

FY26

Annual Report



Prepared by
Erica Jones-Wilson, M.L.I.S.
Library Director

Table Of Content

- **Meet Our Team**
- **Meet Our Board of Trustees**
- **Our Mission, Vision, Values & Core Purpose**
- **Statistics**
- **Programs**
- **Social Media Report**
- **Financial Reports**
- **Executive Summary**
- **Acknowledgements**

Meet Our Team



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ANA WINDER

TEEN SERVICES

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Meet Our Team



Dewey
The DCRL Porch Goose



Meet Our Board

RICK HORSEY
PRESIDENT

DEBORAH WICKS
TRUSTEE

LISA TORBERT
VICE PRESIDENT

NELSON DREW
AT-LARGE MEMBER

VICTORIA FORD
TREASURER

MARNIE KINSEY
AT-LARGE MEMBER

LAURA WILLIS
SECRETARY



Vision

Inspiring lifelong learning for every community member.

Mission

Duck Creek Regional Library empowers, connects, and enriches the community by providing equitable access to spaces, programs, and trusted resources that encourage learning and inspire curiosity.

Values

We value Inclusivity, Diversity, Professionalism, Collaboration, Safety, Stewardship of Resources, Financial Accountability & Sustainability.

Purpose

To serve as a community hub where individuals of all ages and backgrounds come together to access quality education programs and valuable resources and services.



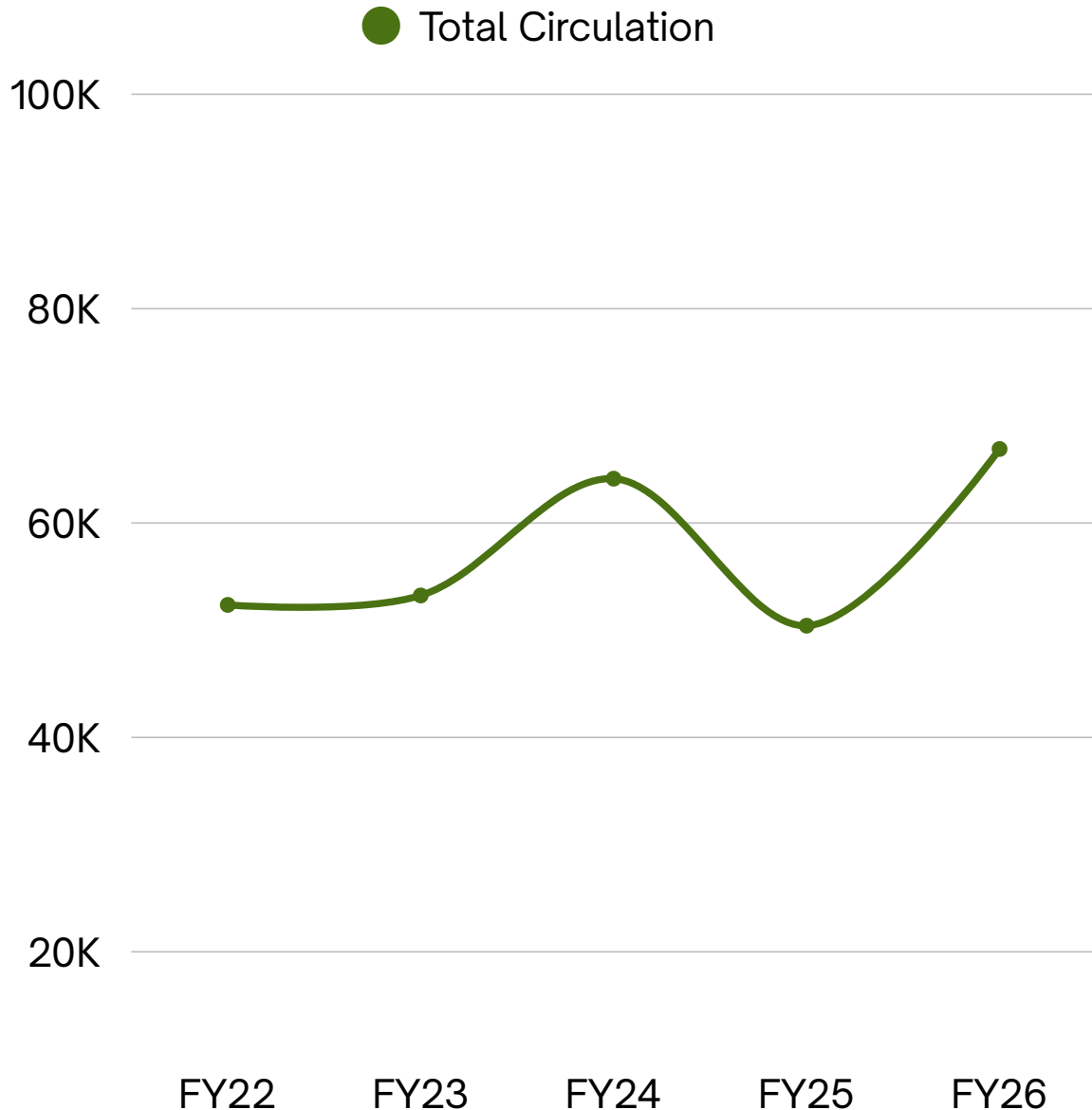
Statistics

FY26 Use Statistics
Average Daily Foot Traffic: 246
Total Annual Foot Traffic: 71,731
Total Study Room Bookings: 2,037

The use of the Library by the community has expanded significantly from 29,093 visits in FY25. This represents a 146% increase in visits to the library in one year.

