

**Saline County Library
Board of Trustees
Agenda**

**Date: 8 September 2025 | Time: 4:00 PM
1800 Smithers, Benton, AR**

1. Call to Order
2. Announcements

*Public Comment - Speakers must sign in with the agenda topic they wish to speak on before the Board meeting begins. Speakers will be allowed to speak on the requested agenda item when the Board reaches that item. Public comments are limited to 3 minutes per person for a total of 30 minutes.

3. Minutes from the 14 & 30 July 2025 board meetings
4. Financial Reports
 - a. Income and Expense Reports
5. Discussion Items
 - a. Director's Report
 - b. Library Management Team Reports
6. Unfinished Business
 - a. Review of Policies
7. New Business
 - a. CDs
 - b. Credit Card
 - c. Check Signer Resolution

.Adjourn

Next regular board meeting 10 November 2025

Saline County Library Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

14 July 2025

Attendees:

Allison Nolley, Chair
Kara Conrad, Board Member
Jamie Clemmer, Board Member
Richard McKeown, Board Member
Matt Brumley, Saline County Judge
Pat Bisbee, Quorum Court Liaison

Leigh Espey, Library Director
Tonia Breckenridge, HR Manager
Kari Lapp, PR Manager
Amanda Garrison, East End Branch Manager
Kolton Jones, Saline County Attorney
Andrew Dixon, QGT Attorney

1. Call to Order

Nolley called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM

2. Announcements

No announcements

3. Public Comment - Speakers must sign in with the agenda topic they wish to speak on before the Board meeting begins.

No public comment

Clemmer moved to have the Public Comment procedures changed so that a person who signs up to speak may have the opportunity when the board reaches that topic instead of having everyone speak at the beginning of the meeting. Conrad seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

4. Minutes from the 12 May 2025 board meeting

Conrad motioned to approve the minutes with the amendment of adding Judge Brumley to the list of attendees. Clemmer seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

5. Financial Reports

a. Income and Expense Reports

The board would like to have information for the next regular meeting about investing reserve funds into CDs.

Clemmer motioned to approve the reports as presented and asked for a drilldown of the personnel lines for the next meeting. McKeown seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

6. Discussion Items

a. Director's Report

b. Library Management Team Reports

7. Unfinished Business

a. Review of Policies

b. RFQ for Auditing Services

McKeown motioned to move forward with the firm Rasco Winter Thomas for the third-party audit. The motion was seconded by Conrad which passed unanimously.

8. New Business

a. Inventory Policy

McKeown motioned to approve the Inventory Policy as presented. The motion was seconded by Conrad which passed unanimously.

b. Expense Authorization Policy

Conrad motioned to table this until the next regularly scheduled meeting. Clemmer seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Adjourn: 6:03 PM

Clemmer motioned to adjourn. Conrad seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Next regular board meeting 8 September 2025

**Saline County Library
Board of Trustees
Called Meeting Minutes**

30 July 2025

Attendees:

Allison Nolley, Chair
Kara Conrad, Board Member
Richard McKeown, Board Member
Marian Douglas, Board Member
Matt Brumley, Saline County Judge

Leigh Espey, Library Director
Tonia Breckenridge, HR Manager
Arielle Wilson, Finance Manager

1. Call to Order

Nolley called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM

*Public Comment - Speakers must sign in with the agenda topic they wish to speak on before the Board meeting begins. Speakers will be allowed to speak on the requested agenda item when the Board reaches that item. Public comments are limited to 3 minutes per person for a total of 30 minutes.

2. New Business

a. Additional employees for East End Branch Library

Conrad motioned to approve the additional staff for the East End Branch Library. Douglas seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Adjourn: 4:52 PM

Conrad motioned to adjourn the meeting. McKeown seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Next regular board meeting 8 September 2025

