

# SHELF LIFE

MOHAWK VALLEY LIBRARY SYSTEM



## GENEROUS DONATIONS TO SUPPORT LIBRARIES

*Schoharie County libraries to benefit*

It started with an unexpected phone call.

The phone rang, an MVLS staff member answered, and the voice on the line introduced himself as a staff member with Fenimore Asset Management. The company wanted to make extraordinarily generous donations to each of the four libraries in Schoharie County.

"Would they be interested?" he asked.

Of course, the answer was yes. An emphatic yes.

It is Fenimore's 50th anniversary, and they are celebrating by donating to a diverse group of community organizations representing the Arts, Education, Healthcare, Human Services, and Youth Development. The Community Library, Middleburgh Library, Schoharie Free Library, and Sharon Springs Free Library are the recipients for the Education category.

Fenimore chose some amazing organizations for their donations. MVLS and the Schoharie County libraries are honored to be included among such a great group.

To kick off the process, Fenimore, invited recipients to Proctor's Theatre in Schenectady to celebrate the announcement of the donations. Each of the four library directors attended and brought one of their trustees. Mary Carrier and Wade Abbott from MVLS attended, too.



Directors and Trustees from Schoharie County libraries, along with MVLS staff, gathered at Proctor's Theatre to celebrate the announcement of Fenimore Asset Management's donations to Schoharie County libraries.

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# AWARDS SPOTLIGHT

*Two outstanding staff members recognized*



Sam Zimmerman, Fort Plain Free Library

We are all aware of the excitement surrounding the MVLS libraries trading cards this summer. You may have also heard a bit about **Sam Zimmerman** from the Fort Plain Free Library who spearheaded the idea of each library having their very own collectible trading card available to patrons who visit from near and far. She wanted each card to portray a quick glimpse of what each MVLS library has to offer. Sam created unique front and back designs for each of our system's 14 libraries, as well as a card for MVLS itself, incorporating input from directors and staff throughout the system and researching printing companies to find cards that would be both affordable and professional-looking. Her creativity and technical abilities played an important role in designing the cards and creating a QR code that links to a map of all of the library locations.

The collaborative summer reading programs over the past few years have showcased and promoted all of our 14 libraries. It is important for communities to see that libraries are for everyone, and that we work together to support each other. MVLS-GO created excitement, new experiences, and a memorable summer.

In addition to Sam's efforts with this project, she is also valued by her colleagues for being hard working and always ready to help out with anything: from the circulation desk, to programs, to painting a square in the library's Community Art Collage.

Since April 2022, **Courtney Little**, from The Community Library, has been a valuable addition to the staff. She is a self-directed professional who has made big changes resulting in big accomplishments. Library Director Kim Zimmer said it best: "Within months of joining our staff, Courtney oversaw the complete reorganization of our Children's Room, reinvigorated and expanded our Story Time programming, strengthened our juvenile and young adult collections, and worked to broaden teen engagement efforts with new library resources and programming for that important but long-neglected demographic."



Courtney Little, The Community Library

Measurement of Courtney's impact speaks volumes. In the past two years, Courtney has scheduled an average of over 16 programs per month, with attendance for children and teen programs increasing 44 percent in 2022-2023, and it is on track to increase again for 2024. The library has seen a significant increase in circulation of children's books, Young Adult Fiction, and Young Adult Graphic novels since she started.

In addition to working full time, she is also pursuing a masters degree in information science.

Courtney is a delight. She works effectively with all ages, jumps in where needed, and has formed strong relationships with the community. She is truly appreciated as a well-rounded, valuable employee.



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During the celebration, Fenimore's CEO, Anne Putnam, shared her stories about why each of the organizations have been so important in her life. She spoke about frequently visiting Schoharie Free Library and the positive impact that experience had on her life.

It is clear that supporting the community is a core value for Fenimore Asset Management.

Stay tuned for further updates about Fenimore's fantastic donations, the other organizations that received them, how they will be used, and the impact of this generosity on many local communities.



## LEGISLATION & HEARINGS

### *Library construction aid legislation passed, public hearing held*

While advocacy at the state level is often focused on library funding in the state budget, there is always library-related legislation that deserves attention.

One bill, A9076, was sponsored by Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara, who represents portions of Schenectady and Montgomery Counties. He serves as the Chair of the Assembly Standing Committee on Libraries and Education Technology. Assemblyman Santabarbara's bill expands and streamlines public libraries' eligibility for Library Construction Aid.

