

St. Tammany Parish Library  
Board of Control Meeting  
April 28, 2025  
St. Tammany Parish Council Chambers  
21490 Koop Dr.,  
Mandeville, LA 70471  
6:30 P.M.

Public Comment: A three (3) minute time limit is established for each member of the public wishing to speak (for or against) an item on the agenda. In the case of a Statement of Concern decision, the person who filed the Statement of Concern is given 5 minutes to speak. Please note, all comments must pertain to the agenda item announced. There is no general public comment at the end of the meeting. Any person wishing to comment on a topic not listed on the agenda may do so by e-mailing lboc@stpl.us by 4:00 PM on Monday, April 28th, 2025.

AGENDA

Call to order by President and Roll Call by Director

Pledge of Allegiance

1. Recognition and thanks for service to the Library Board of Control – Rev. Robert Belknap, Carmen Butler, Pam Georges, Carole Gillio, William McHugh, Anthony Parr, Rebecca Taylor
2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of the Library Board of Control meeting that was held on March 24th, 2025.
  - Public Comment
  - Discussion
  - Vote
3. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. Financial Report – March 2025
    - Public Comment
    - Discussion
    - Vote
  - B. Director’s Report
  - C. Capital Projects Report
  - D. Resolution No. 25-010 Regarding Request for Attorney General’s Opinion (Branton)
    - Public Comment
    - Discussion
    - Vote
  - E. Statement of Concern Decision – *Crank*
    - Public Comment
    - Discussion
    - Vote

F. Statement of Concern Decision – *Identical*

- Public Comment
- Discussion
- Vote

G. Statement of Concern Decision – *Lawn Boy*

- Public Comment
- Discussion
- Vote

H. Executive Session for the Annual Evaluation of the Director pursuant to La R.S. 42:17(1)

\*2/3 majority vote of members present required to go into executive session.

- Public Comment (only if necessary)
- Discussion (only if necessary)
- Vote (only if necessary)

4. Adjournment

**St. Tammany Parish Library  
Board of Control Meeting  
March 24, 2025  
St. Tammany Parish Council Chambers  
21490 Koop Dr.,  
Mandeville, LA 70471  
6:30 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by Ann Shaw, President. Kelly LaRocca, Director, called the roll and declared that a quorum was present.

Present: Charles (Chuck) Branton, Pam Georges, Tamarah Myers, Ann Shaw  
Absent: Parish President Mike Cooper, Jill Kesler, Dinah Thanars

Emily Couvillon with the Civil Division of the District Attorney's Office was also present as legal counsel for the library.

A. Shaw explained the meeting rules and the rules for public comment. Resolutions will not be read aloud since they are posted online. If an off-the-floor item is added to the agenda, the resolution will be read aloud.

C. Branton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of the Library Board of Control that was held on February 24, 2025. (Shaw/Georges)**

C. Branton moved to approve the minutes. It was seconded by P. Georges.

K. LaRocca noted that there were three clerical corrections made to the minutes after the board packet was posted on the website. She stated that the minutes contained in the board member's binders are corrected. The online board packet was also corrected.

**Public Comment:**

James Prentice – He referenced his question about a shortfall that he inquired about at the previous board meeting. He stated that K. LaRocca's response was an explanation of accrual accounting. He stated that he searched for a better explanation and read it aloud. He thanked K. LaRocca for last month's transparent explanation of the forecasted future expenditures and proposed projects to expand library services and departments. He asked if she plans to give greater explanations of those plans for the next 15 years and looks forward to more transparency.

David Cogle – He stated that he does not believe the minutes accurately reflect what happened at the last meeting in relation to the repeated and vicious personal attacks on C. Branton. He stated that some of the attacks were led by an individual who reportedly led a campaign in 2023 to censor and shut down a private newspaper in Slidell. He stated that this type of extremism is not representative of the Parish. He addressed A. Shaw and stated that he realizes that it is difficult to run the Board, particularly during

contentious issues. He stated that he appreciates the work she is doing in leading the Board. He mentioned the audience disruptions at last month's meeting, noting that no one was removed, and recalled that he was once removed from a board meeting two years ago. He stated that the policy to remove disruptive individuals is completely reasonable and asked that A. Shaw employ that policy at board meetings.

**Discussion:** There was no Board discussion.

**Vote:** Prior to public comment, a motion to approve the minutes was made by C. Branton and was seconded by P. Georges.

Roll call vote: Branton: Yes Cooper: Absent Georges: Yes Kesler: Absent  
Myers: Yes Thanars: Absent Shaw: Yes

Motion carried.

## **2. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Financial Report – February 2025 (Shaw/LaRocca)**

K. LaRocca reported that the library received \$12,130,560.20 in Ad Valorem Revenue in February, which is the majority of what is expected for the year. The library has also received State Revenue Sharing in the amount of \$89,698.26. This is one third of three equal payments that are expected throughout the year. K. LaRocca explained that the revenue figures show as zero on the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures because the library's millage expired in December 2024. The Ad Valorem Revenue line is credited in twelfths for the funds that we receive for 2025. Due to the millage not yet being renewed, the budget line must reflect zero funds. K. LaRocca clarified that the Ad Valorem Revenue received in February 2025 was from the property taxes collected for 2024. K. LaRocca emphasized that there is no Ad Valorem income for 2025 unless the voters choose to continue the millage. The budget percentage for February should be around 16.66%. Revenues are at .93% due to no Ad Valorem Revenue, and expenditures are at 15.84%.

K. LaRocca gave explanations for any lines that were over or under budget. Some lines are expended early or late in the year, depending on when the expenses are due, but they will be in balance by the end of the year. Noteworthy expenditure line explanations are as follows: The Signage line is at 88% due to signage for the library millage renewal. The Voice line is at 20% due to adding the phone for the Mobile Library. The Vehicle Repairs line is at 37% due to needing new tires for some of the library vehicles. The Polaris Maintenance line is at 100% due to paying for the circulation system subscription for the year. The Consultants line is at 62% due to the vehicle consultant for the book hauler van. The Web Design Consultant line is at 88.9% due to paying for the majority of the cost of the website for the year. The Insurance lines vary due to paying for insurance throughout the year. The PC Network line is at 82% due to purchasing the majority of the computers in our five-year replacement cycle this year. The Lease/Purchase Books line is at 96% due to paying for the lease of popular titles for the year.

**Public Comment:**

Kevin Marino – Mandeville, LA. He stated there has been confusion about accrual accounting, noting that some have stated that it is misleading or incorrect. He suggested for K. LaRocca to explain the basics of accrual accounting and how it works.

**Vote:** C. Branton moved to approve the February 2025 financial reports. It was seconded by T. Myers.

Roll call vote: Branton: Yes Cooper: Absent Georges: Yes Kesler: Absent  
Myers: Yes Thanars: Absent Shaw: Yes

Motion carried.

**B. Director's Report**

K. LaRocca reported on updates to library facilities and technology. There was underground electric repair work done for parking lot lights at the Slidell Branch. Security camera systems were repaired. A new sewer was installed at the Abita Springs Branch. Parking lot striping was repainted at the Covington and Slidell branches. All computers at the small branches were upgraded to Windows 11. The computers at the Pearl River Branch were replaced.

K. LaRocca reported on marketing, outreach, and professional development efforts. Staff promoted the library on The Lake and The Highway radio stations. Staff offered outreach to the following events and organizations: Mardi Paws, Pontchartrain Elementary's Cultural Arts Day, Krewe du Pooch, Slidell Rotary Club's Magic of Reading Event, Parenting Center, Pearl River COAST Center, and Slidell COAST Center. Mobile Library outreach services were provided to Fitzgerald Methodist Church, St. Benedict's, and the Lacombe, Slidell, Covington, and Pearl River COAST Centers. Staff performed storytime at the following schools: Fontainebleau Children's Academy, Tiny Tumblers, Kidz Klubhouse, Children's College, Charlotte's Web Preschool, Honeycomb Preschool, Helping Hands Preschool, Bayou Woods Elementary's STEM Night, and Brock Elementary. Staff attended the following webinars, conferences, and meetings: Library 2.0 – A.I. and Libraries, Library Makerspaces Research Showcase, Louisiana Student Resources, RootsTech genealogy conference, Leadership Northshore Government and Healthcare days, Innovative Users Group annual meeting, Louisiana Library Association conference, SELA Youth Services meeting, and the St. Tammany Commission on Families meeting.

K. LaRocca thanked board members Jill Kesler, Ann Shaw, and Chuck Branton for joining her in speaking about the library's upcoming millage renewal election at various meetings and events throughout the Parish. She thanked the staff who spoke at meetings while she was attending other meetings, as multiple speaking engagements were taking place simultaneously. In total, there were 47 speaking engagements prior to the board meeting, with five more scheduled before the election.

K. LaRocca reviewed new contracts and contract renewals. The book hauler vehicle has been delivered and the library will be piloting "Lobby Stop" service to COAST Facilities before expanding to assisted living and nursing facilities across the Parish.

K. LaRocca thanked the Friends and Foundation groups for their recent generous donations. The Friends of the Slidell Library provided \$5,000 for 1,000-yard signs to assist with the educational effort for the millage. The St. Tammany Library Foundation and the West St. Tammany Friends of the Library donated

funds for the Musical Garden at the Covington branch. The St. Tammany Library Foundation donated \$25,000 to assist with millage education mailers, branch signage, and 500-yard signs.

The library received and answered one public records request since the last meeting. There is one public records request at the District Attorney's Office for review. The library currently has 110 statements of concern on 107 titles. Since the last meeting, one statement of concern has been filed. Library staff continue to read titles, hold meetings, and make recommendations.

Staff continue working on and implementing the strategic planning goals. A wheelchair accessible picnic table and a sensory calming room was installed at the Covington Branch. The official ribbon cutting for the calming room will be in April. The Mobile Library Lobby Stop service will begin at the end of March or beginning of April. The library received a grant for two outdoor trash cans from Keep Louisiana Beautiful for the South Slidell and Slidell branches. We will host a Love the Boot program, to be part of Keep Louisiana Beautiful's annual clean-up and recycling campaign.

There were three books moved to Adult Fiction due to sexual conduct. There were 25 books reviewed that will remain in Teen Fiction due to not containing sexual conduct.

K. LaRocca gave a millage election update. Staff are reminding patrons of the millage election upon checkout and every library program begins with staff reminding patrons of the millage election. There are banners donated by the Library Foundation advertising the millage at several library branches. A large wooden sign for the Lacombe land has been donated by Covington Printworks. Yard signs donated by the Friends of the Slidell Library and the Library Foundation are available at all branches and there is a yard sign on each book drop. By the day of the election, K. LaRocca, library staff, and board members will have spoken to over 50 different groups to educate the community about the library millage. K. LaRocca thanked the Library Foundation for sponsoring the promotional mailers that were sent out.

K. LaRocca reviewed the 2024 service statistics by percentage, which was inadvertently left out of last month's board packet. She reviewed the February 2025 and year-to-date service statistics. The year-to-date statistics show total circulation (148,129), computer usage (12,969), door count (87,526), wireless inside (13,747), and wireless outside (13,099). There were 1,232 new patrons registered.

K. LaRocca stated that board members have asked her to make a presentation about changes to library policy and procedures since 2022. K. LaRocca presented a slideshow highlighting and explaining all of the changes that are currently in effect. The library created a Tiered Juvenile Card System in November 2022. The card system was used as the model for libraries in then Attorney General Jeff Landry's Protecting Innocence report. The State Legislature modeled their legislation (LA R.S. 25:225) after our system to be used in libraries across the state. In February 2023, the LBOC passed the "Graphic Novel Resolution," which places any graphic novels containing sexual conduct behind the circulation desk, requiring either an Adult library card or an Unrestricted Juvenile library card to check out the materials. A full review of the Children's Collection was conducted in the Fall of 2023, and any material with conduct defined in LA R.S. 25:225 was moved to the Adult Collection. The library launched the Kid's Catalog in December 2023, which only includes the Children's Collection. In April 2024, the LBOC ordered the library to review the Teen Collection (previously titled Young Adult). Items will either be categorized as Teen (no sexual conduct present) or will be moved to the Adult Collection. In the Fall of 2024, monitoring of all areas of the library was increased during after school hours. Monitoring was expanded to all hours of operation in February 2025.

C. Branton asked when the completion of the review of the Teen Collection is expected. K. LaRocca answered that she originally estimated August 2025. She clarified that the remaining books must be reviewed manually, as no online resources are available to determine whether these specific titles contain sexual conduct. There are approximately 2,000 out of 4,000 books left to review.

**C. Resolution No. 25-007 Resolution to Amend Rules and Regulations of the St. Tammany Parish Library Board of Control Section 109 Regarding Public Speaking Time (Branton)**

C. Branton explained that the resolution aligns with the Parish Council's policy that limits public comment time to one minute for procedural motions, such as those to amend or postpone. The comments must be limited to the specific procedural motion being discussed. He believes this will help the meetings run in an efficient manner and will not stifle discussion. The resolution has been reviewed by the District Attorney's Office. C. Branton moved to adopt resolution 25-007.

E. Couvillon clarified that everything in the resolution is part of a prior resolution adopted by the LBOC in 2022. The resolution codifies existing practices and introduces a one-minute speaking time on procedural motions. She emphasized that when items are up for adoption, the public will always have three minutes to speak on the substantive topic before the Board can adopt any resolution.

**Public Comment:**

James Prentice – He referenced the statement in the resolution that states that "Speakers shall direct all comments to the Board President or the person conducting the meeting." He stated that all board members have varying backgrounds and skillsets. He would like to direct his questions to the board members who can best answer his questions.

David Cogle – He spoke in support of the resolution, stating that this policy has worked out very well for Parish Council meetings. He mentioned that there will be time to speak on the main issue at a later date when the item is up for adoption again. He noted that this may help keep comments on the topic of the procedural motion, rather than stray off topic.

Roxanne Newman – Mandeville, LA. She spoke in opposition to the resolution, stating that one minute is insufficient time to voice opinions on a matter. She stated that it is not always clear which matters are substantive and which are procedural. She spoke against the requirement that speakers should submit a comment card prior to the beginning of the public comment portion of the agenda item discussion. She explained that sometimes people decide to comment after hearing other public comments. She acknowledged a provision allowing additional speaking time at the discretion of the Chairperson but said it rarely happens. She is concerned that the provision may be applied unfairly based on the content of the comments.

Kevin Marino – Mandeville, LA. He referred to the portion of the policy that requires speakers to direct their questions to the Board President. He stated that many of his comments are directed to board members, the Library Director, or anyone with expertise on the subject matter. He suggested adding a statement allowing the Board President to use their discretion in permitting people to submit a comment card after the agenda item has started. He provided the Board with handouts that list definitions for procedural motions, and suggested that the policy should define these motions. He suggested having a Rules and Regulations committee meeting to discuss concerns before bringing policy changes to a board meeting.

Lisa Rustemeyer – Mandeville, LA. She spoke in opposition to the resolution. She stated that many people spent a lot of time reviewing the resolutions last month, and she feels it was fair for them to have had the opportunity to speak. She asked for clarification on the meaning of substantive and procedural motions. She believes that comment cards should be permitted even after the agenda item has started.

Becky Bohm – Mandeville, LA. She spoke in opposition to the resolution. She stated that one minute is inadequate time to discuss procedural changes. She stated that citizens attend meetings in their free time and should be given ample time to speak. She agrees with previous statements regarding addressing other members of the Board besides the Board President.

Kristen Luchsinger – She spoke in opposition to the resolution. She stated that with the complexities and drama surrounding the library's recent issues, it is important for the Board to hear from the public. She believes that if the Board limits speech on procedural matters, it will set a dangerous precedent, and she is concerned about what might come next.

Ruth Terry Sipos – Abita Springs, LA. She stated that she is concerned about the requirement that speakers should submit a comment card prior to the public comment portion of the agenda item discussion. She explained that hearing others' comments often triggers her to share her own. She does not want her voice silenced because she did not think of a comment ahead of time. She said she misses public comment after the Director's Report because it gave her the chance to praise the Abita Springs Branch.

There was one public comment from an individual who did not wish to speak and they were against shortening the speaking time to one minute.

E. Couvillon addressed some of the comments that were made. She appreciates the feedback and agrees that "procedural" could be better defined. Procedural motions are very limited motions that are procedural under Robert's Rules of Order, such as a motion to table or postpone. She considers a motion to amend as substantive, not procedural. Procedural motions would not affect the Rules and Regulations of the Library Board of Control (LBOC).

