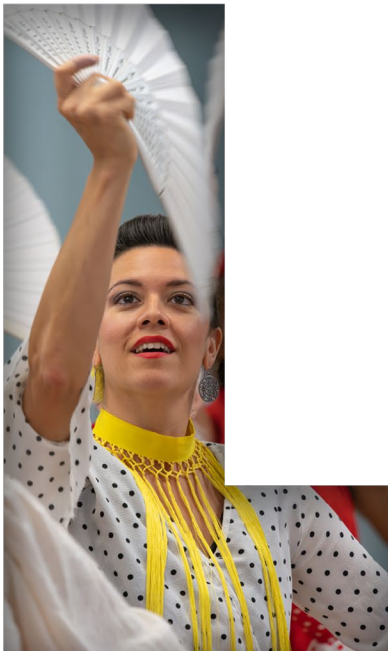




Annual Report 2024



OCEAN COUNTY LIBRARY

Connecting People, Building Community, Transforming Lives

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Susan Quinn

Ocean County Library Director



Timothy McDonald

Ocean County Library Commission Chair

The Ocean County Library is committed to providing dynamic resources that inspire learning, creativity and connection. Through our extensive collection of books and services, along with engaging programs and educational resources, we ensure that everyone – from young readers to lifelong learners have access to resources that inspire learning, creativity, and connection.

In 2024, the Ocean County Library launched a new strategic plan with contributions from our community that established shared values and strategic priorities to guide us over the next five years. Our shared values with our community are Respect, Integrity, Customer Service and Progress and our strategic priorities are **Learning Together, Accessibility, Personal Journeys, and Partnerships.**



Jennifer Bacchione

*Ocean County Library Commissioner
and Liaison to the Ocean County Library*

This annual report highlights how the Ocean County Library connected people, built community and transformed lives by achieving our strategic priorities for the community with a team of exceptional staff, amazing books, digital resources and materials, and a wealth of programs for people of all ages.

As we look forward to celebrating our 100th Anniversary in 2025, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to you, our residents, community partners and local and county leaders for your continued support.

The Ocean County Library system is the largest in New Jersey and our 21 branches throughout the county offer something for everyone including sensory rooms, which are among the only ones in the state. We take pride in all services offered by the library and will continue to make improvements to provide the best services possible for the needs of everyone in the county.

The governing body for Ocean County Library is the seven-member Ocean County Library Commission. Library Commissioners are unpaid volunteers, appointed by the Ocean County Board of Commissioners for five years, who are responsible for the oversight of Library funds, property, and equipment, as well as determining the policies and rules governing Library services in promotion of the Library's interests.

Ocean County Library Commission

Timothy McDonald, Chair

Paul F. Wolleon, Vice Chair

Susan L. Hutler, Liaison, Ocean County Library Foundation

Henry J. Mancini

Christopher J. Mullins

Bonnie R. Peterson, Esq.

Ruthanne Scaturro

Virginia E. Haines, Ocean County Commissioner Liaison (2024)

Jennifer Bacchione, Ocean County Commission Liaison (2025)

In 2024, The Ocean County Library Commission honored Susan L. Hutler for her 40 years of dedicated service on the Ocean County Library Commission. Mrs. Hutler, a former teacher and school administrator, inspired the Ocean County Library's Education Initiative to ensure all students and teachers have an Ocean County Library card to give them access to the wealth of educational resources available at the Ocean County Library.



2024 Statistics

Meeting Room Usage

11,425

Library Programs Held

14,729

New Library Patrons

22,783

Public Computer Use

155,582

Wireless Users

164,719

Library Card Holders

199,653

Visitor Count

1,541,007

Reference Questions Answered

1,698,058

Items in Circulation

4,105,933

Strategic Plan 2024-2028

Learning Together • Accessibility • Personal Journeys • Partnerships

In the next five years and beyond, the library will continue to show up for the community with a team of exceptional staff, amazing books, digital materials, and a wealth of programs. The library will also retool its outlook to make sure we offer spaces and services that are deeply responsive to you - our current and future customers.

We share these values with our community:

RESPECT

We value every community member's presence.

INTEGRITY

We lead with honesty, transparency, and authenticity.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

We serve our community with kindness and equity.

PROGRESS

We commit to learning, adapting, and moving forward.

What We Heard:

WE ARE YOUR FREE SOURCE FOR SOCIAL CONNECTION

At every age and stage, you highlighted how the gift of the library is the myriad of ways it brings people together. In one partner's words, "if the plan dedicated itself to reducing the epidemic of loneliness, it would be a very solid plan."

OUR STAFF IS OUR GREATEST ASSET

More than 90% of survey respondents said friendly, knowledgeable staff are the most important part of the library experience - it is also the #1 area where you are most satisfied.

Scan the QR code to view the complete Ocean County Library Strategic Plan.



YOU WANT MORE PEOPLE TO BE IN THE KNOW

Word-of-mouth is our number one marketing tool, yet we still need to raise awareness to new constituents about all the library has to offer. This will be critically important as towns become increasingly diverse.