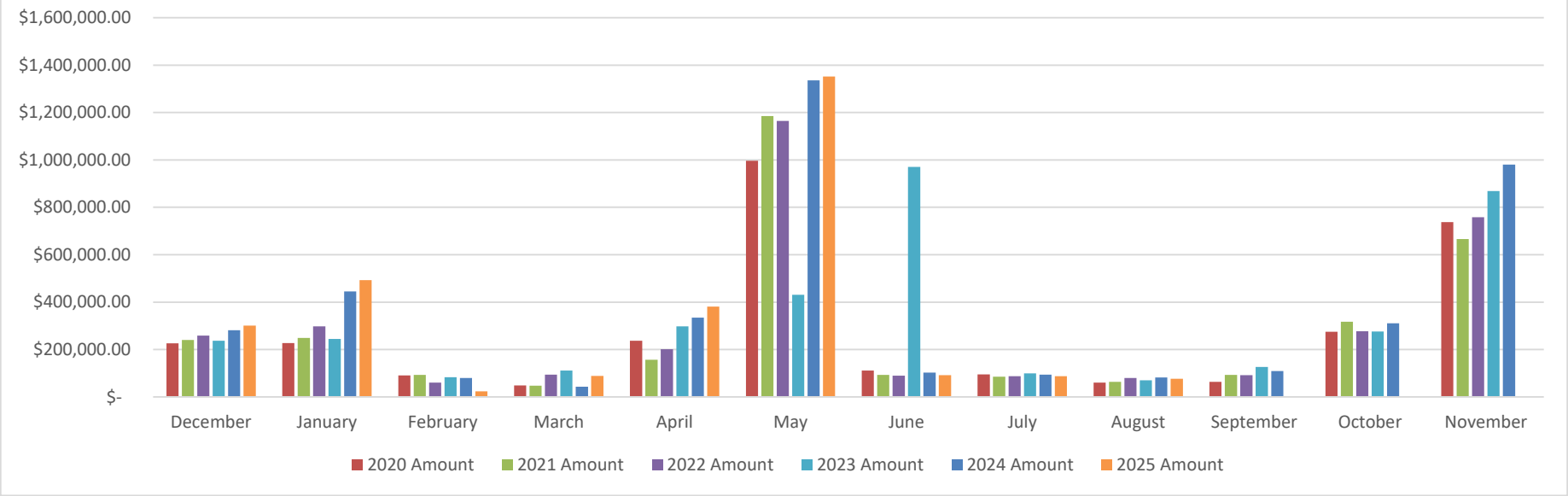


Saline County Library
Budget vs. Actuals: Budget_CY25_P&L - FY25 P&L
January - December 2025