E. Couvillon clarified that the Board President is the person who conducts the meeting and can give the floor to someone else to respond to a question. It does not mean that the public cannot ask questions or comment to anyone else seated behind the dais. She reiterated that, under Robert's Rules of Order, it is the Board President who has the authority to grant someone the floor to respond. She explained that this has been part of the Rules and Regulations since 2022, and the Board is now codifying it.

C. Branton stated that he understands that people may not feel the need to speak until they hear someone else's comments, but the Board is trying to conduct an orderly meeting in which people can voice their opinions. He noted that the agenda is published in advance and the board packet is available prior to a meeting. He clarified that the comment card only needs to be submitted before the agenda item is called, not before the meeting starts. C. Branton moved to adopt resolution 25-007.

T. Myers asked for clarification on whether these rules are already in effect and if this is simply turning them into a policy. E. Couvillon clarified that the only addition to policy was the second sentence in Section E, Item 3, which states, "Speaking time shall be limited to one minute for procedural motions."

A. Shaw asked for clarification on whether the Parish Council follows this policy. C. Branton stated that Councilman Corbin suggested this resolution for the Parish Council and E. Couvillon confirmed that it has worked well for the council meetings.

**Vote:** A motion to adopt resolution 25-007 was made by C. Branton and was seconded by P. Georges.

Roll call vote: Branton: Yes Cooper: Absent Georges: Yes Kesler: Absent  
Myers: Yes Thanars: Absent Shaw: Yes

Motion carried.

**D. Resolution No. 25-008 Resolution to extend time to allow for procedural due process of undecided statements of concern (Shaw/LaRocca)**

K. LaRocca explained that the previous extension that the LBOC granted has expired. She stated that there are 110 Statements of Concern (SOC) on 107 titles. She explained that one reason the Board has been unable to review and make decisions on books is that they were unable to meet for an extended period last year. Additionally, time was needed for the training and onboarding of new board members over the past year. K. LaRocca stated that there are four books that the committee has reviewed and are ready for the Board to read. Copies of the books were available at the meeting for board members to take with them.

K. LaRocca explained that staff discussed and strategized how to best approach reviewing the remaining SOC's. They agreed that prioritizing the review of books behind the circulation desk was important, so they reviewed 62 out of 66 SOC's submitted by Kevin Marino. The four books that have not been reviewed were checked out. The books, committee reports, and book resumes on the 62 titles will soon be ready for the Board to review.

The resolution extends the 45-day time limit for responding to pending SOC's to 120 days from the date of this resolution. This extension includes all pending SOC's and any new SOC that will be received until the next LBOC meeting scheduled for April 28, 2025. K. LaRocca noted a correction that needs to be made on the resolution. It should state that there are 107 remaining titles, not 112. She explained that there were titles that were part of various series that were moved behind the circulation desk, but the individual books did not contain sexual conduct. Those items were moved back to the shelves and the SOC's for those items were closed.

**Public Comment:**

James Prentice – He views the extension of time as a way to delay things until the millage vote or until the Parish Council finds a reason to remove Jill Kesler from the Board and replace her with a liberal person. He stated that unmanaged, premeditated placement of psychologically damaging reading material for teens could be the reason the library is in this predicament. He noted that the new board has only been allowed to consider two out of 110 books. He spoke of a book that he raised concerns about 25 years ago where a princess was referred to as a “slut.” He stated that was the first time his daughter encountered a derogatory term about women. He stated that his concerns about the book were brushed off at that time, and noted the irony that it has come back to bite the library and jeopardize the millage renewal.

Kevin Marino – He stated that he understands the need for this. He said there are over 100 books in the Graphic Novel Restricted (GNR) category. He stated that restricted means banned from the public eye and is a violation of the First Amendment. He asked the Board to rescind the February 2023 graphic novel resolution and put the books back on the shelves.

Lisa Rustemeyer – She spoke about graphic novels, their format, placement on the shelves, and how the spine looks like any other book on the shelf. She does not think that graphic novels should be behind the desk, especially ones that are in the Adult collection. She understands the need for an extension of time and is in favor of the resolution.

Becky Bohm – She stated that she submitted four SOC's in February 2024. They were for books about puberty and the endocrine system and she thinks it is a travesty that they were moved to the Adult Non-Fiction section. She mentioned the October 2023 resolution regarding the temporary disposition of challenged materials, and noted that it states that an item shall remain classified and shelved in its current location until a decision is made concerning the item's disposition. She showed pictures from the books and stated there is no sexually explicit material in the books, only educational illustrations of the human body.

**Vote:** A motion to adopt resolution 25-008 was made by T. Myers and was seconded by P. Georges.

Roll call vote: Branton: Yes Cooper: Absent Georges: Yes Kesler: Absent  
Myers: Yes Thanars: Absent Shaw: Yes

Motion carried.

#### **E. Resolution No. 25-009 Resolution Regarding Surplus Property (Shaw/LaRocca)**

K. LaRocca reported that the I.T. Department has equipment that has been determined outdated and is no longer under warranty. A resolution is required so the items can be sold at the next scheduled Government Surplus auction at ServCorp Auctions in Slidell, Louisiana. A sample resolution and list of items was provided to the Board for consideration.

**Vote:** A motion to adopt resolution 25-009 was made by P. Georges and was seconded by T. Myers.

Roll call vote: Branton: Yes Cooper: Absent Georges: Yes Kesler: Absent  
Myers: Yes Thanars: Absent Shaw: Yes

Motion carried.

### **3. OLD BUSINESS**

#### **F. Resolution No. 25-003 Resolution to Amend Rules and Regulations of the St. Tammany Parish Library Board of Control Section 202 Regarding Privacy Policy (Branton)**

C. Branton stated that this policy provision has been legally reviewed by the District Attorney's Office. He stated that there is a difference between a policy and a procedure. The library has a privacy policy in place that needs to be updated. The policy pertains to the confidentiality of patron information and the

dissemination of that information. He explained that the policy makes it clear to everyone that there are legal ways to obtain the information via public records requests, subpoenas, other court orders, or patron authorization. A motion to adopt resolution 25-003 was made by C. Branton and was seconded by T. Myers.

**Public Comment:**

Joan Simon – Covington, LA. She understands the need for privacy, but regarding SOC's, not providing a name can raise questions about what someone might be hiding. She mentioned that over 150 SOC's were submitted by one person and all of the personal information besides the name was redacted. She believes this is unnecessary and objects to the resolution.

James Prentice – He provided a handout to the Board and stated that books he checked out are now visible to all library staff in his record. He asked if this resolution will prevent the dissemination of any of his SOC's or lists by what he referred to as "some woke librarian SS." He shared that during a previous LBOC meeting, his attendance led someone to call his local librarian before the meeting had adjourned, presumably to interrogate and discover his identity and association with the library. He questioned how the resolution will prevent overreach into his personal record. He asked whether the board would ever leave a child alone in a garage with power tools or in a house with a loaded gun on the coffee table. He questioned why they would let children be unsupervised in the same room as what he referred to as "open book thoughts of transgender groomers, pedophiles, sycophants, and graphic artists."

David Cogle – He explained that when the controversy began in Summer 2022, the library advised concerned parents to submit a Statement of Concern form, but the form lacked a disclaimer noting it could be subject to public records requests or shared externally. He stated that library staff emails obtained via public records requests confirm that staff reached out to the American Library Association (ALA) in July 2022 and reported SOC's to ALA and EveryLibrary. He referenced an email from the ALA which indicated that they recommend libraries use a personal email address when submitting forms. He stated that an automated email from ALA was sent to K. LaRocca confirming that a challenge was sent in October 2022. He asked how many times this happened, who directed it, whether there is proof that personal identifiable information was redacted, whether residents' names remain in the confidential database, and if the SOC's were used in fundraising efforts. He mentioned that he is unsure whether this is still ongoing and stated that subsequent public records requests were unanswered.

Roxanne Newman – She stated that it is interesting that the Accountability Project does not want to hold people accountable for the books they have challenged. She stated that one of the first actions the Nazis took upon rising to power was to burn and banish books that they disagreed with. She clarified that ALA is a professional organization for librarians, similar to how the American Bar Association (ABA) is for lawyers and the American Medical Association (AMA) is for doctors. She is in favor of patron privacy, but strongly objects to hiding the names of those who submit SOC's.

Devin McGee – Madisonville, LA. He stated that there is no reason to share patron information with any public or private entity or individual. He mentioned a Mandeville councilman who was allegedly followed home by an activist after voting against a Pride parade. D. McGee said the same group targeted him after his first LBOC meeting, digging through his social media and questioning whether he lived in the Parish. He mentioned meeting with K. LaRocca, who noted that the library is not involved with the ALA. He spoke about the legal ramifications of sharing private information and stated that the process of discovery will expose those responsible and they will pay.

Kevin Marino – He spoke in opposition to the resolution, stating that it is limited in scope. He thinks it is a bad idea to require Board approval to share SOC's and that the process would take up a lot of time. He stated that there is a trust issue in the Parish, as both sides of the debate do not trust the Board, the Parish Council, or the system. He stated that one way to solve the issue of trust is to put facts in the public eye. Because the SOC's are available online, he learned that less than 10 people were submitting them. He encouraged everyone to read the SOC's that he submitted so they understand the concepts and can engage in healthy discussions.

Becky Bohm – She questioned whether the resolution was created to solve a problem that is not really an issue. She pointed out that, in the past, D. Cogle has spoken about the importance of accountability and transparency, yet this resolution will prevent both. She spoke about the earlier mention of aggressive activists and reminded the Board and audience that she was once attacked by the person who she believes caused this situation, which resulted in a permanent wrist injury. She stated that this needs to stop and the community needs to heal.

Kristen Luchsinger – She asked K. LaRocca if Connie Phillips' name has been given to the ALA. She understands that the library provides the ALA with the information about the book, such as the title and reason for the concern.

K. LaRocca confirmed that the ALA collects information such as the title and author of the book, along with general details about the type of person who submitted the SOC, such as whether they are a parent or an organization. She explained that the first challenges that the library received in 2022 were related to displays, followed by concerns about books. K. LaRocca stated that she did fill out the form, which is why it appears in the public records request that D. Cogle referenced. She later clarified that the form submission was regarding the first two challenged books.

K. LaRocca explained that the reason there were no additional findings from the public records request was because there were no further results to disclose, not because she used a personal email address. She emphasized that one cannot prove a negative and maintained that it simply did not happen. She explained that the library had received 150 SOC's in a short span of time and emphasized that she had no responsibility to the ALA, nor the time to send the information to them. K. LaRocca explained that we started receiving public records requests for the SOC's from multiple people. After consulting with legal counsel, it was decided to redact the documents and publish them on the website for the public to view. She added that there is a spreadsheet on the website containing hyperlinks to each SOC. The person's name is currently visible on the SOC, but the person's home address, phone number, email address, and any other personal information is redacted.

K. Luchsinger noted that it is now on record that there is no need for anyone to worry about their private information being leaked out of St. Tammany Parish. She asked C. Branton to clarify his intentions regarding the listing of the SOC's on the website and whether the names would be redacted. C. Branton said he will address questions after public comment. K. Luchsinger thanked the library for making the SOC's available online, which revealed that some objections were just against the LGBTQ community. K. Luchsinger clarified to D. McGee that she was the person at the Mandeville Council meeting he mentioned earlier, but none of the events he described happened. She stated that she said hello to the councilman, then she and her husband left the meeting and went home.

Lisa Rustemeyer – She is concerned that redacting the names could leave the system open to abuse. She stated that this happened when 150 complaints were made by one person and they did not show up to defend the books. She emphasized how much time and money was wasted. She noted that one complainant was from outside this Parish. She stated that without the SOC's being made available, she would not have known what was going on. She trusts the library with her privacy.

Ruth Terry Sipos – She spoke in opposition to the resolution. She stated that many concerns have been raised for the Board to consider. She suggested that thinking about it another month might make a difference.

Jamie Segura – Covington, LA. She stated that LA R.S. 44:32 states that the public has a right to inspect all public records. She said that redactions are strictly limited. She supports protecting patron privacy, but believes that if someone infringes upon her right to read a book, their name should be made public. She believes this is an unnecessary measure to hide the actions of the mostly conservative LBOC, which is in conflict with the U.S. Constitution. She continued to speak about having access to all books and that parents should monitor what their children read. There was disruption from the audience.

There were five public comments from individuals who did not wish to speak and they were not in favor of the resolution.

C. Branton stated that the resolution was reviewed by District Attorney Collin Sims and Assistant District Attorney Emily Couvillon. He spoke of today's society and the role of social media, highlighting how some individuals use it to post nasty comments online. He stated that library staff did send information to the ALA, who then suggested using a personal email address to keep the submission hidden. He objects to the library using taxpayer time and dollars compiling and sending information to an organization that does not govern us and whose stated goals, he believes, do not align with the majority of the state. He reiterated that policies matter and this is a step towards putting policies in place to hold people accountable. He addressed K. Marino's concern about the ability to view the SOC's. He said this does not restrict the ability to submit a public records request for a SOC containing the patron's name. He referenced the public records law (LA R.S. 44:1). C. Branton restated his motion to adopt resolution 25-003.

E. Couvillon explained that the SOC's are currently on the website with all personal information redacted except for the patron's name. She explained that the SOC's were posted on the website due to a high volume of public records requests, all of which she is responsible for reviewing. She explained that, since she is only one person and this task represents just a small part of her overall job duties, it was decided to publish the records online with redactions. If this resolution passes, they will be removed from the website and will be available through public records requests.

A. Shaw questioned if that would place undue burden on the staff. K. LaRocca clarified that all of them are already redacted and just need the names redacted. She asked if they could leave the spreadsheet on the website, as it does not contain any patron information. T. DiMaggio confirmed that the spreadsheet only contains the title, author, shelf locations, and circulation statistics. K. LaRocca clarified that the spreadsheet currently has hyperlinks that lead to the SOC document. C. Branton said that he does not object to leaving the spreadsheet online as long as it does not contain the patron's name. He reiterated that the public can file a public records request to access the SOC's containing the patron's name.

The Board, along with E. Couvillon and K. LaRocca, discussed the technical details and options to ensure both patron privacy and the public's ability to view the SOC's. Following this discussion, E. Couvillon suggested amending the resolution to state that the Statement of Concern (SOC), which outlines the reasons for the challenge, will remain accessible via hyperlink, with the patron's name and other personal information redacted.

C. Branton questioned the need to amend the resolution if the spreadsheet is remaining on the website and does not contain patron names. T. DiMaggio clarified that the spreadsheet currently does not include the reason for each concern and asked whether the Board would like her to add that information. C. Branton was in favor of doing so, as it would not include personally identifiable information.

There were questions from the public, prompting A. Shaw to open the floor to additional public comment.

Roxanne Newman – She asked how the public is supposed to prepare to address what the concern is if the hyperlinks to the SOC's are removed. C. Branton stated that the reason for the concern can be included on the spreadsheet. R. Newman suggested just including the SOC with the name redacted, since everything but the name would be added to the spreadsheet.

T. DiMaggio reminded the Board that the SOC is included in the board packet when the SOC comes up for Board review. E. Couvillon clarified that is addressed in another section of the Rules and Regulations of the LBOC and is separate from what is being addressed here.

Joan Simon – She stated that when the book comes up for Board review, the patron's name will be made public, and she questioned the need for this resolution, describing it as nonsense.

Kristen Luchsinger – She asked if this only pertains to library patrons. E. Couvillon clarified that only library patrons can submit a SOC, under the current policy. K. Luchsinger stated that Connie Phillips did not have a library card when she submitted her SOC's. E. Couvillon explained that the policy was revised after LA R.S. 25:225 was enacted into law.

Lisa Rustemeyer – She believes that responding to multiple public records requests for the SOC's would be a strain on the library. She suggested keeping the hyperlink to the SOC with the name redacted. She suggested using a coding system to identify multiple SOC's submitted by the same person.

David Cougle – He stated that the reporting form for the ALA asked for documents for their confidential database. He stated that the issue is that the burden is on the library to show that the redactions were made. He noted that the ALA skipped the legal step of submitting a public records request and was given the information immediately. He clarified that is what this needs to address.

Kevin Marino – He suggested taking the resolution back to the drawing board. He questioned why some are so obsessed with the ALA. He noted that the Library Director sent two out of hundreds of SOC's to them. He emphasized the value of being able to read the reasons a patron submitted a SOC, as it helps with understanding their point of view and intentions - such as wanting the book removed from the library.

C. Branton stated that, based on what he is hearing, we need to simply redact the patron's names from the SOC's. To clarify, he stated that the name and other personally identifiable information must be redacted; however, any individual may submit a public records request for the SOC containing the patron's unredacted name. He further clarified that this resolution does not address what is contained in the board packet, which will eventually be published and contain the patron's name.