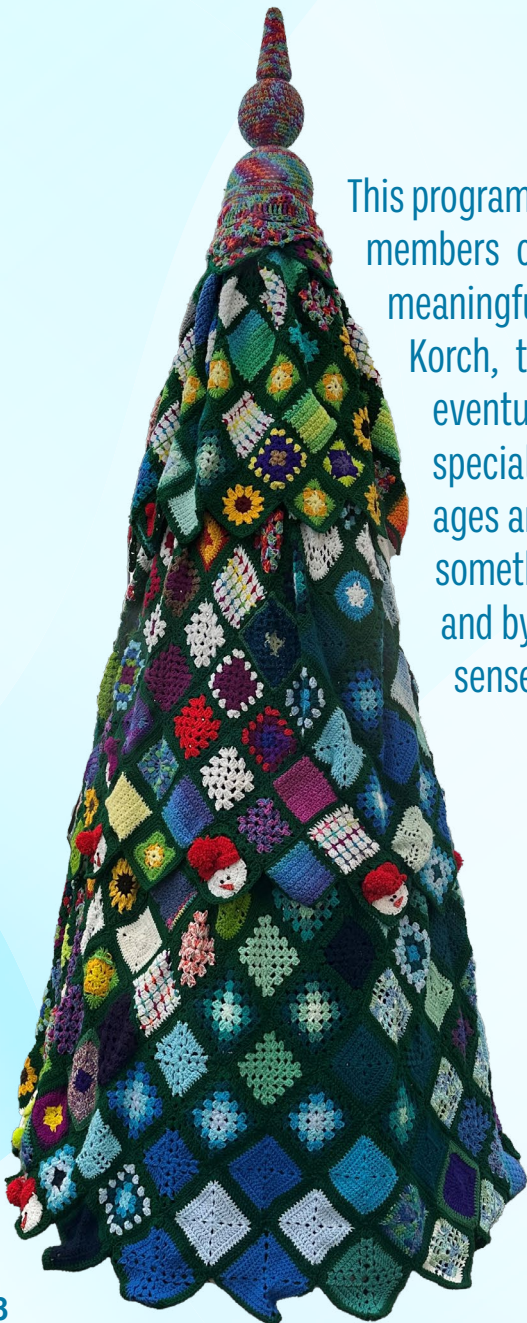
Learning Together

Ocean County Library brings diverse audiences together to learn, meet, socialize and explore new interests.

CROCHET

Around the Corner

This program was a monthly gathering at the Brick Branch where community members came together to work on a shared project—something big, meaningful, and creative. Under the leadership of librarian Laura Meeker-Korch, the group spent all of 2024 crocheting granny squares that eventually turned into a beautiful 8-foot tree. What made this project special wasn't just the result, but the journey. Each month, people of all ages and skill levels sat together, learned from each other, and created something with their own hands. The excitement grew every month, and by December, we had more than just a crochet tree, we had a real sense of community.



TINY PROM

A delightful first prom experience for our youngest guests, the Manchester Branch held its inaugural **Tiny Prom**. Fifty children, along with their caregivers, came dressed to impress for an afternoon filled with dancing, bubbles, balloons, games, and crafts. The staff beautifully decorated the library meeting room, ensuring caregivers had plenty of photo opportunities to cherish the wonderful memories!





CELEBRATE *india* PAST AND PRESENT

Explore India presented **Celebrate India: Past and Present** at the Berkeley Branch. Participants of all ages took part in a vibrant celebration of Indian culture. The program featured traditional Indian art, costumes, jewelry, dancing, and music. This program was sponsored by a generous grant from the Ocean County Library Foundation.

COMBATTING

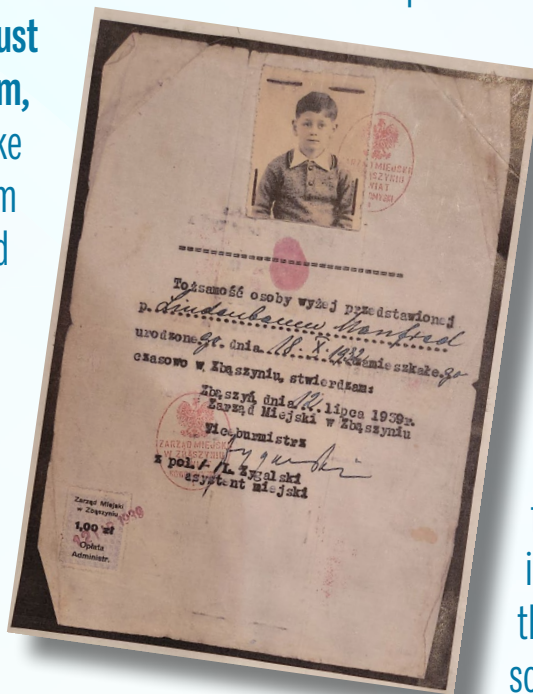
HATE



Manny Lindenbaum's kindly face and manner reveal nothing of the horrors he and his family endured early in his life which remain relevant today. During **Combatting Hate: A Conversation with Holocaust Survivor Manford Lindenbaum**, the Jackson resident spoke candidly of the antisemitism that he and his family faced in their native Germany, what became of his family, and the ordeal of escaping oppression as a boy younger than 10 years of age.

Born in the town of Unna in 1932, Manny faced an uncertain future when his father was arrested. He and his siblings were placed with a

non-Jewish family while his parents and sister were sent to the Auschwitz concentration camp. Manny and his brother escaped to Poland where they found a path to survival in the Kindertransport, which relocated thousands of refugee children to Great Britain. Manny then emigrated to the United States in 1946 where he and his brother were taken in by family. He has lived in Ocean County since 1960.



