

AGENDA

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING Marshalltown Library Board of Trustees

Tuesday, August 20, 2024
Library Community Meeting Room
In Person & ZOOM
5 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Board Member Tonya Gaffney, President
 Kevin Pink, Vice President
 Judy Lindholm, Secretary
 Ashtyn Beek
 Erik Hall
 Maureen Lyons
 Ruzan Morrison

BUSINESS:

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment
Members of the public may address the Board at the beginning of the meeting during the public comment agenda item. Individual comments are limited to no more than 3 minutes for a total of 30 minutes. If more than 10 individuals sign up to speak then speakers are limited to 2 minutes for a total of 30 minutes. Individuals addressing the Board must sign in with name and address 5 minutes before the meeting starts. In order to comply with open meeting laws and proper meeting procedure, the Board cannot engage in discussion or debate during the public comment period. Speakers should stand at the indicated position.
3. Board Comment
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. Approval of the Minutes July 16, 2024
6. Review and approval of bills to be paid August 20, 2024
7. Links to statistics
 - a. Circulation statistics:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1xINqZUi1UHcUdEUcpsdBNWTbeFGZslulZ6D0JYBtmTc/edit?usp=sharing>
 - b. Program statistics:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1r82wLlAWBEYzv5u-6Vp0sStK1dvIWCC4AFpf-PE3SnQ/edit?usp=sharing_eil_m&invite=CISYjuQP&ts=61154930
8. Old Business
9. New Business
 - a. Budget

- b. Staffing update
- c. Statement of Concern & Book Reviews
- d. Staff reports
- e. Director's report

Marshalltown Public Library is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Library Board Meeting

Time: [Aug 20](#), 2024 05:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84835987430?pwd=Rmw5ZTRlNnBuTzIxL2NQSkHSDBUQT09>

Meeting ID: 848 3598 7430

Passcode: 909065

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,84835987430#,,,,*909065# US (New York)

+16469313860,,84835987430#,,,,*909065# US

Dial by your location

- +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
- +1 646 931 3860 US
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
- +1 305 224 1968 US
- +1 309 205 3325 US
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 386 347 5053 US
- +1 507 473 4847 US
- +1 564 217 2000 US
- +1 669 444 9171 US
- +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
- +1 689 278 1000 US
- +1 719 359 4580 US
- +1 253 205 0468 US
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
- +1 360 209 5623 US

Meeting ID: 848 3598 7430

Passcode: 909065

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kdJ9CeQ9Ph>

**Marshalltown Public Library
Board of Trustees
July 16, 2024**

Members Present: Tonya Gaffney, Kevin Pink, Ashtyn Beek, Erik Hall, Ruzan Morrison

Absent: Judy Lindholm, Maureen Lyons

Staff: Sarah Rosenblum, Joa LaVille, Katie Fink

Recording Secretary: Sandy Gowdy

President Tonya Gaffney called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

Public comment: John Worden, Pete Grady and Michael Donahey spoke during public comment.

Board Comment: None offered.

Approval of the Agenda: The agenda was approved as corrected. (changed Wednesday to Tuesday)

Approval of the June 18, 2024 Minutes: Moved/Seconded (Morrison/Hall) Passed.

Operating Bills: Moved/Seconded (Hall/Beek) to approve the bills. Passed.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business:

A: Budget: Will be moving ahead with the new fiscal year budget and assume no changes in the budget that the city has agreed to backfill for one year.

B: Library Report to City Council: Tonya and Sarah will report to City Council on July 22.

A "Year in Numbers" report was shared with the board and will be presented to the Council.

C: Staff Reports:

Katie: Dr. Jeff Stein gave a program, "Iowa Broadcasters Going to War." KCCI Sports Reporter, Scott Reister, will present and sign copies of his book, Baseball Spy. An author series, in partnership with Beaverdale Books, is being planned for the fall.

Joa: Summer is half over! There has been great turnout for storytimes, lunches, special programs, (including GIANT dinosaurs!) and individual reading.

Newberry Award winner, Pedro Martin, will be coming to Lenihan in the fall.

D: Director's Report:

--Carol Webb has been hired as the new City Administrator. She will begin Sept.3.