A. Shaw asked for clarification that the spreadsheet would remain, along with hyperlinks to the SOC's, with the patron's name redacted. She noted that this helps maintain accountability and transparency, while keeping patron information private. A. Shaw asked E. Couvillon if the Board needs to amend the resolution. E. Couvillon recommended leaving the language as is and adding the following phrase to the end of Part C: "and except that Library Administration shall be allowed to publish statements of concern on the St. Tammany Parish website after redaction of all personally identifiable information."

**Vote:** A motion to amend resolution 25-003 was made by C. Branton and was seconded by P. Georges.

Roll call vote: Branton: Yes Cooper: Absent Georges: Yes Kesler: Absent  
Myers: Yes Thanars: Absent Shaw: Yes

Motion carried.

**Vote:** A motion to adopt resolution 25-003 as amended was made by C. Branton and was seconded by T. Myers.

Roll call vote: Branton: Yes Cooper: Absent Georges: Yes Kesler: Absent  
Myers: Yes Thanars: Absent Shaw: Yes

Motion carried.

#### **G. Election to fill vacancy of board position - Vice President (Shaw)**

T. Myers moved to nominate C. Branton for Vice President. She noted how he has attended over a dozen meetings to promote the millage renewal. It was seconded by P. Georges.

#### **Public Comment:**

Joan Simon – She stated that it is unfortunate that only four board members were present to vote at the meeting. She appreciates C. Branton's service, but would have preferred someone who has been serving longer to take on this position. She suggested postponing the vote until all seven board members are present.

David Cougle – He stated that last month C. Branton was the only member who wanted to serve as Vice President. He spoke about the demands of a small, yet militant group with an active Facebook page, emphasizing that they do not reflect the views of the vast majority of the Parish. He stated that the group attacked LBOC members due to their religious views, attacked their spouses, mocked the Christian faith, attacked veterans with disabilities, and attacked a female Parish Councilmember in which someone called her a derogatory term. He stated that the Board should not concede to this group's demands.

Kevin Marino – He noted that only four out of seven board members were present and suggested postponing the vote until the full Board is present.

Lisa Rustemeyer – She is in favor of a postponement. She asked why D. Cougle was allowed to call the group names during a discussion on the topic of electing a Vice President. She stated that D. Cougle is very divisive and is very connected to C. Branton, which concerns her. She suggested that P. Georges would be better qualified.

Kathleen Wiley – She does not agree with postponing the vote. She supports C. Branton serving as Vice President, highlighting his Master’s degree and extensive experience. She spoke out about people making ugly digs at others and called for the hate to stop, quoting the saying “ban hate.” She reiterated C. Branton’s experience, qualifications, and considers him a true servant.

**Vote:** T. Myers moved to elect Charles (Chuck) Branton as Vice President. It was seconded by P. Georges.

Roll call vote: Branton: Yes Cooper: Absent Georges: Yes Kesler: Absent  
Myers: Yes Thanars: Absent Shaw: Yes

Motion carried.

#### **H. Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by C. Branton and was seconded by P. Georges. All were in favor, none were opposed, and none were absent. Motion carried.

---

Ann Shaw, Board President



2

**St. Tammany Parish Library - General Fund**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**March 31, 2025**

**ASSETS**

**Current Assets**

Cash	\$ 15,535,716.01
Cash - Health Claims	(37,189.17)
Due from Paylocity	726.78
Returned Checks	0.00
Ad Valorem Receivable - 2024	344,330.78
Ad Valorem Receivable - 2025	3,125,000.01
Ad Valorem Receivable - 2023	0.00
Due from State of Louisiana	225,153.51
Prepaid Expenses	48,935.33

<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>19,242,673.25</b>
-----------------------------	----------------------

**Other Assets**

Deposits	1,981.00
----------	----------

<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b>1,981.00</b>
---------------------------	-----------------

<b>Total Assets,</b>	<b>\$ 19,244,654.25</b>
----------------------	-------------------------

**LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE**

**Current Liabilities**

Accrued Salaries	\$ 186,574.09
Deferred Inflows - Ad Valorem	357,579.00
Elective Benefits Payable	(3,981.36)
Retirement Payable	220,367.40
Health Claims Payable	196,493.55

<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>957,032.68</b>
----------------------------------	-------------------

**Fund Balance**

Fund Balance	18,287,621.57
--------------	---------------

<b>Total Fund Balance</b>	<b>18,287,621.57</b>
---------------------------	----------------------

<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 19,244,654.25</b>
---	-------------------------

**St. Tammany Parish Library**  
**Statement of Changes in Fund Balance**  
**For the Three Months Ending March 31, 2025**

Page: 1

3

Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 18,108,174.63
Net Income	179,446.94
Ending Fund Balance	<u>\$ 18,287,621.57</u>

**St. Tammany Parish Library-General Fund**  
**Statement of Revenues and Expenditures**  
**For the Three Months Ending March 31, 2025**

4

	<u>Current Period Actual</u>	<u>Year to Date Actual</u>	<u>Yearly Total Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>YTD Act to YTD Budget</u>
<b>Revenues</b>					
Ad Valorem Taxes	\$ 1,041,666.67	\$ 3,125,000.01	12,500,000.00	9,374,999.99	25.00
State Revenue Sharing	22,025.17	66,075.51	264,302.00	198,226.49	25.00
Fines/Fees	7,620.44	24,378.90	99,500.00	75,121.10	24.50
Interest Income	23,401.11	44,672.92	179,000.00	134,327.08	24.96
Insurance Proceeds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Donations Received	203.53	31,775.28	30,000.00	(1,775.28)	105.92
Summer Reading Shirt Sales	0.00	0.00	2,120.00	2,120.00	0.00
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>1,094,916.92</b>	<b>3,291,902.62</b>	<b>13,074,922.00</b>	<b>9,783,019.38</b>	<b>25.18</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>					
Library Administration	438,162.85	1,300,480.78	6,090,000.00	4,789,519.22	21.35
Employee Benefits	142,448.75	399,096.55	2,331,480.00	1,932,383.45	17.12
Advertising,Dues & Subscriptio	4,440.36	7,189.51	57,000.00	49,810.49	12.61
Signage	(3,439.55)	80.80	4,000.00	3,919.20	2.02
Printing, Duplicating & Bindin	3,312.00	4,821.00	29,500.00	24,679.00	16.34
Promotional Production	3,186.23	6,062.86	20,000.00	13,937.14	30.31
Utilities	31,139.40	81,478.04	335,470.00	253,991.96	24.29
Communications	6,383.56	20,644.74	97,300.00	76,655.26	21.22
Leases	26,872.54	80,642.71	341,750.00	261,107.29	23.60
Maintenance of Property & Equi	56,070.04	184,137.42	695,750.00	511,612.58	26.47
Maintenance Services (Building	64,394.85	95,202.37	281,605.00	186,402.63	33.81
Professional Services	7,289.98	125,766.98	487,925.00	362,158.02	25.78
Insurance and Claims	0.00	44,162.50	302,063.00	257,900.50	14.62
Operating Supplies	22,389.21	56,920.23	209,500.00	152,579.77	27.17
Travel & Continuing Education	6,122.94	9,042.81	69,000.00	59,957.19	13.11
Public Relations/Programming	6,165.95	16,558.83	136,500.00	119,941.17	12.13
Capital Outlay-Non-Book Acq.	24,527.71	158,130.34	331,000.00	172,869.66	47.77
Capital Outlay-library Res. Ac	105,081.25	457,070.71	1,437,500.00	980,429.29	31.80
Outreach	64,966.50	64,966.50	65,000.00	33.50	99.95
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>1,009,514.57</b>	<b>3,112,455.68</b>	<b>13,322,343.00</b>	<b>10,209,887.32</b>	<b>23.36</b>
<b>Excess of Revenues/(Expenditur</b>	<b>\$ 85,402.35</b>	<b>\$ 179,446.94</b>	<b>(247,421.00)</b>	<b>(426,867.94)</b>	<b>(72.53)</b>

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

**St. Tammany Parish Library-General Fund**  
**Schedule of Expenditures**  
**For the Three Months Ending March 31, 2025**

6

	<u>Current Period Actual</u>	<u>Year to Date Actual</u>	<u>Yearly Total Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>YTD Actual to YTD Budget</u>
<b>Library Administration</b>					
Library Salaries	\$ 438,162.85	\$ 1,300,480.78	\$ 6,090,000.00	4,789,519.22	21.35
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 438,162.85</b>	<b>\$ 1,300,480.78</b>	<b>\$ 6,090,000.00</b>	<b>4,789,519.22</b>	<b>21.35</b>
<b>Employee Benefits</b>					
FICA/ Supplemental Retirement	\$ 9,789.32	\$ 29,203.64	\$ 134,000.00	104,796.36	21.79
Retirement Contributions	40,052.97	125,684.24	577,480.00	451,795.76	21.76
Health Insurance Expense	25,158.56	73,402.97	390,000.00	316,597.03	18.82
Health Trust	57,675.58	157,114.46	1,197,000.00	1,039,885.54	13.13
Worker's Compensation Expense	9,913.12	13,691.24	32,000.00	18,308.76	42.79
Employee Miscellaneous	(140.80)	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 142,448.75</b>	<b>\$ 399,096.55</b>	<b>\$ 2,331,480.00</b>	<b>1,932,383.45</b>	<b>17.12</b>
<b>Advertising, Dues &amp; Subscriptions</b>					
Publication of Legal Notices	\$ 981.34	\$ 981.34	\$ 13,500.00	12,518.66	7.27
Membership Dues	0.00	0.00	7,500.00	7,500.00	0.00
Advertising	3,459.02	6,208.17	36,000.00	29,791.83	17.24
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,440.36</b>	<b>\$ 7,189.51</b>	<b>\$ 57,000.00</b>	<b>49,810.49</b>	<b>12.61</b>
<b>Signage</b>					
Signage	\$ (3,439.55)	\$ 80.80	\$ 4,000.00	3,919.20	2.02
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ (3,439.55)</b>	<b>\$ 80.80</b>	<b>\$ 4,000.00</b>	<b>3,919.20</b>	<b>2.02</b>
<b>Printing, Duplicating &amp; Binding</b>					
Printing	\$ 3,312.00	\$ 4,821.00	\$ 19,500.00	14,679.00	24.72
Book Binding	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00
Patron Cards	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,312.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,821.00</b>	<b>\$ 29,500.00</b>	<b>24,679.00</b>	<b>16.34</b>
<b>Promotional Production</b>					
Promotional Production	\$ 3,186.23	\$ 6,062.86	\$ 20,000.00	13,937.14	30.31
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,186.23</b>	<b>\$ 6,062.86</b>	<b>\$ 20,000.00</b>	<b>13,937.14</b>	<b>30.31</b>

**St. Tammany Parish Library-General Fund**  
**Schedule of Expenditures**  
**For the Three Months Ending March 31, 2025**

7

	<u>Current Period Actual</u>	<u>Year to Date Actual</u>	<u>Yearly Total Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>YTD Actual to YTD Budget</u>
<b>Utilities</b>					
Electricity	\$ 27,649.46	\$ 69,571.92	\$ 287,220.00	217,648.08	24.22
Gas	203.19	1,398.49	3,250.00	1,851.51	43.03
Water	3,286.75	10,507.63	45,000.00	34,492.37	23.35
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 31,139.40</b>	<b>\$ 81,478.04</b>	<b>\$ 335,470.00</b>	<b>253,991.96</b>	<b>24.29</b>
<b>Communications</b>					
Postage	\$ 391.31	\$ 649.31	\$ 21,000.00	20,350.69	3.09
Voice Line	3,419.05	12,275.83	44,000.00	31,724.17	27.90
Data Lines (Internet)	2,573.20	7,719.60	31,300.00	23,580.40	24.66
Courier/Shipping	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,383.56</b>	<b>\$ 20,644.74</b>	<b>\$ 97,300.00</b>	<b>76,655.26</b>	<b>21.22</b>
<b>Leases</b>					
Building Lease Expense	\$ 26,445.52	\$ 79,346.56	\$ 333,000.00	253,653.44	23.83
Equipment Lease Expense	427.02	1,296.15	6,000.00	4,703.85	21.60
Vehicle Lease Expense	0.00	0.00	2,750.00	2,750.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 26,872.54</b>	<b>\$ 80,642.71</b>	<b>\$ 341,750.00</b>	<b>261,107.29</b>	<b>23.60</b>
<b>Maintenance of Property &amp; Equipment</b>					
Custodial and Janitorial	\$ 18,687.96	\$ 54,207.16	\$ 215,000.00	160,792.84	25.21
Grounds/Lawn Maintenance	6,873.00	20,759.00	85,000.00	64,241.00	24.42
Maintenance Supplies	1,342.59	2,331.72	10,000.00	7,668.28	23.32
Fuel & Lube	1,797.43	5,203.13	35,000.00	29,796.87	14.87
Vehicle Repairs	0.00	3,748.53	10,000.00	6,251.47	37.49
Small Tools	0.00	38.25	3,000.00	2,961.75	1.28
Office Machine & Equip Repair	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Network Utility Software	22,445.28	37,926.79	228,250.00	190,323.21	16.62
Solinet (OCLC) Cost	0.00	0.00	32,000.00	32,000.00	0.00
Polaris Maintenance	0.00	54,999.06	55,000.00	0.94	100.00
PC Network Maintenance & Repair	4,923.78	4,923.78	11,500.00	6,576.22	42.82
Hurricane Disaster Costs	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 56,070.04</b>	<b>\$ 184,137.42</b>	<b>\$ 695,750.00</b>	<b>511,612.58</b>	<b>26.47</b>
<b>Maintenance of Services (Buildings)</b>					
Physical Plant	\$ 30,877.19	\$ 53,221.31	\$ 160,000.00	106,778.69	33.26
Plumbing, Heating and AC	29,576.29	34,400.95	66,500.00	32,099.05	51.73
Electrical	2,103.79	3,655.94	13,000.00	9,344.06	28.12
Sanitation	1,147.58	1,854.17	12,000.00	10,145.83	15.45

**St. Tammany Parish Library-General Fund**  
**Schedule of Expenditures**  
**For the Three Months Ending March 31, 2025**

8

	<u>Current Period Actual</u>	<u>Year to Date Actual</u>	<u>Yearly Total Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>YTD Actual to YTD Budget</u>
Pest Control	690.00	2,070.00	7,550.00	5,480.00	27.42
Termite Contract	0.00	0.00	4,555.00	4,555.00	0.00
Carpet Cleaning	0.00	0.00	18,000.00	18,000.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 64,394.85</b>	<b>\$ 95,202.37</b>	<b>\$ 281,605.00</b>	<b>186,402.63</b>	<b>33.81</b>
<b>Professional Services</b>					
Payroll Service Fees	\$ 3,088.99	\$ 10,669.58	\$ 38,600.00	27,930.42	27.64
Financial	0.00	756.25	51,000.00	50,243.75	1.48
Consultants	526.50	25,601.00	40,000.00	14,399.00	64.00
Security	3,273.96	4,481.28	14,000.00	9,518.72	32.01
Web Design Consultant	400.53	84,258.87	94,325.00	10,066.13	89.33
Proposals (Ballot)	0.00	0.00	250,000.00	250,000.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 7,289.98</b>	<b>\$ 125,766.98</b>	<b>\$ 487,925.00</b>	<b>362,158.02</b>	<b>25.78</b>
<b>Insurance and Claims</b>					
Library Property Insurance	\$ 0.00	\$ 4,574.00	\$ 200,000.00	195,426.00	2.29
Flood Insurance	0.00	0.00	29,600.00	29,600.00	0.00
Vehicle Insurance	0.00	20,238.50	42,107.00	21,868.50	48.06
LBOC Liability	0.00	0.00	4,676.00	4,676.00	0.00
General Liability	0.00	19,350.00	25,680.00	6,330.00	75.35
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 44,162.50</b>	<b>\$ 302,063.00</b>	<b>257,900.50</b>	<b>14.62</b>
<b>Operating Supplies</b>					
Office Supplies	\$ 3,285.25	\$ 8,220.37	\$ 33,000.00	24,779.63	24.91
Bank Service Charges	1,981.05	4,293.78	16,500.00	12,206.22	26.02
Book Preparation Supplies	2,962.04	10,353.98	49,000.00	38,646.02	21.13
Computer/Printer Supplies	12,955.28	31,253.42	100,000.00	68,746.58	31.25
Programming Supplies	1,205.59	2,798.68	11,000.00	8,201.32	25.44
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 22,389.21</b>	<b>\$ 56,920.23</b>	<b>\$ 209,500.00</b>	<b>152,579.77</b>	<b>27.17</b>
<b>Travel and Continuing Education</b>					
Staff Travel - Local	\$ 916.30	\$ 1,836.17	\$ 22,000.00	20,163.83	8.35
Library In-service Training	0.00	0.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	0.00
Conventions & Seminars	5,206.64	7,206.64	35,000.00	27,793.36	20.59
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,122.94</b>	<b>\$ 9,042.81</b>	<b>\$ 69,000.00</b>	<b>59,957.19</b>	<b>13.11</b>

