

Edison Public Library
Director's Report

January 14, 2025

"The State of the Edison Public Library"

This past year the Library celebrated its' 95th anniversary! It was a milestone in the history of the Library but also in the direction that the Library is moving towards; centennial in 2029.

Much has happened this past year, the highlights included:

--Hitting almost 600,000 items borrowed

--Expanded hours on Friday, Saturday and Sunday as requested by Edison patrons

--A new Sprinter Van which was used for smaller bookmobile stops, and promoting the Library at events around the Township, such as the Farmers Market

--Expanded services and programs for Edison's older adults with a dedicated Librarian leading that service

--Expanded Literacy and English Language Learning coordinated by an Edison Public Library Staff Member

--A Vibrant Friends of the Library providing additional financial resources for the Library along with the Edison Public Library Foundation

--A Renovation project for an updated Main Library redesigned to provide better service to our public

--The North Edison Branch Library renovation and expansion project finally coming together with the goal of revitalizing community services in North Edison

This is not an exhaustive list by any means but examples of what is possible with the Board of Trustees, the Library Administration and Staff all having the same goals and working together to achieve them. Our blueprint of course is the Library's Strategic Plan. They include:

--To constantly expand our collection of books and other materials available both in the Library and virtually. Can we reach the goal in 2027 of 700,000 items borrowed?

--To provide a variety of programs both offered by Library staff as well as outside presenters to enhance cultural arts and lifelong learning for those who are able to come into the Library and for those who want to learn and grow in the comfort of their own home

--To Embrace the cultures and languages of Edison patrons making the Library accessible to both long-term residents and new arrivals, providing up-to-date technology that meets the changing needs of our patrons and finally providing facilities that are up to date and reflect the needs of the community called Edison.

2025 is already here and the Library continues to move forward every day making sure change happens in a positive way.

What do we see ahead for this year for the Edison Public Library? Where are we going?

--The Main Library is about to begin Phase 2, when we reopen to the public on February 10th. The entire Library will now be housed on the Upper level as the Lower level gets renovated. Anticipated to be completed around June 2025 when we can once again provide expanded patron services, programs and collections in the fully renovated and updated facility

--The North Edison Branch Library is expected to start renovation sometime in March which a completion date of June 2026. Residents will be able to access limited services in temporary quarters only 5 minutes from the current location on Oak Tree Road

--The new reading program for children, "1,000 Books before Kindergarten" is expected to begin around February 1, funded by the "Friends" and "Foundation"

--Working with grant funding we received from the NJ Council for the Humanities, we will be doing focus groups and patron surveys on programming to better understand the changing needs of the community

--Marketing efforts will be expanded as we adopt our new logo and better reach out to those who are not currently Library card holders

--Development of a Passport Service at the Library providing additional revenue as well as a new Notary Service

--Expanded programming efforts outside the Library reaching those who have not yet discovered the Library

--Expand services for our frailest older adults with a "Books to Go," homebound delivery service and developing, "Memory Cafes" for those with Alzheimer's disease or Dementia and their Caregivers

--Increase the numbers of English language learning classes offered as well a computer training with our partnership with AmeriCorps and the NJ State Library

--Refresh the Clara Barton Branch with new and innovative collections and programs to meet the needs of the changing community along with updates to the facility

--Begin the process to look for alternatives to building Library branches to provide Library services to better meet the needs of Edison's residents, perhaps Pop-up Branches in storefronts or Book Vending Machines around town and at the Train Station

All of this will be happening as we continue to provide quality customer service to Edison residents and we continue to improve the Library each and every day.

2025 will be a challenge to meet some if not all of these goals. I think working together they are achievable not only for the go and development of the Library but the growth and development of the Township of Edison as we moved towards that Centennial.

Respectfully submitted,
--Allan M. Kleiman, MLS
Library Director

**Edison Public Library
Assistant Director's Monthly Report**

December 2024

Assistant Director

December was heavy on meetings and renovation/construction.

We started off the month with a new Library Associate Sherri joining the team. Mid month a new Children's Librarian Jailene also joined. I spent time onboarding with them both as well as Sean who is a literacy tutor. I was unable to meet with him prior. I participated in interviews as well.

I attended AFSCME negotiation meetings, both Library Board meetings, the North Edison Construction Revised Bid Opening, and the North Edison Construction Meeting.

The Library staff celebrated the holidays on Friday, December 20th with a holiday party at the Main Library. It was a great time with good food, games, and a tour of the upstairs renovations. We had a nice turn out of employees and board members.