--City Council election for Ward 4 is taking place today.

--City employees got a raise on July 1.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, August 20 at 5:00pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:44pm

Staff Report

Public Library week of June 30 - July 6, 2024

--Youth programs: Elim school-aged field trip, two sessions of summer lunch, STEM activities with ISU Extension, 4th of July storytime with a "fireworks" painting wall, Conversation Partners (for adults, including parents with children, held in youth.)

--Joa submitted the final report for the Small Talk early literacy grant from IRVECA.

--Sarah completed and filed required state reports for Direct State Aid and Open Access report.

--Sarah participated in City Administrator interview with candidate on Go to Meeting.

--Sarah prepared for All Iowa Reads book discussion.

Public Library week of July 7 - July 13, 2024

--Youth Programs: Elim school-aged field trip, Bobcat Academy school-aged field trip (STEM with Consumer's Energy), two days of summer lunch, Guitar Singalong event with the Storytime crowd, Comics Workshop for school-aged kids, Play Day, Crochet Club, Conversation Partners (adult/family English speaking practice).

--Library Board packet was prepared and sent out.

--Library hosted 2 book discussions (afternoon & evening session) for the All Iowa Reads book "The Seed Keeper".

--Library submitted our quarterly collection holdings report to the State of Library Online (SILO) which is a joint resource from the State and Iowa State University Library. Silo offers resource sharing services, including the Iowa Locator, which is the statewide union catalog used to locate library items, and the SILO Interlibrary Loan System.

--Fun fact. Marshalltown lends out more books to other Iowa Libraries than we borrow due to the robust nature of our collection.

Public Library week of July 14 – July 20, 2024

--The library hosted "life sized" dinosaurs from Feller Express on Sunday in two sessions (including a dinosaur themed play area and book displays). Close to 350 people came out to meet the dinosaurs (3 large and 2 babies) and enjoy the program.

--Bobcat University Lenihan students came in two groups of approximately 40 each to tour the library and enjoy catapult-assembly and launch activities for a special STEM activity planned by the Emerson We Love STEM Day committee. The library has partnered for the past 4 summers with Emerson to connect youth with engaging STEM activities.

--Other youth programs: Elim school-aged field trip, Bobcat Academy school-aged field trip (Lego Simple Machines), 2 sessions of summer lunch, storytime on the West Lawn with cardboard "maker" activity afterward, Play Day, Crochet Club, Bobcat University field trip from Hoglan.

--Joa hosted and attended the Community Response Coalition meeting, which is co-coordinated with CAPS and attended by many professionals representing a variety of organizations in Marshall County, including social service, health, education, etc.

--Joa, Katie, and Sarah attended the July Library Board of Trustees meeting on Tuesday night.

Public Library week of July 21 – July 27, 2024

No report available.

Public Library week of July 28 – August 3, 2024

--Youth programs: Elim school-aged field trip, Bobcat Academy school-aged field trip, hosting Minami Alps Japanese students on exchange and their student hosts, storytime with guest presenters from Grimes Farm/Marshall County Conversation, 2 summer lunch serving sessions, outreach storytime to Head Start babies/toddlers & preschool room, outreach storytime to Y preschool, Play Day, Crochet Club, Franklin Bobcat University student field trip.

Joa met with Ely Medina, chair for kids' activities at the upcoming Festival Cultural event downtown in September. The library has participated in this festival since its inception a few years ago.

--Joa connected with Karin Stein of Artes Latina about a family program coming up in August featuring Calle Sur, the first in a yearlong series of arts and cultural programs being offered through an Iowa Humanities grant and in partnership with many community organizations, including the school district, Arts & Culture Alliance, etc.

--Fall program planning is underway, including a Newbery-award winning author Pedro Martin, who will visit Marshalltown for multiple programs to a variety of audiences in October, the mapping out of regularly occurring school-year programming like ARL visits to storytime and preschool outreach, and more. The library extended summer youth programming by a few weeks this year, due to the delayed school year start, which means fall planning is overlapping with active summer programming, without the usual summer wrap-up program break.

--Sarah, Joa & Katie interviewed a candidate for the soon to be vacant Librarian position.

--Sarah updated the Martha Ellen Tye Foundation regarding future library plans for interior renovation works.