**St. Tammany Parish Library-General Fund**  
**Schedule of Expenditures**  
**For the Three Months Ending March 31, 2025**

9

	<u>Current Period Actual</u>	<u>Year to Date Actual</u>	<u>Yearly Total Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>YTD Actual to YTD Budget</u>
<b>Public Relations/Programming</b>					
Summer Reading Program	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 50,000.00	50,000.00	0.00
Summer Reading T-shirts	0.00	0.00	8,000.00	8,000.00	0.00
Adult Programming	3,621.67	10,045.44	39,000.00	28,954.56	25.76
Young Adult Programming	285.98	839.01	17,000.00	16,160.99	4.94
Juvenile Programming	2,258.30	5,674.38	22,500.00	16,825.62	25.22
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,165.95</b>	<b>\$ 16,558.83</b>	<b>\$ 136,500.00</b>	<b>119,941.17</b>	<b>12.13</b>
<b>Capital Outlay-Non-Book Acq</b>					
Landscape Additions	\$ 14,285.00	\$ 20,130.00	\$ 46,000.00	25,870.00	43.76
Imp Phys Plant	0.00	13,710.00	90,000.00	76,290.00	15.23
Office Equip, Furn & Shelving	1,027.73	5,497.88	30,000.00	24,502.12	18.33
PC Network	9,214.98	118,713.48	133,000.00	14,286.52	89.26
Integrated Lib Automation Sys	0.00	0.00	9,000.00	9,000.00	0.00
Cameras	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00
Audio/Visual Equipment	0.00	78.98	20,000.00	19,921.02	0.39
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 24,527.71</b>	<b>\$ 158,130.34</b>	<b>\$ 331,000.00</b>	<b>172,869.66</b>	<b>47.77</b>
<b>Capital Outlay-Library Res. Acq.</b>					
Adult Books	\$ 16,051.95	\$ 40,480.64	\$ 205,000.00	164,519.36	19.75
Lease/Purchase Books	0.00	10,966.20	11,400.00	433.80	96.19
Juvenile Books	4,190.77	11,672.31	105,000.00	93,327.69	11.12
Young Adults	1,852.77	2,154.33	15,000.00	12,845.67	14.36
Music Recordings	176.85	600.22	2,500.00	1,899.78	24.01
Adult Reference	1,957.50	20,329.98	111,000.00	90,670.02	18.32
Juvenile Reference	18,853.91	22,947.41	45,000.00	22,052.59	50.99
Periodicals	3,430.72	14,008.31	50,000.00	35,991.69	28.02
Audio Recordings	0.00	117.97	10,100.00	9,982.03	1.17
Video Recordings	4,158.56	6,778.90	60,000.00	53,221.10	11.30
Genealogy	50.00	447.95	7,000.00	6,552.05	6.40
Microfilm	0.00	2,493.00	2,500.00	7.00	99.72
Downloadable Media	50,122.51	97,343.99	415,000.00	317,656.01	23.46
CD/Software	0.00	24,192.03	65,000.00	40,807.97	37.22
Internet Database Subscription	4,235.71	202,537.47	333,000.00	130,462.53	60.82
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 105,081.25</b>	<b>\$ 457,070.71</b>	<b>\$ 1,437,500.00</b>	<b>980,429.29</b>	<b>31.80</b>
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>					
Outreach Vehicle	\$ 64,966.50	\$ 64,966.50	\$ 65,000.00	33.50	99.95

**St. Tammany Parish Library-General Fund**  
**Schedule of Expenditures**  
**For the Three Months Ending March 31, 2025**

10

	<u>Current Period Actual</u>	<u>Year to Date Actual</u>	<u>Yearly Total Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>YTD Actual to YTD Budget</u>
Total	\$ <u>64,966.50</u>	\$ <u>64,966.50</u>	\$ <u>65,000.00</u>	<u>33.50</u>	99.95

# **Director's Report**

April 28, 2025

## **FACILITIES**

The pre-construction meeting for the installation of the elevator at the Annex was held on April 17<sup>th</sup> with the contractor, the architect, the Parish Engineering department representative, John Bennet, and Louanne Bertrand (Technical Services manager). Construction is expected to begin in the next couple of weeks.

## **MARKETING AND OUTREACH**

Jackie Riecke, Public Relations and Community Coordinator and Kelly LaRocca, Library Director, promoted Food for Fines and gave an outline of the Library's roadmap for upcoming expansions, renovations, and replacements on the radio stations the Lake 94.7 and the Highway 104.7, on April 4<sup>th</sup>.

Barret Reich, Mandeville Reference Librarian, visited the American Legion Post 16 on April 1<sup>st</sup> in Covington to promote the Veterans' History Project.

Byron Holdiman, Reference Coordinator, Ramona Elder, Genealogy Librarian, and Barret Reich attended GenFest 2025 on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Rhonda Spiess, Lacombe Branch Manager, attended the Bayou Republican Women Luncheon at Lacombe VFW Post# 8290 on March 25<sup>th</sup>. From March 26<sup>th</sup> to April 26<sup>th</sup>, Rhonda presented Storytime to A-Z Preschool, Mayfield Elementary School, Lacombe Mandeville Headstart, and Chahta-Ima Elementary. She also promoted the library at the Bayou Lacombe Museum Earth Day event on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

Catherine Badon, Slidell Children's Assistant, provided outreach on Fairy Tale Day, April 9<sup>th</sup>, at Whispering Forest. On April 11<sup>th</sup>, she also provided outreach at the Our Lady of Lourdes Easter event.

Alexis Davis, Slidell Children's Librarian, provided storytime at Apple Tree Preschool & Learning Center on April 4<sup>th</sup>.

Barbara Vidacovich, Mandeville Children's Librarian, provided outreach at the Ready, Start, Grow event on April 5<sup>th</sup>, the Pinwheel Walk on April 12<sup>th</sup>, and the Special Needs Expo on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Brandon Blanchard, South Slidell ERC Manager, attended the Computers in Libraries 2025 Conference from March 25<sup>th</sup> to March 27<sup>th</sup>.

Alex Hughes, IT Network Coordinator, Josh Ferreras, Computer Support Technician, and Amanda Soileau, IT System Administrator, attended the AI-Driven Networking, Security and Data Center Summit on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

Tanya DiMaggio, Assistant Director of Support Services, attended Leadership Northshore Environmental Day on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and Leadership Northshore Judicial System Day on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Several staff members attended the Faye B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival at the University of Southern Mississippi from April 9<sup>th</sup> through April 11<sup>th</sup>.

Jess Troske, Covington Children's Librarian, attended the "Confidence in the Workplace" webinar through the State Library of Louisiana on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

## **PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS**

The Adult Programming department held its first American Mahjong lesson on April 3<sup>rd</sup> at the South Slidell branch. The next class will be on May 15<sup>th</sup> at the Covington branch. There have been several requests for this type of class and people seem to have enjoyed the first lesson.

April 11<sup>th</sup> was our first painting class with Painting with a Twist. The waiting list was almost as long as the class list. Everyone left with a completed painting and had a good time.

## **NEW LIBRARY SERVICES**

We now have the book hauler vehicle's title, plate, and insurance. We will be piloting the "Lobby Stop" service to COAST Facilities before expanding to assisted living and nursing facilities across the parish. Nichola has visited 3 Coast locations so far. We are planning an official ribbon cutting for the beginning of June. We are working with COAST to determine a location.

## **FRIENDS AND FOUNDATION**

The Friends of the Slidell Library had a tree planting in conjunction with Keep Slidell Beautiful and broke ground on the reading garden located at the rear of the Slidell Library parking lot on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

The St. Tammany Library Foundation held their annual Distinguished Speaker Series event on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

## CONTRACTS

### Renewals

Vimeo	\$900.00	Broadcasting LBOC Recordings	<i>no quote required</i>
Cisco Secure Endpoint	\$13,305.00	IT security	<i>on state contract</i>
ESRI	\$500.00	GSI software for patrons	<i>no quote required</i>
Microsoft	\$23,220.00	365Office/Email programs	<i>on state contract</i>

## PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS

We received 6 new public records requests since our last meeting. As of the writing of this report (4/17/25) four were answered, one has been turned over to the DA's office, and one is currently being collected. We currently have one other previous public records request result at the DA's office for review.

## STATEMENTS OF CONCERN

Since the last meeting, we have had two statements of concern filed. We currently have 112 statements of concern on 109 titles. The LBOC will decide on three titles at the meeting this evening. Library staff continue to read titles, hold meetings, and make recommendations. The remaining statements of concern are still pending review.

## STRATEGIC PLANNING

**Goal 2. The St. Tammany Parish Library will proactively reduce barriers to participation and involvement by increasing accessibility to all community members in its physical facilities and its digital presence.**

A Sensory Calming room was set up and is open to the public at the Covington branch. The calming room is intended to provide a safe and quiet environment for individuals to de-stress, regulate emotions, or take a break from overwhelming situations. The room is available on a first-come, first-served basis during library hours. The room is intended for use in short periods of time. The room features: Soft lighting, a soft seated rocker, padded mats, weighted blankets and pads, a mesh hanging canopy for privacy, noise-reduction headphones, fidget toys, and SensaSoft™ Squeeze Seats that can be used in multiple positions depending on a user's needs and preferences. The seats gently squeeze, applying soothing pressure and sensory input throughout the trunk. The room also has posters that offer suggestions on how to use the equipment in the room.

**Goal 3. The St. Tammany Parish Library will be a thriving, energetic community commons by complementing traditional library services with innovative new services, technology and digital resources.**

The Mobile Library Branch made its first Lobby Stop with a visit to the Madisonville COAST center on April 8th. The "door count" was 13 seniors served, with 5 people checking out 6 items total. Leading up to that, the Mobile Library Branch staff visited all of the COAST centers to promote the service and to do library card drives. Lobby Stops were also made at Folsom COAST on April 21<sup>st</sup> and at Slidell on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **TRANSITION OF MATERIALS**

Books Moved to Adult Fiction Because of Sexual Conduct

<i>Ziggy, Stardust &amp; Me</i>	Brandon, James
<i>One of Us is Lying</i>	McManus, Karen

Books Reviewed and Determined to Not Have Sexual Conduct (remain in Teen Fiction)

<i>Little white lies</i>	Barnes, Jennifer (Jennifer Lynn).
<i>Busted</i>	Bildner, Phil.
<i>Light of the last</i>	Black, Chuck.
<i>Fawkes</i>	Brandes, Nadine
<i>Worst-case Collin</i>	Caprara, Rebecca.
<i>Children of refuge</i>	Haddix, Margaret Peterson.
<i>Palace of lies</i>	Haddix, Margaret Peterson.
<i>Redeemed</i>	Haddix, Margaret Peterson.
<i>Revealed</i>	Haddix, Margaret Peterson.
<i>The summer of broken things</i>	Haddix, Margaret Peterson.
<i>The always war</i>	Haddix, Margaret Peterson.
<i>Among the barons</i>	Haddix, Margaret Peterson.
<i>Among the betrayed</i>	Haddix, Margaret Peterson.
<i>Among the betrayed</i>	Haddix, Margaret Peterson.
<i>Among the brave</i>	Haddix, Margaret Peterson.
<i>Among the enemy</i>	Haddix, Margaret Peterson.
<i>Among the free</i>	Haddix, Margaret Peterson.
<i>Among the hidden</i>	Haddix, Margaret Peterson.
<i>Among the hidden</i>	Haddix, Margaret Peterson.
<i>Among the impostors</i>	Haddix, Margaret Peterson.
<i>Among the impostors</i>	Haddix, Margaret Peterson.

<i>Caught</i>	Haddix, Margaret Peterson.
<i>Claim to fame</i>	Haddix, Margaret Peterson.
<i>Found</i>	Haddix, Margaret Peterson.
<i>Game changer</i>	Haddix, Margaret Peterson.
<i>Just Ella</i>	Haddix, Margaret Peterson.
<i>Palace of Mirrors</i>	Haddix, Margaret Peterson.
<i>Risked</i>	Haddix, Margaret Peterson.
<i>Sabotaged</i>	Haddix, Margaret Peterson.
<i>Sabotaged</i>	Haddix, Margaret Peterson.
<i>Sent</i>	Haddix, Margaret Peterson.
<i>Torn</i>	Haddix, Margaret Peterson.
<i>Torn</i>	Haddix, Margaret Peterson.
<i>Turnabout</i>	Haddix, Margaret Peterson.
<i>Uprising</i>	Haddix, Margaret Peterson.
<i>Kind of a big deal</i>	Hale, Shannon.
<i>Princess Academy : the forgotten sisters</i>	Hale, Shannon.
<i>The unbeatable Squirrel Girl : squirrel meets world</i>	Hale, Shannon.
<i>Book of a thousand days</i>	Hale, Shannon.
<i>Dangerous</i>	Hale, Shannon.
<i>Forest born</i>	Hale, Shannon.
<i>Palace of stone</i>	Hale, Shannon.
<i>Princess Academy</i>	Hale, Shannon.
<i>M.C. Higgins, the great</i>	Hamilton, Virginia.
<i>The underdogs</i>	Hammel, Sara.
<i>Always and forever, Lara Jean</i>	Han, Jenny.
<i>It's not summer without you</i>	Han, Jenny.
<i>P.S. I still love you</i>	Han, Jenny.
<i>The summer I turned pretty</i>	Han, Jenny.
<i>To all the boys I've loved before</i>	Han, Jenny.
<i>It's not summer without you : a summer novel</i>	Han, Jenny.
<i>Shug</i>	Han, Jenny.
<i>The summer I turned pretty</i>	Han, Jenny.
<i>We'll always have summer : a summer novel</i>	Han, Jenny.
<i>Wink</i>	Harrell, Rob.
<i>Half brother</i>	Oppel, Kenneth.
<i>Starclimber</i>	Oppel, Kenneth.

