

AGENDA

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING Marshalltown Library Board of Trustees

Tuesday, September 24, 2024
Library Community Meeting Room
In Person & ZOOM
5 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Board Member	Tonya Gaffney, President
	vacant, Vice President
	Judy Lindholm, Secretary
	Ashtyn Beek
	Sandy Bennett
	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 August 20, 2024
6. Election of new Vice President
7. Review and approval of bills to be paid September 24, 2024
8. 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
9. Old Business

10. New Business

- a. Budget
 - b. Staffing update
 - c. Statement of Concern & Book Reviews
 - d. Staff reports
 - e. Director's report
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**Marshalltown Public Library
Board of Trustees
August 20, 2024**

Members Present: Tonya Gaffney, Judy Lindholm, Erik Hall, Maureen Lyons, Ruzan Morrison

Absent: Kevin Pink, Ashtyn Beek

Staff: Sarah Rosenblum **Absent:** Joa LaVille, Katie Fink

Recording Secretary: Sandy Gowdy

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

Public Comment: The following spoke during public comment: John Worden, Ray Mitchum, Pete Grady and Joleen Ballard

Board Comment: No comments

Approval of the Agenda: Moved/Seconded (Lyons/Hall) Approved

Approval of the July 16, 2024 Minutes: Moved/Seconded (Morrison/Lindholm) Approved

Operating Bills: Moved/Seconded (Lindholm/Morrison) Approved

Old Business: There was no old business

New Business:

A: Budget: Waiting for the new City Administrator to start to learn more

B: Staffing Update:

-- Mara Edler has been hired to replace Cecilie Harrison, who resigned.

--There are two part-time positions open.

--Ann Ralston is being recognized for 15 years of employment and
Joa LaVille has been with the library for 25 years

C: Statement of Concern: There has been a challenge for a particular title that the library owns. All board members received a copy and journal reviews of the book and it will be discussed and voted on at the September meeting.

D: Staff Reports: none

E: Director's Report:

--Carol Webb, the new City Administrator, will begin Wednesday, August 28.

--Work will begin on reworking the space in the café

--This winter some of the original technology: sound system,
audio system, etc. will be replaced

--Plans for the internal renovations will continue

--It's been a great summer...huge turnouts and exciting programs for both
youth and adults

The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 17 at 5:00pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.

Staff Report

Public Library week of August 4 – August 10, 2024

Youth programs: Elim school-aged field trip, Bobcat school-aged field trip, 2 summer lunch sessions, storytime, Play Day, Crochet Club.

Summer Reading Challenge continues with more than 870 youth participants---many families have been stopping in to redeem prizes, and several Marshalltown families attended the Homerun Readers Iowa Cubs game on Sunday, August 4 with free tickets (an adult/child pair) which they earned through the challenge.

Joa attended the Sister Cities farewell luncheon with the youth exchange students and their families. The library has always hosted special tours/programs for these groups since the beginning of this long-standing relationship and often displays the Daruma, which was gifted to Marshalltown from the Japanese Sister City many years ago.

Sarah attended the Homelessness committee meeting.

Sarah and Katie were interviewed by the Times Republican about the discontinuation of the library's hoopla streaming service at the end of August 2024.

Sarah, Joa, and Katie interviewed candidates for the open full-time Librarian position at the library. Mara Edler, who was most recently the director of the Gutekunst Public Library in State Center, will be starting in this position after the Labor Day holiday.

The library held a class for teens and adults on Wednesday, August 7 about composting and vermicomposting taught by staff from the Iowa Waste Reduction Center at the University of Northern Iowa ---23 people attended.

Public Library week of Aug 11 - Aug 17, 2024

--Youth programs: 2 sessions of summer lunch, Bobcat Academy field trip, storytime with special performance by Calle Sur, Play Day, Crochet Club.

--Joa and Katie attended a meeting with Karin Stein of Artes Latinas, about the yearlong grant-funded residency project in Marshalltown, which will feature music and storytelling highlighting culture, as well as featuring local people of all ages in performances. This project includes partnering with school music educators, the library, the college, the Arts Alliance, and other groups and organizations that connect community members to arts and culture. This will be a great opportunity to efficiently increase access to arts opportunities in our community.