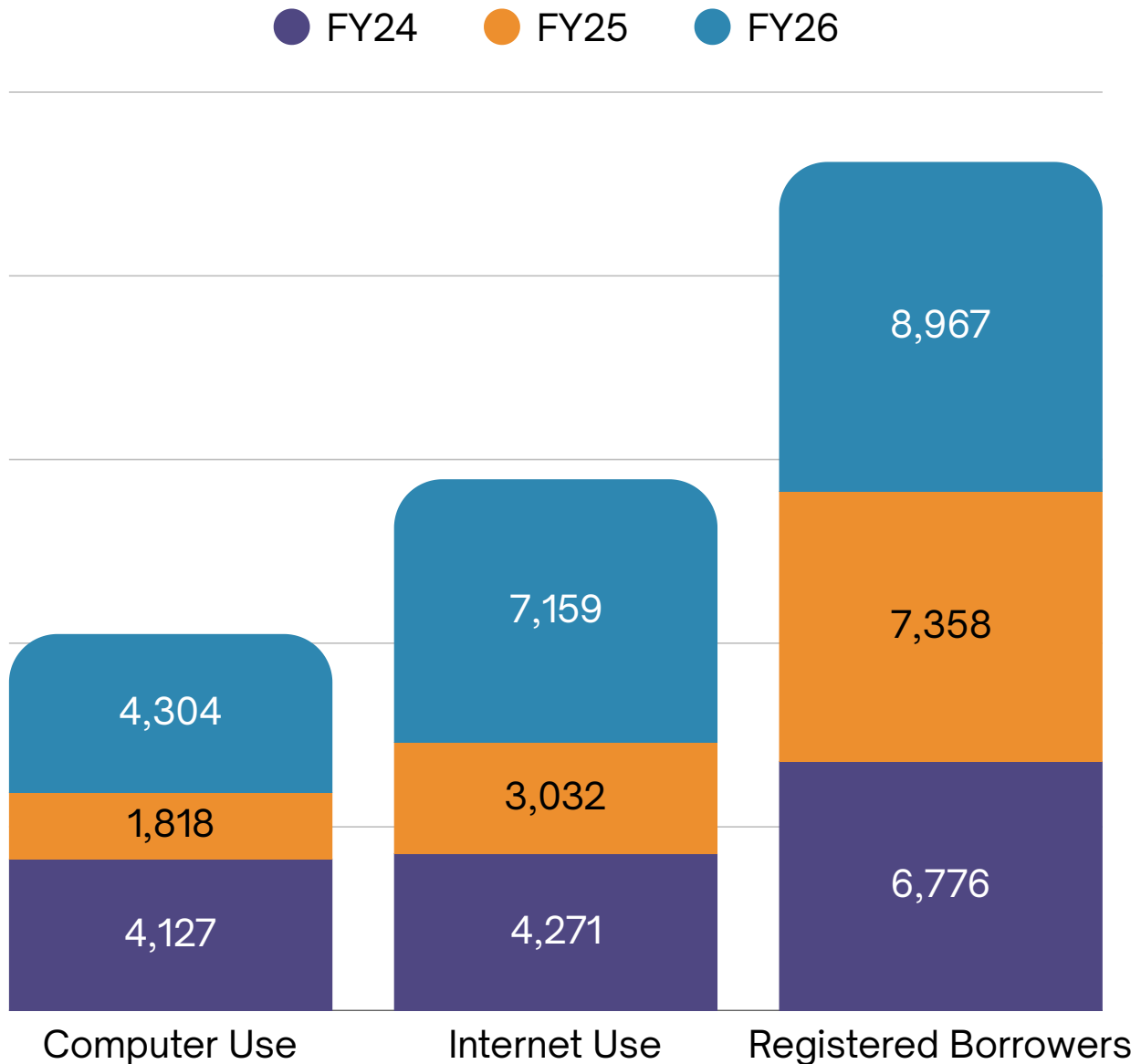
The new building design featuring five study spaces responded to community need, averaging seven bookings per day.

Statistics



At a time when libraries nationwide are reporting declining circulation in favor of electronic materials, the Duck Creek Regional Library has seen a substantial increase in physical collection materials use over the past five years.

Statistics



The library enrolled 2,191 new borrowers between FY2024 and FY2026. The most significant increase occurred in internet use which more than doubled upon opening the new library.



Our Programs

Duck Creek Regional Library Programs				
	Adult	Young Adult	Juvenile	Total
Number of Programs	425	89	269	783
Attendance	5,561	569	7,957	14,087

From FY25 to FY26, we experienced a growth in program attendance of roughly 340%. Our total number of public programs increased from 203 to 783.

The most notable increase occurred in attendance among children from infancy to age 11, which increased from 2,496 attendees to 7,957 attendees.

ADULT PROGRAMMING REPORT

Report by Leanna Carroll, Assistant Director

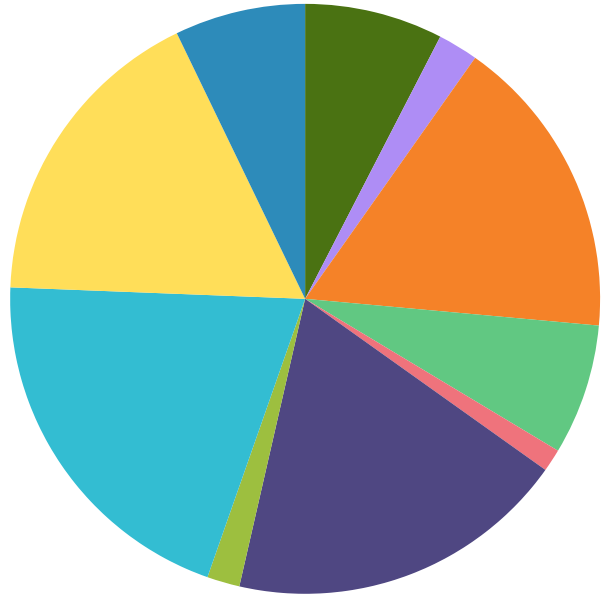
Age Ranges: 18+

Duration: July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026



Types of Programs

- Arts & Crafts - 7.6%
- Book Discussions - 2.2%
- Community/Culture - 16.7%
- Computers/Ebooks - 7.2%
- Cooking/Gardening - 1.2%
- Health/Wellness - 18.7%
- History/Genealogy - 1.8%
- Jobs/Careers - 20.2%
- Literacy and Language - 17.2%
- Social Services - 7.2%