<i>This dark endeavor</i>	Oppel, Kenneth.
<i>Bloom</i>	Oppel, Kenneth.
<i>Ghostlight</i>	Oppel, Kenneth.
<i>Hatch</i>	Oppel, Kenneth.
<i>Airborn</i>	Oppel, Kenneth.
<i>Silverwing</i>	Oppel, Kenneth.
<i>The burning maze</i>	Riordan, Rick.
<i>The burning maze</i>	Riordan, Rick.
<i>The chalice of the gods</i>	Riordan, Rick.
<i>The dark prophecy</i>	Riordan, Rick.
<i>The dark prophecy</i>	Riordan, Rick.
<i>Daughter of the deep</i>	Riordan, Rick.
<i>The hidden oracle</i>	Riordan, Rick.
<i>The hidden oracle</i>	Riordan, Rick.
<i>The lightning thief</i>	Riordan, Rick.
<i>The sea of monsters</i>	Riordan, Rick.
<i>The Titan's curse</i>	Riordan, Rick.
<i>The tower of Nero</i>	Riordan, Rick.
<i>The tower of Nero</i>	Riordan, Rick.
<i>The tyrant's tomb</i>	Riordan, Rick.
<i>The tyrant's tomb</i>	Riordan, Rick.
<i>The battle of the Labyrinth</i>	Riordan, Rick.
<i>The demigod files</i>	Riordan, Rick.
<i>The last Olympian</i>	Riordan, Rick.
<i>The lightning thief</i>	Riordan, Rick.
<i>The lightning thief</i>	Riordan, Rick.
<i>The boy who saved baseball</i>	Ritter, John H.
<i>Dead Wednesday</i>	Spinelli, Jerry.
<i>Loser</i>	Spinelli, Jerry.
<i>Love, Stargirl</i>	Spinelli, Jerry.
<i>Smiles to go</i>	Spinelli, Jerry.
<i>Battle of the bands</i>	No author

# March 2025 Service Statistics

Branch	Adult Books	CD	DVD	Exp Pass	ILL	Juv Bks	Mag	Pbks	YA/Teen	Virtual	Total Circulation	Computer Usage	Door Count	Wireless Inside	Wireless Outside
Admin/Annex	637	52	74		12	59			241		1,075				
Abita	608	44	127		31	504	15		17		1,346	150	1,632	108	209
Bush	166	21	260		6	143	5		7		608	74	605	54	99
Causeway	1918	103	743		37	2109	80		135		5,125	506	4,961	771	753
Covington	3089	238	1574		26	3208	74	53	140		8,402	953	7,595	2,105	875
Folsom	365	25	341		15	330	102		31		1,209	126	1,410	90	120
Lacombe	223	43	120	1	6	283		1	18		695	224	1,360	140	149
Lee Road	275	26	97		2	366			6		772	55	847	55	159
Madisonville	1196	78	362		32	1756	32		110		3,566	355	4,762	862	374
Mandeville	2400	212	925		47	4069	86	1	196		7,936	908	6,436	854	509
Mobile	24	1	1								26				
Pearl River	347	23	127		28	188	1	33	7		754	203	1,668	115	224
Slidell	3198	223	1004		36	3656	161	193	228		8,699	2,051	15,799	1,319	2,395
South Slidell	548	26	441		15	862	9	3	59		1,963	1,305	5,504	1,013	1,273
Virtual <sup>1</sup>										35,608	35,608				
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,994</b>	<b>1,115</b>	<b>6,196</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>17,533</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>1,195</b>	<b>35,608</b>	<b>77,784</b>	<b>6,910</b>	<b>52,579</b>	<b>7,486</b>	<b>7,139</b>

1 - Virtual stats include Overdrive, Tumblebooks, 3M Cloud Library, Rbdigital, Hoopla

CD=CompactDisc; DVD=DigitalVersatileDisc; ILL=InterLibraryLoan; Mag=Magazines  
Pbks=Paperbacks; YA=Young Adult

**Patrons Registered:        676**

Jan - Mar. YTD 2025  
Service Statistics

Branch	Adult Books	CD	DVD	Exp Pass	ILL	Juv Bks	Mag	Pbks	YA/Teen	Virtual	Total Circulation	Computer Usage	Door Count	Wireless Inside	Wireless Outside
Admin/Annex	1,375	167	183		59	425	4		922		3,135				
Abita	1682	146	392		65	1249	21		41		3,596	425	4,294	270	578
Bush	569	61	941		16	399	26		25		2,037	208	1,901	138	260
Causeway	5717	305	2148		87	6095	179		422		14,953	1,453	14,325	2,296	2,236
Covington	9665	652	4476		80	9753	222	190	471		25,509	2,736	20,287	5,772	2,465
Folsom	1074	71	857		29	1056	224		90		3,401	497	3,538	247	322
Lacombe	684	76	675	1	27	935	11	23	59		2,491	583	4,015	423	389
Lee Road	858	90	302		5	993		2	46		2,296	138	2,085	171	482
Madisonville	3346	215	1083		101	4791	72		294		9,902	980	12,127	2,368	1,000
Mandeville	7309	537	2681		125	10834	202	6	467		22,161	2,671	17,684	2,419	1,454
Mobile	47	2	2								51				
Pearl River	1061	56	528		56	550	4	104	33		2,392	570	3,835	327	657
Slidell	9843	606	3119	1	122	9963	440	515	682		25,291	5,787	40,659	3,984	6,874
South Slidell	1745	90	1270		46	2554	24	14	158		5,901	3,831	15,355	2,818	3,521
Virtual <sup>1</sup>										104,129	104,129				
<b>Total</b>	<b>44,975</b>	<b>3,074</b>	<b>18,657</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>818</b>	<b>49,597</b>	<b>1,429</b>	<b>854</b>	<b>3,710</b>	<b>104,129</b>	<b>227,245</b>	<b>19,879</b>	<b>140,105</b>	<b>21,233</b>	<b>20,238</b>

1 - Virtual stats include Overdrive, Tumblebooks, 3M Cloud Library, Rbdigital, Hoopla

CD=CompactDisc; DVD=DigitalVersatileDisc; ILL=InterLibraryLoan; Mag=Magazines  
Pbks=Paperbacks; YA=Young Adult

**Patrons Registered:      1908**

## **Capital Report**

The following is the updated Capital Plan Spreadsheet as of 4/17/25.

Amounts highlighted in green on the spreadsheet have been previously designated by the Board and budgeted by the Parish. Amounts in blue are part of the capital plan but not yet designated by the LBOC or budgeted by the parish.

The following projects were completed or are currently under construction for 2025:

- Covington Branch exterior renovations
- Technology upgrade (people counters)
- Elevator installation at Technical Services Building for ADA compliance

The following projects remain on the capital projects list.

- Mandeville renovation
- Technology upgrade (RFID)
- Lacombe replacement
- Slidell Expansion/Renovation/Roof replacement

A detailed explanation of each of the remaining projects follows the spreadsheet.

Library Capital Projects for Renovation and Preservation (updated 04/17/2025)

Facility	Type	Budget	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Covington Branch (Complete Jan. 2025)	Exterior renovations	\$ 140,800.00	\$ 7,244.00	\$ -	\$ -			
Mandeville renovation - on-hold (will need to consider adding funds)	Recarpet, Cat6 wiring upgrade, update restrooms, front entrance/automatic doors	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ -	\$ -			
Technology upgrade	RFID, new security gates, self check	\$ 946,000.00	\$ 946,000.00	\$ -	\$ -			
Technology upgrade (Complete Feb. 2025)	People counters	\$ 42,000.00	\$ 42,000.00	\$ -				
Technical Services/Maintenance/IT (In progress March 2025)	Elevator Installation for ADA compliance	\$ 225,000.00	\$ 225,000.00	\$ -	\$ -			
Lacombe	Small Branch Replacement	\$ 3,600,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 3,300,000.00				
Slidell Expansion/Renovation/Roof	Expand Library to Northeast - replace roof and carpet	\$ 3,769,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 3,469,000.00				
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 8,922,800.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,020,244.00</b>	<b>\$ 6,769,000.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

Currently designated by the LBOC and Budgeted by Parish

Part of the capital plan but not designated by the LBOC or budgeted by the Parish

<b>Current funds</b>	\$ 8,789,197.39	\$ 6,808,737.25	\$ 49,737.25	\$ 49,737.25	\$ 49,737.25	\$ 49,737.25
Projected interest	\$ 59,783.86	\$ 30,000.00		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Projected expenditures	\$ (2,020,244.00)	\$ (6,769,000.00)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Projected cost allocation plan charges	\$ (20,000.00)	\$ (20,000.00)		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Balance before annual transfer	\$ 6,808,737.25	\$ 49,737.25	\$ 49,737.25	\$ 49,737.25	\$ 49,737.25	\$ 49,737.25
Ad valorem transfer			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Funds available</b>	\$ 6,808,737.25	\$ 49,737.25	\$ 49,737.25	\$ 49,737.25	\$ 49,737.25	\$ 49,737.25

133,556.00 PY

-

-

-

-

-

## Mandeville Renovation

A renovation of the Mandeville Branch is one of the capital projects listed on our Capital Improvement Plan. The Mandeville Branch was constructed in 1986 and enlarged in the 1990s.

The original improvements planned for this building were:

- Replacing 17-year-old carpet
- Rewiring data lines with Cat6 wiring
- Refreshing/updating the restrooms
- Modification of the front entrance to ensure ADA compatibility, reduce slip hazards, and address flooding at the front entrance

The original estimated cost for this project was \$200,000. The project was designated by the Board and added to the Parish's capital budget in 2022.

As we worked with the architect, we realized we needed to put more funding towards the front entrance to address the flooding issues and removed the carpet replacement from the project. Carpet could be addressed at a later date and was not as essential to the preservation of the building as the flooding issue.

Quotes were accepted by the Parish on February 12<sup>th</sup> 2025. The lowest quote was \$290,000. In order for this project to move forward, the Board will need to designate more funding and the project will need to go out to bid again.

In speaking with the architect, he felt that interior renovations for the restrooms and data cabling is minor in the overall scheme of project budget, so he didn't know how we could significantly reduce that portion of the work. He also felt that weatherproofing, watertightness, and eliminating the flooding in the entrance foyer was of high importance and so reducing construction costs here would not be a viable option.

It is possible to add more funding to this project. There is about \$49,000 that is not assigned in the Capital plan budget due to better than expected interest for 2024. Also, the Library Board had set aside \$250,000 for our millage election cost in the 2025 operational budget just in case we were on the ballot alone. We were on the ballot with the Parish and the constitutional amendments so our cost for being on the March 29<sup>th</sup> 2025 ballot should be significantly reduced. Once we receive the invoice for the election from the Secretary of State's office, the Board can discuss adding funding to this project. Hopefully this can be discussed at the May 2025 board meeting.



## Technology Upgrade - RFID

The Technology upgrade- RFID is one of the projects that is part of our capital improvement plan. The project was originally slated for 2020 but was delayed in being budgeted due to COVID. The Board approved the project at the February 07<sup>th</sup> 2022 meeting. It was later added to the Parish Capital Budget. Due to the timing of our upcoming millage election, this project was put on hold but can now move forward.

RFID stands for Radio Frequency Identification. RFID systems in libraries are designed to do several jobs simultaneously. The small RFID tags are inserted inside books and other materials. The RFID circulation pads and self-checkout stations “read” the radio frequency so that the tag functions as item identification, status (checked in/out), and security. Using the system can increase staff accuracy and efficiency.

RFID will benefit our library by:

- Improving speed/accuracy of item processing. By removing the step of scanning a barcode to circulate library materials, RFID dramatically improves the flow of materials throughout the library - including checkout, returns, and reshelving.
- RFID helps create a better user experience for library patrons through higher efficiencies than barcodes, easier implementation of self-service, and delight (especially from younger patrons) when checking out materials seems almost like “magic.”
- Streamlining the materials flow process frees up staff time to do more “person to person” work instead of mundane tasks. It will also free up staff that could be then redirected for staffing other library initiatives like our mobile library.
- Helping in the performing of tasks to ensure the integrity of the collection, including electronic means of shelf reading to find misplaced materials and periodic inventories of the collection.
- For branches with the space for security gates (our 6 large branches), RFID combines inventory control and security within the same system. Items cannot leave the library without being checked out. An alarm alerts and notifies the desk of which items were not properly checked out – by title. This is especially important to prevent theft, the security of hard to replace items like our genealogy collection, and the integrity of our tiered card system.
- Providing an easy self-service option to lower wait times during peak library hours. RFID will allow flexibility for “checkout” in non-traditional locations, such as the crush of demand for children’s material in children’s areas following storytimes.
- Reducing repetitive motions by staff.

The cost estimate from 2022 follows. We had included contingency money in the cost estimate which should help combat inflation that may have occurred over the past two years.

Alternatively, we can reduce the number of staff workstation pads to bring the cost in line with the budget. Licensing fee is the only recurring cost. STPL’s Operations Budget can absorb the annual licensing fee going forward, even with an expected small percentage increase each year.

Explanation of cost centers:

- **Staff Workstation Installation**- shows the equipment and installation labor costs associated with staff RFID equipment
- The **Self-Check Installation**- shows the cost of new self-check machines and installation costs.
- The **Other Equipment Costs** shows the costs of RFID security gates and the installation labor costs as well as one handheld RFID scanning wand.
- **Service Contract and Licensing** shows the estimated cost of annual service and licensing contracts.
- The **Retroconversion Project Costs**- The process of converting a library to RFID is often referred to as Retroconversion. This line shows the cost of RFID tags and labor to apply the tags.

Process Step	Total Cost
Staff Workstation Installation	\$274,120.06
Self-Check Installation	\$175,000.00
Other Equipment Costs (RFID Security Gates and a handheld scanning wand)	\$110,000.00
Estimate (Service Contract and Licensing)	\$48,500.00
Retroconversion Project Costs	\$214,294.54
Subtotal	\$821,914.60
Contingency (15%)	\$123,287.19
Total	\$945,201.80

The original report from 2020 is also attached for your information. Nothing is required to move forward with this project as it is already approved and budgeted by both the Board and Parish.

## Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)

### Overview

A project to convert the tagging of a library's collection to use RFID tag seems both simple and complicated. The simple part is the overall excellent user experience for patrons and staff alike in the manner in which RFID facilitates ease and less effort in the flow of physical materials. The complication is the process of converting the library's collection to RFID - new equipment must be installed throughout the library system, and the conversion process requires that each item is physically handled to apply and program the RFID tags.

### What is RFID?

RFID stands for Radio Frequency Identification. RFID systems in libraries are designed to do several jobs simultaneously. The RFID tags function as item identification, status (checked in/out), and security, and using the system can increase staff accuracy and efficiency.

### What benefits does RFID offer libraries?

RFID can benefit libraries by:

- Improving speed/accuracy of item processing
- Improving accuracy of inventory (during processing and formal inventory processes)
- Being used as theft deterrent using RFID security gates
- Reducing time spent processing items and reduce repetitive motions in workers
- Providing an easy self-service option to lower wait times during peak library hours
- Increasing time spent on non-automated tasks (patron interactions, programming, planning, etc.)
- Other benefits of RFID can be found in this document: **RFID Technology for Libraries by Richard W Boss**  
(<https://alair.ala.org/bitstream/handle/11213/258/RFID.pdf?sequence=108&isAllowed=y>)

# St Tammany Parish Library

## Background for Possible Projects: People Counters and RFID

Summer 2020

Confidential Draft—for Project Team and Library Board Only



## Why should the St. Tammany Parish Library consider pursuing a project to convert to RFID?

In the process of evaluating the possibility for RFID implementation at the St. Tammany Library, the consultant and staff identified the following possible impacts for the library:

- By removing the step of scanning a barcode to circulate library materials, RFID offers a dramatic improvement to the flow of materials throughout the library - including checkout, returns, and reshelving.
- RFID helps create better user experience (UX) for library patrons through higher efficiencies than barcodes, easier implementation of self-service, and delight (especially from younger patrons) when checking out materials seems almost like “magic.”
- Streamlining the materials flow process frees up staff time to do more “person to person” work instead of mundane tasks. Prior to COVID-19, most branches experienced a high number of patron visits requiring assistance from staff. In a post-COVID world, the demand is expected to return.
- COVID-19 has brought a new awareness of the possible health risks in the constant handling of materials. RFID removes many of the “touches” required of barcoded materials, which in turn can decrease the exposure of pathogens on library materials.
- For branches with the space for security gates, RFID combines inventory control and security within the same system.
- RFID will allow flexibility for “checkout” in non-traditional locations, such as the crush of demand for children’s material in children’s areas following storytimes.
- RFID could be helpful in performing tasks to ensure the integrity of the collection, including electronic means of shelf reading to find misplaced materials and periodic inventories of the collection.
- And, of course, all of the general benefits of RFID (detailed in the section above)

# St Tammany Parish Library

## Background for Possible Projects: People Counters and RFID

Summer 2020

Confidential Draft—for Project Team and Library Board Only



## What is involved in a project to convert to RFID?

Like many major projects, the numbers help tell the story. The consultant has prepared a spreadsheet showing the possible costs for an RFID project at the St. Tammany Parish Library, as well as an estimate of the efforts and time required for the project.

Please note that although the project elements (including a proposed schedule of efforts, items, possible costs, and other items) appear to be complete, this document should be only considered a preliminary estimate of possible project approaches, needs and costs. The actual project approaches, methods and costs would be determined through the appropriate procurement processes for each project. Actual timelines are dependent on final project approach; capabilities of the staff and vendors, and other factors.

The spreadsheet is organized in this manner:

- The **Top Sheet** tab shows the major cost centers and the total estimate of project costs.
- The **Staff Workstation Installation** tab shows the equipment and installation labor costs associated with staff RFID equipment
- The **Self-Check Installation** tab shows the cost of new self-check machines and installation costs.
- The **Other Equipment Costs** tab reflects the costs of RFID gates and smart returns
- The **Retroconversion Project Costs** tab reflects the cost of RFID tags and staff labor to apply the tags

Please see Appendix for a full spreadsheet report.

## The RFID Conversion Process

The process of converting a library to RFID is often referred to as **Retroconversion**. The Retroconversion of an entire library system can be a daunting task, but with planning it can be done smoothly. After determining the vendor for your new RFID equipment, the library system must have the required technology installed and tested to be functioning before tagging begins. The library doesn't need to do a hard cutover of technology but the system must be in place for testing and training. Likewise there needs to be time allotted for staff training before the tagging process can begin.

If the library system is not currently active in weeding their collection, it is strongly recommended that they do a thorough weed before beginning tagging. If the library system has been consistent with weeding, they can proceed to tagging.