This legislation could have a profound impact on libraries struggling to fund their construction projects, especially for those in economically disadvantaged or distressed areas. For those libraries, the legislation expands eligibility for state funding for up to 90 percent of their project costs.

## TRUSTEE CORNER

### *NYS Library's trustees website updated*

Looking for answers to questions or information about your role as a trustee?

Look no further than the New York State Library's recently revised [website for Library and Library System Trustees](#).

The website contains a range of information and links including training opportunities, recorded webinars, oath of office information, and trustee training requirements.

Perhaps most importantly, the website contains a link to the latest version of the [Handbook for Library Trustees of New York State](#).

Add it to your bookmarks today.

The legislation also passed in the State Senate and was signed into law in August. If you have questions about whether or not this legislation could affect your library, please contact Eric Trahan.

In addition to this important legislation, Assemblyman Santabarbara invited MVLS to testify at a recent public hearing. Eric Trahan was able to share information about the importance of state Library Operating Aid and Library Construction Aid, and share how that supports the vital work occurring at all our libraries.



MVLS Executive Director, Eric Trahan, testifies at a public hearing for an Assembly committee chaired by Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara.

# SUMMER READING PROGRAM SUCCESS

## *The stats are in*

It was wonderful to see our libraries participating in Summer Reading 2024. While some libraries faced big challenges, such as construction, we had a resoundingly successful summer throughout the system. Many libraries reported an increase in program participation, increased time spent reading, and in one case, the “most successful Summer Reading Program since Covid, numbers-wise, engagement, and participation.”

5,400 people of all ages participated in SRP programs across MVLS. A whopping 18,000 attended programs in member libraries, over 100 caregivers attended programs focused on their needs, and close to 400 made use of make & take kits.

As always, partnerships play an important role in successful library programming. This summer was no exception, and our libraries reported working with 4-H clubs, Cornell Cooperative Extension, local government officials, municipalities, Hunger Solutions NY, school districts, homeschool groups, summer camps, and childcare providers. Some of our libraries were lucky enough to receive support from local businesses for prizes - another great community connection.

Our member libraries' creativity came to the fore, and program offerings included: mini-golf, book clubs for adults, scavenger hunts, exciting art projects, and teen writing clubs.

Of course, we cannot forget the MVLS collectible trading cards. In fact, 1,348 cards were given out across the system!

Thank you for all you do to make Summer Reading successful at your libraries, and congratulations on another great summer of reading and learning at MVLS libraries!

## COLLECTIONS CORNER

### *Cool resource for collections*

Have you ever had one of those moments where a patron asks you for a book recommendation, and you just go blank? Maybe it's a genre you do not read yourself, or you have other things on your mind. For whatever reason, you struggle to come up with an author or title.

A useful web site called [Library Reads](#), can help take the pressure off. Every month, Library Reads publishes printable lists of recommended titles in adult fiction and nonfiction. These titles are curated by library staff working all around the country, so every book is a “staff pick.” You can find October's recommendations [here](#).

These lists can be displayed at an information desk, and they can help with ordering and making displays.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SAVE THE DATES!

**Read for the Record**  
Thursday, October 24th

**New York Library Association (NYLA) Conference**  
Wednesday, November 6 - Saturday, November 9th  
Mary Carrier & Beth Rienti present: Ignite Successful Collaboration and Lasting Partnerships

**Cabin Fever Club**  
Winter 2025  
See the accompanying flyer for details.



MVLS is partnering with Nathan Littauer Hospital's Labor & Delivery Department in Gloversville to encourage family literacy.

Through the “A Book for Every Baby” program, parents of newborns will receive a gift bag from MVLS containing a new board book and early literacy tips.