--Sarah spoke with KFJB on 8/15 to discuss the library wrapping up the summer reading program.

--Sarah attended the State Library zoom call.

Public Library weeks of Aug 18 - Aug 24, 2024 & Aug 25 - Aug 31, 2024

--Youth programs: Elim field trip, Bobcat Academy field trip, 2 summer lunch sessions, Parachute Play at storytime, Play Day, Crochet Club. (It is worth noting that usually the activities portion of summer reading wraps up in early August, but the youth department deliberately extended activities to coincide with a later school year start, based on both demand, availability of a longer summer lunch schedule, and as a way to try to mitigate summer learning loss.) Last two summer lunch sessions, Bobcat Academy field trip, Play Day, Crochet Club, last summer storytime featuring a "Beach Party" including the fire department bringing a ladder truck with water spray.

--Joa met with Grisel Chavez of ISU Extension about the upcoming Small Talk early literacy partnership. The library partners with ISU Extension to offer this free class for parents, ages 0-30 months.

--Lots of scheduling for school year activities, including communications and mapping out preschool outreach, sixth grade EMERGE field trips, field trips by the Central Iowa Christian Academy, and annual fall events, like Haunt the Block, Trick or Treat Storytime, the model train exhibit weekend, with Train Storytime, etc.

--Katie and Joa reviewed part-time applicants to hire for library assistant and will be interviewing in the next couple of weeks.

--The summer reading challenge for youth of all ages officially concluded on Monday, August 19 with 886 participants, although we allowed families who were still finalizing earning their last prize to continue to redeem prizes through the end of the week.

--The summer reading challenge for youth of all ages concluded on Monday, August 19, although families are still able to continue to stop in and pick up prizes until school starts. The grand prize drawing was held, with winning readers contacted. Summer readers earned 1 ticket for the drawing for completing at the 30-day level and then 1 extra ticket for each 5 days logged past that. Prizes included Pokémon and Lego prizes, a swim party donated by the YMCA/YWCA, an art prize pack, etc. Final statistics about participation in the summer reading challenge will be collected and reported to the library board in the fall.

--On behalf of the Community Response Coalition, the library hosted a community leaders meeting with the Mexican Consulate staff, who shared about programs, services, and support they are able to provide to Iowans who are from Mexico.

--We held our Film Series for Adults on Monday afternoon and showed the film Quigley Down Under and had a discussion afterward. 25 adults attended the program.

--Katie worked with our printing software provider to switch over our mobile printing service to Princh, which is much more efficient than our previous mobile printing

--Katie is working on getting volunteers and doing logistical planning for the library's annual book sale.

--Sam and Katie worked on finishing out the library's Adult Summer Reading Program-- drawing prizes for winners and thanking our sponsors.

--We had Tales of Iowa History with Storyteller Darrin Crow on Sunday, August 11. 41 people attended this program for adults and teens that discussed the Honey War (which was about a border dispute between Iowa and Missouri) and other topics in Iowa history.

--Sarah participated in a ZOOM call to assess the MPACT program and how it serves community partners.

--Sarah worked with David Deemer, Rick & Mike on interior work in the library cafe. We are also working with Downs painting and Topcrafters to replace a countertop.

--Sarah had a first informal meeting with Carol Webb.

--Sarah prepped for her vacation starting Saturday 8/31- Tuesday 9/17.