Program Breakdowns

In-Person Programs: 425

Passive Attendance: 3,634

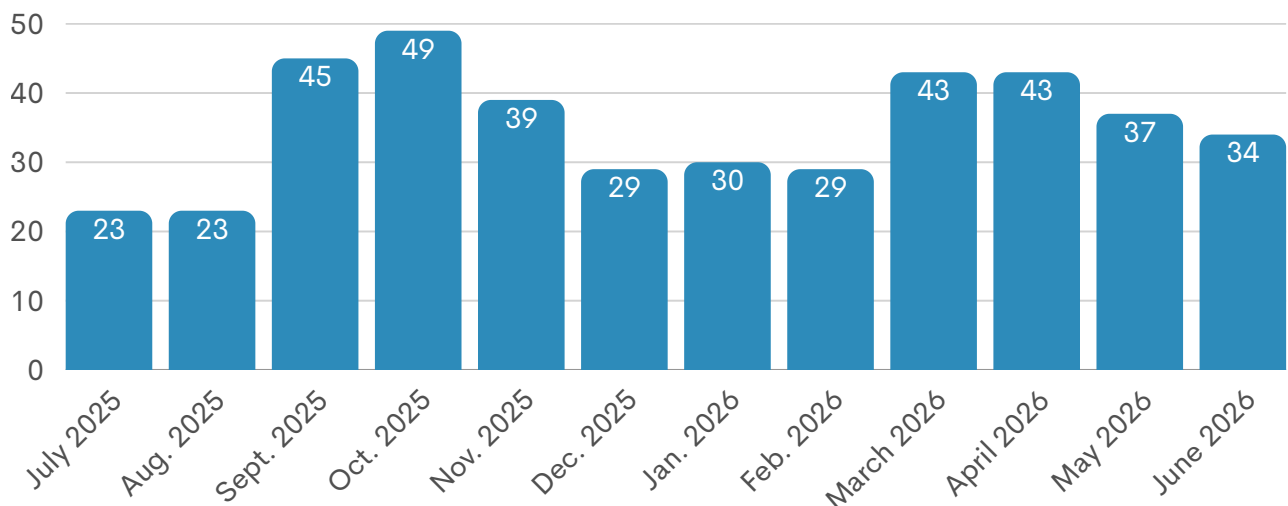
Number of Recurring Programs: 17

Total Outreach Events: 1

Total In-Person Attendance: 5,561

Total Outreach Attendance: 300

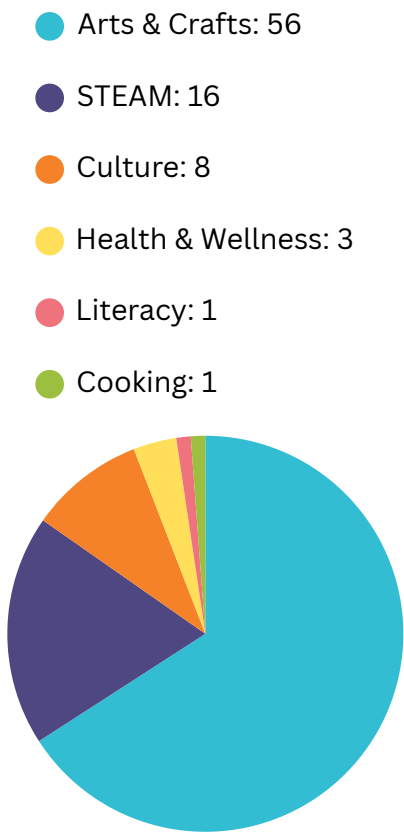
Total Number of Programs



TWEEN AND TEEN PROGRAMMING REPORT

Report by Ana Winder, Teen Services

Types of Programs



Duration: 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026

Objective: Young Adult Program Growth

Age Ranges: 12–18 Years Old



Program Breakdowns

In-Person Programs: 89

Number of Recurring Programs: 9