[illegible][illegible]

Bills paid in August 2024

Adland Engraving	employee nametag	\$10.95
Amazon	books, DVDs and supplies	\$1,743.04
AT&T bill payment	AT&T charges	\$33.76
Baker & Taylor	books, DVDs and supplies	\$4,402.30
BDH	desktop cables, cord	\$55.00
Book Farm LLC	juvenile books	\$219.55
Brodart	juvenile books	\$2,342.33
Cengage	Large-type books	\$631.26
Center Point	Large-type books	\$314.01
Culligan	office supplies - bottled water	\$31.70
Des Moines Botanical Gardens	adventurepass - botanical gardens	\$150.00
Do Art Productions	comic book workshop	\$600.00
Downtown Library	replacement cost for lost ILL book	\$17.00
Facebook	advertising	\$10.00
First Book	juvenile books	\$1,143.77
Heart of Iowa	internet	\$135.14
Hser, Jerry	refund for lost book	\$7.99
HY-VEE	program supply - lemonade	\$11.38
Kids Reference	j books	\$243.53
Lenz Mowing	contract mowing	\$825.00
MENARDS	bottled water, US flag	\$24.78
Paw, Dah	refund for lost book	\$17.99
Pitney Bowes	monthly postage machine rental	\$30.00
Ruopp, Megan	refund for lost book	\$15.00
Schendel	Bi-monthly pest control, one time spray	\$104.26
ServiceMaster	cleaning service	\$1,934.00
Shadden, Paige	refund for lost book	\$14.95
Shred-it	shredding services	\$55.13
Taw, Paw	refund for lost book	\$9.99
Times-Republican	newspaper subscription	\$215.80
USPS PO	first class stamps	\$733.00
V&V Storage	vehicle storage rental	\$420.00
VERIZON	Hotspots for library	\$361.79
Weblinx	hourly website design changes	\$1,100.00
Xerox	overages	\$38.22
		<u>\$18,002.62</u>

June 2024	June. 2024	last year
Electric	\$2,560.07	\$3,926.30
Gas	\$253.94	\$0.00
Total	\$2,814.01	\$3,926.30

July 2024	July 2024	last year
Electric	\$4,071.02	\$4,439.36
Gas	\$195.92	\$97.45
Total	\$4,266.94	\$4,536.81