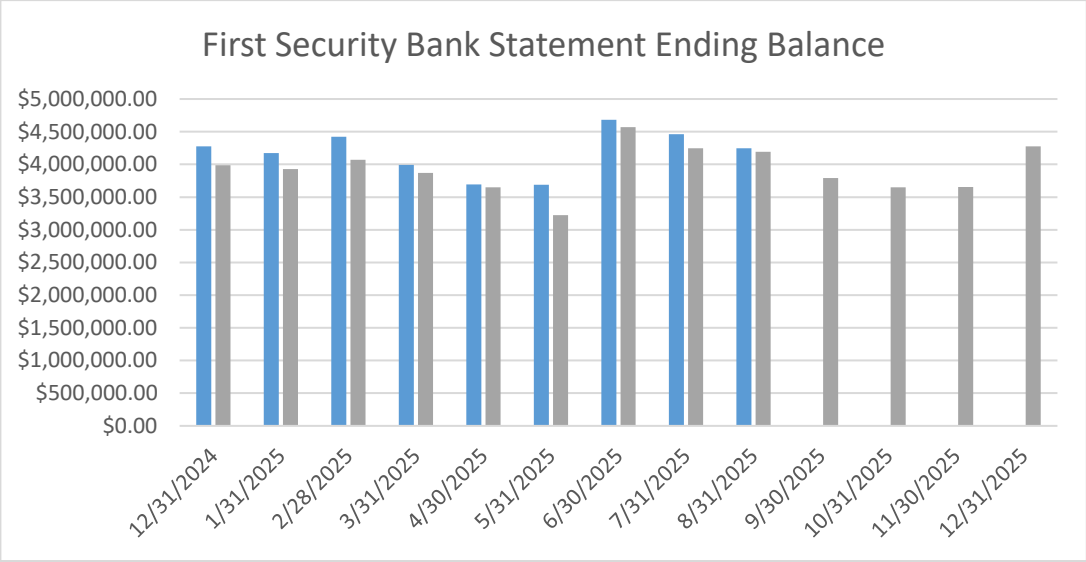
	Total			
	Actual	Budget	Remaining	% of Budget
Revenue				
4150 Tax Receipts	2,858,791.47		-2,858,791.47	
4200 State Aid	76,335.83		-76,335.83	
4210 State Scholarship Money	5,400.00		-5,400.00	
4255 Advertising Income	7,859.01		-7,859.01	
4310 Book Sale	8,409.40		-8,409.40	
4330 Copies/Printing	5,563.13		-5,563.13	
4350 Fines / Fees	3,088.98		-3,088.98	
4365 Fundraising	1,399.64		-1,399.64	
4370 Gifts/Memorials	60.06		-60.06	
4410 Interest Income	96,241.56		-96,241.56	
4455 Passport Fee	42,355.88		-42,355.88	
4460 Refund	9,630.04		-9,630.04	
Total Revenue	\$ 3,115,135.71	\$ 0.00	-\$ 3,115,135.71	
Gross Profit	\$ 3,115,135.71	\$ 0.00	-\$ 3,115,135.71	
Expenditures				
3070 Rents, Land, & Buildings	53,000.00	53,000.00	0.00	100.00%
5000 Advertising			0.00	
5500 Advertising	25,879.97	35,000.00	9,120.03	73.94%
5600 Community Engagement	4,106.71	10,000.00	5,893.29	41.07%
Total 5000 Advertising	\$ 29,986.68	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 15,013.32	66.64%
6560 Payroll Expenses				
0100 Wages	1,607,699.42	2,259,124.30	676,999.88	71.16%
0600 Taxes (Fed, AR, SUTA)	120,857.71	150,000.00	30,858.29	80.57%
0800 Retirement	234,853.69	341,000.00	107,877.31	68.87%
0900 Insurance Benefits	167,536.42	225,000.00	57,463.58	0.74
1000 Worker's Compensation	-677.00	7,000.00	677.00	-9.67%
1200 Other Fringe Benefits		1,000.00	0.00	0.00%
Total 6560 Payroll Expenses	\$ 2,130,270.24	\$ 2,983,124.30	\$ 852,854.06	71.41%
6700 Supplies			0.00	
6701 Printing	4,347.44	10,000.00	5,652.56	43.47%
6750 General Supplies	15,816.68	30,000.00	14,183.32	0.53
6760 Janitorial Supplies	14,353.63	25,000.00	10,646.37	57.41%
6770 Service Contracts	82,250.59	105,574.49	23,323.90	77.91%
Total 6700 Supplies	\$ 116,768.34	\$ 170,574.49	\$ 53,806.15	68.46%
6800 Professional Services			0.00	
6810 Postage	6,764.24	13,000.00	6,235.76	52.03%
6820 Communications	30,170.02	40,000.00	9,829.98	0.75
6830 Other Professional Services	11,910.70	20,000.00	8,089.30	0.60
Total 6800 Professional Services	\$ 48,844.96	\$ 73,000.00	\$ 24,155.04	66.91%
7000 Transportation			0.00	
70-2500 Fuel for Library Vehicle Use	852.52	5,000.00	4,147.48	17.05%
70-5200 Fuel for Personal Vehicle Use	899.08	3,000.00	2,100.92	29.97%
70-5300 Airline and Rental Car	846.74	4,000.00	3,153.26	21.17%
Total 7000 Transportation	\$ 2,598.34	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 9,401.66	21.65%
7100 Insurance			0.00	
71-5800 Fire and Extended Coverage	41,543.00	40,000.00	-1,543.00	103.86%
71-5900 Vehicle Insurance	5,508.86	4,000.00	-1,508.86	137.72%
Total 7100 Insurance	\$ 47,051.86	\$ 44,000.00	\$ (3,051.86)	106.94%

