the book purchases for several years.

The Foundation raises money through an annual fundraising drive, the sale of holiday cards designed by staff member Jessica Poet, and this year, the Books, Beers and Boos fundraiser returned. It was held at River Bluff Brewing and the theme was The Scary Side of Fairy Tales. A library program, "The Scary Side of Fairy Tales," was presented by Dr. Mike Cadden the day after the event.



FINANCES

Income

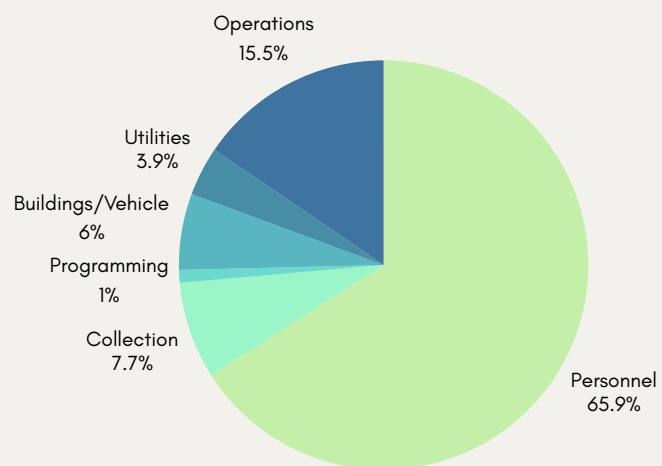
Local Tax Income	\$ 3,561,618
State Aid	\$ 43,675
Grants	\$ 72,381
Athletes & Entertainers Funds	\$ 48,463
Interest	\$ 22,882
Donations	\$ 36,968
CVB Rent	\$ 8,114
Other	\$ 16,642

Total Income \$ 3,810,743

Expenses

Personnel	\$2,484,247
Collection	\$ 289,482
Programming	\$ 37,886
Buildings & Vehicle	\$ 226,565
Utilities	\$ 146,615
Operations	\$ 583,283
Capital Expenses	

Total Expenses \$ 3,768,078



The Missouri State Library encourages libraries to apply for competitive grants from Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds supplied by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. LSTA funding received during the 2023-2024 fiscal year:

Summer Reading: helped support the Adventure Begins at the Library 2024 Summer Reading Program by underwriting some costs for prizes.

Technology Mini Grant: provided funds to help purchase an overhead book scanner for the Archives collection.

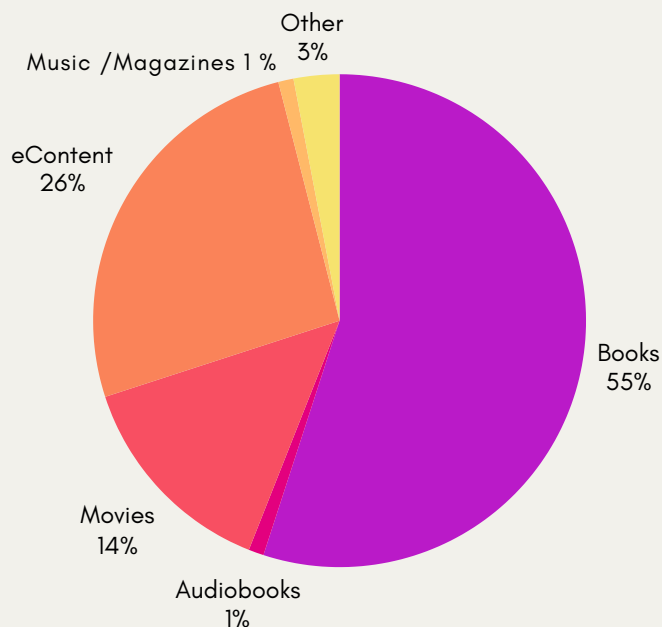
Library Automation Grant: funded SJPL's migration to the Missouri Evergreen Consortium.

Additional Grants: The Carnegie Library received funding from an **Urban Homestead Grant administered by the City of St. Joseph and South St. Joseph Development Corporation** for picnic tables, benches, a swing, games, and outdoor movie equipment.

American Heart Association funded the purchase of AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) and blood pressure monitors for the four SJPL branches.

STATISTICS

Checkouts	Total	Adult	Teen	Children
Books	122,782	75,006	4,281	43,495
Audiobooks	3,105	2,402	7	696
Movies	30,293	25,681	15	4,597
eContent	58,784	50,925	3,831	4,028
Magazines	643	643	N/A	N/A
Music	1,042	1,015	N/A	27
Other (Hotspots, Kits, Fishing Poles, Seed Packets)	5,945	5,653	N/A	292
Total Checkouts	222,594	161,325	8,134	53,135



Programs	Programs Offered	Attendance
Preschool	202	4,150
Kids	218	8,327
Teens	63	1,347
Adults	277	5,084
Total	760	18,908

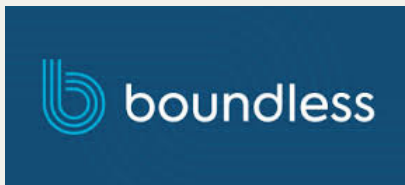
LIBRARY PROGRAMS

SJPL provides educational, fun, and engaging programs for all ages.

"I love taking my boys to the library for storytimes and crafts."



DIRECTOR'S REPORT



The St. Joseph Public Library has been a part of our community since 1890, when the citizens of St. Joseph voted to create a tax-supported library. Prior to that, St. Joseph offered private, subscription-based libraries.

Libraries are about more than just books, and SJPL is no exception. Providing print books and other materials such as movies, audiobooks, magazines, and newspapers is certainly an important part of our services. However, so is eContent including eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines, streaming movies, and access to a myriad of informational databases.