Individuals of all ages and classes from area schools attended this impactful program where they got the chance to learn about history from someone who experienced it firsthand and ask important questions.

Multicultural Stories

from Around the World



Michelle Washington Wilson, a storyteller for more than 40 years, delights audiences of all ages at several branches of the library system with programs such as **Multicultural Stories from Around The World**, **Stories and Times to Move and Groove**, and **When The Cavalry Came To Call, Juneteenth**. These programs were part of the Neighbors Connecting series of programs and sponsored in part by the generous grants from the Ocean County Library Foundation and OceanFirst Foundation.



Summer Reading

Our 2024 **Adventure Begins at Your Library** Summer Reading program held thousands of events throughout our branches for children, teens and adults. With the theme being Adventure Begins at your Library, over 77,000 patrons visited our libraries to enjoy summer programs, from concerts to live animal shows, and action-packed science experiments that told a story. Over 63,000 books were read during summer reading, and those patrons tracked their books for a chance to win some exciting prizes to end their summer.



ADVENTURE *BEGINS AT YOUR* **LIBRARY™**



SUMMER READING STATS

	Books Read	Number of Programs	Attendees
Children	46,467	1,147	35,116
Teens	2,861	668	13,961
Adults	14,387	2,164	28,856



Accessibility

Ocean County Library removes barriers and builds bridges to participation.

Ocean County Library is a recognized national leader for creating sensory spaces to welcome people of all abilities and their families. The equipment within our spaces is visually stimulating, tactile, soothing, and interactive. It is a welcoming space to all members of our community. We now have sensory spaces available at our Toms River and Jackson branches.

Visits to Sensory Spaces at the Library in 2024:

Toms River Branch: **8,528**

Jackson Branch: 4,820

Total: **13,348**



Sensory backpacks are now available for customers at all Ocean County Library branches to use during their visits. Sensory backpacks are an important way to support neurodiverse individuals, and to improve access to the Library. Items designed for various sensory needs are inside the backpack, including a weighted blanket, wiggle cushion, noise-canceling headphones, sensory bracelets, fidget toys, therapy tangles and emoji emotion cards. Contents at each branch may vary.

Ocean County Library provides Mango Languages free to our library patrons with an Ocean County Library card. Mango Languages offers online courses for English speakers in over 70 languages. ASL Inside has partnered with Mango Languages to bring American Sign Language to Mango's premier language learning platform. Like other courses in Mango, ASL Inside teaches intuitive language construction through a conversation-based methodology that reinforces grammar, vocabulary, culture, and pronunciation. ASL Inside uses a "Magic Mirror" feature, which uses your webcam to enable instant visual comparison for accurate sign modeling through practical lessons that enable patrons to carry on basic ASL conversations.



OCEAN COUNTY LIBRARY

Harvest Friendship Dance

for Adults with Special Challenges



On October 8, the Toms River Branch hosted the **Harvest Friendship Dance for Adults with Special Challenges**. A DJ and country line dancing kicked off the event. Other activities included a scavenger hunt, guessing jar, and crafts for over 100 attendees, along with light refreshments.

Serving Seniors: Ocean County has one of the largest senior populations in the state and we make sure that residents of all ages and stages can experience a sense of community at the library. Many people who retire to Ocean County enjoy fun and educational programs at our library branches. Reading is one of the most popular pastimes for retirees.

In 2024, the Library's Senior Services staff presented **Connections Beyond Age: Embracing Online Dating for Older Adults** at the Manchester and Stafford Branches where program participants gained knowledge, skills, and confidence to navigate online dating platforms safely. Representatives from the Ocean County Health Department attended the program to provide information about sexual health and wellness when dating.

Do you or someone you know love to read but cannot get to the library?

Ocean County Library has FREE services that can bring items to those who are homebound through our **Mobile Library Delivery** and **Home Borrowers Services**.



Mobile Library Delivery and Homeborrowers Services Staff

Personal Journeys

Ocean County Library invests in personalized journeys and pathways.

We celebrate education, literacy, and instill a love of reading for people of all ages. Whether books, magazines and newspapers are read on paper or online, people's desire to read for entertainment or skill building will continue accelerating in the years ahead. In 2024, Ocean County Library reached a milestone with over 500,000 digital checkouts.

We support our community members' personal journeys through a variety of services and resources: In-Person and Online Book Clubs, Reading Challenges and Recommendations, Museum Pass program, Education, Jobs and Careers: Access Video on Demand, BookFlix (Scholastic), BrainFuse, Gale Presents: Udemy, Learning Express Library, Tumblebooks, Universal Class...and so much more!



Partnerships

Ocean County Library is an intentional and valuable partner.

In an increasingly complex world, libraries are embracing their roles as convenors who bring partners together to solve problems. Partners appreciate the library's geographic reach and comfortable, free spaces. The library is a trusted place where people can receive reliable information. Ocean County's rich network of partners is eager to align networks to meet the language, literacy, citizenship and social service needs of residents.

Addressing Senior Isolation: Ocean County Library Senior Services partnered with Causeway CAREs, Meals on Wheels of Ocean County, and Interfaith Health and Support Services of Ocean County to transport seniors to the Ocean County Library's senior programs at the Barnegat, Long Beach Island, Stafford and Tuckerton branches with lunch provided by Causeway CAREs. With approximately 200,000 adults 65 and older living in Ocean County, this partnership helps ease isolation among senior citizens.