[illegible][illegible]

Bills paid in September 2024

Adland Engraving	operating supply - nametag	\$10.95
Amazon	books, DVDs and supplies	\$648.00
AT&T bill payment	AT&T charges	\$33.28
Baker & Taylor	books, DVDs and supplies	\$4,135.44
Book Farm LLC	juvenile books	\$227.50
Brodart	juvenile books	\$1,347.36
Cengage	large-type books	\$973.14
Center Point	large-type books	\$266.67
Culligan	office supplies - bottled water	\$23.45
demco	book repair tape, tabletop displays	\$94.98
Downs Painting	paint walls in café, youth room	\$2,560.00
EDUCATION.COM	reference database	\$119.88
envisionware	DVD RFID tags, annual maintenance	\$7,888.46
First Book	juvenile books	\$599.87
Heart of Iowa	internet	\$135.14
Lenz Mowing	contract mowing	\$660.00
MENARDS	operating supplies - pedestal fan, cleanser	\$14.45
Pitney Bowes	monthly postage machine rental	\$60.00
Playaway	juvenile audio books	\$774.11
ServiceMaster	cleaning service	\$1,934.00
Showcases	DVD case inserts	\$183.60
Shred-it	shredding services	\$55.13
Simms - Top Crafters	counter top	\$577.76
Verizon	Hotspots for library	\$400.10
Weblinx	AccessiBe license	\$490.00
Xerox	overages	\$15.91
		<u>\$24,229.18</u>

July 2024		last year
	<u>July 2024</u>	<u>July 2023</u>
Electric	\$4,071.02	\$4,439.36
Gas	\$195.92	\$97.45
Total	\$4,266.94	\$4,536.81

August 2024		last year
	<u>August 2024</u>	<u>August 2023</u>
Electric	\$5,014.55	\$0.00
Gas	\$115.95	\$186.89
Total	\$5,130.50	\$186.89



City of Marshalltown, IA

Budget Report

Account Summary

For Fiscal : 2024 - 2025 Period Ending : 09/30/2024

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	0	0	0	42.38	0	42.38	0
001.4010.4040.000	0	0	0	1689.14	0	1689.14	0
001.4010.4150.000	0	0	0	4.65	0	4.65	0
001.4010.4330.000	14932	14,932.00	0	0	0	-14932	0
001.4010.4332.000	0	0	0	166.38	0	166.38	0
001.4010.4337.000	0	0	0	0.49	0	0.49	0
001.4010.4350.000	0	0	0	125	0	-41561	0.3
001.4010.4493.000	41686	41,686.00	0	657.86	0	-2642.14	19.94
001.4010.4550.000	3300	3,300.00	0	132.31	0	-367.69	26.46
001.4010.4875.000	500	500	0	374.83	0	274.83	374.83
001.4010.4876.000	100	100	0	1435.1	0	-6364.9	18.4
MISC REV	7800	7,800.00	0		0		
Revenue Total:	68318	68318	0	4628.14	0	-63689.86	0.067744
Expense							
001.4010.5010.010	612838	612,838.00	21789.1	131186.35	0	481651.65	21.41
001.4010.5020.010	0	0	0	202.99	0	-202.99	0
001.4010.5050.060	307238	307,238.00	8394.37	55477.98	0	251760.02	18.06
001.4010.5060.010	0	0	0	230.7	0	-230.7	0
001.4010.5101.010	37996	37,996.00	1280.84	7837.96	0	30158.04	20.63
001.4010.5101.060	19049	19,049.00	520.47	3439.68	0	15609.32	18.06
001.4010.5102.010	8886	8,886.00	299.54	1833.09	0	7052.91	20.63
001.4010.5102.060	4455	4,455.00	121.72	804.43	0	3650.57	18.06
001.4010.5111.010	57852	57,852.00	2056.9	12403.19	0	45448.81	21.44
001.4010.5111.060	29003	29,003.00	781.36	5198.42	0	23804.58	17.92
001.4010.5121.010	100769	100,769.00	4335.33	19120.25	0	81648.75	18.97
001.4010.5122.000	4474	4,474.00	446.99	893.98	0	3580.02	19.98
001.4010.5123.010	1035	1,035.00	33.75	203.89	0	831.11	19.7
001.4010.5123.060	519	519	13	85.92	0	433.08	16.55
001.4010.5151.000	800	800	139.52	139.52	0	660.48	17.44
001.4010.5210.000	200	200	0	10	0	190	5
001.4010.5215.000	700	700	48.88	182.06	0	517.94	26.01
001.4010.5216.000	120	120	29	29	0	91	24.17
001.4010.5251.000	750	750	0	0	0	750	0
001.4010.5280.000	1600	1,600.00	0	2161.93	0	-561.93	135.12
DUES, MEMBER, SUBSCRIPTIN							