# St Tammany Parish Library

## Background for Possible Projects: People Counters and RFID

Summer 2020

Confidential Draft—for Project Team and Library Board Only



The process of tagging can be implemented in different ways, depending on what scenario works best for the library system. The first question is whether to staff the conversion in-house or to outsource employees just for the retroconversion process. Staff can cart items from shelves while maintaining order and bringing them to a stationary computer terminal for tagging. This would be ideal for a two-person team, one to do the tagging and another to move items. Another option is to create a mobile tagging computer terminal, on a cart that can be rolled throughout the library and throughout different buildings as the collections are tagged. The library's approach to this will depend on their vendor and the needs of their library or branches.

For print media, tagging is a simple process: place the RFID tag inside the back cover, close to the spine but away from any places it could bend. To avoid interference from metal shelves, the tags should be at least 1in from the bottom edge of the book. Stagger the tag locations from book to book (top, middle, bottom) to avoid being too close to scan properly when on shelves. This must be done to all print materials in the library system, whether they are staff-use, in-library use, or for checkout to patrons. The security function can alert library staff of any missing items and this can aid in future inventory.

Disc media may need to be handled differently. If the library system had a previous security measure on discs, it can be impossible to remove those other measures without permanent damage to the item, or simply not worth the time and effort vs. re-tagging. If the discs cannot be tagged with their own circular RFID tags, media cases can be tagged with the same RFID tags as print media. This should be done as unobtrusively as possible - either inside any mylar cover to obscure the tag, or for audiobooks inside the back cover (like a print book). Any newly-purchased items should be tagged with new, circular RFID tags as they are processed so they are in compliance with the new system.

If there is no previous security stuck on existing disc media, discs can be tagged during the retro-conversion process. In the case of collections, only one disc should be tagged. It is generally recommended this be the last disc with content (excluding, for instance, Extra Features DVDs or audiobooks with interview discs at the end).

The tagging of special collections depends on the format of the collection. Boxes of microfilm/microfiche, map cases, bases of globes, or carrying cases for borrowing collections of electronics.

It is recommended that the tagging happen in regular stages and statistics be kept about the speed and accuracy of the tagging. This can help administration to better plan the tagging process as the staff doing the tagging get more efficient.

# St Tammany Parish Library

## Background for Possible Projects: People Counters and RFID

Summer 2020

Confidential Draft—for Project Team and Library Board Only



## Post Conversion

Although not addressed in depth here, the library should also consider changes in its workflows, especially materials processing, post-conversion.

- While it's likely that the library will always have the need to apply its own tags, many materials vendors will supply the library with pre-tagged items for a fee.
- The library may find creative uses for RFID; one item that came up in tours was using RFID to tag and circulate the many book kits the library has. The library may consider tagging other items as well to assist in "back of house" use of library materials in outreach program and other uses.
- Emerging technologies may allow the library to increase the use of mobile checkout - using a mobile device as part of any circulation activities.

# St Tammany Parish Library

## Background for Possible Projects: People Counters and RFID

Summer 2020

Confidential Draft—for Project Team and Library Board Only



## Cost Estimate

The **Cost Estimate** spreadsheets outline the different costs associated with the RFID retro conversion and is summarized on the top sheet. The Top Sheet shows a summary of all areas of cost and an overall cost for the entire project.

The **Staff Workstation Installation** presents the amount of RFID-enabled workstations per branch (for staff to use for check-in, check-out, and other RFID duties), and the amount of IT staff time the consultant estimates for the installation (which includes programming, testing, travel, and set-up time). This cost is simply for the RFID components of the workstations (RFID sensor pad, pad reader, and software) and assumes that STPL will use existing configured PC workstations for the non-RFID components (PC, monitor, keyboard, mouse, etc.).

The **Self-Check Installation** sheet outlines the cost of purchasing the self-check machines and how many per branch, and includes possible extra stations if they are approved due to COVID-19 precautions. It is assumed that installation for these items will be done by the selected vendor, and an extra column has been included to account for any extra vendor installation costs that may arise.

The **Retroconversion Project Costs** sheet outlines the price of RFID tags, estimated staff hours, and staffing costs per branch for the retroconversion process. Pulling from personal experience and published reports online from other RFID projects, the consultant estimates a tagging efficiency around 175 items per hour for placing book-style tags, and around 60 items per hour for the overlay disc RFID tags. If overlay disc RFID is not used, the rate of placing book-style tags on media cases is comparable to the speed of tagging print media. Using these estimates and the size of the collections per branch reported by St Tammany Parish staff in June of 2020, the consultants arrived at the calculations on the retroconversion Project Costs Sheet.

The final tab in the Cost Estimate sheet is an example **Gantt chart** for the timeframe of the project. This outlines a potential scheme for the project from beginning to end. The first two steps can be taken in conjunction with each other, and includes reviewing collections by qualified staff for their completeness and readiness for tagging, as well as technology staff piloting and installing the proposed new technology systems and making sure they are fully functional before the tagging process (retroconversion) begins.

**Note for the Gantt chart:** This is an example project plan. An actual project plan can only be created after a vendor is identified and the library has piloted its process. Care should be taken for the library to compare its progress in terms of number of items tagged per hour vs. projections since that will have a

# **St Tammany Parish Library**

## **Background for Possible Projects:**

### **People Counters and RFID**

Summer 2020

Confidential Draft—for Project Team and Library Board Only

major impact on the actual schedule. This may also speed up as the staff doing the work become accustomed and more efficient during the process.



# St Tammany Parish Library

## Background for Possible Projects: People Counters and RFID

Summer 2020

Confidential Draft—for Project Team and Library Board Only



## Additional RFID Resources

This resource (<https://alair.ala.org/bitstream/handle/11213/258/RFID.pdf?sequence=108&isAllowed=y>) has a list of advantages of RFID which can be phrased as efficiencies

- Rapid charging/discharging (check in, check out)
- Simplified patron self-charging/discharging
- High reliability
- High-speed electronic inventorying and item searching
- Interfaces with materials handling systems
- Long tag life

This resource (<https://journals.ala.org/index.php/ltr/article/download/4513/5298>) lists these benefits

- Reduction of staff manual processes, errors, and repetitive motion [which could mean fewer injuries or workman's comp claims because of lower repetitive motion injuries]
- Enhanced customer experience through fast and private self check-outs
- Reduction of staff and patron time spent on finding items
- Integrated security functionality

This resource (<https://kcoyle.net/RFIDCostsBenefits.pdf>) pg 21-27 lists benefits self-reported by libraries as being "major" "minor" or "not realized" of RFID. Items with high reported "Major Benefits"

- Self check
- Reduction in lines at circ desk (attributed to the presence of self-checks and the speed of checkout at circ desks)
- Patron Satisfaction
- Reliability of Equipment (one library that said their "accuracy rate has improved with fewer 'claims returned' complaints from patrons.")

# St Tammany Parish Library

## Background for Possible Projects:

### People Counters and RFID

Summer 2020

Confidential Draft—for Project Team and Library Board Only



## Appendix

([https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1KGrvnhsLPSF5K2OHn-AIHJ3f\\_9CM93xV3dcnmhjsDcw/edit#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1KGrvnhsLPSF5K2OHn-AIHJ3f_9CM93xV3dcnmhjsDcw/edit#gid=0)) [Doc added as appendix in Word]

## Lacombe Library Replacement

One of the last major projects on our Capital Plan is the replacement of Lacombe. Our current Lacombe Library is made of sheet metal. As it rusts it has to be sanded and repainted with the addition of Bondo to help keep the integrity of the building. We purchased a piece of land in 2024 close to the center of Lacombe, on 190 which is the main thoroughfare, and close to the current library branch to build a replacement.

The land for the new library a piece of vacant land on the south side of 190. The back lines up with the St. Tammany Trace. It is near both Chahta-Ima Elementary School and Bayou Lacombe Middle school, but since it is on the same side of the street as Chahta-Ima the elementary students would be able to walk to the library. The lot is rectangular and would be able to support a 6,000 – 7,000 Sq. Ft. building with ample space for outdoor areas. The Lacombe Branch of the St. Tammany Parish Library System is 1,500 sq. ft. and was our most heavily visited small branch in 2024.



We have asked the parish for architect that can draw up plans and give us a good cost estimate. \$300,000 has been designated and budgeted for architecture and design services. Any leftover funding will go towards construction. This does not designate the remaining funds for the project itself. The architect will need to collect and record the input of the community, library staff, and library board on what they would like to see in the new library. This will then be included in the plans and we should then be able to receive a good cost estimate. As the parish owns all library buildings and the architecture and design services cost is less than \$500,000, the architect will be selected by the Parish President.



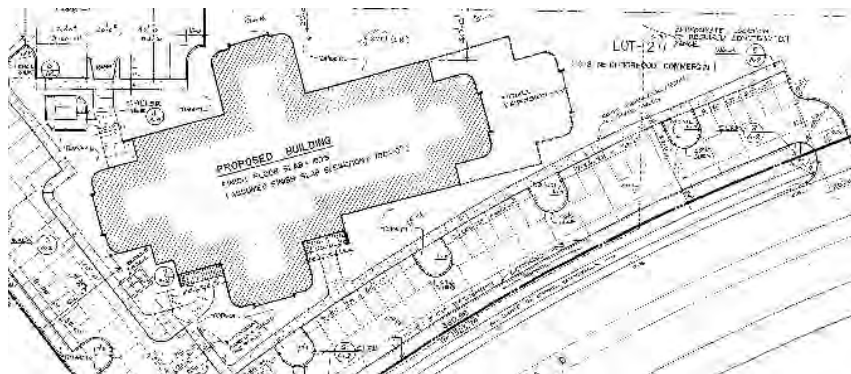
## Slidell Branch addition

The Slidell Branch at 555 Robert Blvd. is 22,000 sq. ft. and is our most heavily used branch. Slidell has 28% of the Library's cardholders, 21% of our physical item circulation, 22% of our door count, and 1/4 of all of our computer uses. The original building was opened in 1989 and was designed to be added on to in the future.

The roof was a problem from the beginning. The contractor went bankrupt and the bond company had to come in the finish the construction. The roof was an issue from day one as the metal roofing material had been delivered but sat unused until the bond company finished the job. There was a lawsuit and the result was a replacement of the roof in the original design. Over the years leaking continued to be an issue and the Library solved the problem by putting an elastomeric overlay on top the roof. The lifetime of this fix was about 10 years. It has lasted about 14. The roof is leaking again in the valleys. We have had various roofers look at the situation, and all agree that a new roof is needed.



We are looking to add 4,000 – 6,000 sq.ft. to the building (square footage addition to be contingent on the cost of roof replacement) and some interior renovations such as carpeting, paint and reorganizing the space of the existing building. Examples of possible additional space functions could include study rooms, a storytime room, or even a maker space. Rooms with these functions are found currently at Madisonville, Causeway, and Covington Branches.



We have asked the Parish to find us an architect that could find a long term solution to the roof along with drawing up the plans for the Slidell addition. \$300,000 has been approved by the LBOC and budgeted by the Parish for architecture and design services. Any leftover funding will go towards construction. This did not designate the remaining funds for the project itself. A rough estimate of the cost is part of the capital plan, but this money has not been approved or budgeted. After an architect is engaged, they can begin the work of estimating the cost that can then be considered by the LBOC and Parish. The architect will need to update the input of the community, library staff, and library board on what they would like to see in the new library as this information was previously collected in 2022. As the parish owns all library buildings and the architecture and design services cost is less than \$500,000, the architect will be selected by the Parish President.



**St. Tammany Parish Library Board of Control**

**Resolution No. 25-010**

**Resolution to Request a Legal Opinion  
from the Louisiana Attorney General  
Regarding the Term “Access” in  
Louisiana Revised Statute 25:225**

April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025

SPONSOR: MR. BRANTON

**WHEREAS**, in the 2023 session of the Louisiana legislature, Act No. 436 was passed and was codified as Louisiana Revised Statute 25:225; and,

**WHEREAS**, La. R.S. 25:225 addresses minors’ access to sexually explicit materials but does not define the term “access;” and,

**WHEREAS**, the Library Board of Control seeks further guidance from the Louisiana Attorney General of the interpretation of the term “access.”

**THE ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL RESOLVES** to submit a request for a legal opinion to the Louisiana Attorney General requesting guidance on the interpretation of the term “access” as used in La. R.S. 25:225.

THIS RESOLUTION HAVING BEEN SUBMITTED TO A VOTE, THE VOTE THEREON WAS AS FOLLOWS:

Moved for adoption by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_,

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

---

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
310 WEST 21<sup>ST</sup> AVENUE COVINGTON, LA 70433  
PH: (985) 871-1219 FAX: (985) 871-1224

ABITA SPRINGS (985) 893-6285

COVINGTON (985) 893-6280

MADISONVILLE (985) 845-4819

BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTER  
(985) 626-5314

FOLSOM (985) 796-9728

MANDEVILLE (985) 626-4293

BUSH (985) 886-3588

LACOMBE (985) 882-7858

PEARL RIVER (985) 863-5518

CAUSEWAY (985) 626-9779

LEE RD (985) 893-6284

SLIDELL (985) 646-6470



Discover what's inside 

AND THIS RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED DULY ADOPTED ON THIS DAY, THE 28th DAY OF APRIL 2025, AT A MEETING OF THE ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL, A QUORUM OF THE MEMBERSHIP BEING PRESENT.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ann Shaw, Board President

\_\_\_\_\_  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
310 WEST 21<sup>ST</sup> AVENUE COVINGTON, LA 70433  
PH: (985) 871-1219 FAX: (985) 871-1224

ABITA SPRINGS (985) 893-6285

COVINGTON (985) 893-6280

MADISONVILLE (985) 845-4819

BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTER  
(985) 626-5314

FOLSOM (985) 796-9728

MANDEVILLE (985) 626-4293

BUSH (985) 886-3588

LACOMBE (985) 882-7858

PEARL RIVER (985) 863-5518

CAUSEWAY (985) 626-9779

LEE Rd (985) 893-6284

SLIDELL (985) 646-6470

*Statement of Concern about Library Resources*



Intellectual freedom in a public library necessitates selecting some materials that may be considered controversial by some individuals or groups. Reasons often cited for materials considered offensive include use of profanity, divergent viewpoints, controversial authors, sexual content, and depictions of violence and criminal acts. The acquisition of such materials does not imply approval or endorsement of their contents. The selection criteria used by the St. Tammany Parish Library must remain broad and flexible in order to provide a collection that supports the broad range of interests and diverse backgrounds of the citizens of St. Tammany Parish.

Date 09/08/2023

Name Frances W Smith

Address [REDACTED]

City Slidell State la Zip 70461

Telephone [REDACTED]

Representing        (self) STLAP (organization)

1. Resource on which you are commenting:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Book	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Magazine	<input type="checkbox"/> Content of Library Program	
<input type="checkbox"/> Audiovisual	<input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Resource	

2. Title Crank

Author/Producer Ellen Hopkins

3. What brought this title to your attention?

The simple fact it is by Ellen Hopkins should draw anyone's attention.. She writes nasty books, and some teens read them.

4. Did you review the entire item? If not, what sections did you review?

It's the same thing. Sex, Drugs more sex more drugs.

5. What course of action do you recommend in regard to this resource?

Put it up where the teens can't read it.

6. Please state your reasons for making this recommendation. To what in the resource do you object? Please be specific: cite pages, scenes or sections. Consider commenting on the resource as a whole, as well as being specific on the matters which concern you.

The book as a whole is over and over sex and drugs.

7. In its place, what materials would you recommend on this topic?

Maybe some book that they could learn true lifes lessons.

the classics. Books that do not have sex and cursing and drugs in them.  
Books that teach morals, courage and kindness.

NOTE:

This statement will be referred to a Library Resource Review Committee. You will be advised in writing of the committee's decision. Thank you for your concern and input.



## **CRANK** by Ellen Hopkins

Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2004

### **PUBLISHER'S SUMMARY**

Kristina Georgia Snow is the perfect daughter: gifted high school junior, quiet, never any trouble. But on a trip to visit her absentee father, Kristina disappears and Bree takes her place. Bree is the exact opposite of Kristina -- she's fearless. Through a boy, Bree meets the monster: crank. And what begins as a wild, ecstatic ride turns into a struggle through hell for her mind, her soul -- her life.

### **LIBRARY OF CONGRESS SUBJECT HEADINGS**

Novels in verse

Drug abuse

Schools

Pregnancy

Cocaine abuse

High schools

Dysfunctional families

Family problems

**RECOMMENDED AGE GROUP:** 14 and up

### **HOLDINGS AND CIRCULATION**

- 1 Book on CD at Bush/Call number CD FIC Hopk.
- Overdrive E-audiobook

Purchased in November 2009. Available on shelf March 2010.