7200 Utilities			0.00	
7210 Electricity	50,627.54	85,000.00	34,372.46	0.60
7220 Gas	8,855.91	20,000.00	11,144.09	0.44
7230 Water	5,609.46	7,500.00	1,890.54	0.75
7240 Waste Disposal	2,604.76	5,500.00	2,895.24	0.47
Total 7200 Utilities	\$ 67,697.67	\$ 118,000.00	\$ 50,302.33	57.37%
7300 Building Operations			0.00	
7340 Building and Furnishings-New	23,638.98	40,200.00	16,561.02	0.59
7350 Machinery and Equipment-New	197,751.08	218,500.00	20,748.92	0.91
7360 R&M-Machinery and Equipment	4,532.37	5,000.00	467.63	0.91
7370 R&M-Building Improvements	2,173.85	35,000.00	32,826.15	6.21%
Total 7300 Building Operations	\$ 228,096.28	\$ 298,700.00	\$ 70,603.72	76.36%
7400 Miscellaneous			0.00	
7500 Dues and Memberships	2,279.00	5,000.00	2,721.00	45.58%
7900 Meals and Lodging	1,348.73	4,000.00	2,651.27	33.72%
8200 Refund	371.51	1,000.00	628.49	37.15%
8300 Scholarship Payment	5,400.00		-5,400.00	
8400 Software	37,503.91	88,903.00	51,399.09	42.19%
Total 7400 Miscellaneous	\$ 46,903.15	\$ 98,903.00	\$ 51,999.85	47.42%
8500-1 All Programming	51,008.81	80,000.00	28,991.19	0.64
8700 Staff Development	5,732.20	16,200.00	10,467.80	35.38%
8750 Fundraising Expenses	1,467.23	1,000.00	-467.23	146.72%
8800 Books/Magazines/Video/Audio	\$ 409,612.33	\$ 520,000.00	\$ 110,387.67	78.77%
9500 Other Miscellaneous Expenditure		32,899.71	9,569.71	0.00%
9600 Friends Expenses	911.55	3,000.00	2,088.45	30.39%
Total Expenditures	\$ 3,239,949.64	\$ 4,549,401.50	\$ 1,309,451.86	71.22%
Net Operating Revenue	-\$ 124,813.93	-\$ 4,549,401.50	\$ (4,424,587.57)	2.74%

TAX RECEIPTS							
Date County Received	2020 Amount	2021 Amount	2022 Amount	2023 Amount	2024 Amount	2025 Amount	Difference from previous year
December	\$ 226,160.06	\$ 240,643.86	\$ 259,054.60	\$ 236,663.60	\$ 281,506.20	\$ 300,982.79	\$ 19,476.59
January	\$ 226,867.53	\$ 248,875.25	\$ 297,724.41	\$ 244,107.88	\$ 444,981.53	\$ 492,849.66	\$ 47,868.13
February	\$ 90,322.15	\$ 92,793.73	\$ 60,717.21	\$ 82,586.40	\$ 80,329.09	\$ 23,599.35	\$ (56,729.74)
March	\$ 48,354.20	\$ 47,554.84	\$ 93,532.72	\$ 111,487.75	\$ 42,763.71	\$ 88,216.06	\$ 45,452.35
April	\$ 237,069.35	\$ 156,340.43	\$ 201,091.45	\$ 297,178.59	\$ 334,571.00	\$ 380,707.82	\$ 46,136.82
May	\$ 996,484.34	\$ 1,185,278.48	\$ 1,164,224.26	\$ 430,942.96	\$ 1,335,255.50	\$ 1,351,470.87	\$ 16,215.37
June	\$ 110,896.95	\$ 92,488.78	\$ 89,291.29	\$ 970,451.41	\$ 102,423.53	\$ 92,178.14	\$ (10,245.39)
July	\$ 94,694.02	\$ 85,193.59	\$ 87,308.16	\$ 98,906.02	\$ 94,044.59	\$ 87,568.42	\$ (6,476.17)
August	\$ 60,399.71	\$ 63,259.14	\$ 80,324.03	\$ 70,538.64	\$ 82,464.89	\$ 76,519.01	\$ (5,945.88)
September	\$ 63,533.38	\$ 93,021.74	\$ 91,590.17	\$ 126,267.33	\$ 109,242.37		\$ (109,242.37)
October	\$ 275,110.88	\$ 316,655.67	\$ 277,262.72	\$ 275,584.60	\$ 310,411.13		\$ (310,411.13)
November	\$ 737,493.81	\$ 666,438.79	\$ 757,940.44	\$ 868,873.55	\$ 980,160.72		\$ (980,160.72)
	\$ 3,167,386.38	\$ 3,288,544.30	\$ 3,460,061.46	\$ 3,813,588.73	\$ 4,198,154.26	\$ 2,894,092.12	\$ (1,304,062.14)



First Security Bank Statement Ending Balance	
Date	Amount
12/31/2024	\$4,277,455.23
1/31/2025	\$4,172,629.60
2/28/2025	\$4,421,338.07
3/31/2025	\$3,992,161.03
4/30/2025	\$3,694,510.38
5/31/2025	\$3,687,739.30
6/30/2025	\$4,682,842.18
7/31/2025	\$4,462,680.31
8/31/2025	\$4,246,909.90
9/30/2025	
10/31/2025	
11/30/2025	
12/31/2025	





