

# SHELF LIFE

MOHAWK VALLEY LIBRARY SYSTEM



## HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT CDLC?

MVLS and its member libraries are members of a larger library consortium-Capital District Library Council (CDLC). The mission of CDLC is to partner with members to strengthen library service through education, shared collections, and local connections.

They locally support three public library systems, (MVLS, SALS, & UHLS), four school library systems, 18 academic libraries, 13 special libraries, seven hospital libraries, and three government offices. Their main areas of support include grant opportunities, continuing education, digitization and preservation, Interlibrary Loan services, interest groups, and advocacy.

Check out all of these services and more on the [CDLC website](#).

## TAX LEVY VOTES PASS

*Eight votes complete, two to go.*

This year, 10 MVLS libraries decided to ask their communities to support tax levy increases. Eight of those votes already occurred, and all were successful. Two additional votes will occur in the upcoming months.

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# CDLC Support



We directly benefit from Continuing Education opportunities, Ask the Lawyer, Ask the Archivist, New York Heritage, and various grant opportunities.

## Upcoming Grant Opportunities



In early July, CDLC will be announcing 3 new grant opportunities:

- **Professional Development** - provides funds to attend workshops or conferences for professional development and programming ideas.
- **Technology & Equipment** - supports projects that enhance library services through the use of technology. Grant award up to \$750.
- **Action & Engagement** - fosters collaboration with other CDLC libraries or local community organizations. Grant award up to \$5,000.



# SPRING SYMPOSIUM - MAY 1, 2025



Thank you to Sharon Springs Free Library  
for hosting the Spring Symposium.

Meghan Harney of the Lowville Free Library recently presented, **"Library Succession Planning: Documenting Institutional Knowledge"** at our Spring Symposium.

**Have you assessed your plans?** It is never too late. Break it down into sizable chunks, and get started. If you need a kick-start, please reach out to MVLS. We are here to help!



Meghan provided us with this great resource to use as a guide:

[lowvillefreelibrary.org/mohawkvalley](https://lowvillefreelibrary.org/mohawkvalley)

## Staff Picks: *What are you reading?*

Sharon: *The Retirement Plan*  
by Sue Hincenbergs

Mary: *New York*  
by Edward Rutherfurd

Kate: *The Unworthy*  
by Agustina Bazterrica

Wade: *The Last Paladin*  
by P.T. Deutermann



*Continued from page 1*

Amsterdam Free Library, The Community Library, Frothingham Free Library, Gloversville Public Library, Northville Public Library, Schoharie Free Library, and Margaret Reaney Memorial Library all had tax levy proposals passed during the annual school district budget votes. Middleburgh Library's proposal passed earlier in May.

We at MVLS could not be prouder of these accomplishments!

This may be the largest number of libraries within our system to propose tax levy votes in any single year.

The development of a library budget is an important annual process, and it is critical to building a resilient library that supports its community. This means libraries have to ask their communities for tax levy increases, and it can be a challenge to ascertain what that amount should be. The right balance can be difficult to find, especially as costs continue to escalate and fiscal pressures mount for many individuals and families in local communities. As a result, the stress of a tax levy vote can weigh heavily on library directors, staff, and trustees.

It is always a relief to see local communities affirm their support for their libraries by passing these levies.

In recent years, more MVLS libraries have moved toward a model of making a tax levy

## PROGRAMMING RESOURCES

new

*New & forthcoming resources in myTurn*

Bark, George! Storytelling Felt

Chicka Chicka Boom, Boom & Chicka

Chicka 1 2 3 Storyelling Felts

Big Play Wheels Up Kit - coming soon

Build-a-Story Bags - coming soon

vote an annual process, a model that MVLS strongly supports. Communities in the region have largely been supportive, with votes typically ranging from 60 to 80 percent in favor of the proposals.

However, those numbers have crept down slightly for many MVLS libraries this year, and it might be worthwhile to conduct a deeper dive into this. Each community has unique characteristics and circumstances that affect these votes. Taking a careful look at each situation, comparing the library vote results to school budget votes, and looking for other trends could be useful tools as libraries plan for the future. MVLS tracks a fair amount of this information and we are always happy to help dig into the data and trends more deeply.

In the meantime, best wishes go out to Johnstown Public Library and Sharon Springs Free Library as they approach their budget votes in the upcoming months.

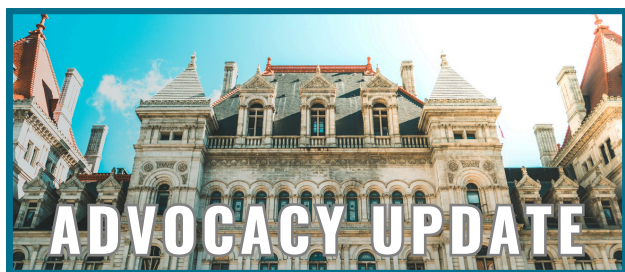


## MENTAL HEALTH & SELF CARE

Here are a few tips to support your mental health and well-being:

- Take note of your emotions in a healthy way. Recognize what triggers you and how you react.
- Develop healthy coping strategies, including physical activity, meditation and mindfulness, and expression through creative outlets such as art, music, or writing. Do something you enjoy!
- Maintain healthy, positive relationships. Surround yourself with supportive, understanding people. Who are these people for you?
- Prioritize sleep and plan/prepare a diet with foods that are nutrient-rich to improve your energy level, mental clarity, and heart health.
- Set boundaries and reduce stress. Say no, scale back, and take breaks from social media and negative environments.

just  
BREATHE



## BRING ON THE BUDGET

*2026 State budget passed in May.*

In early May, over a month after its due date, the 2026 New York State budget was officially passed.