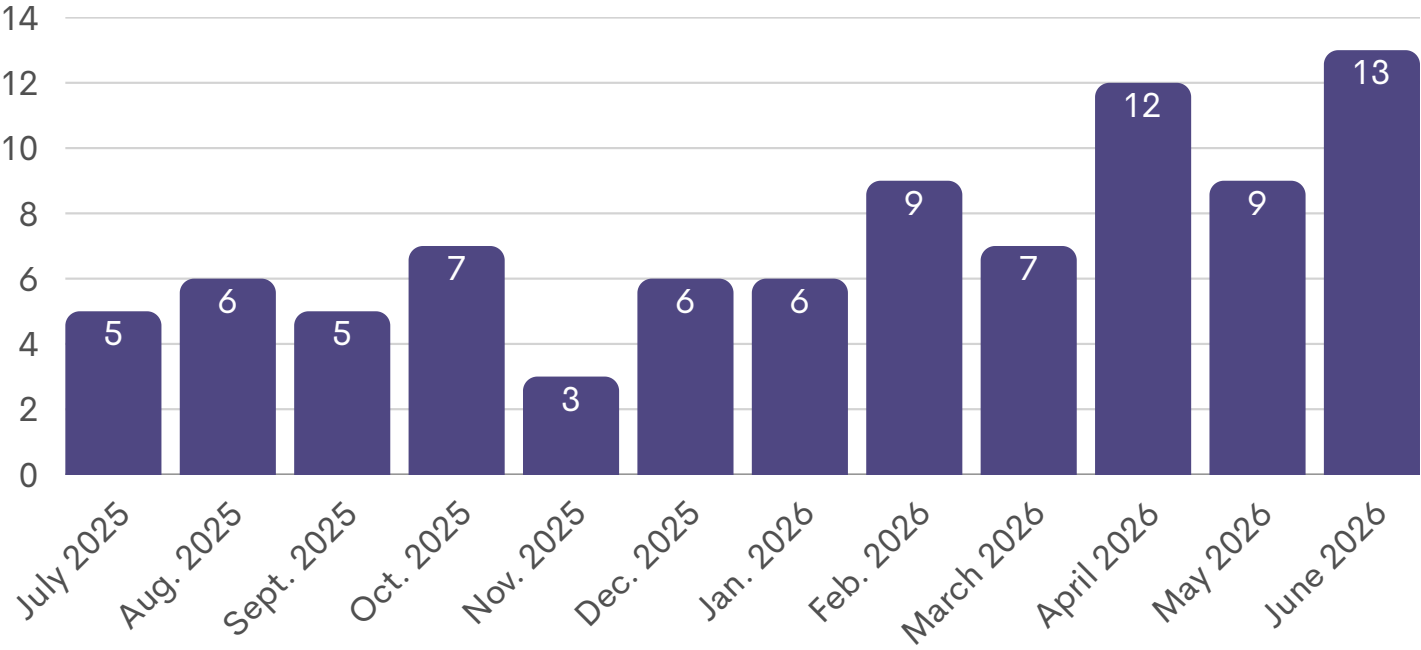
Total In-Person Attendance: 569

Passive Attendance: 674

Total Outreach Events: 3

Total Outreach Attendance: 674

Total Number of Programs



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING REPORT

Report by Jordan Ranger:
Children's Services, Assistant Director

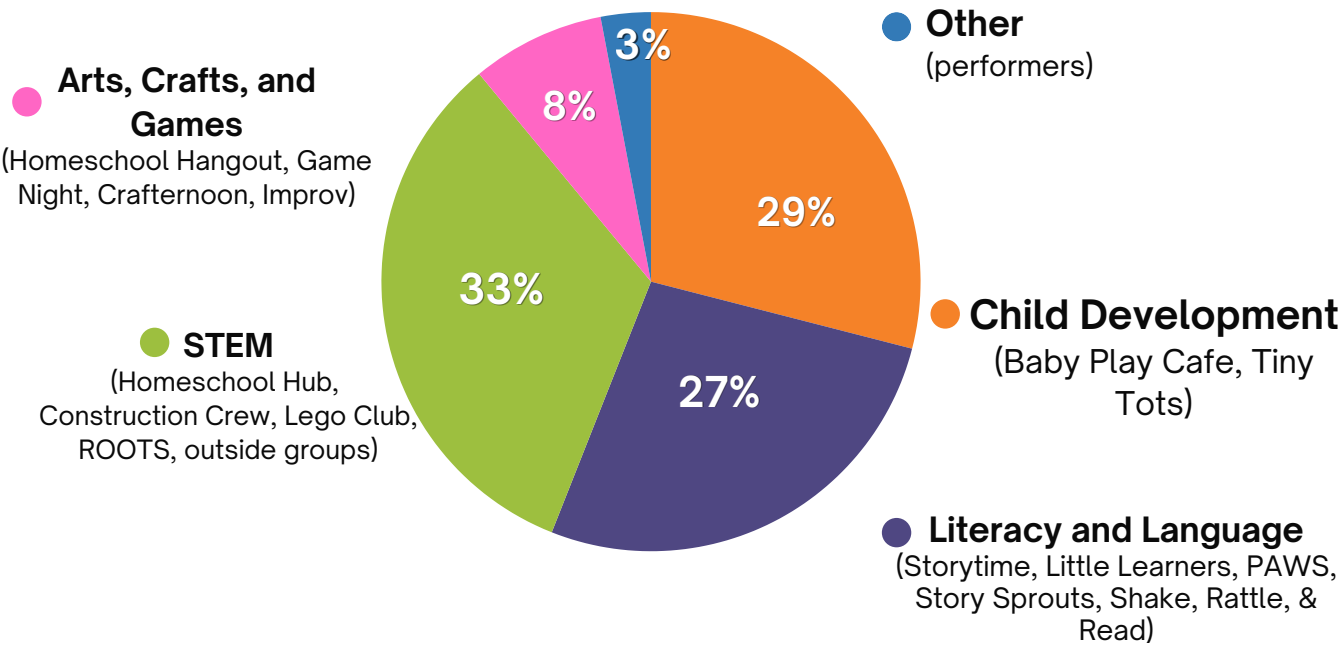
Age Ranges: 0-6, 7-11 Years Old

Duration: 1 July 2025 - 30 June 2026

Program Breakdowns

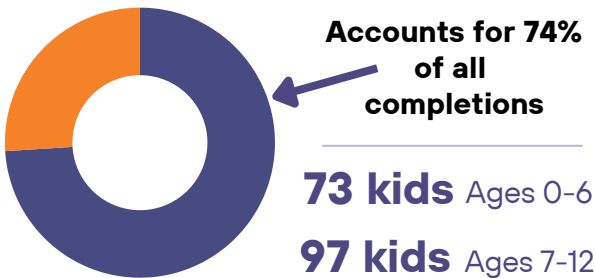
In-Person Programs:	270	Total In-Person Attendance:	7,993
Passive Programs:	18	Passive Attendance:	1,324
Total Outreach Events:	9	Total Outreach Attendance:	1,567