I finished out the month by working at the Main Library on Sunday, December 29th which was a great time. It's always nice to get back to the basics with librarianship and to have face time with the patrons and the library staff.

Patron Services and Programming

Radha and John spent time orienting our new team members Sherri and Jailene.

Radha also worked with John and Liz on scheduling and ordering materials for the branches. John continues to host the Monday Morning Book Club. He coordinated branch visits with ARK and school facilities. Caroline scheduled programs, attended professional development meetings, and responded to meeting room requests. Jessica hosted three family storytimes and created youth displays at the Clara Barton Branch.

Liz finalized her January programs. She continues to work closely with the Rutgers Social Work intern Haseeb, whose semester ended December 29th. She has also been filling in as the Interim Branch Manager at the Clara Barton Branch.

Kaitlin hosted an incredibly successful cupcake decorating event for the teens at both the Main Library and the North Edison Branch. She also continues to have popular game days and treasure hunts at the branches. She is looking into finding a dungeon master as teens continually express interest in Dungeons and Dragons.

Allia has been visiting schools. She and the staff made 20 library cards when visiting the Lindenau Elementary School Literacy Night. She has been working on the collection

with Radha and presented 22 programs last month. Allia's programs have been a great draw for the library patrons!

Jenna continues to host the Bookies book club. This is the library's in person book club and the most popular. She's been working with Allia on programming and they will be hosting a February after hours program. These programs have been very popular.

Eric R has settled in nicely. He has been creating book displays for the Main Library. He's also been working on finding programs for the upcoming months.

Manju continues to assist with withdrawing and discarding books. She facilitated her Artsy Toddler program at both the North Edison Branch and Clara Barton Branch and hosted an Art and Craft program for ARK.

Literacy Services

Dana distributed the literacy program review forms and consolidated the results. She created materials for the Lindeneau Elementary Literacy Event. She met and selected a Digital Navigator for the library. She also attended the Digital Navigator Supervisor webinar. She has been working with Sean and Jose to coordinate the upcoming literacy sessions. Finally, she coordinated end-of-class holiday parties for the ELL and computer classes.

Mobile Services:

Mary has been working with Radha on the bookmobile's collection. She and the bookmobile team visited JP Stevens and Menlo Park Schools. She has also been working on the bookmobile schedule for the first quarter 2025. Mary and John represented the Library at the Edison Housing Authority holiday party for community partners. Both had a great time and were happy for the invite.

The schedule will now include: Dogwood Meadows, John Kenney Child Care Center at Heller Park, Keith Wold Johnson Child Care Center, and Patel Brothers.

Circulation Services

The circulation department continues to work on the RFID tagging materials. The circulation staff at the Main Library is doing very well dealing with the limited space while we are on one floor. The Main Library checkout statistics has increased despite the limited space.

Buildings and Grounds:

The team has been incredibly busy working on readying the Main Library for the move to the upstairs level while maintaining the regular book runs between the branches. There have been a few plumbing issues at the Main Library which hopefully will be resolved once we move upstairs.

Communications and Marketing:

Michael continues his weekly emails promoting library programs. He created the

monthly list of programs. Attended the Friends of the Library meeting, facilitated library Zoom program, and participated in a workshop with the logo designers.

Collection Services:

The team has been working on updating the overall collection; preparing for the building renovations and updated shelving patterns. Processing and weeding and discarding continue as usual.

Technology and Innovation:

Kevin has been maintaining the website. He has been working with vendors for the second floor needs. He has been scheduling installations for the second floor as well and running data cables.

Priti has been working on the fiber optic upgrade at the Clara Barton Branch. She updated Deep Freeze at the North Edison Branch and called in tickets for issues with the kiosks. She coordinated with Sonicwall and Stella on the Firewall settings.

The team also conducted several interviews for a full time technician.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Sarr, MSLIS
Assistant Director

Borrower Services

Physical Items Borrowed:

Total: 40,198

Main Library 16,203

North Edison 19,244

Clara Barton 2,854

Bookmobile 1,897

Downloadable Items Borrowed:

Ebooks & Audiobooks

4,591

Hoopla
1,497

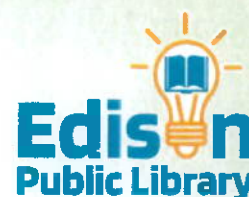
Digital Magazines
1,286

Kanopy

Users: 4,183 Items Streamed: 343

Library Cards Created

377



Information Queries

1,209

Library Programs

Total: 101

Virtual Attendance	In-Person Attendance
48	873

Meeting Room Usage:

Outside Group Meetings
5
Attendance
76



Website Visitors

Visits 8,326

Page views
27,723

Databases

Users
671

Database Searches
3,656

Social Media



Subscribers 214



Followers 1,964



Followers 1,041

Edison By the Numbers - 2024 Year in Review

Borrower Services

Physical Items Borrowed:

Total: 502,553

Main Library 195,868

North Edison 244,232

Clara Barton 41,446

Bookmobile 21,007

Downloadable Items Borrowed:

Ebooks & Audiobooks

59,240

Hoopla
19,721

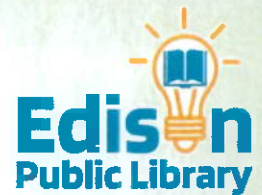
Digital Magazines
14,385

Kanopy

Users: 62,155 Items Streamed: 5,444

Library Cards Created

3,994



Information Queries

18,757

Library Programs

Total: 1,517

Virtual Attendance

819

In-Person Attendance

17,090

Meeting Room Usage:

Outside Group Meetings

68

Attendance

1,317



Website Visitors

Visits 119,727

Page views
397,817

Databases

Users

7,357

Database

Searches
36,932

Social Media



Subscribers +54

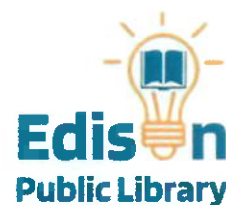


Followers +28



Followers +147

January 2025 Events



MAIN LIBRARY

Tai Chi | A,SP,R

Thursday, January 9 & 23 at 1:00pm
Come learn about Tai Chi and its basic movements with Alex Spiewak from Tai Chi USA.

Office Hours with a Health Insurance Navigator | A

Friday, January 17 at 10:00am
Health Insurance Navigators are available to assist residents with enrolling in a health insurance plan through GetCoveredNJ or NJ FamilyCare.

Shake, Rattle, & Read: A Lapsit Storytime | Y

Monday, January 20 & 27 at 10:00am
Read simple books and do rhymes and bounces, tickles and hugs. Best for babies ages 0 to 20 months.

Toddler Tales | Y

Monday, January 20 & 27 at 11:00am
Come and hear some fun stories! Open to children ages 2 - 5 and their caregivers.

Alphabet Soup | Y,SP

Tuesday, January 21 at 11:00am
We'll introduce our earliest readers to the alphabet through individual letters or letter blends to help cultivate a love of reading and learning. Ages 2-5.

Game Day & Crocheting | T,SP

January 21 & 28 at 3:00pm
Hang out, make friends, and play some video games! If you get tired out from playing learn how to crochet!

Edgar Allan Poe - Dramatic Readings | A,SP

Wednesday, January 22 at 6:00pm
Retired high school teacher and former preservationist of the Stephen Crane House, Frank D'alessandro, will offer dramatic readings of some of Poe's most beloved and enduring works.

Toddler Tales | Y

Thursday, January 23 & 30 at 10:00am
Come and hear some fun stories! Open to children ages 2 - 5 and their caregivers.

Baby Bookworms | Y

Thursday, January 23 & 30 at 11:00am
Read simple books and do rhymes and bounces, tickles and hugs. Best for babies ages 0 to 18 months.

Zodiac Origami | T,TW,SP

Friday, January 24 at 2:30pm
Find out your zodiac animal, learn what animal you are, and more!

Teen Advisory Board (TAB) | T,R

Monday, January 27 at 7:00pm
The starting point for teen volunteering at the Library. TAB gives teens a platform to direct and shape services and volunteer opportunities at the Edison Public Library.

The Bookies Book Club | A,R

Tuesday, January 28 at 1:30pm
This month's selection is *The Only Woman in the Room* by Marie Benedict.

Public Domain Film Festival | A,SP

Tuesday, January 28 at 6:00pm
Films from 1929: *Skeleton Dance* (short), *Karnival Kid* (short), & *Applause* (feature).

LEGO® Club | Y,SP

Wednesday, January 29 at 6:00pm
Explore your creativity and strengthen building skills with LEGO® challenges for ages 6 - 11.

Understanding Memory Loss | A,SP,R

Thursday, January 30 at 1:00pm
Presented by Alzheimer's New Jersey. Older Adults and caregivers are encouraged to attend.

Flashback Fridays | A,SP

Friday, January 31 at 1:00pm
Join us for *Singin' In the Rain* starring Gene Kelly, Donald O'Connor, Debbie Reynolds, Jean Hagen, and Millard Mitchell.

