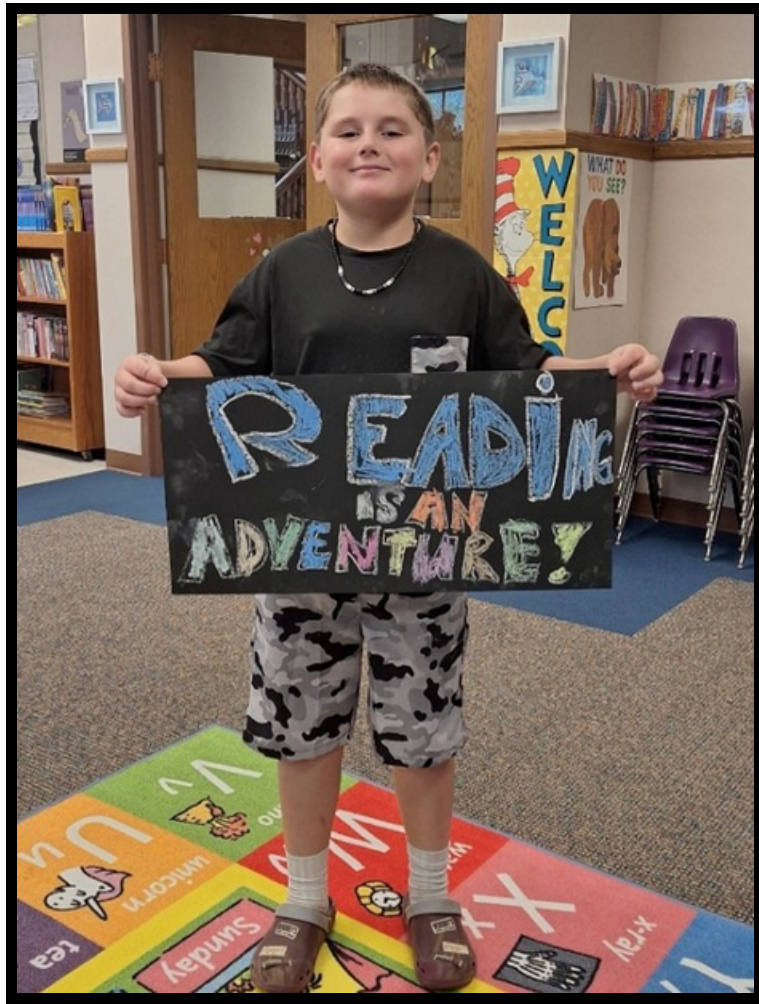


ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

121ST EDITION



St. Joseph Public Library
Part of *Your* Story

SJPL.LIB.MO.US

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.



Crafts and stories
make library visits fun.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Kyla Ward – President
Bobbie Cronk – Treasurer
Kathie Brunner
Kate Davison
Heidi DeSchepper

Rosetta Ballew-Jennings – Vice President
Harriet Gordon – Secretary
Jonht Slayden
LaTonya Williams

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Mary Beth Revels – Director
Jenny Ellis – Branch Manager, Carnegie Library
Jen Caton – Branch Manager, Downtown Library
Crystal Stuck – Branch Manager, East Hills Library
Karen Schultz – Branch Manager, Washington Park Library
Lisa Ransom – Manager, Children’s Services, Downtown Library
Misty Snider – Manager, Children’s Services, East Hills Library
Jessica Poet – Manager, Outreach and Marketing Services
Sharon Canter – Manager, Reference Services
Sarah Gockley – Manager, Technical Services Department



Families followed the yellow brick road to solve the Land of Oz Escape Room at the East Hills Library.



The Teen Advisory Board helped with a Valentine Box program, and then made their own!

FRIENDS OF THE ST. JOSEPH PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Kenetha Weidmaier- President
Pat Sander - Secretary
Susan Curry
Jeanie Hambrick
Felicia Hawkins

Cathy Green- Vice President
Matthew White - Treasurer
Lisa Logan
Suzanne Sybert

The Friends of the St. Joseph Public Library is a 501(c)(3) organization and had 134 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 sponsor students working toward their diplomas through the Gale Excel Adult High School program. The Friends sponsor the weekly Friends Front Row Tuesday Night Film Series. They give free books to kids at local events like Pumpkinfest and Juneteenth. They are also an annual supporter of the Allied Arts Sculpture Walk.

The Friends raise money through annual memberships, the sale of book bags, and by hosting used book sales. They also raised funds at a Boozy Book Fair held at The Den, a local bar.

