

Elbridge Free Library
241 East Main Street
Elbridge, New York 13060
January 16, 2025

The Annual Reorganizational Meeting of the Elbridge Free Library was called to order on January 16, 2025 at 5:00 PM. The following members were present: Kathy Long, Kathy Norman, Cynthia Zainchowski, Peggy Bennink, Casey Westby, Deb Walrath, Bette Tucker and Camille DiSanza. Guests who joined us were: Mindy Smart, Ken Bush, and Julianna Buckman. Kathy Wood and Julie Clark were absent.

After an introduction of the present board members, staff, and guests, Casey Westby gave a detailed report of the year's activities. Casey passed out pictures of the various activities that were held throughout the year. The 2024 year was a banner one, both literally and figuratively. Casey gave the credit for this amazing year to her dedicated, creative and knowledgeable staff. The Village of Elbridge has been generous with their funding and willingness to cooperate in updates to the library. We are getting new flooring in the children's room next week and a new hygienic drinking fountain will be installed.

Guests were given a time for comments. Ken Bush thanked us profusely for the amazing job being done by Casey Westby, and the staff with the backing of the Board of Trustees. At this time guests were excused and the Board reconvened for the Quarterly Meeting.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the October 16, 2024 meeting were read and approved with no corrections. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Kathy Long and seconded by Peggy Bennink. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Director's Report

The Quarterly Statistics are as follows:

5131 items checked out

880 holds filled

335 check outs through Hoopla (\$835.00 spent on Hoopla this quarter. Borrowers are restricted to 5 items per month)

Treasurer's Report

Casey Westby gave an overview of the yearly Balance Sheet for 2024. We discussed the Memorial Fund and brainstormed ways to honor the people for whom donations were made.

Program Report

For a thorough report on the programs presented this year, please reference the monthly newsletter. All agreed that the staff has done an outstanding job on their presentation of new programs for patrons of all ages.

Old Business

Our young patrons have created art projects which are being displayed in the Syracuse Airport. Security for the Library has been upgraded with the purchase and installation of cameras and lighting.

All staff have been trained in the practice of delivering Narcan.

Thanks were sent to Bob Chestnut for washing the many windows in the library.

Several Grants were received by the Library this year including:

CLRC Eclipse grant for \$500.00

Dorothy Louise Grant

for \$5000.00 which was spent on the tables for the children's room

JEC grant for \$250.00

Lemondes grant for \$20,000 which is pending

New Business

The Garage Day Sale date was set for Saturday, July 12, 2025.

An outdoor garden is being planned and will be supported by the village.

Home School groups will be visiting Elbridge Free Library this year.

Future meeting dates were suggested by Kathy Long and seconded by Kathy Norman. All agreed on the following dates:

April 23, 2025 at 5:00 PM

July 23, 2025 at 5:00 PM

October 22, 2025 at 5:00 PM

January 21, 2026 at 5:00PM

A Budget Meeting is planned for January 29, 2025 at 5:00 PM.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Cynthia Zainchowski and seconded by Kathy Long. All unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Norman

January 16, 2025
Director's Report

2024 has been another successful year at the EFL, with record breaking attendance at clubs, events, programs, and collection development. We continue to grow both literally and figuratively, often feel we are bursting at the seam, oftentimes entertaining hundreds of patrons per week. Our dedicated staff remains knowledgeable, enthusiastic & creative and I am thankful for each one of them in their own unique way. They are largely to thank for all of the successes at the EFL. We currently have two regular volunteers to thank for assisting at our facility; long-time volunteer Frank Janowski who helps with building maintenance. Also, our peer chess club assistant, Izzy Schneider. I would also like to take a moment to thank the board for their unwavering support. Myself and our staff are always met with positivity and encouragement when meeting with the board. They are the foundation of our accomplishments, as a whole. We are an educated and passionate team.

If you haven't already noticed, the staff continues to work hard to make updates throughout our building, both ascetically and with our rotating collections and displays. We think of our organization more of Community Center of sorts, hence our slogan "We are more than just books!". Outwardly, we hope you have noticed our elaborate seasonal window displays as you drive down Main Street. Thank you to the Village of Elbridge Board and staff for working with us to make many of our updates happen and including us in their yearly funding to bring some projects to fruition. As always thanks to Fred, Brad, Dawson, Tammy, & Stephanie for continued support. In the new year we will be installing new flooring in our children's room and installing a more hygienic bottle filling station (drinking fountain), among other things. The Village has also been supportive in the purchasing of new books.

One of our goals met for last year; we teamed up with the Elementary and JEDIS school to ignite interest in the library within the children of the community. We offered a tour involving 4YP classes, meet & greet opportunities with our librarians (and our tortoise Franklin!), on-site storytelling, in-school library card sign-ups for all, & each child took home a book. We were invited back into the school for a visit with our librarians and a story read within the 3YP class, we were also invited to display outreach tables at school events such as welcome-back picnics and PTO Book Fairs. We were invited to give a presentation to the JE 8th grade class on the benefits of the library system and the highlights of becoming a career Librarian. We hope to be chosen for their 2024/25 International Baccalaureate Program (IB) Community Project as a result.

We had a thriving summer in 2024 with a summer reading program that was packed with a little something for everyone. While our digital enrollment was down slightly at 78 enrollments, our in-person event attendance was through the roof. Our patrons logged 35,795 minutes read. In addition to weekly in-house craft events, we offered performance events (Jeff the Magic Man etc), Teen Tuesday Program, and weekly grab 'n' go take-home craft bags. Advanced Adventures (Story Hour for the older kids) and toddler outdoor water play kept things interesting as well. We continue to offer our weekly Story Hour and Kids In Motion Classes as well.