Stationhouse Adjustment Program: Senior Services System Coordinator Erin DeLucia, Teen Services System Coordinator Myah Vanderbilt, and Coordinator of Volunteers Kelly Nichols met with representatives from the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office and Ocean County Youth Services Commission to establish a partnership through the Stationhouse Adjustment Program. This is an alternative program used to handle first-time juvenile offenders who have committed minor offenses. The intent of the Stationhouse Adjustment Program is to provide immediate consequences, such as community service or restitution, and a prompt resolution for the victim, while at the same time benefitting the juvenile by avoiding the stigma of a formal juvenile delinquency record. In many instances, this early intervention will deter youth from continuing their negative behavior and divert them from progressing further into the juvenile justice system.



OCEAN COUNTY LIBRARY AUTISM RESOURCES FAIR



LITTLE EGG HARBOR // OCTOBER

For the first time, the Library hosted a second Autism Resources Fair held at the Little Egg Harbor Branch on October 19. The event brought together numerous autism-related organizations from across the state, offering valuable information and resources to attendees.

Ocean County Commission Director Barbara Jo Crea joined the celebration, speaking with staff and patrons throughout the day. Organized and presented by the Ocean County Library Autism Resources Committee, this wonderful event expanded the Library's outreach by connecting with communities in the southern portion of Ocean County.

***This program was generously sponsored
by the Ocean County Library Foundation***



Ocean County Library's **LGBTQIA+** **RESOURCE FAIR**

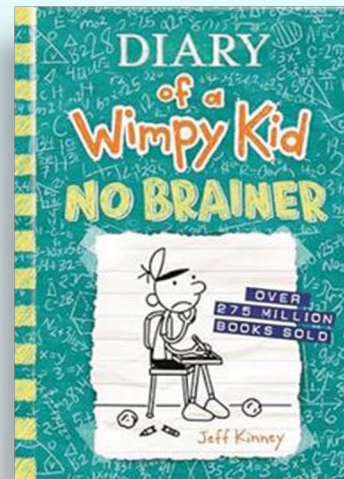
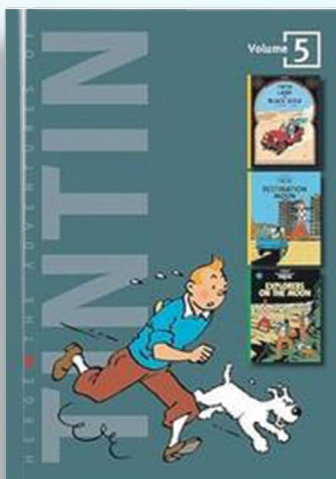
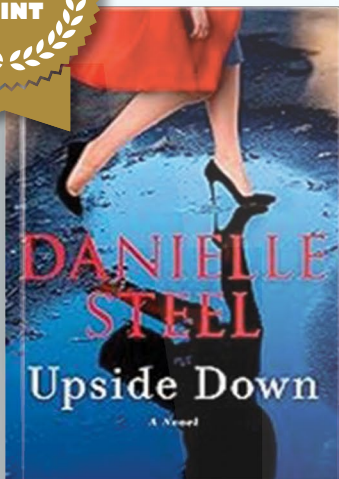
The Ocean County Library held its inaugural LGBTQIA+ Resource Fair at the Toms River Branch on September 21. This event brought together members of the LGBTQIA+ community and their allies to learn more about the resources available to the community in New Jersey. Attendees also enjoyed a special performance by the NJ Gay Men's Chorus. Representatives from more than 25 support organizations attended to describe their services and answer questions from patrons. Attendees also had the opportunity to view a segment of the AIDS Memorial Quilt, one of the largest community arts projects in history.



Top to bottom: NJ Gay Men's Chorus; Jonathan Petro, Ocean County Library Foundation Chair; AIDS Memorial Quilt, Bottom right: Ocean Pride Committee Staff

***This program was generously sponsored
by the Ocean County Library Foundation***

Top Titles of 2024



ADULT

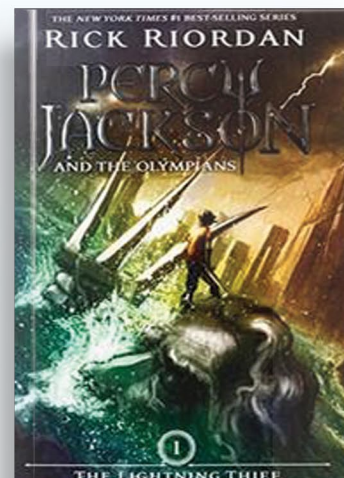
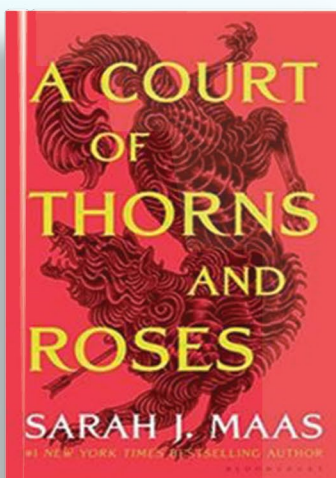
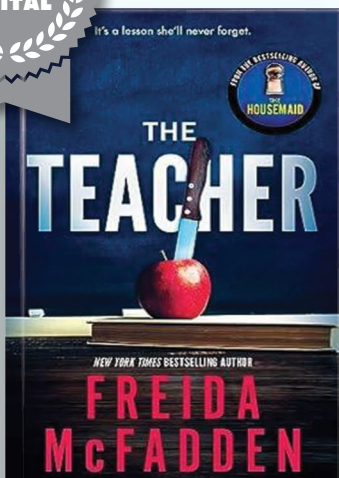
Upside Down
Danielle Steel