Staff members Jessica Poet, Olivia Wildhagen-Piercy, Katie Green, and Mary Beth Revels all assist with the day-to-day operations of the Friends.

Pictured are the December 2025 graduates of the Gale Excel Adult High School program, along with Elizabeth Murray, the SJPL program coordinator.



ST. JOSEPH PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Alison Schieber – President
LeeAnn Leonard – Secretary
Susan Campbell
Bobbie Cronk
Brian Kirk
Brandi Lutz

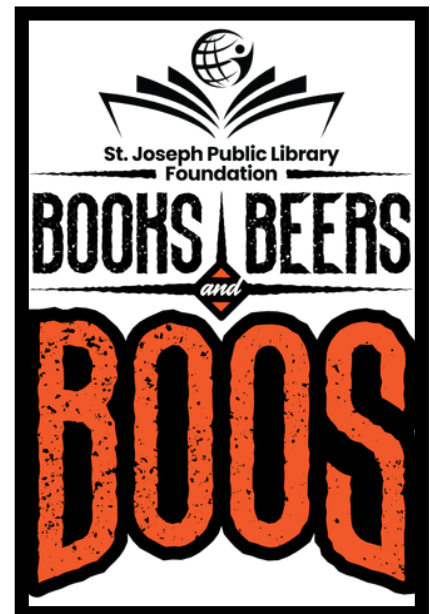
Whitney Lanning – Vice President
Bill McMurray – Treasurer
Nancy Nash
Ralph Schank
LaTonya Williams

The St. Joseph Public Library Foundation is also a 501(c)(3) organization that promotes private donations to help ensure SJPL's future. The SJPL Foundation traditionally supports the library by funding one-time special requests. During the fiscal year, the Foundation provided funding to purchase software and hardware to improve public printing, copying, and document scanning at the library.

The Foundation raised money through an annual fundraising drive, the sale of calendars designed by staff member Jessica Poet, and the Books, Beers and Boos event.

Books, Beers and Boos was held at the Downtown Library. Commemorative beer glasses, signed books, the chance to meet historic literary reenactors, and a free beer, provided by River Bluff Brewing, were all part of the \$50 ticket.

Pictured: Authors Mary Shelley, Bram Stoker, and a dour Edgar Allan Poe, celebrating a successful Books, Beers, and Boos event.



FINANCES

Income

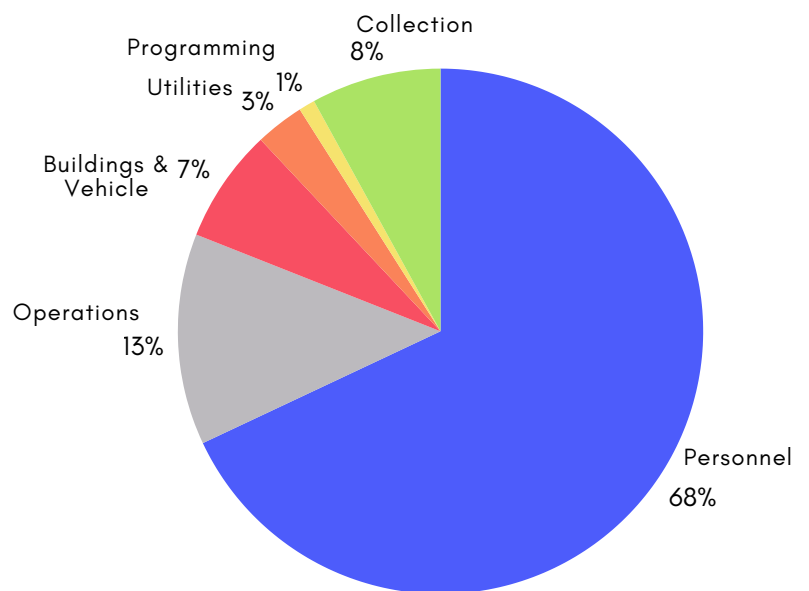
Local Tax Income	\$ 3,899,445
State Aid	\$ 43,630
Grants	\$ 17,150
Athletes & Entertainers Funds	\$ 47,661
Interest	\$ 39,310
Donations	\$ 46,145
CVB Rent	\$ 4,524
Other	\$ 26,371

Total Income \$ 4,124,236

Expenses

Personnel	\$2,709,036
Collection	\$ 318,594
Programming	\$ 27,078
Buildings & Vehicle	\$ 269,357
Utilities	\$ 133,888
Operations	\$ 502,679

Total Expenses \$ 3,960,632



Grants

Summer Reading: The Missouri State Library awarded a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The grant supported the Unearth a Story 2026 Summer Reading Program by underwriting some prize costs.

