

156,843  
patron visits  
up from  
152,782

7,282  
cardholders  
up from  
6,180

12,583  
new physical  
items added  
up from  
10,394

231,770  
physical items  
borrowed  
up from  
226,506

88,339  
digital items  
borrowed  
up from  
62,079

27,802  
questions  
answered by  
your Librarians  
up from  
23,772

# A Year in Review

Fiscal Year 2024, May 2023–April 2024, was a year to remember. Thank you all for visiting and appreciating Lake Forest Library! Twenty of our top highlights included ...

1. We welcomed Ishwar as the new Executive Director.
2. We celebrated 125 years of Lake Forest Library with a family fest complete with cookies, Kona shaved ice, The Left Bank hot dogs, face painting, a magic show, and the first-ever foam party!



5. We launched the Lake Forest Library App, which to date has more than 1,100 users who enjoy being able to store a digital version of their library card, search the catalog, and place holds on items.
6. We learned from the City of Lake Forest Community-Wide Survey that the Library has a 91% satisfaction rating.
7. Lake Forest Reads explored food economy and Native American heritage with a visit from Diane Wilson, author of *The Seed Keeper*.



3. The dome was restored! We celebrated with custom designed m&ms.
4. The dome restoration project received a 2024 Historic Preservation Award in the designation Rehabilitation from the Lake Forest Preservation Foundation.

8. We created a Virtual Tour so that you can explore the Library building anywhere and on any device.

9. The Friends of Lake Forest Library hosted *A Night at the Library*, an after-hours soirée with hors d'oeuvres, wine, and live music.
10. Winter Exam Escape for teens drew in 1,437 students who studied at the Library.
11. We redesigned the print newsletter.
12. PARMA Conservation artfully restored the Remisoff murals!
13. Jan Gibson gave an enthralling presentation on the history of the Remisoff murals and we admired their renewed vibrance during a Sunday afternoon tea.
14. We watched the skies during the April 8 Solar Eclipse Viewing Party while munching moon pies.
15. We explored mental health during Read Between the Ravines with a visit from Christie Tate, author of *Group: How One Therapist and a Circle of Strangers Saved My Life*.
16. We gathered fiction books in Chinese, French, German, Italian, Polish, Spanish, and other languages into the new World Language Collection.

17. The Children's Library introduced Drop-in Playtime, Big Blue Blocks, and Tonies.
18. We added new databases including National Geographic and Nat Geo Kids, Udemy, O'Reilly, Plan Builder, ABI/INFORM, TheShelf.tv, Oxford English Dictionary, Craft & Hobby, and Fold3 by Ancestry.com.
19. The Media Lab expanded staffing and hours, and added a 3D printer, sublimation printer, and heat press machine.
20. Informed by the City Survey, the Library Staff and Board worked through a strategic planning process to guide the upcoming three years of Lake Forest Library. We look forward to sharing news and updates about improved collections, new events, and more.



713 events  
enjoyed  
by 21,068  
up from 692 /  
13,423

173  
activities & kits  
enjoyed by  
19,124  
up from  
105 / 14,272

1,024  
Media Lab  
sessions &  
tech tutorials  
up from 931

12,517  
computer uses  
up from 12,413

320,932  
Wi-Fi sessions  
up from  
273,325

151,254  
digital resource  
& database uses  
up from  
100,852

# Thank You to Our Donors

Gifts made to the Lake Forest Library Foundation endowment to secure the future of Lake Forest Library are reported separately. For information on the Foundation, go to [www.lflibraryfoundation.org](http://www.lflibraryfoundation.org).

**\$20,000+**

Reed Family Foundation, Inc. (Ms. Helen S. Reed)

**\$10,000–\$20,000**

Reed Family Foundation, Inc. (Mr. Peter S. Reed)

**\$1,000–\$10,000**

The Dick Family Foundation

**Up to \$1,000**

Ms. Louise R. Glasser

Reed Family Foundation, Inc.  
(Leslie V. and John S. Reed, Jr.)