Circulation reports for July - August

Category	2024	2025
Adult Collections	17,366	15,036
Books	16,895	14,710
Audiobooks	486	326
Children's Collections	17,588	16,277
Books	15,760	14,619
Audiobooks	1,826	1,658
Juvenile Collections	13,043	12,959
Books	12,895	12,752
Audiobooks	148	207
Teen Collections	3,388	3,423
Books	3,348	3,380
Audiobooks	40	43
New Adult Collections	819	792
Books	818	786
Audiobooks	1	6
Videogames	1,223	1,331
Library of Things	796	1,118



Circulation reports for July - August

Category	2024	2025
Video	11,073	9,538
Adult DVD	4,990	4,668
Adult Blu-ray	357	327
All TV	2,238	1,491
Children's DVD	3,320	2,877
Children's Blu-ray	168	175
E-Resources	41,701	43,315
Libby e-Books	15,341	14,074
Libby e-Audiobooks	14,219	14,875
Libby e-Magazines	2,206	2,612
Hoopla	8,856	12,730
Kanopy	1,079	1,024
Grand Total	107,012	105,789

Library Director's Report

September 2025

MidArkansas Regional Library Board Meeting

The next MidArk board meeting will be held at the Malvern/Hot Spring County Library at 10:00 AM Friday, September 26.

Staff Development

October 13th will be our fall staff development day. All branches will be closed to the public that day so that we can do staff trainings.

Staffing

We have filled the Assistant Library Director position. Amanda Mesas will join the team on Monday, September 15. She has over 10 years of public service experience spanning all facets of a public library from youth services up to administration.

Roxann Heath has been promoted to Financial Coordinator. She has been with the library for just over one year as the Accounts Payable Clerk.

Business 360°

First Security Bank has launched a new business credit card that allows entities to have all credit cards under one interface with more controls in place that allows for ease of management.

CD Rates

First Security currently has the following rates available for CDs:

- 3 months at 4.40%-4.49%
- 6 months at 4.35%-4.44%
- 9 months at 4.00%-4.07%
- 12 months at 3.90%-3.98%

Friends of the Library

The library is very fortunate to have a dedicated group of volunteers that put so much passion and effort into making the used bookstore a success. From January through August of this year, this group of wonderful individuals volunteered 493.9 hours of their time to ensure the bookstore is well stocked and nicely organized. We appreciate all their hard work and dedication!

Arkansas Library Association Conference

The annual Arkansas Library Assistance Conference is scheduled for October 18th and 19th in Hot Springs. We have 11 staff members attending, and five of those staff members will be presenting!

Submitted by,
Leigh Espey
Library Director

Library Management Team Report

Human Resources

September 2025

2025 Statistics

- Headcount: 59 – 38 FT, 14 PT, 7 Seasonal
- 2025 YTD Hires: 12 – 1 FT, 6 PT, 5 Seasonal
- 2025 YTD Terms: 12 - 4 FT, 2 PT, 6 Seasonal
 - Relocation/College: 4 (2 FT, 1 PT, 1 Seasonal)
 - End of Season: 5 (Seasonal)
 - Retirement: 1 (PT)
 - Other Employment: 1 (FT)
 - Involuntary: 1 (FT)
- Recognitions:
 - 20 employees recognized with **High 5 Awards** in July
- Performance Management: No employees currently on PIP
- Turnover:
 - 2025 YTD: 21.5%
 - 2024: 25.9%
 - 2023: 35.1%

Recent hires include:

- Amanda Mesas, Assistant Director, starts 9/15/25
- Dara Nix, FT Library Assistant, East End, started 8/29/25
- Julia Staggs, PT Library Assistant, East End, starts 9/8/25

Recent Promotions (July & Aug) include:

- Roxann Heath, A/P Clerk to Financial Coordinator at Benton
- Vanessa Scott, PT Library Assistant to FT Library Assistant at Benton
- Anna Bivens, FT Library Assistant to FT Adult Programmer at Bryant
- Charlie Feick, PT Shelver to PT Library Assistant at Bryant
- Whitney Gibson, Seasonal to PT Library Assistant, Bryant
- E'Yanne Whitaker, FT Library Programmer to FT Assistant Branch Manager at East End
- Lily Webb, FT Library Assistant to FT Library Assistant Programmer at Benton
- Rebecca Griffin, FT Makerspace Specialist to Makerspace & Adult Programming Coordinator at Benton

East End: Training new staff in September to prepare for extending operating hours/Saturdays in October

Staff Training: October 13th – in planning phase

Submitted by,

Tonia Breckenridge

Human Resources Manager

Library Management Team Report

Bryant Branch

September 2025

Statistics

During July, the public computers were used 607 times for 433 hours with an average of 42 minutes for each session. We had 6,779 patrons visit with a daily average of 260 visitors. We notarized 93 documents and submitted 49 passport applications. We circulated 6,871 items, which is a 26% decrease over 2024 (9,382). We created 149 new library cards.