City of Marshalltown, IA

Budget Report
Account Summary
For Fiscal: 2024-2025 Period Ending: 08/31/2024

Fund: 001 - GENERAL FUND									
Revenue									
		Original Total Budget	Current Total Budget	Period Activity	Fiscal Activity	Encumbrances	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)	Percent Used	
001.4010.4011.000	DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES	0	0	0	4.94	0	4.94	0	
001.4010.4040.000	PROPERTY TAXES CURRENT LIBRARY	0	0	0	1689.14	0	1689.14	0	
001.4010.4150.000	CURRENT MOBILE HOME TAXES	0	0	0	4.65	0	4.65	0	
001.4010.4330.000	STATE OPER GRANT	14932	14,932.00	0	0	0	-14932	0	
001.4010.4332.000	AGED INCOME CREDIT	0	0	0	166.38	0	166.38	0	
001.4010.4337.000	MOBILE HOME CREDIT	0	0	0	0.49	0	0.49	0	
001.4010.4350.000	LOCAL/COUNTY GRANTS	41686	41,686.00	0	125	0	-41561	0.3	
001.4010.4493.000	LIBRARY BOOK CHRGS	3300	3,300.00	0	357.39	0	-2942.61	10.83	
001.4010.4550.000	LIBRARY FINES	500	500	0	77.31	0	-422.69	15.46	
001.4010.4875.000	RFNDS/REIMB: LIBRARY	100	100	0	374.83	0	274.83	374.83	
001.4010.4876.000	MISC REV	7800	7,800.00	0	597.35	0	-7202.65	7.66	
Revenue Total:		68318	68318	0	3397.48	0	-64920.52	0.04973	
Expense									
001.4010.5010.010	REGULAR-NON UNION	612838	612,838.00	43120.7	88412.27	0	524425.73	14.43	
001.4010.5020.010	OVERTIME-NON UNION	0	0	0	116.48	0	-116.48	0	
001.4010.5050.060	PART-TIME REGULAR	307238	307,238.00	18558.27	38035.77	0	269202.23	12.38	
001.4010.5101.010	SOCIAL SECURITY-NON UNION	37996	37,996.00	2547.29	5236.39	0	32759.61	13.78	
001.4010.5101.060	SOCIAL SECURITY-PT REGULAR	19049	19,049.00	1150.63	2358.23	0	16690.77	12.38	
001.4010.5102.010	MEDICARE-NON UNION	8886	8,886.00	595.76	1224.67	0	7661.33	13.78	
001.4010.5102.060	MEDICARE-PT REGULAR	4455	4,455.00	269.08	551.51	0	3903.49	12.38	
001.4010.5111.010	IPERS-NON UNION	57852	57,852.00	4070.61	8357.13	0	49494.87	14.45	
001.4010.5111.060	IPERS-PT REGULAR	29003	29,003.00	1746.34	3578.63	0	25424.37	12.34	
001.4010.5121.010	GRP INSUR-NON UNION	100769	100,769.00	7392.46	14784.92	0	85984.08	14.67	
001.4010.5121.060	RETIRES GRP HLTH INS	4474	4,474.00	0	446.99	0	4027.01	9.99	
001.4010.5122.000	WORKCOMP-NON UNION	1035	1,035.00	66.8	137.14	0	897.86	13.25	
001.4010.5123.010	WORKCOMP-PT REGULAR	519	519	28.75	58.91	0	460.09	11.35	
001.4010.5123.060	PHYSICALS/IMMUNIZATIONS	800	800	0	0	0	800	0	
001.4010.5151.000	ADVERTISING & LEGAL PUB	200	200	0	0	0	200	0	
001.4010.5215.000	BANK CHARGES	700	700	0	63.85	0	636.15	9.12	
001.4010.5216.000	BACKGROUND CHECKS	120	120	0	0	0	120	0	
001.4010.5251.000	LICENSE & PERMITS	750	750	0	0	0	750	0	
001.4010.5280.000	DUES, MEMBER, SUBSCRIPTN	1600	1,600.00	0	2161.93	0	-561.93	135.12	
001.4010.5290.000	INSURANCE - GENERAL	38734	38,734.00	0	0	0	38734	0	