Percentage of In-Person Programs by Type



2025 Summer Reading Challenge Completions

170 Total completions ages 0-12

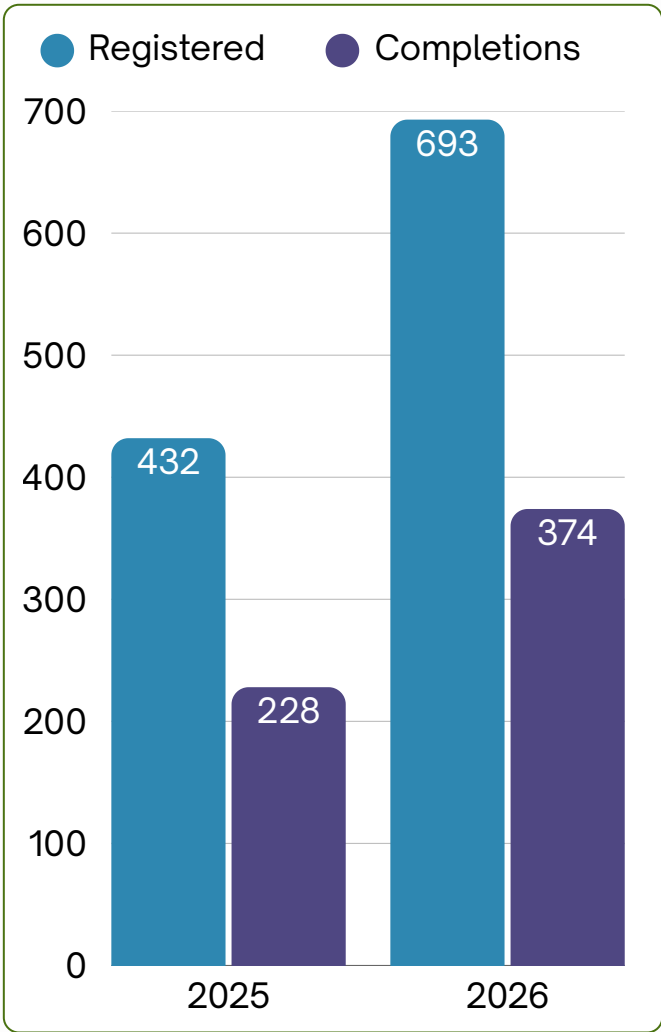


Program Highlights

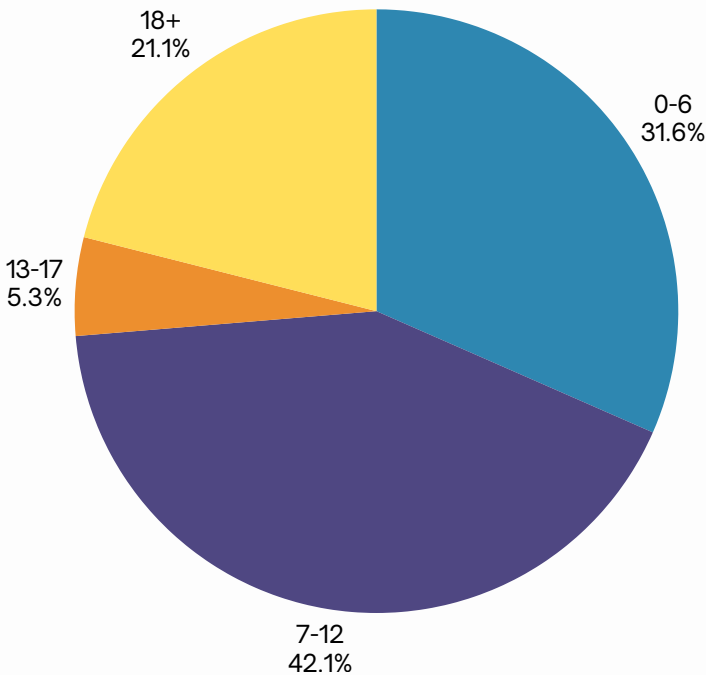
<u>Program:</u>	<u>Top Attendance:</u>
SRP Performer: Jungle John	345
Baby Play Cafe	24
Tiny Tots	45
Storytime	61
Little Learners	50
Lego Club	54

SUMMER READING PROGRAM REPORT

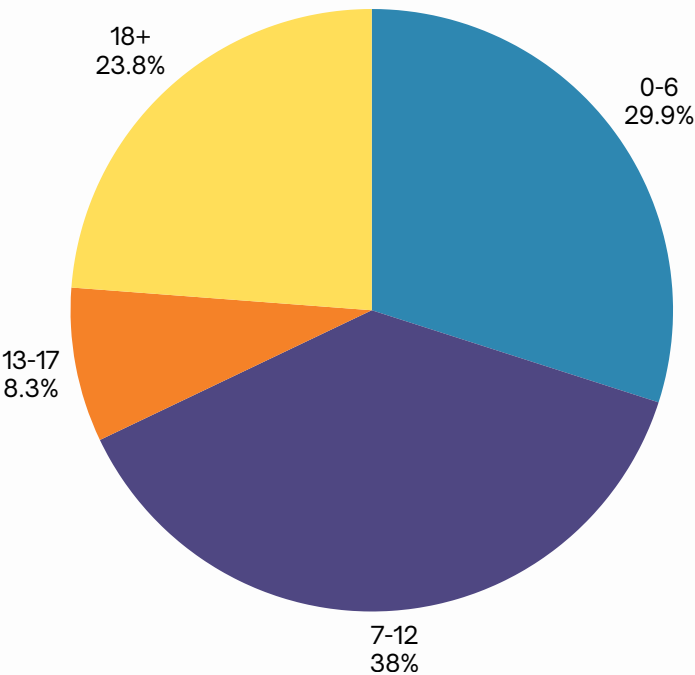
Report by Leanna Carroll, Assistant Director