In August, the public computers were used 530 times for 396 hours with an average of 44 minutes for each session. 6,027 patrons visited the branch with an average of 231 patrons per day. We notarized 94 documents and submitted 49 passport applications. We circulated 5,405 items which is a 28 % increase over 202 (7,599). We created 132 new library cards

Questions

	Reference	General	Streaming	Computer	Passport calls
May	93	121	21	123	44
June	151	181	58	155	118
July	137	111	61	131	85
August	145	185	111	192	57

Staffing Report

In July, our full-time Library Assistant, Sabina Timilsina moved to North Carolina. She was replaced with two part-time Library Assistants, Whitney Gibson (29) and Charlie Feick (18). Charlie was promoted from the shelver position, and that role was filled with a seasonal worker, Mitch Daniels.

At the start of August, our full-time Adult Programmer moved out of state. She was replaced internally by Anna Bivens.

Submitted by,

Susan Jacobs
Branch Manager

Library Management Team Report East End September 2025

East End Library

We had 2433 people visit during the month of July, an average of 111 per day, and made 39 library cards. We answered 187 questions (22 digital questions, 98 general questions, 40 reference questions and 27 questions about technology) and had 41 people use our Study Room, 172 use the Meeting Room and 187 use our CreativeSpace. We had 68 use our computer lab for 50 hours and 15 minutes, 44 minutes on average. We had 1392 participate in our programs for the month. We completed 13 notaries.

In August, we slowed down after summer because we needed a break! We had 1808 people visit, an average of 86 per day, and made 81 library cards. We answered 186 questions (12 digital questions, 103 general questions, 31 reference questions and 40 questions about technology) and had 32 people use our Study Room, 62 use the Meeting Room and 131 use our CreativeSpace. We had 83 use our computer lab for 58 hours and 23 minutes, 42 minutes on average. We had 721 participate in our programs for the month. We completed 17 notaries.

In July, we wrapped up our summer reading program. East End's numbers were off the charts compared to last year. The door count in July 2025 was 2433 and program participation was 1392 whereas in July 2024, the door count was 1870 and program participation was 510. That's a 30% increase in patrons in the building and a 173% increase in participation! WOW! Of course, we added a lot more programs this year, but it's because our patrons wanted them! In August, our programs took a break, but we still had time set aside for families to play and experience the library, and we also participated in the East End Back to School Bash where we saw 315 people and made 36 library cards.

I'm happy to report that we're getting ever closer to being able to do be open on Saturdays! There's still not a concrete day for that as of this board report, but we are making significant progress. We have officially hired a new full time person and a new part time person at East End (finally!) and they will be starting soon. Dara Nix, one of East End's seasonal employees, will be filling the full-time role and Julia Staggs will be filling the part-time role. Dara is focused on helping our community and building connections and Julia's career goal is to be a Librarian. They are going to be excellent in their new positions at our library. Once they begin working and are fully trained to be in the building without more seasoned staff with them, we will open on Saturdays. I'm hoping for the end of September or, probably more realistically, the beginning of October.

With the additions of our new staff at East End, we were also able to promote E'Yanne Whitaker to Assistant Branch Manager, a role that she definitely deserves and really has already been doing for several months, having taken on more important tasks in the library. Her focus will be shifting slightly to concentrate more on leading circulation, but she'll still be doing programs, too. In adding more staff, we'll be doing even more programs for our patrons, which will mean even more increases in our statistics! To say we are excited about the future of East End is an understatement!

Submitted by,

Amanda Garrison, MLS
East End Branch Manager

Library Management Team Report
Building Operations Department
September 2025

Building Operations Department

IT

Day-to-day network maintenance was the primary focus of the summer for Geoff. There were a few power outages that caused some issues, but they were addressed with minimal downtime. No new projects were started during this time, which allowed Geoff to focus primarily on the day-to-day IT issues that arose.

Maintenance/Housekeeping

Billy primarily focused on the day-to-day maintenance needs of the library. No new projects were undertaken.

Brittton and Tatiana continued to work very hard keeping our Benton and Bryant branches immaculately clean and presentable for all..