Budget Report

For Fiscal: 2024-2025 Period Ending: 09/30/2024

	Original		Current		Period		Fiscal		Encumbrances		Variance		Percent
	Total Budget	Activity	Total Budget	Activity	Activity	Activity	Activity	Activity	Encumbrances	(Unfavorable)	Favorable	Used	
001.4010.5290.000	INSURANCE - GENERAL	0	38,734.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	38,734	0	0	
001.4010.5300.000	INSURANCE - TORT LIAB	8165	8,165.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	8165	0	0	
001.4010.5342.000	CONTRACT-OUTSIDE HELP	28600	28,600.00	0	0	5058.55	0	0	0	23541.45	17.69	0	
001.4010.5343.000	CONTRACT-PROMOTIONS/PGMS	6500	6,500.00	0	0	1875	0	0	0	4625	28.85	0	
001.4010.5344.000	CONTRACT-MAINTENANCE	20000	20,000.00	0	0	413.36	0	0	0	19586.64	2.07	0	
001.4010.5347.000	CONTRACT-SOFTWARE MAINT	15000	15,000.00	633.13	0	1899.39	0	5698.17	0	7402.44	50.65	0	
001.4010.5360.000	POSTAGE & SHIPPING	2000	2,000.00	0	0	733	0	0	0	1267	36.65	0	
001.4010.5370.000	PRINTING & BINDING	300	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	300	0	0	
001.4010.5380.000	RENTS & LEASES	400	400	0	0	450	0	0	0	-50	112.5	0	
001.4010.5386.000	CONTRACT LAWN CARE	4400	4,400.00	0	0	1485	0	0	0	2915	33.75	0	
001.4010.5410.000	REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	9000	9,000.00	11.66	0	1405.52	0	0	0	7594.48	15.62	0	
001.4010.5450.000	TELEPHONE/OTHR COMMNCN	6800	6,800.00	0	0	749.88	0	0	0	6050.12	11.03	0	
001.4010.5460.000	CONFERENCE EXPENSE	500	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	500	0	0	
001.4010.5464.000	TRAVEL-PER DIEM	200	200	0	0	0	0	0	0	200	0	0	
001.4010.5465.000	TRAVEL - HOTEL/MOTEL	500	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	500	0	0	
001.4010.5481.000	ELECTRICITY	49500	49,500.00	0	0	13884.68	0	0	0	35615.32	28.05	0	
001.4010.5482.000	NATURAL GAS	10500	10,500.00	0	0	311.07	0	0	0	10188.93	2.96	0	
001.4010.5485.000	STORM WATER FEES	1101	1,101.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	1101	0	0	
001.4010.5565.000	VEHICLE OPER/MAINT SPLY	2000	2,000.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	2000	0	0	
001.4010.5570.000	VEHICLE GAS	5000	5,000.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	5000	0	0	
001.4010.5600.000	OPERATING SUPPLIES	24000	24,000.00	0	0	1544.99	0	0	0	22455.01	6.44	0	
001.4010.5601.000	PROMOTION/PROGRAM SPLY	2500	2,500.00	0	0	214.21	0	0	0	2285.79	8.57	0	
001.4010.5605.000	OFFICE SUPPLIES	1500	1,500.00	0	0	213.49	0	0	0	1286.51	14.23	0	
001.4010.5611.000	BLDG. GRD OPER/MAINT SPLY	1500	1,500.00	0	0	45.66	0	0	0	1454.34	3.04	0	
001.4010.5703.000	COMPUTER COMPONENTS	500	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	500	0	0	
001.4010.5704.000	MINOR COMPUTER	7000	7,000.00	0	0	55	0	0	0	6945	0.79	0	
001.4010.5718.000	MINOR SOFTWARE <\$5,000	0	0	0	0	750	0	0	0	-750	0	0	
001.4010.5730.000	REFERENCE MATERIALS	13930	13,930.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	13930	0	0	
001.4010.5731.000	LIBRARY PERIODICALS	8500	8,500.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	8500	0	0	
001.4010.5733.000	INTER-LIBRARY LOAN BOOKS	9000	9,000.00	0	0	1426.62	0	0	0	7573.38	15.85	0	
001.4010.5734.000	LOST BOOKS	0	0	0	0	47.24	0	0	0	-47.24	0	0	
001.4010.5736.000	LIBRARY DATABASES	4100	4,100.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	4100	0	0	
001.4010.5741.000	COMPUTER SOFTWARE > 5,000	24000	24,000.00	0	0	6921.84	0	0	0	17078.16	28.84	0	
001.4010.5980.000	REFUNDS/REIMB	0	0	0	0	1100	0	0	0	-1100	0	0	
001.4010.5990.000	CASH SHORT & (OVER)	0	0	0	0	168.79	0	0	0	-168.79	0	0	
Expense Total:		1494014	1494014	40935.56	282193.83	5698.17	1206122	0.192697					
Fund: 001 - GENERAL FUND Surplus (Deficit):		-1425696	-1425696	-40935.56	-277565.69	-5698.17	1142432.14	0.198685					