Budget Report

For Fiscal: 2024-2025 Period Ending: 08/31/2024

	Original Total Budget	Current Total Budget	Period Activity	Fiscal Activity	Encumbrances	Variance		Percent Used
						Favorable (Unfavorable)		
001.4010.5300.000	INSURANCE - TORT LIAB	8165	0	0	0	8165	0	0
001.4010.5342.000	CONTRACT-OUTSIDE HELP	28600	534	2820.94	0	2579.06	9.86	
001.4010.5343.000	CONTRACT-PROMOTIONS/PGMS	6500	0	1125	0	5375	17.31	
001.4010.5344.000	CONTRACT-MAINTENANCE	20000	0	375.14	0	19624.86	1.88	
001.4010.5347.000	CONTRACT-SOFTWARE MAINT	15000	633.13	1266.26	6331.3	7402.44	50.65	
001.4010.5360.000	POSTAGE & SHIPPING	2000	0	0	0	2000	0	
001.4010.5370.000	PRINTING & BINDING	300	0	0	0	300	0	
001.4010.5380.000	RENTS & LEASES	400	0	420	0	-20	105	
001.4010.5386.000	CONTRACT LAWN CARE	4400	0	660	0	3740	15	
001.4010.5410.000	REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	9000	363.96	1291.88	0	7708.12	14.35	
001.4010.5450.000	TELEPHONE/OTHR COMMNCN	6800	0	459.72	0	6340.28	6.76	
001.4010.5460.000	CONFERENCE EXPENSE	500	0	0	0	500	0	
001.4010.5464.000	TRAVEL-PER DIEM	200	0	0	0	200	0	
001.4010.5465.000	TRAVEL - HOTEL/MOTEL	500	0	0	0	500	0	
001.4010.5481.000	ELECTRICITY	49500	0	8870.13	0	40629.87	17.92	
001.4010.5482.000	NATURAL GAS	10500	0	195.12	0	10304.88	1.86	
001.4010.5485.000	STORM WATER FEES	1101	0	0	0	1101	0	
001.4010.5565.000	VEHICLE OPER/MAINT SPLY	2000	0	0	0	2000	0	
001.4010.5570.000	VEHICLE GAS	5000	0	0	0	5000	0	
001.4010.5600.000	OPERATING SUPPLIES	24000	225.08	1047.79	0	22952.21	4.37	
001.4010.5601.000	PROMOTION/PROGRAM SPLY	2500	0	22.83	0	2477.17	0.91	
001.4010.5605.000	OFFICE SUPPLIES	1500	0	74.18	0	1425.82	4.95	
001.4010.5611.000	BLDG,GRD OPER/MAINT SPLY	1500	0	0	0	1500	0	
001.4010.5612.000	COMPUTER COMPONENTS	500	0	0	0	500	0	
001.4010.5703.000	MINOR COMPUTER	7000	0	0	0	7000	0	
001.4010.5704.000	MINOR SOFTWARE <\$5,000	0	0	750	0	-750	0	
001.4010.5718.000	MINOR EQUIP, UNCLASSIFIED	13930	0	0	0	13930	0	
001.4010.5730.000	REFERENCE MATERIALS	8500	0	0	0	8500	0	
001.4010.5731.000	LIBRARY PERIODICALS	9000	0	1210.82	0	7789.18	13.45	
001.4010.5733.000	INTER-LIBRARY LOAN BOOKS	0	0	30.24	0	-30.24	0	
001.4010.5734.000	LOST BOOKS	4100	0	0	0	4100	0	
001.4010.5736.000	LIBRARY DATABASES	24000	0	6921.84	0	17078.16	28.84	
001.4010.5980.000	REFUNDS/REIMB	0	0	102.87	0	-102.87	0	
001.4010.5990.000	CASH SHORT & (OVER)	0	0	-1	0	1	0	
Expense Total:	1494014	1494014	81302.86	193168.58	6331.3	1294514.12	0.133533	
Fund: 001 - GENERAL FUND Surplus (Deficit):	-1425696	-1425696	-81302.86	-189771.1	-6331.3	1229593.6	0.137549	

Budget Report

For Fiscal: 2024-2025 Period Ending: 08/31/2024

Fund: 030 - CAPITAL RESERVE

Expense

030.4010.5732.000

Library Books - Printed

	Original Total Budget	Current Total Budget	Period Activity	Fiscal Activity	Encumbrances	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)	Percent Used
	114000	114,000.00	0	7076.32	0	106923.68	6.21
Expense Total:	114000	114000	0	7076.32	0	106923.68	0.062073
Fund: 030 - CAPITAL RESERVE Total:	114000	114000	0	7076.32	0	106923.68	0.062073

Fund: 170 - LIBRARY DONATION FUND

Revenue

170.4010.4820.000
170.4010.4822.000
170.4010.4823.000
170.4010.4875.000

LIBRARY DONATIONS
LIBRARY GENELOGY DONATINS
MEMORIAL BOOK DONATIONS
RFNDS/REIMB. LIBRARY

	620000	620,000.00	0	1077.39	0	-618922.61	0.17
	75	75	0	15	0	-60	20
	2000	2,000.00	0	893.56	0	-1106.44	44.68
	0	0	0	339	0	339	0
Revenue Total:	622075	622075	0	2324.95	0	-619750.05	0.003737

Expense

170.4010.5450.000
170.4010.5600.000
170.4010.5601.000
170.4010.5612.000
170.4010.5718.000
170.4010.5731.000
170.4010.5732.000
170.4010.5734.000
170.4010.5776.000

TELEPHONE/OTHER COMMNCN
OPERATING SUPPLIES
PROMOTION/PROGRAM SPPLY
COMPUTER COMPONENTS
MINOR EQUIP. UNCLASSIFIED
LIBRARY PERIODICALS
LIBRARY BOOKS, FILM RCRD
MEMORIAL BOOKS
BUILDINGS & IMPROVEMENTS