Submitted by,
Rob Walton
Building Operations Manager

Library Management Team Report

Public Relations Department

September 2025

Social Media Stats

Social Stats June 30-August 31 (-/+ from last board report):

Facebook Reactions: 3319 (-310)	2025 YTD: 12,117
Facebook Clicks: 12,957 (-2,892)	2025 YTD: 50,334
Facebook Posts: 232 (-68)	2025 YTD: 1,111
Facebook New Followers: 136 (-83)	2025 YTD: 671
Facebook Reach: 179,584 (-33,828)	2025 YTD: 820,007
Facebook Shares: 411 (-83)	2025 YTD: 1,773
Instagram New Followers: 41 (-22)	2025 YTD: 161
Instagram Number of Posts: 135 (+18)	2025 YTD: 503
Instagram Likes: 1,399 (+515)	2025 YTD: 3,703
Instagram Comments: 38 (+21)	2025 YTD: 87
Instagram Reach: 21,284 (+8,393)	2025 YTD: 62,062

Website Stats

July and August (Includes ½ Summer Reading)

Active Users: 13k	2025 YTD: 59k
New Users: 11k	2025 YTD: 58k
Average engagement: 59s	2025 YTD: 1m 05s

Public Event Attendance and Outreach Stats

Public Event and Outreach Stats July - August

Ribbon Cuttings: 8	2025 YTD: 23
Networking Group Meetings: 11	2025 YTD: 39
Community Meetings: 6	2025 YTD: 18
Community Partner 1-on-1: 10	2025 YTD: 17
Other Outreach: 7	2025 YTD: 52
Outreach engagement: 945	2025 YTD: 5035
New Cards: 106	2025 YTD: 335

Strategic Plan

Our committee met and decided we wanted to try to gather more feedback from non cardholders in our community. We do not have a set time for the new plan to be completed but thinking roughly around April 2026.

Library Card Sign Up Month: Power of the Card!

We have 65 businesses signed up to provide discounts to patrons who show their library card. We have 23 businesses sponsoring, bringing our total sponsorship raised to \$6,000. We were able to have our brochures distributed at the Salt Bowl last week and sever schools have distributed the digital flyers through their social media channels and newsletters. We will have outreach events on Tuesday nights and Saturdays. With all the libraries participating in the power of the card initiative, we have over 200 businesses offering discounts!

We will celebrate the campaign success with a Collaboration Celebration on Tuesday, October 2 at the Bishop Center. We will have food from local partners and present some awards and show appreciation to partners, patrons, and staff. The event will be masquerade-themed and open to the public, but we will be sending out special invitations to our collaborators.

Submitted by,

Kari Lapp
Public Relations Manager

Library Management Team Report

Public Services Department

September 2025

Staffing

Lots of switch ups in Public Services. We have a new Part Time employee, Caitlin Little! Our PT Library Assistant Vanessa South took the place of Anna Bivens who moved up and over to Bryant! We're super proud of Anna but excited to have new folks on the team. Our push for the rest of this year is to improve our customer service and our flexibility when it comes to customer service. Tons of exciting things coming to Public Services. I'm excited to report on our improvement at the next board meeting!

Statistics

In July, computers were used 793 times for 634 hours and 59 minutes, 1671 questions were asked, and 16,466 patrons visited. We had 301 new library cards. In passive programming, we had 525 interactions!

In August, computers were used 768 times for 590 hours and 43 minutes, 1798 questions were asked, and 11,437 patrons visited. We had 254 new library cards. In passive programming, we had 533 interactions!

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Oden', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Madison Oden
Public Services Manager

Library Management Team Report

Youth Services
September 2025

Summer Reading Wrap Up

This summer nearly 1,600 children and teens 18 and under registered for summer reading. Over half of those were between the ages of 6 and 12.

Program participation was significantly higher this year. We had almost 2,000 people participate in storytimes. Our school-aged programs had an attendance of over 650 children. Our performers did well with over 2000 people attending. We also visited nearly 400 children at outreach visits. Our biggest success this year was our teen programming. Nearly 500 teens participated in programs this summer! That's over three times the teen participation that we had last year.

Bookmark Contest

We had 164 entries in the bookmark contest this year. Patrons at each branch voted on the winners. The winning bookmarks are currently available at each branch at the youth services desks in Benton and the circulation desk in East End and Bryant.