TEEN

The Adventure of Tintin V5
Hergé

CHILDREN

Diary of a Wimpy Kid - No Brainer
Jeff Kinney



ADULT

The Teacher
Freida McFadden

TEEN

A Court of Thorns and Roses
Sarah J. Maas

CHILDREN

The Lightning Thief
Rick Riordan

Plumsted Branch Turns 25



On April 12, the Plumsted Branch celebrated their 25th Anniversary. The Friends of the Plumsted Library attended and assisted the Branch in organizing a wonderful celebration for staff and patrons. There was a delightful performance from the Music Acoustic Guild and a food demonstration by Devon's Kitchen.



April 20, 1998: A groundbreaking was held at the Plumsted Branch current location. Top to bottom: The current Plumsted Branch, Ocean County Commissioner Virginia E. Haines addresses the audience to kick-off the celebration, Friends of the Plumsted Library join in the festivities.

Friends of the Library

Library Friends Groups work to advance the Ocean County Library's mission of *Connecting People, Building Community, Transforming Lives.*



The Library Friends are a vital community resource that provide local support for Ocean County Library's Branches. Friends groups fundraise with book sales, dine to donate programs, bling sales, bus trips, and other activities. Funds are used to expand programming at Branches and support special projects. Our members advocate within their communities for the Library by attending community and civic events and supporting the public library's dedication to the Freedom to Read and Access to Information.



Ocean County Library Foundation

The Ocean County Library Foundation is a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization established in 2001 to enhance all library services, programs, and facilities and foster an appreciation and awareness of the Ocean County Library in the community. The Foundation provides support for non-traditional library programs and services not covered by tax dollars or budget through a variety of fund-raising and grant writing activities.

2024 Ocean County Library Foundation Board Members:

Jonathan Z. Petro, Esq., Chair • Patricia Siciliano, Vice Chair • Michele Eventoff, Treasurer
Barbara York, Secretary • Michael R. Beck, Esq. • Douglas J. Hull, Esq. • Larisa Goganzer
Susan L. Hutler, Ocean County Library Commissioner • Kate Krier • Cheryl Lewis • Mary O. Malagiere
Kathryn Oles • Angela Palumbo Ph.D. • Susan Quinn, Library Director (Ex-Officio)

In 2024, the Ocean County Library Foundation funded projects that included performance, visual and musical arts programs and concerts with cultural significance, including **Introduction to Japanese Tea** at the Stafford branch; **Johnny Cash Late and Alone** at the Upper Shores branch; and the **Alborada Spanish Dance Theater** at the Lacey and Long Beach Island branches to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. Children's programs included **Wild Exotics Animal Refuge** at the Lakewood branch; **Yosi Music** at the Jackson branch; **Dinosaurs Rock** at the Point Pleasant Borough branch; **Out of Sight Alpacas** at the Tuckerton branch and **Turtle Dance Music** at the Brick branch. They also supported the 2024 **Autism Resources Fairs** at the Toms River and Little Egg Harbor branches and provided a DJ and refreshments for the **Ocean County Library's Adults with Special Challenges Harvest Friendship Dance**. The Foundation funded a subscription to Canva software so library staff can produce a variety of attractive marketing documents and presentations to promote library resources. The Foundation received a grant from the OceanFirst Foundation for \$3,000 for arts and cultural programs and \$250 for CommUNITY First Day where OceanFirst bank volunteers helped at Library branches.

The Ocean County Library Foundation sponsored the **Inaugural LGBTQIA+ Resource Fair** at the Toms River Branch. This event was created by library staff who saw a need in the community to provide information and resources for the LGBTQIA+ community. The Resource Fair brought information-providers together, offered refreshments and hosted a performance by the NJ Gay Men's Chorus.

The Ocean County Library Foundation was also pleased to host a kick-off event in December to celebrate the Ocean County Library's centennial in 2025.



OCL Foundation Celebration



The Library Commission and Library Foundation hosted a kick-off celebration for Ocean County Library's upcoming 100th Anniversary. Special guests enjoyed a delightful evening to inspire excitement for our centennial in 2025, including Ocean County Commissioners Virginia Haines, Gary Quinn, Frank Sadeghi and Jennifer Bacchione. Ocean County Library received several proclamations to display in the upcoming year including a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition by Congressman Chris Smith and a New Jersey Senate and Assembly Joint Legislative Resolution by Senator Carmen F. Amato, Jr., Assemblyman Brian E. Rumpf and Gregory E. Myhre; Senator James W. Holzapfel and Assemblyman Gregory P. McGuckin and Paul Kanitra; and Senator Robert W. Singer and Assemblyman Sean T. Kean and Alexander "Avi" Schnall.





Kearny Bank Foundation Grant

Awarded a grant of \$1,500.00 to the Lacey Branch for programming for children, teens and adults with special challenges and developmental disabilities.

American Library Association's Public Library Association (PLA) digital literacy grant initiative funded by AT&T as part of the AT&T Connected LearningSM program

Awarded the Ocean County Library \$10,000.00 to provide digital literacy skills workshops at library branches.