Total circulation on Book on CD: 13

Total circulation on E-audiobook: 7

### **OTHER LIBRARY HOLDINGS**

Held in 1658 libraries.

Hancock County Library System – Young Adult Fiction

**PATRON REQUEST/SUGGEST A PURCHASE:** N/A

### **REVIEWS**

**Booklist** (11/15/2004):

Gr. 8-12. Like the teenage crack user in the film "Traffic," the young addict in this wrenching, cautionary debut lives in a comfortable, advantaged home with caring parents. Sixteen-year-old Kristina first tries crank, or crystal meth, while visiting her long-estranged father, a crank junkie. Bree is Kristina's imagined, bolder self, who flirts outrageously and gets high without remorse, and when Kristina returns to her mother and family in Reno, it's Bree who makes connections with edgy guys and other crank users that escalate into full-blown addiction and heartrending consequences. Hopkins tells Kristina's story in experimental verse. A few overreaching lines seem out of step with character voices: a boyfriend, for example, tells Kristina that he'd like to

wait for sex until she is "free from dreams of yesterday." But Hopkins uses the spare, fragmented style to powerful effect, heightening the emotional impact of dialogues, inner monologues, and devastating scenes, including a brutal date rape. Readers won't soon forget smart, sardonic Kristina; her chilling descent into addiction; or the author's note, which references her own daughter's struggle with "the monster." (Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2004, American Library Association.)

**School Library Journal (11/01/2004):**

Gr 8 Up-Seventeen-year-old Kristina Snow is introduced to crank on a trip to visit her wayward father. Caught up in a fast-paced, frightening, and unfamiliar world, she morphs into "Bree" after she "shakes hands with the monster." Her fearless, risk-taking alter ego grows stronger, "convincing me to be someone I never dreamed I'd want to be." When Kristina goes home, things don't return to normal. Although she tries to reconnect with her mother and her former life as a good student, her drug use soon takes over, leaving her "starving for speed" and for boys who will soon leave her scarred and pregnant. Hopkins writes in free-verse poems that paint painfully sharp images of Kristina/Bree and those around her, detailing how powerful the "monster" can be. The poems are masterpieces of word, shape, and pacing, compelling readers on to the next chapter in Kristina's spiraling world. This is a topical page-turner and a stunning portrayal of a teen's loss of direction and realistically uncertain future.-Sharon Korbeck, Waupaca Area Public Library, WI Copyright 2004 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

**Publishers Weekly (11/01/2004):**

Nonfiction author Hopkins pens her first novel, written in verse, introducing 15-year-old narrator Kristina, who reveals how she became addicted to crank, and how the stimulant turned her from straight-A student to drug dealer, and eventually a teen mom. On a court-ordered visit to see her slimy and long-absent dad, she meets-and is instantly attracted to-Adam, who sports a "tawny six pack, / and a smile." Soon, Adam introduces her to "the monster" (there, she also unleashes a new personality, id-driven Bree). Her addiction grows, as does Bree's control. Readers get a vivid sense of the highs and lows involved with using crank ("I needed food, sleep, / but the monster denied/ every bit of it"). Her life changes quickly: Soon she's dating two guys, both of whom use crank; says "Fuck you" to her mom, can't keep up with school, and loses her old friends. There are plenty of dramatic moments: The first time she does crank, for example, her dad joins her. That same night, she stumbles into a bad area and is almost raped, and Adam's girlfriend tries to kill herself. Later in the book, she does get raped and starts selling the drug for the Mexican Mafia. Readers will appreciate the creative use of form here (some poems, for instance, are written in two columns that can be read separately or together), and although the author is definitely on a mission, she creates a world nearly as consuming and disturbing as the titular drug. Ages 14-up. (Oct.) Copyright 2004 Publishers Weekly Used with permission.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Ellen Hopkins was born in Long Beach, California on March 26, 1955. She started her writing career with a number of nonfiction books for children, including *Air Devils* and *Orcas: High Seas Supermen*. She has written about 20 non-fiction books. Her first novel, *Crank*, was written in verse and met with critical acclaim. Her other fiction works include *Burned*, *Impulse*, *Glass*, *Identical*, *Tricks*, *Fallout*, *Perfect*, *Tilt*, *Collateral*, *Smoke* and *Traffick*, which made the New York Times Best-Seller list in 2015.

--BIP, Bowker Author Biography, 12/15/22.

**AWARDS AND LISTS**

ALA Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults  
ALA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers  
Abraham Lincoln High School Book Award (nominee)  
Wyoming Soaring Eagle (nominee)  
IRA Young Adults' Choices Reading List  
New Hampshire Flume Award Nominee  
MASL Gateway Readers Award  
2009 VDL Green Mountain Book Award  
Abraham Lincoln Award  
2009-2010 Delaware Diamonds Winner

**RESOURCES**

Ingram Content Group, LLC  
Books in Print 2.0  
Worldcat  
Individual library websites (for holdings info)



April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Ms. Fran Smith

Slidell, LA 70461

Dear Ms. Smith,

Thank you for submitting your Statement of Concern regarding *Crank* by Ellen Hopkins. Per the St. Tammany Library Board of Control's policies and procedures, this correspondence is to notify you of the recommendation of the library staff committee regarding the material referenced in your Statement of Concern.

The author is well-known and the book was reviewed positively. *Crank* has circulated 13 times as an audio-book and 7 times as an e-book since the library has owned it. Although the library no longer owns a print copy, it circulated 162 times in print. It is held in 1,658 other public libraries across the country. The library recognized the mature subject matter and content of this audio-book and, upon review, placed it into the Adult collection.

You asked specifically that we "put it where teens can't read it." This book is located within the adult collection. Check out requires an adult card or a card where a parent has given their minor child permission to check out from the adult collection. The downloadable copy of this book similarly requires a card with permission to download it. It is the recommendation of this committee that we retain the audio-book and e-book as part of the adult collection.

While we recognize that some may find the material in question not suitable for themselves or their family, that alone does not warrant censoring the public at large from accessing and/or checking out the material. Parents are the ultimate deciders of which books and media their children will consume. At the same time, we do acknowledge that this book may not be in line with the values of all families in the Parish. The purchase of any item by the St. Tammany Parish Library is not an affirmation of the content of the item and each family in our Parish has the right and responsibility to make decisions regarding what they and their own children will read or hear.

The committee's report and recommendation will be made available to the St. Tammany Library Control Board, which shall make the ultimate determination based thereupon at a special meeting on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 6:30 pm where it will be on the agenda. At that meeting,

---

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
1112 WEST 21<sup>ST</sup> AVENUE COVINGTON, LA 70433  
PH: (985) 871-1219 FAX: (985) 871-1224

ABITA SPRINGS (985) 893-6285

FOLSOM (985) 796-9728

MANDVILLE (985) 626-4293

BUSH (985) 886-3588

LACOMBE (985) 882-7858

PEARL RIVER (985) 863-5518

CAUSEWAY (985) 626-9779

LEE RD (985) 893-6284

SLIDELL (985) 646-6470

COVINGTON (985) 893-6280

MADISONVILLE (985) 845-4819

SOUTH SLIDELL (985) 781-0099



Discover what's inside

you will have an opportunity to address the Board for 5 minutes or submit a written statement for the record.

Regardless of the outcome, we hope you will recognize the important role that a public library plays in a free and open democratic society as a neutral resource for everyone.

Respectfully,

Kelly LaRocca, Director

---

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
1112 WEST 21<sup>ST</sup> AVENUE COVINGTON, LA 70433  
PH: (985) 871-1219 FAX: (985) 871-1224

ABITA SPRINGS (985) 893-6285

FOLSOM (985) 796-9728

MANDENVILLE (985) 626-4293

BUSH (985) 886-3588

LACOMBE (985) 882-7858

PEARL RIVER (985) 863-5518

CAUSEWAY (985) 626-9779

LEE RD (985) 893-6284

SLIDELL (985) 646-6470

COVINGTON (985) 893-6280

MADISONVILLE (985) 845-4819

SOUTH SLIDELL (985) 781-0099



## ***Statement of Concern about Library Resources***

Intellectual freedom in a public library necessitates selecting some materials that may be considered controversial by some individuals or groups. Reasons often cited for materials considered offensive include use of profanity, divergent viewpoints, controversial authors, sexual content, and depictions of violence and criminal acts. The acquisition of such materials does not imply approval or endorsement of their contents. The selection criteria used by the St. Tammany Parish Library must remain broad and flexible in order to provide a collection that supports the broad range of interests and diverse backgrounds of the citizens of St. Tammany Parish.

Date 11-22-2022

Name Rosalind Murr

[REDACTED]

City Covington State La Zip 70433

Telepho [REDACTED]

Representing \_\_\_\_\_ (self) \_\_\_\_\_ (organization)

1. Resource on which you are commenting:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Book</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Newspaper</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Other</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Magazine</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Content of Library Program</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Audiovisual</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Electronic Resource</u>	

2. Title Identical

Author/Producer Ellen Hopkins

3. What brought this title to your attention?

I heard it had questionable material and upon reading was horrified!

4. Did you review the entire item? If not, what sections did you review?

I read the book in its entirety.

5. What course of action do you recommend in regard to this resource?

Remove it from any children's sections, ask for ID to check out and not allowable for a minor to download.

6. Please state your reasons for making this recommendation. To what in the resource do you object? Please be specific: cite pages, scenes or sections. Consider commenting on the resource as a whole, as well as being specific on the matters which concern you.

This is breaking child

7. In its place, what materials would you recommend on this topic?

Something that does not break state obscenity laws for children.

NOTE:

This statement will be referred to a Library Resource Review Committee. You will be advised in writing of the committee's decision. Thank you for your concern and input.

***IDENTICAL*** by Ellen Hopkins

Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2008

**PUBLISHER'S SUMMARY**

Do twins begin in the womb?

Or in a better place?

Kaeleigh and Raeanne are identical down to the dimple. As daughters of a district-court judge father and a politician mother, they are an all-American family -- on the surface. Behind the facade each sister has her own dark secret, and that's where their differences begin. For Kaeleigh, she's the misplaced focus of Daddy's love, intended for a mother whose presence on the campaign trail means absence at home. All that Raeanne sees is Daddy playing a game of favorites -- and she is losing. If she has to lose, she will do it on her own terms, so she chooses drugs, alcohol, and sex. Secrets like the ones the twins are harboring are not meant to be kept - from each other or anyone else. Pretty soon it's obvious that neither sister can handle it alone, and one sister must step up to save the other, but the question is -- who?

**LIBRARY OF CONGRESS SUBJECT HEADINGS**

Dysfunctional families

Family secrets

Twins

California

Emotional problems

Novels in verse

Emotional problems of teenagers

Sexual abuse

Sisters

Family problems

Secrets

**RECOMMENDED AGE GROUP:** 14 to 17

**HOLDINGS AND CIRCULATION**

- 1 print copy at Mandeville/ originally shelved in Young Adult Fiction now shelved in Adult NA Hopk
- Overdrive and Hoopla E-audiobooks

Purchased in March 2009. Available on shelf March 2009.

Total circulation on all print copies: 184

Total circulation on all E-audiobooks: 33

**OTHER LIBRARY HOLDINGS**

Held in 1967 libraries.

Livingston Parish Library-- Teen Fiction

**PATRON REQUEST/SUGGEST A PURCHASE:** YES

**REVIEWS**

**Publishers Weekly (07/07/2008):**

Using free verse as her vehicle, Hopkins ("Crank", "Glass") takes readers on a harrowing ride into the psyches of 16-year-old identical twins Kaeleigh and Raeanne, both of whom are racing toward self-destruction. The girls' family appears picture-perfect. Their father is a prominent judge, their mother is running for Congress, and both girls do well in school. But ever since an accident, Mom doesn't love anyone./ She is marble. Beautiful./ Frigid. Easily stained/ by her family. What's left/ of us, anyway. We are corpses. Raeanne seeks escape in sex and drugs; Kaeleigh binges and cuts herself. Brief, gutsy confessions reveal a history of sexual abuse and emotional neglect, and it's not clear that both girls will survive it. Hopkins's verse is not only lean and sinuous, it also demonstrates a mastery of technique. Strategically placed concrete verse includes a poem about revenge shaped like a double-edged sword; in another, about jealousy, the lines form one heart reflecting another, until a rupture breaks the symmetry at the bottom. Often, the twins' entries mirror each other, on facing pages: although used differently in the two poems, the same key words are set off in corresponding stanzas (think./ How/ different/ life./ could be reads one set of key words). Those for whom "Uncle Vampire" means something will anticipate the still-breathless climax; all others, including most of the target audience, will be shocked. Ages 14up. "(Aug.)" Copyright 2008 Publishers Weekly Used with permission.

**School Library Journal (08/01/2008):**

Gr 9 Up Identical teen twins Kaeleigh and Raeanne share a picture-perfect California life that is rank with dark, dangerous secrets under its surface. Their mother, who is running for Congress, leaves them at home with their father, a district court judge who is addicted to liquor and OxyContin. Daddy regularly molests Kaeleigh, using her as a stand-in for his absentee wife, and controls every aspect of her life. Raeanne sees every detail and reacts to her father's favoritism by acting out sexually and getting high on pot whenever possible. Written in free verse from alternating viewpoints, "Identical " tells the twins' story in intimate and often-graphic detail. Hopkins packs in multiple issues including eating disorders, drug abuse, date rape, alcoholism, sexual abuse, and self-mutilation as she examines a family that "puts the dys in dysfunction." The tension builds slowly and subtly, erupting in a shattering climax of psychological disintegration and breakthrough that reveals the truth about the twins and their father's own childhood secrets. Gritty and compelling, this is not a comfortable read, but its keen insights make it hard to put down." Joyce Adams Burner, Hillcrest Library, Prairie Village, KS" Copyright 2008 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

**Hornbook Guide to Children (01/01/2009):**

Identical twins Raeanne and Kaeleigh alternate first-person accounts of life in an abusive household. Hopkins's verse-novel style effectively showcases her talent for word choice and form. However, the plot's melodrama verges on exploitation as the girls experience explicitly described incest, drug abuse, alcoholism, bulimia, promiscuity, S&M, cutting, suicide, and mental illness. Surprise revelations in the final episodes complicate the conclusion. (Copyright 2009 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Ellen Hopkins was born in Long Beach, California on March 26, 1955. She started her writing career with a number of nonfiction books for children, including *Air Devils* and *Orcas: High Seas Supermen*. She has written about 20 non-fiction books. Her first novel, *Crank*, was written in verse and met with critical acclaim. Her other fiction works include *Burned*, *Impulse*, *Glass*, *Identical*, *Tricks*, *Fallout*, *Perfect*, *Tilt*, *Collateral*, *Smoke* and *Traffick*, which made the New York Times Best-Seller list in 2015.

--BIP, Bowker Author Biography, 12/15/22.

**AWARDS & LISTS**

2011 Young Reader's Choice Award (nominee)

2011 Colorado Blue Spruce Award (nominee)

2009 ALA-YALSA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers

2009 ALA-YALSA Teens' Top Ten List

2016 ALA Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults

2010 ALA Amazing Audiobooks for Young Adults

Pacific Northwest Young Reader's Choice Award Master List

Joan F. Kaywell Book Award (nominee)

NYPL Best Book for Teens

**RESOURCES**

Ingram Content Group, LLC

Books in Print 2.0

Worldcat

Individual library websites (for holdings info)



April 15<sup>th</sup> 2025

Ms. Rosalind Murr

Covington, LA 70433

Dear Ms. Murr,

Thank you for submitting your Statement of Concern regarding *Identical* by Ellen Hopkins. Per the St. Tammany Library Board of Control's policies and procedures, this correspondence is to notify you of the recommendation of the library staff committee regarding the material referenced in your Statement of Concern.

The author is well-known and the book was reviewed positively. *Identical* has circulated 184 times since the library has owned it. It is held in 1,967 other public libraries across the country. The library recognized the mature subject matter and content of this book and, as part of the YA collection review, placed it into the Adult collection based on the presence of sexual conduct.

You asked specifically that this item would be "removed from any children's sections, ask for an ID for check out, and not allowable for a child to download." This book was never shelved in the children's section. It was originally shelved in the YA section and then reviewed and moved after the institution of the library's card system and subsequent YA review. This book does not require an ID to check out but does not check out to a fully-restricted or semi-restricted juvenile card. The downloadable copy of this book does not download to a fully-restricted or semi-restricted juvenile card. It is the recommendation of this committee that the book is appropriate in the adult collection where parents have selected a card with permission to check out from the adult collection.