Celebrate The Year of the Snake | A,SP

Saturday, January 25 beginning at 10:00am
Experience different facets of Asian culture as we celebrate Lunar New Year. We have a full day of events planned which include:

10:00 - 11:00am – **Chinese Calligraphy Demonstration & Introductory Lesson with Zhiyuan Cong**, Professor and Director of the Center for Chinese Art at William Paterson University

11:30am - 12:30pm – **Filipino Cooking demonstration**. Chef Maricel from Maricel's Kitchen will demonstrate how to prepare pancit, a traditional Filipino noodle dish.

1:00 - 2:00pm – **Introductory Tai Chi class for adults** led by an instructor from Tai Chi USA

2:10 - 2:25pm – **Traditional Chinese dance performance** by Rutgers Chinese Dance Troupe

2:30 - 3:30pm – **Introductory martial arts class for children** led by sensei from Satori Martial Arts Academy

4:00 - 5:00pm – **Performance of traditional Chinese music** by zither and pipa duo, Zhengming Guzheng



NORTH EDISON BRANCH

Snowman Take and Make | Y,SP

Monday, January 6, While Supplies Last
Stop by the library for a snowman Take and Make and make a snowman in the comfort of your own home! For ages 0 - 11.

Shake, Rattle, & Read: A Lapsit Storytime | Y

Monday, January 6 & 13 at 10:00am
Read simple books and do rhymes and bounces, tickles and hugs. Best for babies ages 0 to 20 months.

Toddler Tales | Y

Monday, January 6 & 13 at 11:00am
Come and hear some fun stories! Open to children ages 2 - 5 and their caregivers.

Artsy Toddler | Y,SP

Tuesday, January 7 at 11:00am
Toddlers will learn new motor skills by creating amazing works of art. Ages 2-5 with their caregivers.

Teen Advisory Board (TAB) | T,R

Wednesday, January 8 at 7:00pm
The starting point for teen volunteering at the Library. TAB gives teens a platform to direct and shape services and volunteer opportunities at the Edison Public Library.

Toddler Tales | Y

Thursday, January 9 & 16 at 10:00am
Come and hear some fun stories with your toddlers! Open to children ages 2 - 5 and their caregivers.

Baby Bookworms | Y

Thursday, January 9 & 16 at 11:00am
Read simple books and do rhymes and bounces, tickles and hugs. Best for babies ages 0 to 18 months.

Collaborative Teen Art | T,SP

Thursday, January 9 at 3:00pm
Work together to make an artist piece to be put on display!

Hands Only CPR with Hackensack Meridian Health | A,SP,R

Saturday, January 11 at 11:00am
Learn how to save a life with Hands Only CPR. (Please note this is NOT a certification class.)

Yarn Fun Craft | Y,SP,R

Monday, January 13 at 6:00pm
Be cozy and warm by making colorful yarn crafts in this cold winter weather. Ages 7-11.

Senior Game Day | A

Wednesday, January 15 at 11:00am
Join us for an entertaining morning of fun and games!

Zodiac Origami | T,TW,SP

Wednesday, January 15 at 2:30pm
Find out your zodiac animal, learn what animal you are, and more!

Pokémon Club: PokéManiacs | Y,SP

Wednesday, January 15 at 6:00pm
Celebrate your love of Pokémon with fun crafts, games, and, of course, Pokémon card trading! Open to ages 5 - 11.

New Years Self Reflection and Resolutions | T,SP

Thursday, January 16 at 3:00pm
Let's discuss the year that passed and make plans for this year!

Teen Clay Cryptids | T,SP

Wednesday, January 22 at 3:00pm
Have fun on a cold day by making some cold creatures!

Origami Creations | Y,SP

Monday, January 27 at 6:00pm
Unfold your creativity at our Origami Craft event. Have fun while learning about crafts you can make with Origami paper. Ages 7-11.

Event Key

A	Adult	IGL	Instagram Live
Y	Youth	M	Maker
T	Teen	R	Registration required
TW	Tween		to attend in-person
E	Exhibits	S	Sensory
F	Family	SP	Special Event
FBL	Facebook Live	Z	ZOOM

CLARA BARTON BRANCH

Clara Barton Knitting Circle | A

Every Thursday at 1:00pm

Do you knit, crochet, or do needlework? All experience levels are welcome, please bring with you your supplies, patterns, etc.

Trivia-palooza! | Y,F,SP,R

Saturday, January 4 at 2:00pm

Join us for a fact-filled trivia contest! Sign-up with your friends or family, or go solo. Suggested for ages 10 and up.

Snowman Take and Make | Y,SP

Monday, January 6, While Supplies Last

Stop by the library for a snowman Take and Make and make a snowman in the comfort of your own home! For ages 0 - 11.