Family of William Haberland  
(Gail, Nancy, and Kyle Haberland)

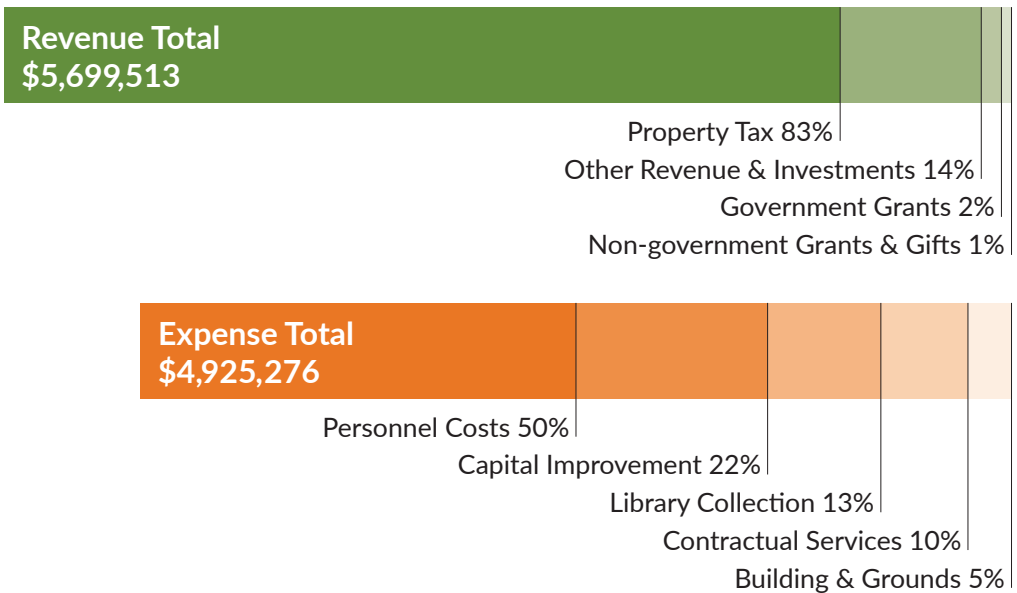
Ann Therese Palmer and Robert T. Palmer

**Book Gifts**

Choosri Goebel and Donna O’Conner,  
in memory of Laura Brown Gary

## FY2024 Financials

Audited Financial Statements are available before the end of the calendar year at [www.lakeforestlibrary.org/financial](http://www.lakeforestlibrary.org/financial).



# Letter from the Director

## *Greetings Lake Foresters!*

Hope you are having a great summer. By the time this issue lands in your hands, students will be heading back to school shortly. Many of them had a great time attending Library events and widening their horizons through Summer Reading. Please remember that your Library is also a wonderful resource for research and information and our friendly Librarians are eager to assist students in all their class projects.

I am happy to report that libraries nationwide are emerging from the depths of the COVID-19 pandemic, and we are seeing an uptick in usage across the board. On pages 28–29, you likely noticed impressive increases in several key metrics. We are very encouraged by this trend, and I would like to highlight the hard work of your Library Staff who always go the extra mile to serve you.

As part of our continuing efforts to provide a wider range of library collections to our residents, we have just joined Find More Illinois which brings the collections of an additional 50+ libraries in the state to our existing consortium of 30+ libraries. We are also excited to announce that we will soon be adding a new vending machine at the West Train Station that will dispense the latest books and audiovisual materials. You will also be able to pick up your holds at the machine!

Facilities Staff and the Library Board Building Committee have been hard at work addressing several projects to enhance your beautiful Library

building. We are having a new building automation system installed to provide uniform temperatures and comfort levels in all areas. We will be upgrading the existing elevator with more modern equipment and controls. Also underway is a study to restore and enhance the Library's front courtyards and the gates and benches near Deerpath that are showing signs of deterioration after decades of exposure to the elements. After the initial investigation is completed in the early fall, we plan to engage the community in discussions on next steps.

We are eager to welcome the many new residents of Lake Forest to our Library family. If you know of a new household that has moved recently to Lake Forest, please tell them about all the great things the Library provides for all ages.

When you next visit the Library, you may notice several new faces who have joined our team. This increased staffing enables us to support many of the initiatives that we will be rolling out as part of our 2024–27 Strategic Plan. We also welcome Emily Van Bel, Vince Sparrow, and Garth Pearson as the newest trustees on the Library's Board and thank them for their service.

Thank you for everything you do to support your Library. I look forward to seeing you at a book discussion, storytime, or other event. Whenever you visit the Library, please stop by my office to say hello. I enjoy meeting you all!

*Warmly, Ishwar*