While we recognize that some may find the material in question not suitable for themselves or their family, that alone does not warrant censoring the public at large from accessing and/or checking out the material. Parents are the ultimate deciders of which books and media their children will consume. At the same time, we do acknowledge that this book may not be in line with the values of all families in the Parish. The purchase of any item by the St. Tammany Parish Library is not an affirmation of the content of the item and each family in our Parish has the right and responsibility to make decisions regarding what they and their own children will read or hear.

---

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
1112 WEST 21<sup>ST</sup> AVENUE COVINGTON, LA 70433  
PH: (985) 871-1219 FAX: (985) 871-1224

ABITA SPRINGS (985) 893-6285

FOLSOM (985) 796-9728

MANDVILLE (985) 626-4293

BUSH (985) 886-3588

LACOMBE (985) 882-7858

PEARL RIVER (985) 863-5518

CAUSEWAY (985) 626-9779

LEE RD (985) 893-6284

SLIDELL (985) 646-6470

COVINGTON (985) 893-6280

MADISONVILLE (985) 845-4819

SOUTH SLIDELL (985) 781-0099



The committee's report and recommendation will be made available to the St. Tammany Library Control Board, which shall make the ultimate determination based thereupon at the next regularly scheduled meeting on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 6:30pm where it will be on the agenda. At that meeting, you will have an opportunity to address the Board for 5 minutes, or alternatively submit a written statement to be included in the record.

Regardless of the outcome, we hope you will recognize the important role that a public library plays in a free and open democratic society as a neutral resource for everyone.

Respectfully,

Kelly LaRocca, Director

---

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
1112 WEST 21<sup>ST</sup> AVENUE COVINGTON, LA 70433  
PH: (985) 871-1219 FAX: (985) 871-1224

ABITA SPRINGS (985) 893-6285

FOLSOM (985) 796-9728

MANDEVILLE (985) 626-4293

BUSH (985) 886-3588

LACOMBE (985) 882-7858

PEARL RIVER (985) 863-5518

CAUSEWAY (985) 626-9779

LEE RD (985) 893-6284

SLIDELL (985) 646-6470

COVINGTON (985) 893-6280

MADISONVILLE (985) 845-4819

SOUTH SLIDELL (985) 781-0099



## ***Statement of Concern about Library Resources***

Intellectual freedom in a public library necessitates selecting some materials that may be considered controversial by some individuals or groups. Reasons often cited for materials considered offensive include use of profanity, divergent viewpoints, controversial authors, sexual content, and depictions of violence and criminal acts. The acquisition of such materials does not imply approval or endorsement of their contents. The selection criteria used by the St. Tammany Parish Library must remain broad and flexible in order to provide a collection that supports the broad range of interests and diverse backgrounds of the citizens of St. Tammany Parish.

Date 11-22-2022

Name Rosalind Murr

City Covington State La Zip 70433

Representing \_\_\_\_\_ (self) \_\_\_\_\_ (organization)

1. Resource on which you are commenting:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Book	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Magazine	<input type="checkbox"/> Content of Library Program	
<input type="checkbox"/> Audiovisual	<input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Resource	

2. Title Lawn Boy

Author/Producer Jonathon Evison

3. What brought this title to your attention?

I heard it had questionable material and upon reading was horrified!

4. Did you review the entire item? If not, what sections did you review?

I read the book in its entirety.

5. What course of action do you recommend in regard to this resource?

Remove it from any children's sections, ask for ID to check out and not allowable for a minor to download.

6. Please state your reasons for making this recommendation. To what in the resource do you object? Please be specific: cite pages, scenes or sections. Consider commenting on the resource as a whole, as well as being specific on the matters which concern you.

This is breaking child

7. In its place, what materials would you recommend on this topic?

Something that does not break state obscenity laws for children.

NOTE:

This statement will be referred to a Library Resource Review Committee. You will be advised in writing of the committee's decision. Thank you for your concern and input.

## ***Lawn Boy* by Jonathan Evison**

Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 2018

Publisher's summary: Mike Muñoz is a young Mexican American not too many years out of high school--and just fired from his latest gig as a lawn boy on a landscaping crew. Though he tries time and again to get his foot on the first rung of that ladder to success, he can't seem to get a break. But then things start to change for Mike, and after a raucous, jarring, and challenging trip, he finds he can finally see the future and his place in it.

Library of Congress Subject headings:

Mexican Americans, Social conditions, Fiction.

Working class, Social aspects, Fiction.

American Dream, Fiction.

Bildungsromans.

STPL owns four copies at Covington, Mandeville, Slidell, and South Slidell.

Purchased in March 2018. Available on shelf in April 2018.

Shelved in Adult Fiction collection. Call number Fic Evis

Total Circulation of all book copies: 24

One E-book and one E-audiobook available in Overdrive.

One E-audiobook available in Cloud Library.

E-audiobook available in Hoopla.

## REVIEWS

*Library Journal* (01/01/2018):

Mike Munoz just can't seem to get ahead. It's one crappy landscaping job after another. He likes being outside and dreams of creating elaborate topiary but can't stand working for "the man." Mike is his own worst enemy. He spends most of his free time taking care of his disabled adult brother Nate, a tyrant addicted to *Despicable Me* and Oreos. The rest of his time is spent grubbing quarters out of the sofa to scrape together enough to buy dinner at Mitzel's so he can catch a glimpse of his favorite waitress. But he has a plan for self-improvement, and it involves the library. There are unlimited books, free AC, and an earnest librarian, Andrew, who might just be the one to help him see his authentic self. VERDICT Readers who are uncomfortable with the author's frequent use of profanity and vulgarity will miss out on a deeply real portrait of an everyday Joe just trying to find his way. Evison combines humor, honesty, and anger with an insightful commentary on class that's also an effective coming-of-age novel. [See Prepub Alert, 10/16/17; library marketing.]--Christine Perkins, Whatcom Cty. Lib. Syst., Bellingham, WA Copyright 2018 Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

*Publishers Weekly* (02/05/2018):

This moving fifth novel from Evison (*This is Your Life, Harriet Chance*) enters the wry, conflicted mind of Mike Munoz, a recently fired yard worker with a real talent for topiary and a genuine love for landscaping. When Mike is sacked after refusing to comply with a client's orders to pick up after his dog, he takes refuge in the one place in the world that's always welcomed him: the library. As he tries to figure out what to do next, Mike contemplates writing the "Great American Landscaping Novel"--the sort of novel he'd like to read--but writing novels, he realizes, isn't for people like him: "landscapers, especially unemployed ones... had bills to pay. Cars to fix. Disabled siblings to care for." Evison convincingly evokes the small disasters and humiliations that beset America's working poor. Mike's gradual growth into self-awareness is punctuated by moments of human kindness and grace that transpire in and among broken-down trucks, trailer parks, and strip malls. Focusing on the workers who will only ever be welcome in gated communities as hired help, Evison's quiet novel beautifully considers the deterioration of the American Dream. *Agent: Mollie Glick, Foundry Literary + Media. (Apr.)* Copyright 2018 Publishers Weekly, LLC Used with permission.

*Kirkus Reviews* (03/01/2018):

An aimless young man decides to get his life together, but life has other plans. Mike Muñoz doesn't quite know what he wants out of life, but he knows he deserves better than what he's got now: a terrible job cutting lawns, a truck that barely runs, and a tiny house packed with a disabled brother, an exhausted mother, and his mother's broke boyfriend who likes to watch porn in the living room while jamming on his bass guitar. Soon enough, however, he doesn't even have the job or the truck, and, in an ill-fated attempt to guilt-trip his mom into kicking out her boyfriend, Mike takes up residence in a shed in the backyard. Despite the steady stream of bad luck and worse decisions, Evison (*This Is Your Life Harriet Chance*, 2015, etc.) brings genuine humor to Mike's trials and tribulations. The writing is razor-sharp, and Evison has an unerring eye for the small details that snap a scene or a character into focus. The first-person narration turns Mike into a living, breathing person, and the reader can't help but get pulled into his worldview. "After all, most of us are mowing someone else's lawn, one way or another, and most of us can't afford to travel the world or live in New York City. Most of us feel like the world is giving us a big fat middle finger when it's not kicking us in the face with a steel-toed boot. And most of us feel powerless. Motivated but powerless." The novel has a light tone and is laugh-out-loud funny at times, but at a certain point, Mike's trials and tribulations move from comically frustrating to just frustrating. With so much going wrong for him, the reader can expect that the universe will smile on Mike eventually, but there's only so many sick family members, unpaid bills, bad jobs, awkward situations, and thwarted plans a character can suffer through. We root for Mike while also wishing we didn't have to root so hard. A book about triumphing over obstacles, and obstacles, and obstacles, and more obstacles. COPYRIGHT(2018) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

*Booklist* (03/01/2018):

**\*Starred Review\*** Meet Mike Muñoz, a 22-year-old landscaper who spends his days mowing lawns and edging flower beds, his evenings taking care of his disabled brother, and his nights dreaming about elaborate topiary and writing the great American novel. When Mike is fired for

refusing to pick up rain-sodden St. Bernard feces, he embarks on a path of self-discovery that introduces an eccentric cast of characters, including a shrewd entrepreneur with questionable business practices, an ambitious but unscrupulous realtor, an eccentric housemate who provides bass guitar accompaniment while watching classic porn, a group of hipster bearded baristas who favor artisanal sandwiches, and Andrew, a philosophical librarian with an activist streak. Evison (*This Is Your Life, Harriet Chance!* 2015) excels at finding the humanity in his characters, and even the most loathsome are given redeeming qualities. This tender bildungsroman follows Mike from one setback to another, each interaction involving slyly observant and brilliantly witty dialogue that also poignantly conveys vulnerability. Evison skillfully weaves the American Dream into a subtle social novel to illustrate how race and class can thwart aspiration. In his bighearted portrayal of Mike Muñoz, Evison has created an indelible human spirit content to live authentically, which just might prove to be the true American dream. For readers of Sam Lipsyte and Jonathan Tropper. (Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2018, American Library Association.)

*School Library Journal* (03/01/2018):

Eminently readable and deeply thought-provoking, Evison's deceptively simple novel takes on tough issues such as race, sexual identity, and the crushing weight of American capitalism. Mike Muñoz, the 22-year-old biracial (Mexican and white) narrator, has grown up dirt-poor with his hardworking waiter mother and his brother, who is developmentally disabled. The narrative follows Mike's attempts at several other jobs after he's fired from his lawn-mowing gig while he works on his love life and tries to help out his family. After Mike recounts a great disappointment involving his biological father in the first chapter, one of several themes emerges as Mike encounters several potential father figures (often bosses), each with his own deeply flawed philosophy of life. From the cutthroat capitalism of his first boss to the upper-class cronyism of an old high school pal, each man personifies aspects of Mike's life that he cannot stand, even while he learns valuable lessons from them. Meanwhile, other story lines fix on Mike's underdeveloped understanding of his sexuality, which is not helped by the rampant homophobia and sexism of his best friend, and his equally conflicted understanding of his ethnic identity. Unfortunately, Evison's often infective enthusiasm for his preponderance of ideas weighs down the demands of the plot. Nevertheless, the passion with which Mike and Evison share these ideas redeems the novel. VERDICT Give this flawed but exciting coming-of-age story to teens eager to engage with heavy and timely political issues.--Mark Flowers, *Rio Vista Library, CA* Copyright 2018 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

*Shelf Awareness* (04/20/2018):

Mike Muñoz, the endearing protagonist of *Lawn Boy*, Jonathan Evison's fifth novel (*West of Here, The Revised Fundamentals of Caregiving*), is 22 and lives in a trailer on the rez in Suquamish, on Puget Sound. His chain-smoking mother works double shifts at the Tide's Inn while Mike babysits Nate, his developmentally disabled big brother, and spends his spare time reading books like *The Octopus* and *The Jungle*.

He works for a lawn service and loves his job--fresh air and satisfaction. He's also something of a savant with topiary. On Tuesdays, the company goes to Bainbridge Island--home to the

wealthy and sheltered. Mike's boss sends him to the McClures to clean up their St. Bernard's dumps. It quickly goes to sh\*t, so to say, and Mike is fired.

Arrayed against him is a culture of poverty. He finds several new jobs, none of which work out. His mower gets stolen, his truck breaks down permanently, he loses a bit of his soul working for a real estate hustler.

*Lawn Boy* is empathetic and angry in its portrayal of class, poverty, discrimination--destroyers of dreams. But Mike perseveres--"I had poetry in my heart, goddammit"--and learns to blaze his own trail. He "gets his mow on"; he even finds unexpected true love. In Evison's tough and wry novel, Mike Muñoz is every person who wants a living wage and a little dignity, "the opportunity to think beyond sustenance long enough to dream." --Marilyn Dahl  
COPYRIGHT(2018) Shelf Awareness, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

Jonathan Evison is the author of the novels *All About Lulu*, *West of Here*, *The Revised Fundamentals of Caregiving*, *This Is Your Life*, *Harriet Chance!*, *Lawn Boy*, and *Legends of the North Cascades*. He lives with his wife and family in Washington State.

#### AWARDS AND LISTS:

Alex Award 2019 (The Alex Awards are given to ten books written for adults that have special appeal to young adults, ages 12 through 18.)



April 15<sup>th</sup> 2025

Ms. Rosalind Murr

Covington, LA 70433

Dear Ms. Murr,

Thank you for submitting your Statement of Concern regarding *Lawn Boy* by Jonathan Evison. Per the St. Tammany Library Board of Control's policies and procedures, this correspondence is to notify you of the recommendation of the library staff committee regarding the material referenced in your Statement of Concern.

The book was reviewed positively. *Lawn Boy* has circulated 24 times. It is held in 1,744 other public libraries across the country. The library recognized the mature subject matter and content of this book and placed it into the Adult collection upon purchase.

You asked specifically that this item would be "removed from any children's sections, ask for an ID for check out, and not allowable for a child to download." This book was never shelved in the children's section. It has always been part of the Adult collection. This book does not require an ID to check out but does not check out to a fully-restricted or semi-restricted juvenile card. The downloadable copy of this book does not download to a fully-restricted or semi-restricted juvenile card. It is the recommendation of this committee that the book is appropriate in the adult collection where only adults or minors whose parents have selected a card with permission to check out from the adult collection can check out the book.

While we recognize that some may find the material in question not suitable for themselves or their family, that alone does not warrant censoring the public at large from accessing and/or checking out the material. Parents are the ultimate deciders of which books and media their children will consume. At the same time, we do acknowledge that this book may not be in line with the values of all families in the Parish. The purchase of any item by the St. Tammany Parish Library is not an affirmation of the content of the item and each family in our Parish has the right and responsibility to make decisions regarding what they and their own children will read or hear.

---

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
1112 WEST 21<sup>ST</sup> AVENUE COVINGTON, LA 70433  
PH: (985) 871-1219 FAX: (985) 871-1224

ABITA SPRINGS (985) 893-6285

FOLSOM (985) 796-9728

MANDENVILLE (985) 626-4293

BUSH (985) 886-3588

LACOMBE (985) 882-7858

PEARL RIVER (985) 863-5518

CAUSEWAY (985) 626-9779

LEE RD (985) 893-6284

SLIDELL (985) 646-6470

COVINGTON (985) 893-6280

MADISONVILLE (985) 845-4819

SOUTH SLIDELL (985) 781-0099



The committee's report and recommendation will be made available to the St. Tammany Library Control Board, which shall make the ultimate determination based thereupon at the next regularly scheduled meeting on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 6:30pm where it will be on the agenda. At that meeting, you will have an opportunity to address the Board for 5 minutes, or alternatively submit a written statement to be included in the record.

Regardless of the outcome, we hope you will recognize the important role that a public library plays in a free and open democratic society as a neutral resource for everyone.

Respectfully,

Kelly LaRocca, Director

---

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
1112 WEST 21<sup>ST</sup> AVENUE COVINGTON, LA 70433  
PH: (985) 871-1219 FAX: (985) 871-1224

ABITA SPRINGS (985) 893-6285

FOLSOM (985) 796-9728

MANDEVILLE (985) 626-4293

BUSH (985) 886-3588

LACOMBE (985) 882-7858

PEARL RIVER (985) 863-5518

CAUSEWAY (985) 626-9779

LEE RD (985) 893-6284

SLIDELL (985) 646-6470

COVINGTON (985) 893-6280

MADISONVILLE (985) 845-4819

SOUTH SLIDELL (985) 781-0099