OceanFirst Foundation

Awarded a grant of \$3,000.00 for arts and cultural programs at the Ocean County Library.



Ocean County Library Foundation Vice Chair Patricia Siciliano, Foundation member Michael Beck, Esq. and Library Director Susan Quinn.

DONATIONS

Barbara Musella

Jeraldine Forell

Carl Giaimo

In Memory of Carol Ann Backus – Gary Backus

In Memory of Elaine Long – Lions Head South Book Club

In Memory of Leslie B. Wheeler - Debbie Catalano-Whitehead

In Memory of Leslie Wheeler - Pam and Charlie Rowland

Jeraldine Forell

John Ernst

Estate of Barbara T. Carlino

Friends of the Barnegat Library

Friends of the Berkeley Library

Friends of the Brick Library

Friends of the Island Library

Friends of the Jackson Library

Friends of the Lacey Library

Friends of the Little Egg Harbor Library

Friends of the Plumsted Library

Friends of the Point Pleasant Beach Branch

Friends of the Pt. Pleasant Borough Branch

Friends of the Stafford Library

Friends of the Ocean County Library – Toms River

Friends of the Uppershores Branch

Friends of the Waretown Library

Hecht Family Foundation

Jackson Friends of the Library

Janic Krusch

Lynn Lenox

Mardell Halm

NJ Warriors Junior College Football Team

Richard and Donna Wilson

Rita and Richard Herber

Sharon Conti

Stanley Mansbach

The Stokes Family

Tina Volpe

Thomas Bechler In Memory of Martin C. Unfried

Tom Savini's Make-up Effects Program at Douglas Education Center

Trustees of the Island Heights Library

Tuckerton Library Association

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Allenwood Elementary School

American Red Cross

Americorps' New Jersey Watershed Ambassadors

Antrim Elementary School

Astronomers without Borders

Atlantic Cape Community College

Atlantic City Project Prom

Basically Ballet Studio

Bella Music Foundation

Braven Health

Bringing Everyone Together (B.E.A.T.) Center

Brick Township Schools

Brick Township Historical Society

Bright Harbor Healthcare

Boy Scouts of America

Carl W. Goetz Middle School

Central Regional High School

Christa McAuliffe Middle School

Claim Counseling

County Connections

Donovan Catholic

Eagleswood Elementary School

Early Childhood Advisory Council

Ella G. Clarke Elementary School

Elms Elementary School

Ethel A. Jacobsen Elementary School

Frederic A. Priff School

Frog Pond Elementary School

Fulfill NJ

George J. Mitchell Elementary

Georgian Court University

Girl Scouts of the USA

Hackensack Meridian Health

Hold on I'm Coming

Historic Preservation Commission

Horbelt Intermediate School

Hugh J. Boyd, Jr. Elementary School

Island Heights Grade School

Island Heights Fire Department

Italian Cultural Society of LBI

Jackson School District

Joint Base McGuire Dix Lakehurst After-School Program

Juvenile Detention Center

Kean University

Kearny Bank

Lacey Task Force

Lacey Township High School

Lacey Township Middle School

Ladacin Network

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Lakewood Education Association	NJ Reentry
Lakehurst Historical Society	New York City Glitz
Lakewood Headstart	O.C.E.A.N. Inc.
Lanoka Harbor Elementary School	Ocean Academy
Lavallette Elementary School	Ocean Academy Charter High School
LBI Garden Club	Ocean County Artist Guild
Leisure Knoll	Ocean County College
LibraryLinkNJ	Ocean County College Office of Disability Services
Lillian M. Dunfee School	Ocean County Consumer Affairs Department
Little Egg Harbor Chamber of Commerce	Ocean County Council for Young Children
Little Graduate Preschool	Ocean County Department of Children and Families
LivWell Healthcare	Ocean County Department of Waste Management
Long Beach Island Health Department	Ocean County Genealogical Society
Manchester Regional Day School	Ocean County Health Department
Manchester Township Schools	Ocean County Parks and Recreation
Meals on Wheels	Ocean County Prosecutor's Office
Nanticoke-Lenape Nation	Ocean County Office of Senior Services
National Alliance on Mental Illness	Ocean County Vocational Technical School
Nellie Bennet Elementary School	Ocean County's Workforce Development Board
New Jersey Association for the Education of Young Children	Ocean County YMCA
New Jersey Natural Gas	Ocean County Youth Services Commission
New Jersey State Bar Foundation	OceanFirst Foundation
NJ Coalition Against Human Trafficking	Ocean Pediatric Dental
NJ Historical Commission	Ocean Road Elementary School

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Ocean Township Council

Ocean Township High School

Ocean Township Policy Department

One Ocean County

Pinelands Regional High School

Pinelands Regional Junior High School

Pine Shores Art Association

Pines Village Independent Living of Whiting

POAC Autism Services in NJ

Point Pleasant Borough High School

Point Pleasant Special Education Parent Advisory Council

Point Pleasant Women's Club

Regional Day School at Jackson

Renaissance Adult Community

RevolutionNJ

Ridgeway Elementary School

Robert C. Wood Early Childhood Center

Rutgers Master Gardeners of Ocean County

Saint Peter School

Sand Hill Indian Historical Association

Save Barnegat Bay

SEARCH Day Program

Senior Citizens Activity Network

Senior Coalition of Berkeley Township

Shoretown Ballpark

Simon's Soup Kitchen in Seaside Heights

Society for the Prevention of Teen Suicide

Southern Regional High School

SPAN Parent Advocacy Network

Spruce Street Elementary School

St. Francis Community Center

Stafford Board of Education

Stafford Township School District

Standing Tall Daycare

Sunbeam Christian Preschool

Switlik Elementary School

Sylvia Rosenauer Elementary

Toms River Area NAACP

Toms River Housing and Homeless Coalition

Toms River Police Foundation

Toms River Regional School District

Tuckerton Elementary School

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs New Jersey Health Care System