SRP 2025 Completions



SRP 2026 Completions



Social Media Report

Yearly Performance Overview

Reporting Period: FY 2026

Prepared By: Anastasia Winder, Teen Services

Summary:

Since opening on June 9, 2025, the Duck Creek Regional Library (DCRL) has actively expanded its social media footprint by launching TikTok, Instagram, and new Facebook features to maximize community outreach and boost patron engagement.

Total Views

647.7K

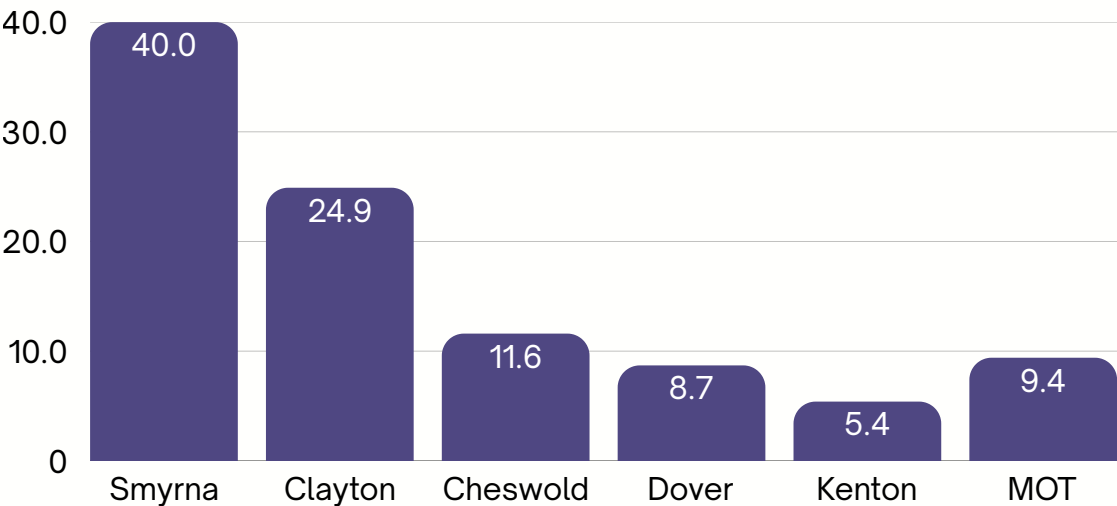
Total Engagement

10.3K

Total Followers

5.5K

Percentage Reach Distribution by Town



Growth by Platform :

	Facebook	Instagram	TikTok
Followers	+71.7%	448%	100%
Content Interaction	+97.4.6%	100%	100%
Links Clciked	+41.9%	N/A	N/A
Visits	+49.4%	204.1%	100%

Audience Demographics:

Total Audience:

3,259

Gender Distribution

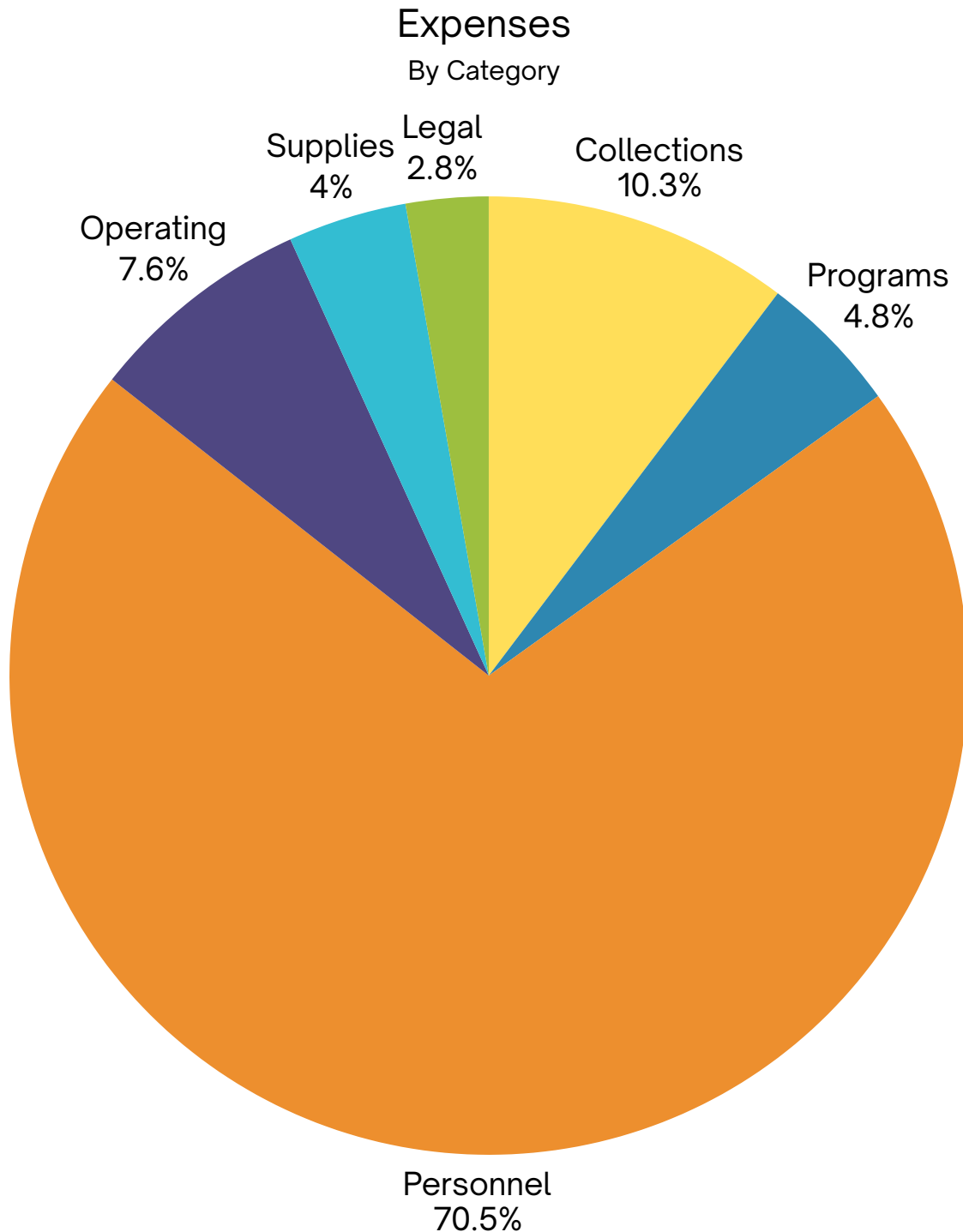


• Male: 10.6%



• Female: 89.5%

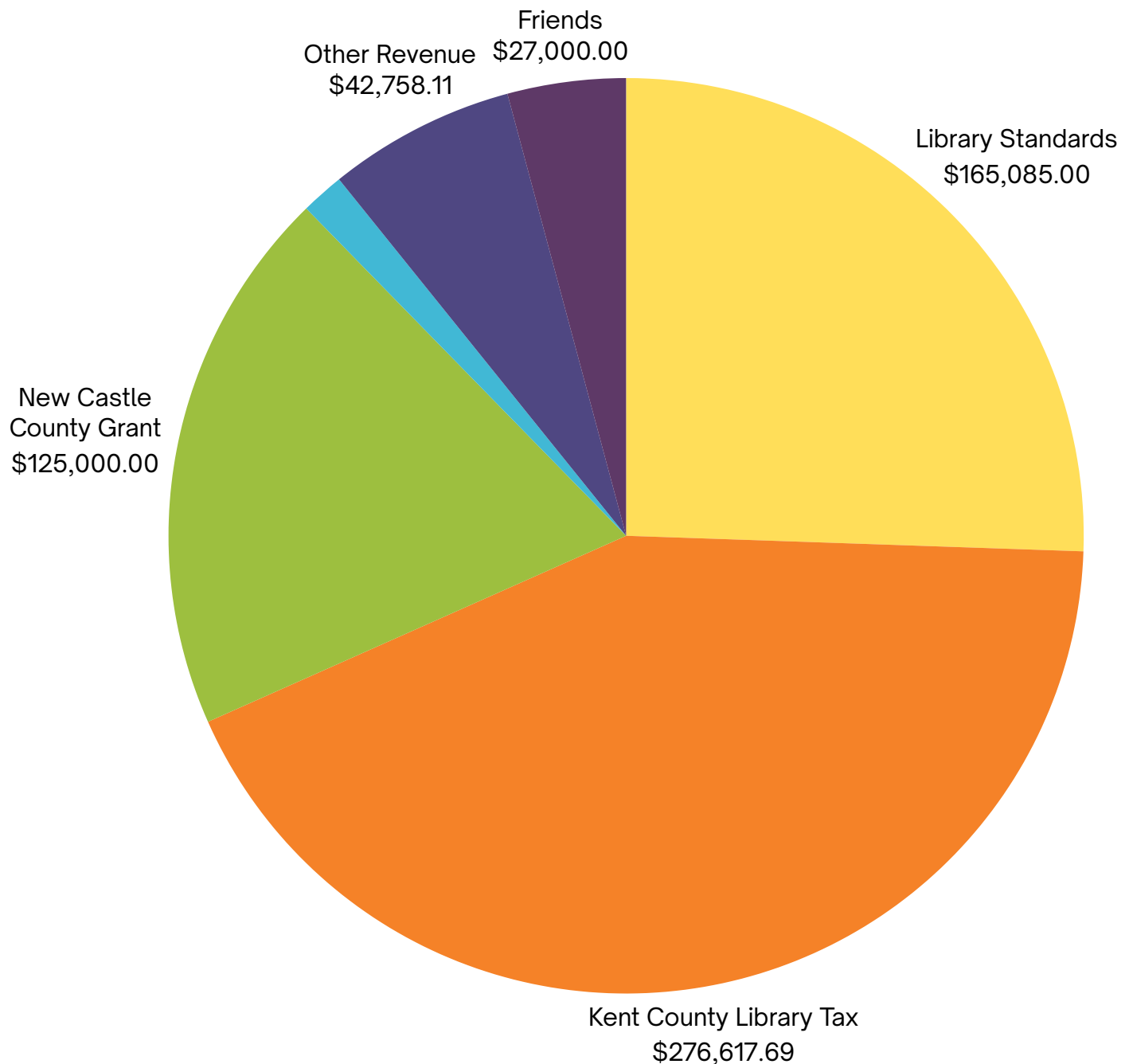
Library Operation



Personnel represents the largest expense for library operations. FY27 presents a unique challenge as our operating expenses will increase by 31% due to greater demands on personnel and escalating supply costs.