Budget Report

For Fiscal: 2024-2025 Period Ending: 09/30/2024

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	16324.97	0	97675.03	14.32
Expense Total:	114000	0	16324.97	0	97675.03	0.143201

Fund: 030 - CAPITAL RESERVE Total:

114000	114000	0	16324.97	0	97675.03	0.143201
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Fund: 170 - LIBRARY DONATION FUND

Revenue

170.4010.4820.000

LIBRARY DONATIONS

170.4010.4822.000

LIBRARY GENELOGY DONATNS

170.4010.4823.000

MEMORIAL BOOK DONATIONS

170.4010.4875.000

RFNDS/REIMB: LIBRARY

Revenue Total:

620000	620,000.00	0	1102.39	0	-618897.61	0.18
75	75	0	15	0	-60	20
2000	2,000.00	0	987.09	0	-1012.91	49.35
0	0	0	339	0	339	0
622075	622075	0	2443.48	0	-619631.52	0.003928

Expense

170.4010.5450.000

TELEPHONE/OTHER COMMNCN

170.4010.5600.000

OPERATING SUPPLIES

170.4010.5601.000

PROMOTION/PROGRAM SPPLY

170.4010.5612.000

COMPUTER COMPONENTS

170.4010.5718.000

MINOR EQUIP, UNCLASSIFIED

170.4010.5731.000

LIBRARY PERIODICALS

170.4010.5732.000

LIBRARY BOOKS, FILM RCRD

170.4010.5734.000

MEMORIAL BOOKS

170.4010.5776.000

BUILDINGS & IMPROVEMENTS

Expense Total:

0	0	0	761.89	0	-761.89	0
1500	1,500.00	0	0	0	1500	0
10000	10,000.00	0	587.85	0	9412.15	5.88
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	292.43	0	19707.57	1.46
2000	2,000.00	0	471.89	0	1528.11	23.59
600000	600,000.00	0	0	0	600000	0
634740	634740	0	2114.06	0	632625.94	0.003331

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

-12665	-12665	0	329.42	0	12994.42	-0.02601
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Report Surplus (Deficit):

-1552361	-1552361	-40935.56	-293561.24	-5698.17	1253101.59	0.192777
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Budget Report

For Fiscal: 2024-2025 Period Ending: 09/30/2024

Fund Summary

Fund	Original Total Budget	Current Total Budget	Period Activity	Fiscal Activity	Encumbrances	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
001 - GENERAL FUND	-1425696	-1425696	-40935.56	-277565.69	-5698.17	1142432.14
030 - CAPITAL RESERVE	-114000	-114000	0	-16324.97	0	97675.03
170 - LIBRARY DONATION FUND	-12665	-12665	0	329.42	0	12994.42
Report Surplus (Deficit):	-1552361	-1552361	-40935.56	-293561.24	-5698.17	1253101.59

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.

076...

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 its subtlly 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 Normal and "Nice" yet this is Confusing and Gramatically 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, 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.