LSTA Technology Ladder: The grant supported the purchase of updated computers for staff.

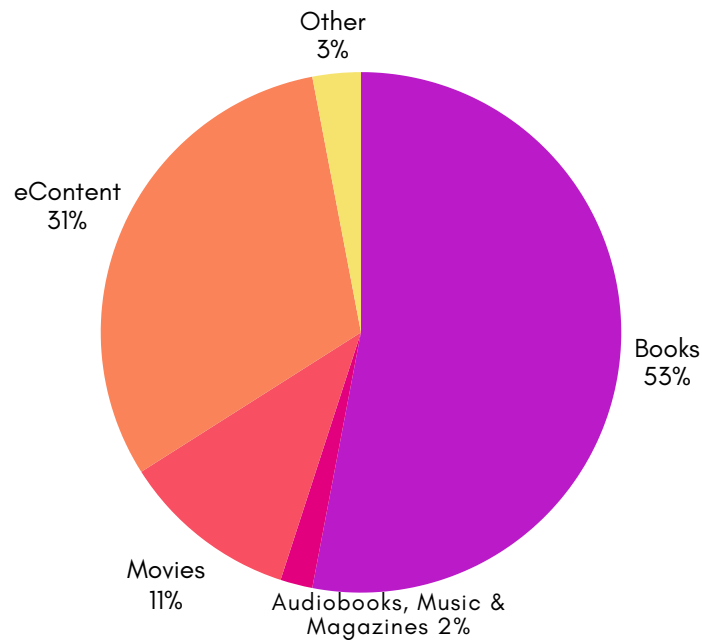
Region D Recycling & Solid Waste Management District: SJPL received funding to purchase environmentally friendly book covering machines and supplies.

Creative Aging Lifetime Arts is an initiative of the Califa Group, Wyoming State Library, Missouri State Library, and Lifetime Arts. SJPL offered several series of art classes targeted to adults 55 and older.

Save Our Heritage: The City of St. Joseph awarded SJPL funding to purchase equipment to digitize historical documents.

STATISTICS

Checkouts	Total	Adult	Teen	Children
Books	120,194	70,849	3,385	45,960
Audiobooks	2,449	1,777	2	670
Movies	25,343	21,217	30	4,096
eContent	70,764	61,798	5,685	3,281
Magazines	276	276	N/A	N/A
Music	1,273	1,254	N/A	19
Other (Hotspots, Kits, Fishing Poles, Seed Packets)	7,068	6,733	3	332
Total Checkouts	227,367	163,904	9,105	54,358



Programs	Programs Offered	Attendance
Preschool	245	4,666
Kids	225	5,725
Teens	48	361
Adults	324	4,706
Total	842	15,458
Programs in Community	81	2,444

LIBRARY PROGRAMS

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



DIRECTOR'S REPORT



The St. Joseph Public Library has been part of our community since 1890 and we are invested in helping St. Joseph continue to thrive and prosper. As an organization we strive to be a force for good whether we are in our library buildings or out and about in St. Joseph.

We have books, movies, and other materials for checkout, we offer computers and free Wi-Fi, and host engaging programs that combine learning, fun and social connection for all ages.

Pictured on the left is a happy little boy and his mom who attended this year's Touch-A-Truck event at the East Hills Library. We couldn't offer this event if it wasn't for the other community partners who brought the vehicles kids love to explore.

The next picture shows some new landscaping at the Washington Park Library, thanks to a River Bluff Gateway grant from the City of St. Joseph and members and volunteers of SEAC St. Joseph (Sustainable Environment Advisory Committee).

Touch-A-Truck and park improvements at the Washington Park Library are just two of the ways that the greater St. Joseph community supported the St. Joseph Public Library last year. We wouldn't be able to provide the programs and services we do without cooperating partners and people like you, who care about the library. Thank you, and here's to another great year!

Mary Beth Revels



OTHER HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

A team of library staff have worked for the last few years on a project to move to a self-service model for printing and scanning at the library. Our driving purpose was to protect patron privacy. Thanks to a gift from the SJPL Foundation, we were able to implement the new system in March.

The Reference Department, housed in the Downtown Library, continues to be one of the best resources for local historical information in St. Joseph. Our Reference Librarians are hard at work finalizing our Archives Collection space that preserves the SJPL local history collection.