Library Funding

Incomes



The Kent County Levy Court Library Tax represents the primary financial support for library operations. FY27 presents a unique challenge as our operating revenue will decrease by 5.5%.

Executive Summary

The completion of the new 22,000-square-foot facility on June 9, 2025, marked the beginning of a surge in use for the Duck Creek Regional Library (DCRL). Since transitioning from the former Smyrna Public Library into the new facility, the library has become indispensable to the northern Kent County and southern New Castle County community.



Above: Kathy Messer, Friend's President, Senator Lisa Blunt-Rochester, and Library Director Erica Jones-Wilson



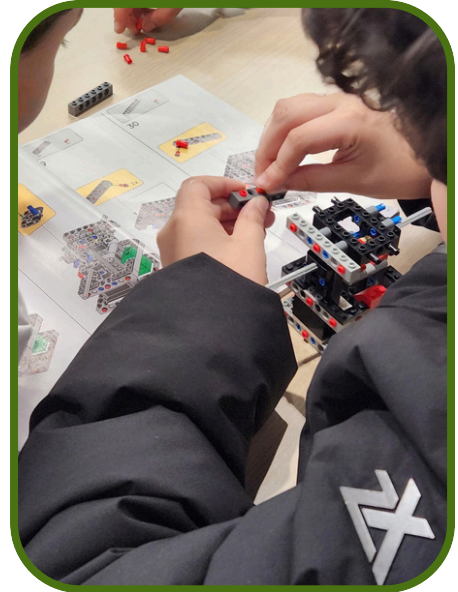
Children's Program Photos
Provided by Jordan Ranger



Right: One of our Community Partners:
The Duck Creek Gardeners

The focus of DCRL administration on increasing engagement and utilization across Smyrna, Clayton, Townsend, Blackbird, Blackiston, Leipsic, Woodland Beach, Little Creek, Cheswold, and Kenton has resulted in rapid growth in library use, circulation and program attendance.

Executive Summary



Operational data from FY26 illustrates that the community is reliant on the library's physical and digital infrastructure. DCRL welcomed 71,731 annual visitors, averaging nearly 250 patrons per day. The facility's study rooms became a resource for local remote workers and students, with 2,037 total bookings over the fiscal year. Furthermore, the library's total registered borrowers expanded sharply to 8,967 patrons, alongside an influx in digital resource demands and public internet utilization.



Executive Summary

The demand is most evident in the library's public programming attendance, which grew at an exponential rate straining existing resource allocations. Total public programming nearly quadrupled, generating a staggering 340% growth in overall attendance. Children's Services emerged as a primary driver of this growth, drawing attendees through STEM initiatives, early literacy courses, and child development programs. Adult Services executed 425 programs heavily focused on critical civic needs such as adult education, financial literacy, health and wellness. While these programs successfully foster lifelong learning, managing the volume of public participation requires a continuous investment in staff time and material costs.



Left to Right: Lailah Coleman (Painter), Shari Dierkes (Art Teacher), Amelia Isaac (Painter)

The Friend's of the Duck Creek Regional Library dedicated four murals to the library produced by a local artist and students of the Smyrna Highschool.

In collaboration with the Friend's of the Duck Creek Regional Library, the Library spent much FY26 improving the library building, furnishings and adding artwork reflective of the community we serve.



Patti Bishop, Muralist

Executive Summary

In FY26, the library operated sustainably on a total revenue of \$646,329.79—primarily funded by the Kent County Library Tax. Due to funding contractions from the Delaware Division of Libraries and New Castle County, the library's revenue will decrease by 5.5% in the coming fiscal year.



Adult Program Photos
Provided by Leanna Carroll

The overwhelming success of the library's programs has triggered a 31% increase in operating expenses driven by escalating supply costs and personnel demands, with staffing costs already consuming over 70% of the budget. The contradiction between a shrinking budget and an increase in service demand highlights an urgent need for stable public funding.



Acknowledgements

The Duck Creek Regional Library would like to express our deepest appreciation to the **Operating Board** for their governance and leadership, the **Friends of the Duck Creek Regional Library** for their tireless fundraising and support, and to **Kent County, New Castle County**, the **Delaware Division of Libraries** and the **Town of Smyrna**.

We would also like to recognize all our community partners: Greater Works Fitness & Spa, Saplings Society, North Dover Co-Op, Duck Creek Gardeners, Middletown-Odessa Garden Club, Boys and Girls Club, Yoga Social, Dawn Pyne, Polytech Parents as Teachers, Providence Creek Academy, Citizens Bank of Smyrna, Smyrna Robotics Team, Smyrna School District, Volunteer Delaware 50+, Baybird Orthodontics, First State Military Academy, Delaware Health and Social Services, PAWS for People, Delaware Division of Small Business, DASEF, Delaware Small Business Development Center, Engineer Early, First State Improv, Delaware Biotechnology Institute with the University of Delaware, Townsend Women's Club, University of Delaware Cooperative Extension Office, Senior Medicare Patrol, Jackie Albaum, Delaware's Trauma Response for Youth, Citizens' Hose Company No 1 of Smyrna, Delaware Office of the Public Guardian, Smyrna Police Department, Keller Williams, American Legion Ambulance Services Station No 64, Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, DelDot, DE State Senate, United States Postal Service Smyrna, First State Book Lovers, United Rentals, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute of the University of Delaware, Roc-Easy Soul Line Dancers, Valerie Jerome, Barbara Doles, Mike Wilson and John Riddle.

To our volunteers; you help us maintain the library and impact our operations every day. We couldn't function without your commitment. And to our patrons- thank you! Thank you for reading, attending, sharing and loving your library. We hope you will keep discovering more at Duck Creek Regional Library.