Fall Programs & Outreach

We took a short programming break after all the summer programs. Storytimes started back in the middle of August, and after school programming resumed at the beginning of September in all our branches. This fall, we have 10 weekly storytimes. We also have a music and movement program in Bryant. We have 13 afterschool programs each week for children in 1st grade and up. Homeschool Hour and Rising Stars also started back in September.

We have also been able to set up many of our outreach visits again now that the schools are more open to outside visitors. Currently, we visit 14 different locations each month.

Submitted by,
Wendy Christy
Youth Services Manager

8 September 2025

Resolution for First Security Bank Check Signers

At the Saline County Library Board of Trustees meeting on 8 September 2025, the Board of Trustees approved check signing privileges for the following staff:

Leigh Espey, Library Director

Tonia Breckenridge, HR Manager

Roxann Heath, Financial Coordinator

Signed,

Allison Nolley

Chair,

Saline County Library Board of
Trustees

Signed,

Matt Brumley

Saline County Judge

Library Management Team Report

Adult Services Department

September 2025

The Adult Services team continues to provide strong programming for our patrons. We took a break from some programs during August to prepare for the upcoming Fall programs, but many of our regular programs like Chair Yoga, Tai Chi, and Library Card Shufflers continued throughout the month.

Chloe Bridges, our Bryant Adult Programmer, left us for an exciting opportunity out of state and we wish her all the best. We are happy to welcome Anna Bivens as our new Bryant Adult Programmer. Anna has been a Library Assistant at Benton for two years. She comes to us with experience in art education. We cannot wait to see what she brings to our team.

Community-focused Programming

We have installed our pilot “Nomad Collection” at The Manor in Benton. The Manor is a senior living community with an active population. We have been working with Karen Crowell, their Sales and Marketing Director, to try out a new approach to serving facility-bound patrons. The Manor installed bookshelves in one of their activity rooms and we filled them with large print books weeded from the Bryant collection. We will be exploring outreach programming opportunities to further enrich patrons’ library experience within the facility.

In theory, the Nomad Collection is made up of books that are still in usable condition but are no longer being actively checked out in our main collections. These books are taking up shelf-space better used by newer, more popular titles. With the Nomad Collection, these titles will be freed up from our shelves and will roam from location to location until they are no longer usable. We are starting with just one location so we can work out the bugs in this new approach to collection maintenance. If all goes well, we plan to expand the Nomad Collection to other facilities which will allow us to rotate titles in and out of different facilities maintaining a fresh collection for facility-bound patrons. This will allow the library to serve a larger population with less staff time.

We are exploring research opportunities that will connect the library world with the residential health facilities world that will hopefully give us a more solid idea of the effect access to our resources has on facility residents.

Health-focused Programming

In July and August, we served 274 patrons in our health-focused programs. Most of these programs are aimed at physical fitness, but we had two sessions in coordination with the UADA that focused on nutrition. These sessions were well attended and had good feedback.

Creation-focused Programming

The Makerspaces saw an astounding 1540 patrons during the months of July and August.

Socialization-focused Programming

Library Card Shufflers and Inklings are both going strong.

Gardening-focused Programming

The Seed Library is still going strong. We will be holding another seed and plant swap this Fall.

Reading Programs

We opted to focus our efforts on four late night programs this Summer. We wrapped up our late nights with an 80s Dance Party at East End and an Art Gala at Benton.

East End hosted an 80s Dance Party on Friday, July 11 and it was a hit. We had 15 attendees who spent the night singing karaoke and dancing to their favorite hits from the 80s. Most came dressed in their 80s-inspired best to decorate some troll dolls, make beaded safety pin broaches, and bedazzle some slap bracelets. It was definitely a late night to be remembered.

We ended our summer festivities with an Art Gala at the Benton branch. We had 26 people manning artist tables displaying and selling their work and another 56 patrons in attendance. Everyone was dressed to impress. They enjoyed fun, art-inspired mocktails while perusing the local art, went on a drawing scavenger hunt for book-forward still-life displays, explored new art papers with a paper-tasting, and created art of their own in the Makerspace.

We will be holding an adult-only Fall Reading Challenge that will cover October 1-November 30, 2025. The theme will be Space to coincide with the Youth Services October programming.

Statistics

	July	August
Staff-Led (prev. In Person)	225	96
Makerspace Benton	924	348
Makerspace Bryant	172	96
Presenter	137	154
Seed Library	285	191

Submitted by,
Laura Austin
Adult Services Manager