	0	0	0	400.1	0	-400.1	0
	1500	1,500.00	0	0	0	1500	0
	10000	10,000.00	0	0	0	10000	0
	1100	1,100.00	0	0	0	1100	0
	90	90	0	0	0	90	0
	50	50	0	0	0	50	0
	20000	20,000.00	0	18.69	0	19981.31	0.09
	2000	2,000.00	0	111.42	0	1888.58	5.57
	600000	600,000.00	0	0	0	600000	0
Expense Total:	634740	634740	0	530.21	0	634209.79	0.000835

Fund: 170 - LIBRARY DONATION FUND Surplus (Deficit):

	-12665	-12665	0	1794.74	0	14459.74	-0.141709
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Report Surplus (Deficit):

	-1552361	-1552361	-81302.86	-195052.68	-6331.3	1350977.02	0.129728
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Fund Summary

Fund	Original Total Budget	Current Total Budget	Period Activity	Fiscal Activity	Encumbrances	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
001 - GENERAL FUND	-1425696	-1425696	-81302.86	-189771.1	-6331.3	1229593.6
030 - CAPITAL RESERVE	-114000	-114000	0	-7076.32	0	106923.68
170 - LIBRARY DONATION FUND	-12665	-12665	0	1794.74	0	14459.74
Report Surplus (Deficit):	-1552361	-1552361	-81302.86	-195052.68	-6331.3	1350977.02

5. In the case of a patron challenging or objecting to multiple items at once, the challenges will be reviewed based upon the availability of the Library Director, Library Board members and staff or stakeholders comprising any review committees deemed necessary.

STATEMENT OF CONCERN
Marshalltown Public Library

Only written concerns will be considered by the Library Board of Trustees. Please be aware that if this title has already been considered by the board within the last five years, no further action will be taken at this time. Please return this form in person, by mail, or by email to the Library Director.

d7h...

1. If you have a general concern about a subject area or policy, please comment below:

I want my children to be innocent and not pushed by the Agenda of Confusing their gender. I've seen "2mummy" book sitting front and center of children's Book (on the green tree book display). We believe God made boys boy biologically and any other push is Destructive, Confusing and Evil.
How would you suggest the library remedy this concern? (e.g. what books need to be added; points of view reflected)

Do Not buy and Promote Gender Confusion and grooming
Bring in good Character books rather than this, or about God and His Love and how we are created Perfectly and Just

2. If you wish to comment on a specific item, please note the author and title below:

Title: the little library

Author: Margaret McNamara

Format: ☒ Picture Book ☐ Audiobook ☐ DVD ☐ Magazine/Newspaper ☐ Other

What brought this item to your attention? In children's area picked this cute innocent book. It is nice story but it subtly added Pronouns and gender confusing ideas.

Please comment on the item as a whole as well as being specific on those matters which concern you. This book portrays Non Gender Librarian - Grooming child - even sending personal gift to his home address. Making it "Nice" and "Nice" yet this is Confusing and Grammatically Wrong to call a person "they" as on page 5 & 9. This Ruined a otherwise Cute story. Please I'd ask to remove book. Thank You

Editorial REVIEWS for *Little Free Library* by Margaret McNamara

Brodart's TOP Juvenile Titles | 03/01/2021

Publisher Annotation: Everyone in Mr. Tiffin's class couldn't be more excited that the new school library has finally opened. Everyone except Jake. Jake is a slow and careful reader. Sometimes he reads the same page more than once to figure everything out. And he often feels left behind on class Library Day. All that changes when Librarian Beck notices Jake running his fingers across the grooves of a brand-new bookshelf and offers him an old, worn book: *Woodworking for Young Hands*. Jake checks the book out, studies the pictures and instructions, and renews the book again and again. When the school year comes to an end, Jake has the perfect gift idea for the librarian who changed his life--and he makes it with his own two hands. Mr. Tiffin's classroom series series, 40pp., Color Ill.