Wall Township High School

Waretown Historical Society

Warren H. Wolf Early Childhood Development Center

West Dover Elementary

Whiting Elementary School

Management Team

Susan Quinn

Library Director

Sara Siegler

Assistant Library Director

Jenn Doderer

Director, Human Resources

Kelly-Ann Pennell

Chief Librarian, Human Resources

Deborah Blackwell

Human Resources, Training Officer

Jessica Nappi

Chief Accountant

Taya Petino

Chief Librarian, Toms River Branch

Natalie Niziolek

Chief Librarian, Branch Services

Melissa Rutkowski

Chief Librarian, Branch Services

Joe Cahill

Facilities Manager

Matt Nolan

Facilities Manager

Barry DePaul

Assistant Facilities Manager

Michael Erickson

Assistant Facilities Manager

Tim Mailley

Technology Manager

Todd Simmons

Assistant Technology Manager



"We help people with disabilities to solve problems, open minds and create opportunity."

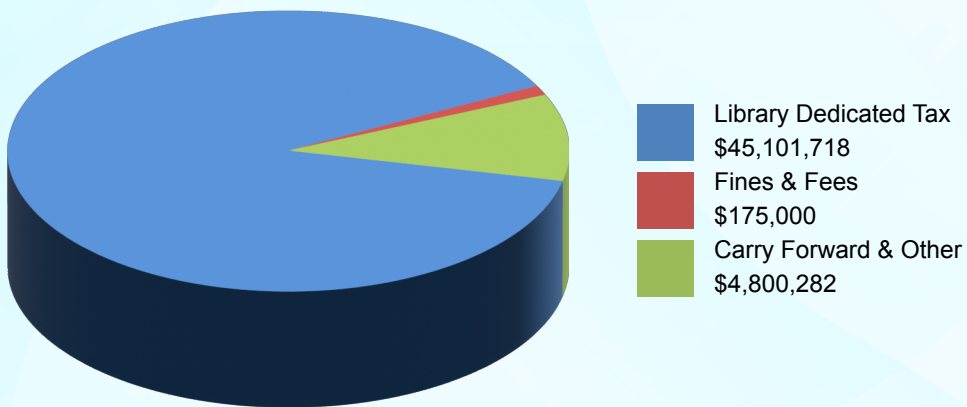
Jenn Doderer, Human Resources Director, Ocean County Library received the MOCEANS Center for Independent Living Community Connector Award at their Harvest of Hope Event in 2024. Jenn received the Community Connector Award for creating inclusive work and internship opportunities at the Ocean County Library for people with disabilities. MOCEANS helps people with disabilities to solve problems, open minds and create opportunities, so they can live, work, and participate in their community.



Adopted 2024 Ocean County Library Budget

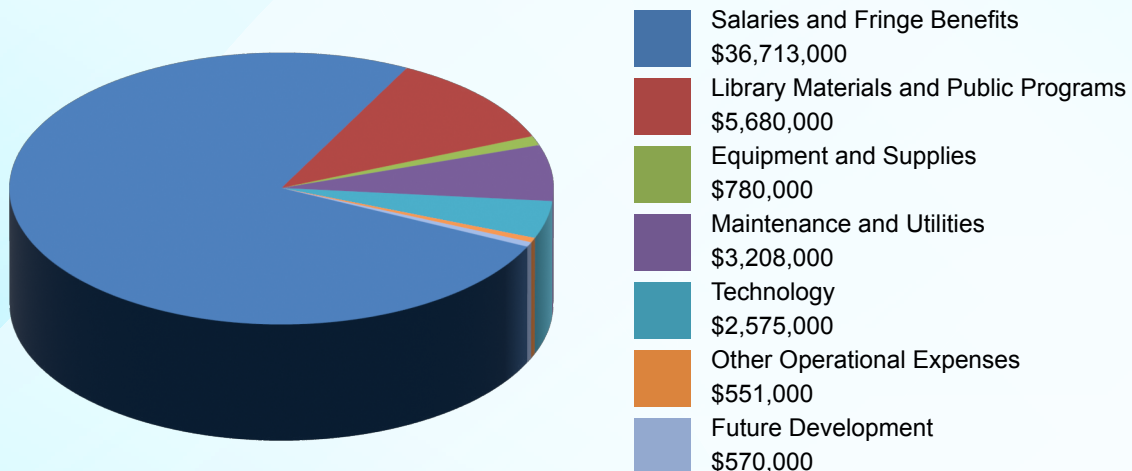
2024 Anticipated Revenue

Total Anticipated Revenue: \$50,077,000



2024 Anticipated Expenditures

Total Anticipated Expenditures: \$50,077,000



Financials

OCEAN COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION

(A Component Unit of the County of Ocean, State of New Jersey)

