

Director's Report: Submitted by Patrick Pittman

April 2026

Director's Focus:

Future Renovations; Year-End Assessment/Reporting; Community Survey

Personnel: See Personnel Committee report.

Finance: See Finance Committee report.

Facilities: See Facilities report.

Policy: See Policies Committee report.

Library Function: A county-wide trend has emerged showing flat or diminished building usage in libraries. Seymour has not proven an exception to the trend. In April 2025, Seymour had 7,211 users in the building over 225 service hours. In April 2026, the library saw 6,677 individual visits over 222 service hours. Year to date, total library building usage has decreased by 638 visits. By percentage, it put the library at -2% for the year. While this does not immediately raise concerns, summer reading will prove a critical component for Seymour. The library will seek to determine what programs and services hold high demand for its service population to better encourage community participation at the library.

Programming in April had some bright spots unique to Seymour. A chess program for Homeschool Hour had 20 participants, with the instructor coming from a highly successful and established program at the Rochester Public Library. Seymour's gardening program kicked off strong, with the Seymour Seed Catalog distributing over 200 packets of seeds. Dr. John Daly from SUNY Brockport's History Department spoke about the Civil War to 29 participants. The depth and breadth of educational programming to encourage literacy and lifelong learning had improved significantly over the course of the year.

Material circulation went positive in April, diverging from the relatively flat performance for the first quarter of the year. The library circulated 226 more items than in April 2025. The inverse of library circulation to library usage presents questions about how patrons use the library. One notable difference in April came from a large disbursement of the budget for electronic materials. The purchase focused on cost per item/cost per circulation of around \$1.50-\$2.00 per item, with over 50 of each purchased. For now, the correlation exists. It appears patrons actively seek electronic materials without necessarily visiting the library. The analysis theorizing this concept came earlier in the year, and the numbers seem to back that idea. A sustained increase in electronic materials through May should cement the total numbers.

Seymour sent the Annual Report to the New York State Library to MCLS at the end of April. MCLS and the State Library will perform an initial review of the submission to request notes,

clarification, and corrections. The completion of the initial review will allow for a final report to go to the board and municipalities, although likely not until the June board meeting. The board will need to approve the report before sending it on to the municipalities. The process for reporting this year had some bumps and hiccups, but it appears as though the feedback and review period has normalized.

The general trend of the Seymour Library's financial picture looks stable through Q1 2026. Cuts in operational spending to the liability and umbrella insurance gave the library operating cushion. Savings in the landscaping line strengthened overall flexibility. The reimbursement of \$93,500 from DASNY has rebuilt the library's cash position, which will assist with investment income and future improvements to the building. The staffing structure remains stable, while the library has room to grow. Moderate, incremental improvements continue as a recurring theme at Seymour.

Looking Ahead: The Summer Reading Program has set its kickoff date for Thursday, June 25th at 5:00 pm. The library will host a ribbon cutting for the pavilion at the same time, which will demonstrate the generosity of community organizations to improve institutions. A few activities will change with kickoff this year, although the library does not expect less than its typical turnout for the event. Each of the library's support organizations has agreed to contribute to the event this year, which should add a new twist overall. We invite all trustees to attend.

Several open action items have since closed by the board since the beginning of the year. The board has made good strides in accomplishing checklist items. The community survey will need review and a date for release in 2026. The fiscal audit firm requires an appointment with contract terms. The board should consider establishing key dates for FY 2027 budget development. The library does not face significant challenges in the same manner as prior years but must stay consistent on compliance items one step at a time. It will encourage a pattern for many years of stability and sustainability.

In Closing: April had some asymmetrical numbers in core operations at Seymour. While this slightly raises some flags, the overarching performance has stayed resilient and strong. The path to correction only comes from moving forward. Focus on the Summer Reading Program should give the metrics a bump to continue the progress made at the library in the last several years. The first quarter of 2026 showed some promise on all fronts, which will likely continue.

The board and the library have similar overlapping priorities. Ordering those priorities to develop a shared path will serve as the best course of action in accomplishing day-to-day and larger compliance action items. Still, things continue to move upward and with positivity at all levels of the library.