We offer technology in the form of hotspots that check out, access to free WiFi at all locations, computers, printers, copiers, scanning, and fax services.

Space for people to meet or just a safe place to spend some time is something else you'll find at SJPL.

Last, and certainly not least are all of the programs that the fabulous SJPL staff provides. We do programs in the library and community for people ranging from babies to senior citizens.

Books are probably the first thing you think about when considering a library, and books are something we'll always offer, but we offer a variety of other services too. If it's been a while since you've been to one of our four locations, come visit us and find out what we're about and how we can enrich your life. SJPL is dedicated to being Part of Your Story.

Mary Beth Revels

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

In February, SJPL started issuing weekly surveys via email to a random selection of patrons who used the library during the previous week. The responses give us the opportunity to find out what people think we are doing right and also how we can improve services. The quotes in this year's report come from the survey responses.

The Reference Department, housed in the Downtown Library, continues to be one of the best resources for local history information in St. Joseph. Our Reference Librarians are dedicated to making St. Joseph history more accessible. They continue to digitize rare and fragile items related to local history such as "The Cartoons of St. Joe Boys" published in 1905 by Frank F. Finch. The book can be found on the library's website at: <https://sjpl.lib.mo.us/st-joseph-public-library-digital-archives>.

SJPL offers a wide selection of online resources at <https://sjpl.lib.mo.us/databases> and over the last year there were 30,306 searches completed. We offer legal forms, stock analysis, job search and resume help, homework help, veteran assistance, information on health, genealogy, car repair, phone numbers, travel information, and much more.

SJPL provides additional services at little to no cost to our patrons. They include faxing, scanning, laminating, test proctoring, 3D printing, and notary.

We are appreciative of the volunteers who give of their time to help the library in various ways. During the year, 121 people volunteered for 383 hours at the library.

Children's staff often provide programs in the community. In addition to visiting public schools, librarians provided storytimes or programs for: Bartlett Center, UCP, YWCA, St. Gianna Daycare, St. Paul Lutheran School, and YWCA Grit Center.

Library staff participated in community programs and events throughout the year including: United Way Reading Adventures, St. Joe Pride Festival, MWSU Community Resource Fair, Tiny Tot Town, Children's Fair, and Latinos Connect events.

SJPL hosted Pop-Up Produce Stands for 11-weeks in cooperation with the American Red Cross, Northwest Health Services, Social Welfare Board, and InterServ.

St. Joseph experienced a partial solar eclipse in April and staff at every library location handed out solar eclipse glasses.

"I have used the library all my life. It is the best place to borrow books and get any information that you might need."

COLLECTIONS

SJPL switched to a new integrated library system in May 2023, near the end of the previous fiscal year. The Missouri Evergreen Consortium allows SJPL patrons to easily borrow books from libraries all over Missouri and patrons all over Missouri can easily borrow books from our library too! Joining the consortium has been an overwhelming success.

Library staff constantly work with the collections of materials in each of the branches such as books, audiobooks, and movies. New materials are constantly being ordered by selectors at each branch. The materials already on the shelves are checked for condition, are cleaned, repaired, and weeded as needed.

BUILDINGS

Each of the four SJPL locations operates both as an individual branch and a necessary part of the SJPL system.

The Downtown Library, located at 927 Felix Street, provided space for InterServ's Tax Counseling for the Elderly Program. The library hosted a Haunted Library Fundraiser, the Seed Library, and a Winter Clothing Drive. Governor Parson held a book signing at the library to promote his book *No Turnin Back: G57*.

The Carnegie Library, located at 316 Massachusetts Street, was the beneficiary of an Urban Homestead Grant administered by the City of St. Joseph and South St. Joseph Development Corporation that funded the purchase of outdoor furniture, movie equipment, and games all for the library park.

The Washington Park Library, located at 1821 N. 3rd Street, had new trees planted, thanks to Martha Clark, Forest ReLeaf, and Spire Gas Energy. The branch hosted their annual Mitten Tree during the winter and many hats, gloves, scarves, and socks were given to those in need. The St. Joseph Mustangs visited the library for Eat, Play & Read in the park, hosted by St. Joseph Reads.

The East Hills Library, located at 502 N. Woodbine Road, is especially in demand for meeting room space utilized by community groups. The branch also offered the Seed Library and Winter Clothing Drive.

"Our libraries are very historic, well maintained, and staffed by caring people."

“I appreciate the friendly, knowledgeable, and helpful librarians.”

LIBRARY STAFF

Staff Development Day was held at the Downtown Library with 45 staff members attending. Training sessions covered the topics of AED, CPR, using fire extinguishers, mental health awareness, winter preparedness and “Bridging Generations to Get Work Done Through Stronger Teams.” The day ended on a fun note with trivia.

Audrey Sheets, who had been Branch Manager of the Carnegie Library since 1978, retired in May. Long term employee, Jenny Ellis, was promoted to Branch Manager. Jenny grew up visiting the Carnegie Library and began working for SJPL in high school. She received her Masters in Library Science and left the library when she became library director at another library system. She returned to SJPL to be closer to family and has been an employee at the Carnegie Library for the last several years.

Library staff attended in-person and virtual training through many organizations including Grand River Library Conference, Homeless Institute, United Way Leadership St. Joseph, Mid-America Library Alliance, Missouri Evergreen, Missouri State Library, Missouri Library Association, Niche Academy, Public Library Association, American Red Cross, T.A.K.E Defense, and Library Journal.

Staff also attended the following conferences: Public Library Association Conference, Missouri Library Association Conference, Missouri School Library Association Conference, and Romance GenreCon.

As of June 30, 2023, SJPL had 53 regular employees, 33 of whom were full-time and 20 were part-time. SJPL also has two substitute employees, who assist as needed.



The winning team at
Staff Day Trivia.