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in

Fund Balances - Regulatory Basis

For the year ended December 31, 2024

(With comparative totals for December 31, 2023)

	General (Unreserved) Fund	General (Reserved) Fund	2024 Total	Total (Memorandum Only)
Revenues:				
Per capita aid	\$ -	\$ 274,653	\$ 274,653	\$ 290,673
Dedicated tax	45,101,718	-	45,101,718	39,667,326
Fines and fees	190,286	-	190,286	190,414
Added assessment tax	340,651	-	340,651	232,142
Grant revenue	-	1,500	1,500	7,892
Donations	-	64,143	64,143	50,931
Appropriation reserves	-	3,565,376	3,565,376	2,835,454
Building improvement	-	738,770	738,770	431,305
Miscellaneous	72,922	-	72,922	123,252
Total revenues	45,705,577	4,644,442	50,350,019	43,829,389
Expenditures:				
Salaries	21,927,055	-	21,927,055	19,608,758
Fringe benefits	12,062,908	945,709	13,008,617	11,906,844
Automation	-	26,734	26,734	62,500
Materials	3,950,529	774,935	4,725,464	5,648,321
Donations	-	42,891	42,891	46,117
Programs and public relations	210,372	19,015	229,387	232,658
Professional expenses and seminars	85,836	1,122	86,958	94,848
Professional services	179,616	58,462	238,078	284,688
Administrative services	99,650	1,763	101,413	98,215
Equipment	203,671	192,147	395,818	212,570
Supplies	417,540	27,493	445,033	387,011
Maintenance - buildings and grounds	1,372,171	156,726	1,528,897	1,485,521
Maintenance - equipment and vehicles	112,225	27,936	140,161	156,204
Utilities	1,030,298	212,814	1,243,112	1,146,408
Technology	2,064,424	173,672	2,238,096	2,836,634
Building improvement fund	-	853,436	853,436	953,182
System Projects	-	714,182	714,182	473,426
Miscellaneous expense	-	8,690	8,690	3,582
Transfer to appropriation reserves	3,565,376	-	3,565,376	2,835,454
Total expenditures	47,281,671	4,237,727	51,519,398	48,472,941
Excess revenues over expenditures	(1,576,094)	406,715	(1,169,379)	(4,643,552)
Fund balance, January 1	7,837,575	6,304,890	14,142,465	18,786,017
(Prior period adjustment)	(637,425)	-	(637,425)	-
Fund balance, January 1 (restated)	7,200,150	6,304,890	13,505,040	18,786,017
Transfers from reserved funds to unreserved funds	534,331	(534,331)	-	-
Transfers from unreserved funds to reserved funds	(2,861,628)	2,861,628	-	-
Fund balance, December 31	\$ 3,296,759	\$ 9,038,902	\$ 12,335,661	\$ 14,142,465

Circulation Statistics 2024

Branch	Check Outs 2024
Barnegat	118,486
Bay Head	2,707
Beachwood	17,108
Berkeley	95,562
Brick	425,604
Homebound Inst.	23,790
Island Heights	34,113
Jackson	327,051
Lacey	113,264
Lakewood	533,623
Little Egg Harbor	94,090
Long Beach Island	58,745
Manchester	318,001
Plumsted	44,162
Pt Beach	36,016
Pt Boro	139,474
Stafford	117,246
Toms River	555,811
Tuckerton	21,083
Upper Shores	58,491
Waretown	27,626
Whiting	53,238
eMaterials ¹	890,642
Totals	4,105,933

¹All eMaterials: Libby by OverDrive, hoopla, Kanopy, Flipster, Creativebug, and FreegalMusic+.

BARNEGAT BRANCH	112 Burr Street • 609-698-3331
BAY HEAD EXPRESS	83 Bridge Avenue • 732-892-0662
BEACHWOOD BRANCH	126 Beachwood Blvd. • 732-244-4573
BERKELEY BRANCH	30 Station Road • 732-269-2144
BRICK BRANCH	301 Chambers Bridge Road • 732-477-4513
ISLAND HEIGHTS BRANCH	121 Central Avenue • 732-270-6266
JACKSON BRANCH	2 Jackson Drive • 732-928-4400
LACEY BRANCH	10 East Lacey Road • 609-693-8566
LAKEWOOD BRANCH	301 Lexington Avenue • 732-363-1435
LITTLE EGG HARBOR BRANCH	290 Mathistown Road • 609-294-1197
LONG BEACH ISLAND BRANCH	217 S. Central Avenue • 609-494-2480
MANCHESTER BRANCH	21 Colonial Drive • 732-657-7600
PLUMSTED BRANCH	119 Evergreen Road • 609-758-7888
POINT PLEASANT BEACH BRANCH	710 McLean Avenue • 732-892-4575
POINT PLEASANT BOROUGH BRANCH	834 Beaver Dam Road • 732-295-1555
STAFFORD BRANCH	129 N. Main Street • 609-597-3381
TUCKERTON BRANCH	380 Bay Avenue • 609-296-1470
UPPER SHORES BRANCH	112 Jersey City Avenue • 732-793-3996
WARETOWN BRANCH	112 Main Street • 609-693-5133
WHITING READING CENTER	400 Lacey Road, Suite #5 • 732-849-0391
TOMS RIVER BRANCH & LIBRARY HEADQUARTERS	101 Washington Street • 732-349-6200