Starred Reviews:

Kirkus Reviews | 01/15/2021

A school librarian helps their student succeed as a reader and grow as a community member. While there are many picture books about libraries, librarians, books, and reading, this fifth installment in McNamara and Karas' series about Mr. Tiffin's class is a standout. Not only does Librarian Beck offer Jake compassionate encouragement through careful reader's advisory and reassuring comments about his reading preferences, they also present as nonbinary with they/them pronouns and clothing and hairstyling that resist strict gender norms. The matter-of-fact inclusion of this character is groundbreaking, especially since Librarian Beck's gender is not a focus of the story. Instead, Jake's early resistance to reading and then his immersion in *Woodworking for Young Hands* define the earlier parts of the plot. Jake renews this favorite book many times and is saddened to learn the school library will be closed at the end of the school year. The story culminates with him working with his grandfather to build a Little Free Library for Librarian Beck, who installs it outside the school for students to enjoy. A closing moment may warm hearts (though it risks undermining core principles of librarianship) when Jake receives a package from Librarian Beck with *Woodworking for Young Hands* inside, its title page stamped with the word **WITHDRAWN**. All main characters present as White. (This book was reviewed digitally with 10.5-by-17-inch double-page spreads viewed at 37% of actual size.) This little book could make a big difference. (Picture book. 4-8). 40pg. KIRKUS MEDIA LLC, c2021.

Journal Reviews

Horn Book | 05/01/2021

Primary. A thoughtful school librarian connects a child with a life-changing book in this installment in the Mr. Tiffin's Classroom series (*How Many Seeds in a Pumpkin?*, rev. 7/07, et al). Librarian Beck notices that Jake is more interested in the bookcases and shelving than in the library collection, so they encourage Jake to check out *Woodworking for Young Hands*. Jake struggles with the instructions, but he renews the hefty volume week after week. Jake considers how additional objects in his environment are constructed and begins borrowing even more books on how to make things. When he realizes that the school library will be closed all summer, he builds and installs (with Gramps's help) a "little library" outside of the school so kids

can continue to read and share books. In July, Jake receives a surprise package in the mail: Librarian Beck has marked *Woodworking for Young Hands* "withdrawn" and sent the discarded library book to Jake as a gift. Substantial dialogue immerses readers in the day-to-day life of the protagonist; adults offer help and guidance, but Jake accomplishes much on his own. Spot art and spreads in the illustrator's recognizable paint and pencil style (recently *Almost Time*, rev. 1/20, and *The Village Blacksmith*, rev. 9/20) further develop character and setting, allowing clothing expression, home decor, and references to real-world library books to provide texture. An appended note "by" Jake offers more information about Little Free Libraries. Elisa Gall May/June 2021 p.116. 40pg. THE HORN BOOK, c2021.

School Library Journal | 03/12/2021

Gr 1-2. Mr. Tiffin's class visits the new library at school and meets Librarian Beck. While the students excitedly explore, Jake feels out of place and wanders to a shelf where he "studied the bookcase to see how the pieces fit together. He ran his finger along the grooves in the wood." The astute Librarian Beck brings him *Woodworking for Young Hands* and Jake immediately recognizes many of the pictured tools from his grandfather's workshop. The librarian assures him that even books with many pictures count as reading. Jake slowly begins to read and take notes, while the librarian allows him to continue to renew the book and finds other similar titles for Jake. When the school year draws to a close and all books must be returned, Jake uses his woodworking skills to build with a little library where students can share books all summer. A brief note at the end describes the Little Free Library program. The realistically drawn gouache-and-pencil drawings depict the multicultural class alongside their supportive teacher and librarian, whose pronouns are they/them. VERDICT Gently illustrating that every book has its reader, this story of a reluctant reader assisted by a helpful and welcoming librarian is another solid addition to Mr. Tiffin's classroom series. Ramarie Beaver, formerly at Plano P.L., TX. 40p. School Library Journal Web Exclusive. SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL, c2021.

Other Information of Note:

The Marshalltown Library has 8 picture books, 1 chapter book, and 12 beginning readers by author Margaret McNamara. Two of her highest circulating books, *How Many Seeds in a Pumpkin* (29 checkouts) and *The Apple Orchard Riddle* (43 checkouts) are in the same picture book series featuring Mr. Tiffin's class, as *The Little Library*.

The Little Library has been checked out 18 times since we added it in September, 2021.

As of 8/10/2024, the author's books have circulated a total of 630 times.

44 other Iowa libraries also have this book.