In 2024 we placed more focus on successfully obtaining grants in hopes to enhance our collections and our facility. We have continued to make efforts to spruce up our facility including shampooing of carpets, window washing (Thank you Bob Chestnut), technology updates, plans for new tables, new flooring, and updated work stations. We are especially proud of our unique collection items, which include Tonies, Wonderbooks, and Adventure Backpacks (themes such as bug collecting, flower pressing, star gazing, and more.) Our "card catalog" received a facelift in 2024; Newly purchased "LG 27-Inch Class StanbyMe 1080p-Portable Touch-Screen-Monitor now serves as a patron-friendly way of searching Elbridge and Onondaga County for exactly the right materials. In the coming months we will be purchasing new kids room tables and chairs, as well as adding more theme bags to our adventure backpacks; all grant funded.

One of the things we pride ourselves on is the fact that we try to focus most of our events and programs to be free of charge or of little cost to the public. Something that makes the fundamentals of the library system so great is that there is nearly zero expectation to spend money upon walking through the front doors, a rarity in today's society. Very few modern-day institutions can claim the same. At EFL we are very cognizant of creating quality, free, programs and entertainment for our patrons without asking them to open their pocketbooks. Like all businesses in the past few years, we have seen hit with higher inflation rates, driving the cost of materials, payroll, fees, and supplies higher than ever

before. Our board will schedule a budget meeting later this month to discuss our upcoming needs for 2025 and have an in-depth discussion about our bottom line and our upcoming tax levy. It is always our intention to spend conservatively and to plan our budget with the tax-payers in mind. Fiscally, 2024 was a very solid year for us. The acquisition of grants took us further than we anticipated. We plan to come into 2025 with the same mentality.

We continue to have a strong connection with the OCPL system and a working relationship with PR managers Tom Walters and Maggie Foster. In 2024 we have been featured on Bridge Street multiple times, Channel 9 and Channel 3 news, community outreach events, as well as the OCPL podcast; "More Than Just Books" discussing our Pumpkin Walk, LEGO club and other offerings. We were hand selected to choose patrons to participate in the Community Art Project to create travel themed art to be hung in Hancock International Airport for the remainder of 2025. In 2024 we were also featured at a Crunch game and were able to walk out on the ice and throw the first puck. Needless to say, it is refreshing to get the Elbridge name out there in the Syracuse area and to put our name on the OCPL map.

Please follow us on Facebook, Instagram, the Remind App, and check our website and newsletter for updates on events, news, and up-coming programming.

Stats

Quarter (10/1/24-12/31/24)

5131 Check Outs

880 Holds Placed

(2024) 226 Patrons Added

Year (2022)

16420 Check Outs (Includes Renewals)

3557 Holds Placed

Year (2023)

19095 Check Outs (Includes Renewals)

3607 Holds Placed

Year (2024)

23115 Check Outs (Includes Renewals)

3768 Holds

Fines Waived (2024)

\$2834.66

Highest Circulated Materials (1/1/24-12/31/24)

13863 Books

5782 e Materials

1986 DVDs

Hoopla

335 Circulations (10/1-12/31/24)

\$835.38 (10/1-12/31/24)

970 Circulations (2023)

1202 Circulations (2024)

Grants

Eclipse Party: \$500 - Central NY Library Resources Council (CLRC)

Adventure Backpacks: \$1720 - CLRC Catalyst Grant

Kids Room Tables: \$5000 - John Henry Eldred Jr Foundation through the Dorothy Louise Kyler Fund

Kids Room Carpet: \$250 – Jordan Community Council

Updating our space to accommodate larger crowds: \$20,000 – Bullet Aid, Assemblyman John Lemondes

New Ideas for 2025:

Graphic Novel Book Club for Tweens (JEDIS/MIDDLE)
Stop motion animation club
Adult craft nights
Community Garden
Clothing Mending Classes
Adventure Back Packs
Silent Book Club

Recently added programs:

Year-round Puzzle swap
Fine Free!
Tax Assistance
Homeschool Programs
Movie Matinees
Triva Nights for Tweens
Chess Club for kids
Little Free Pantry (Campaign Against Hunger. St Mary's of the Lake Catholic Church)
BINGO for Kids
Story Book Walk (Halloween)
Water Play
Loyalty Rewards Programs
HOGs (History or Genealogy Club)
LEGO® Club
Author Visits
Home Alone Safety Training Course
Macrame Classes
Advanced Adventures (Story hour for older kids)
Kids Yoga
Theme Day in the park
Homeschooling 101 Class
Teen Tuesdays
New Year's Eve Glow Party
Jordan Memorial Pool access pass
Photography Workshop
Birding Workshop
Shred Truck on-site
Financial Literacy Events
Alzheimer's & Dementia Presentations

Ongoing Programs at EFL:

Kids in Motion
Story Hour
Quilt Class
1000 Books Before Kindergarten
Knitter Club
Fairy Garden Display
Plaza Trick-or-Treating
Pumpkin Walk
Visit with Santa/Tree lighting
Card Making classes for adults

ILL (Interlibrary Loan from libraries outside of Onondaga County)
Evening Story Hour (Roald Dahl Day, PJ Party, Teddy Bear Sleepover)
Take-home crafts
In-house crafts
Creativity contests (Easter Egg Decorating, Gingerbread Man Decorating, Recycled Robots, Poetry writing challenges, Bookmark design)
Fish Hatchery Story Hour
Zoo to You
Jeff the Magic Man visits
STEM Challenges
Hoopla/Libby App - eBook & Audiobook Access
State and County Park access passes
On-site notary services
Monthly Newsletter
Wireless WiFi printing
Chromebook/tech packs (Home WiFi) borrowing options
Summer Reading programs, challenges, & prizes
BOOKS!!!!