# CABIN FEVER CLUB

## Winter 2025

### JANUARY

**Tuesday, 1/21, 11am -12pm**

***Is Mythology Guiding Your Genealogy?***

*Lisa Dougherty, Genealogist*

**Wednesday, 1/29, 11am -12pm**

***Beyond the Pines: Colonial Schenectady***

*Mike Diana, Schenectady County  
Historical Society*

### FEBRUARY

**Tuesday, 2/4, 11am -12pm**

***Spotting Fake News***

*Mary Carrier, MVLS*

**Wednesday, 2/12, 11am -12pm**

***American Impressionism & The Eight,***

*Mary Alexander, Arkell Museum*

**Tuesday, 2/18, 11am -12pm**

***Healthy Living for Your Brain & Body,***

*Meagan DeMento, Alzheimer's Association*

**Wednesday, 2/26, 11am-12pm**

***Container Gardening***

*Master Gardeners, Cornell Cooperative  
Extension of Schenectady County*

### MARCH

**Tuesday, 3/11, 11am - 12pm**

***10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's Disease***

*Meagan DeMento, Alzheimer's Association*

### **Lunch & Learn with Mary**

***Wednesdays in March***

***Noon - 1pm***

***Ditch It & Downsize - 3/12***

***Visit the Library in Your PJs - 3/19***

***Understanding Cloud Storage - 3/26***

**All classes will be held online via Zoom.  
Registration required.**



# COMBATING FAKE NEWS

## From the Tech Tutor

Misinformation and fake news have been an issue for centuries, going back as far as 1890. From staged photos to sensational tabloid stories, we have seen how information can be stretched by the media. Fast forward to today, and the spread of fake news is not just a problem for the media. It is everywhere and can be spread by anyone using the internet. Journalists used to report the news. Now they spend more time sleuthing, analyzing photos and videos and fact-checking information. Verifying information is a way to gain credibility as a reliable source of news.

Meanwhile, news can spread and spin out of control through social media. When we share content with others, we are in a sense reporting, and sometimes it is difficult to separate opinion from fact.

You may have also noticed that the way algorithms work in social media can limit the news that comes across a particular platform. Many times, we are only seeing what Facebook or Instagram thinks we want to see, and we get trapped in a “filter bubble” that only shows content that is similar to what we have liked. By only looking at one source for information, we can be biased in our viewpoint.

As we look at times of crisis or chaos in our society, these are the times when we need to be very aware of where information is coming from.

In addition, there is a real fear that artificial intelligence can take over and influence us by rapidly spreading misinformation through text, video, audio, and visual images.

Finally, do not believe everything you hear and see, particularly in the upcoming months as we face a critical time during an election year.



### Tips about fake news and misinformation:

- Vary your sources of information – this may help separate fact and fiction.
- Read beyond the headlines, and look at the source.
- Fact check information through websites such as [Snopes](#), [FactCheck](#), and [Politifact](#).
- Critically consume information and avoid bias by comparing other viewpoints.
- Don't believe everything you hear and see, question it and dig deeper.

**GET READY FOR THE  
GENERAL ELECTION ON  
NOVEMBER 5**



**There is still time to to  
register to vote or request a  
ballot by Saturday, 10/26**



Voter Registration



Request a Ballot

For more information, visit  
<https://elections.ny.gov/register-vote>  
or contact your local county board of elections



# CELEBRATIONS & SHOUT OUTS



Rebecca Young getting into the spirit at Middleburgh Library



Thank you to the Fort Hunter Staff & Board for hosting the MVLS Annual Meeting



**YOU CAN NEVER GET ENOUGH BOOKS INTO THE HANDS OF ENOUGH CHILDREN™**

*Dolly*

## INSPIRE A LOVE OF READING

Enroll your child in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and get a **FREE BOOK** every month until their 5th birthday.

“ Our daughter **LOVES READING** and being read to, and the **VARIETY** she receives from the Imagination Library is a **SIGNIFICANT** part of this ”

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is dedicated to inspiring a love of reading by gifting books free of charge to children from birth to age five, through funding shared by Dolly Parton and local community partners in the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and Republic of Ireland.



**ENROLL YOUR CHILD**



UNITED WAY OF THE GREATER CAPITAL REGION  
1 Steuben Place, Albany, NY 12207  
Phone: 518.456.2200 | [dpil@unitedwaygcr.org](mailto:dpil@unitedwaygcr.org)

[UNITEDWAYGCR.ORG/DPIL](https://unitedwaygcr.org/dpil)  
[IMAGINATIONLIBRARY.COM](https://imaginationlibrary.com)



**MAKE A DONATION**

Thank you for promoting Dolly Parton's Imagination Library  
<https://imaginationlibrary.com/>

## CONTACT US

Do you have questions we can answer? Helpful comments? Want to tell us about something going on at your library? Email us or call us at 518-355-2010.

- **Eric Trahan:** Executive Director, ext. 223, [etrahan@mvls.info](mailto:etrahan@mvls.info)
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Not sure who to contact?  
 Check out [MVLS Staff At a Glance](#)