SJPL also offers a wide selection of online resources at <https://sjpl.lib.mo.us/databases>. Over the last year 32,316 searches were completed. Our online databases include legal forms, stock analysis, job search and resume help, homework help, veteran assistance, information on health, genealogy, phone numbers, crafting information and much more.

The Gale Excel Adult High School program allows us to help adults complete their high school education online. So far, 16 adults have graduated and received high school diplomas through this initiative.

We are appreciative of the volunteers who give of their time to help the library. During the year, 122 people volunteered 476 hours at the library.

SJPL offers meeting rooms for community groups at no charge. During the year 428 organizations used our meeting rooms.

Library staff participated in community programs and events throughout the year including: United Way Reading Adventures, St. Joe Pride Festival, Juneteenth, MWSU Community Resource Fair, Tiny Tot Town, Leadership St. Joseph, Children's Fair, Trunk or Treats, Latinos Connect events, Family Literacy Nights, and St. Joe Seed Swap.

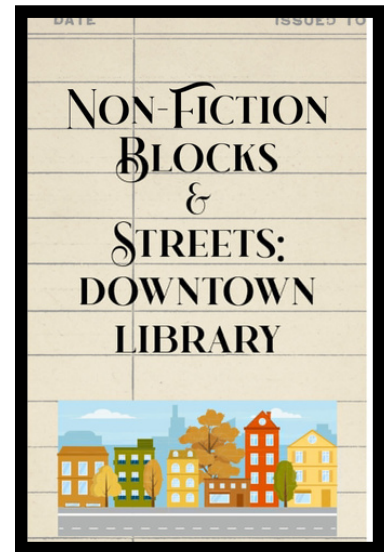


St. Joseph Public Library staff representing the library at a community event.

COLLECTIONS

The Downtown Library finished genrefying the adult non-fiction collection. Dr. Paula Hayward headed up the project that took several months to complete.

Non-fiction books at the Downtown Library are now on the shelf by topic, instead of a Dewey Decimal number. For example “The Hostess Handbook” by Maria Zizka is found under “Cookbook ZIZ” instead of “642.4 ZIZ.”



BUILDINGS

SJPL is proud of our two Carnegie Libraries that were built in the early 1900s with funding from Andrew Carnegie. The Andrew Carnegie Foundation still exists and continues to be interested in the advancement of knowledge. We received notification in January that both the Carnegie Library and Washington Park Library would each receive gifts of \$10,000 from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation in honor of America’s 250th Anniversary.

Both libraries used the funding to spruce up their buildings by purchasing furnishings and decorations, repainting interior walls, and having their exterior book drops painted. Local artist Annie Corrington painted whimsical designs on both book drops.



A new sign was installed in the Carnegie Library park and was paid for with River Bluff Gateway grant funds from the City of St. Joseph.

LIBRARY STAFF

Staff Development Day was held at the East Hills Library in November with 43 staff members attending. Sessions included Resources 101 & Homelessness in St. Joseph by United Way's Jodi Flurry, Missouri Evergreen Aspen Catalog Tips presented by Bethany Barton, Genrefication at the Downtown Library presented by Dr. Paula Hayward, Tips & Tricks for Relieving Stress & Strain from Office & Library Work presented by Dr. Nicole Burge & Dr. Abby Bodenhausen, a Beanstack Scavenger Hunt created by Crystal Stuck, Misty Snider and Elizabeth Murray, and Library Family Feud hosted by Crystal Stuck.

The F.A.M.E (Fun, Acknowledgement, and Morale for Employees) Committee organized a holiday-themed Spirit Week, hosted a bowling night, and sold snacks and drinks at the libraries to raise funds for the committee.

Library staff attended in-person and virtual training through many organizations including Grand River Library Conference, InfoSec Training Institute, Homeless Institute, United Way Leadership St. Joseph, Mid-America Library Alliance, Missouri Evergreen Consortium, Missouri State Library, Missouri Library Association, Niche Academy, Public Library Association, Midwest Genealogy Center and Missouri Association of School Librarians.

Staff also attended the following conferences: Bouchercon, a mystery/thriller genre conference, Missouri Preservation Conference, Missouri Library Association Conference, Missouri School Library Association Conference, and Missouri Evergreen Conference.

As of June 30, 2026, SJPL had 49 regular employees, 33 were full-time and 16 were part-time. SJPL also has one substitute employee who fills in when needed.



Staff Day is the only day we can get a picture of most of our staff from all four library locations.