Library Operating Aid increased by nearly \$2.5 million from last year's budget for a total of \$106.3 million. This was higher than

the Governor's proposal, but not as high as the Assembly or Senate proposals.

While the Senate and Assembly did propose increases in Library Construction Aid, the final budget restored funding to \$44 million, the same as last year.

Funding remained flat for NOVELny. There was \$1 million included in the budget for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, a \$500,000 increase. Unfortunately, there was no increase in Library Materials Aid for school districts.

Thank you to everyone who advocated for library funding in the state budget.

## DIGITAL MEDIA LITERACY FOR KIDS & FAMILIES

Is this movie age-appropriate for an eight-year-old? Is it okay for my two-year-old to play on my phone? My teen is online all the time. Are they safe on the Internet?

If you work a service desk in a public library, you've likely heard questions like these, and many others!

To help parents and caregivers navigate the always changing and often overwhelming world of Digital Media for kids and teens, I encourage you to check out [Common Sense Media](#). This is a great resource for parents, teachers, and library staff who work with kids, teens, and families.

You can find curated lists for websites, books, movies, apps, video games, and podcasts. The lists can be limited by age group, which is a really helpful feature. Once you find a title you want to know more about, you can get a detailed review, which includes age recommendation, rating (1 to 5 stars), and a "what parents need to know" overview.

Age recommendations are based on content including if the title is violent, scary, romantic, mature, depicts risky



social behaviors, etc. It also includes a positive content section with things like educational value, positive messages, and diverse representation.

There's a separate area of the website, [Parents' Guides](#), that offers parents advice on topics such as first phones, using social media, and artificial intelligence; as well as Minecraft, Discord, and TikTok. This section also permits searching for age groups or by digital platform. Adults can look up digital milestones for each age group, to see what is developmentally appropriate.

Adults working with children and teens can benefit from the Educators section of the website, which has lessons on digital well being and digital citizenship. Libraries may want to consider the Family and Community Engagement materials around digital media literacy available on the website for programming purposes. A full subscription to Common Sense Media costs \$39.99/year, but many of the resources are available for free.





# Protect Yourself from Scams

Scammers are looking for money or personal information.

## Signs of a scam

They contact you



There is a sense of urgency

They use scare tactics and tell you HOW to pay

## Avoid scams

- Ignore or delete unexpected texts, calls or emails requesting money.
- Pause and call a friend or family member to share your experience.
- Do not pay or provide personal information.



**Report a scam**

**ReportFraud.ftc.gov**

**Call the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) 1-877-382-4357**

# BENEFITS OF VIDEO CHAT

## *From the Tech Tutor*

The use of video conferencing tools such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams, and Google Meet has changed the way we interact and communicate at work and with family and friends.

There are so many benefits to using these tools for communicating. The experiences vary from live interaction and active engagement to catching up later by reviewing a recorded webinar. It is a good idea to find out the purpose of the meeting or webinar before attending.

Here are a few etiquette tips:

Keep your camera on - when participation and active engagement is required.

Turn your camera off

- when you are actively listening but not participating. In most cases, large group webinars will not allow camera or microphone use.
- when you are multi-tasking or have a lot of activity going on around you.
- to improve poor internet connection, this can also help improve the audio quality.
- for privacy and for "Zoom fatigue" - a term used to describe the mental exhaustion from being on virtual meetings.

Other tips

- Stay muted until you are ready to speak.
- Display your name, instead of a phone number (review the participants list and rename yourself).

## *Become a Digital Communicator*

**Use one or more of these apps to video call friends and family!**

**Download the app from the App Store or Play Store to your smartphone or iPad/tablet.**

**Google Meet**  
(requires a Google account)



**Messenger**  
(requires a Facebook account)



**WhatsApp**  
(requires a Whatsapp account)



**FaceTime**  
(iPhone/iPad only)







# CELEBRATIONS & SHOUT OUTS

*Congratulations to our  
Outreach Mini-grant Winners!*

***Assistive Devices to Enhance Library Access***  
Fort Hunter Free Library

***Community Outreach Kit***  
Frothingham Free Library

***Kindergarten Kickoff***  
Gloversville Public Library

***Learn 2 Braid Classes at Schoharie County Libraries***  
Schoharie Free Library, The Community Library,  
Middleburgh Library & Sharon Springs Free Library

***Pages of Connection***  
Schenectady County Public Library



Wishing all of  
our libraries a  
safe and  
happy Pride  
month!



## CONTACT US

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Not sure who to contact?  
Check out [MVLS Staff At a Glance](#)