Movie Matinee | A

Tuesday, January 7 at 10:00am

Join us for *Fly Me to the Moon* starring Scarlett Johansson, Channing Tatum, Woody Harrelson, and Anna Garcia.

Senior Bingo | A

Wednesday, January 8 at 11:00am

Join us for a fun, laid-back morning of classic bingo. You may even win a prize (or two)!

Office Hours with a Health Insurance Navigator | A

Friday, January 10 at 10:00am

Health Insurance Navigators are available to assist residents with enrolling in a health insurance plan through GetCoveredNJ or NJ FamilyCare.

Yarn Fun Craft | Y,SP,R

Saturday, January 11 at 2:00pm

Be cozy and warm by making colorful yarn crafts in this cold winter weather.

Chair Yoga | A,SP,R

Monday, January 13 at 2:00pm

Chair Yoga is a gentle form of yoga, suitable for people of all ages and experience levels. Registration is required.

Drop-In Tech Help | A,SP

Tuesday, January 14, 21, & 28 at 11:00am

Stop by the library for a one-on-one meeting with a librarian to help you get your tech sorted.

Family Storytime | Y

Wednesday, January 15, 22, & 29 at 11:00am

Songs, rhymes, and stories introduce our youngest family members to the library and early literacy skills. All ages welcome.

Movie Matinee | A

Wednesday, January 22 at 1:00pm

Join us for *The Fall Guy* starring Ryan Gosling, Emily Blunt, Aaron Taylor-Johnson, and Hannah Waddingham.

Chair Yoga | A,SP,R

Monday, January 27 at 2:00pm

Chair Yoga is a gentle form of yoga, suitable for people of all ages and experience levels. Registration is required.

Artsy Toddlers | Y,F,SP

Thursday, January 30 at 11:00am

Toddlers will learn new motor skills as they create amazing works of art. Dress for mess. Open to children ages 2-5 with their caregivers.



Sign up for our newsletter at edisonpubliclibrary.org to find out about upcoming events!

Edison Public Library programs and events are free and open to the public.
Registration may be required. See Event Key for details.

Our mission is to ensure that Edison Public Library is welcoming, inclusive, and dedicated to excellence.

Board President: Patricia Massev | Library Director: Allan Kleiman

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

Girls Who Code | T,TW,R,SP

Saturday, January 4, 11, 18, & 25 at 4:00pm

Come learn to code in the Edison Public Library's chapter of Girls Who Code! Open to girls in grade 5 - 12.

Classic Minestrone Soup with LibraryChef | A,R,SP

Wednesday, January 8 at 7:00pm

Learn to make a hearty, classic soup, perfect for winter.

Meditation: Experience Peace, Calm, and Joy | A,R,SP,Z

Wednesday, January 8 at 7:00pm on Zoom

We need some way to leave the negative and stressful behind for a while to access the joy, calm, and peace that lies within each of us.

Monday Morning Book Club | A,R,SP,Z

Monday, January 6 at 10:00am on Zoom

In January, we will be reading *My Name Is Lucy Barton* by Elizabeth Strout.

MY NAME IS LUCY BARTON



Let's Talk About Broths with LibraryChef | A,R,SP

Tuesday, January 14 at 7:00pm

Dive into the flavorful world of broth-making!

Non-Fiction Book Club | A,R,SP,Z

Wednesday, January 15 at 12:00pm on Zoom

Our first meeting will be a planning meeting where we will decide what books we'll be reading for the season.

The Magic of Found Family: In Conversation with Author TJ Klune | A,R,SP

Wednesday, January 15 at 7:00pm

Have a magical moment with New York Times bestselling author TJ Klune as he chats about his *Cerulean Chronicles*

Gut Health 101 & Cozy Comfort with LibraryChef | A,R,SP

Wednesday, January 22 at 7:30pm

Join Library Chef's guest nutritionist to discover how nourishing soups can enhance gut health!

Notes on Modern Irrationality with Bestselling Author Amanda Montell | A,R,SP

Thursday, January 23 at 2:00pm

We chat with the New York Times bestselling author, Amanda Montell about her newest book, *The Age of Magical Overthinking: Notes on Modern Irrationality*.

An Inside Look at Working with a Literary Agent: A Conversation with Seth Fishman | A,R,SP

Tuesday, January 28 at 1:00pm

Join us for an inside look into working with an agent with Seth Fishman, Vice President and Literary Agent at The Gernert Company.

LIBRARY CLOSURES

The Edison Public Library will be closed on the following days:

Monday, January 20

Closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day