

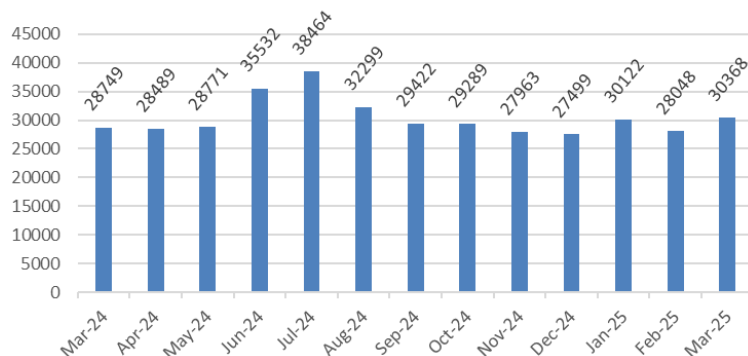
# Mammen Family Public Library

## Monthly Report – March 2025 Activities

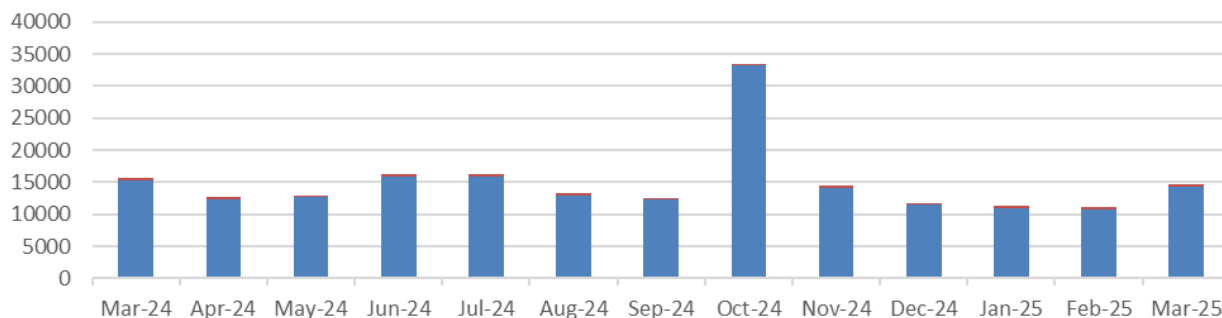
### Circulation Team Report

- Number of visitors to the library: 14,579
- Total items circulated: 30,368
- New cards issued: 239
- Number of active members: 10,478
- Total volunteers: 109
- Total volunteer hours: 728
- Patron internet use: 1,719
- Collection size: 65,693

Circulation Trend Chart

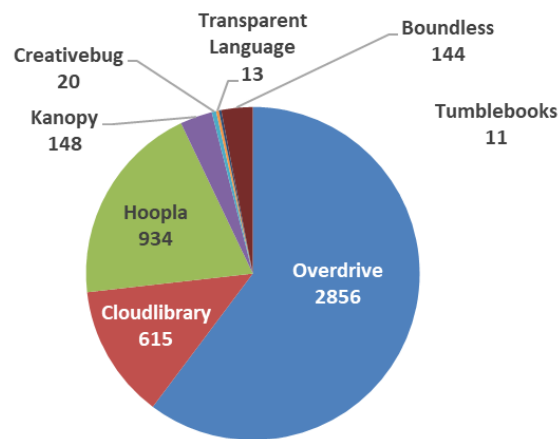
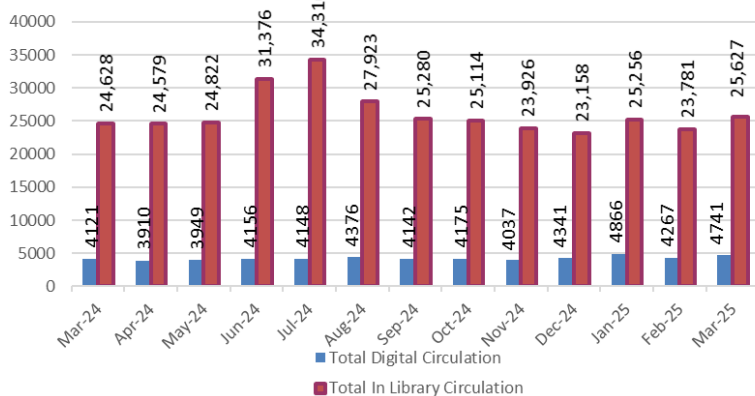


Library visits: Door count and drive up window



	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25
Drive Thru	341	383	258	326	328	346	320	354	250	288	310	302	311
Door Count	15303	12348	12627	15959	15906	12875	12231	33141	14169	11448	11011	10803	14268

In-Library vs. Digitally Downloaded Materials circulation



Monthly Digital Downloads

## Programming, Outreach and Community Collaboration

### Adult Programs (Alex Depree, Hanna Stratton, Sophia Bard)

On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, patrons joined us for an informative presentation by expert Kurt Menking. He took patrons on a journey through the caves of the Texas Hill Country. With his knowledge of the region's geology and its hidden underground wonders, Kurt discussed the history, formation, and the significance of Texas caves. This presentation was brought to us by the members of the Southwest Gem & Mineral Society, a group passionate about geology, mineralogy, and the natural world.

The Literary Festival on March 8<sup>th</sup> was an overall successful first-time event. Our door counters approximated around 400 attendees throughout the day. Additionally, our BBQ food truck reported selling 38 plates and redeemed around 20 author vouchers. Feedback from our Literary Festival participants was largely positive, with some even expressing an interest in coming back for future events. Tara Chapman, one of our Nature Nonfiction Panel authors, sold the most books through our independent bookseller.

Despite battling some intense winds, our plant swap event turned out to be a success! On March 15<sup>th</sup>, 50 plant enthusiasts gathered, bringing a diverse selection plants, pots, and gardening accessories to share. The plant swap stand was filled, but it wasn't long before the shelves began to empty. The event was a fantastic success and we're already looking forward to the next one!

On March 20<sup>th</sup>, the talented *Happy Out* Irish trio filled the space with a spirited performance for our patrons. Over 120 people, from families with young children to seniors, gathered for an evening of traditional Irish tunes. In addition to the music, attendees enjoyed freshly popped popcorn. The snack was a perfect pairing with the lemonade and juice we provided.

### Crime and Coffee:

Our second meetup had six patrons. We had a discussion on the Idaho murders. We explored a range of theories surrounding the case, examined the timeline of events, and considered the key evidence that has emerged so far. The conversation was dynamic and insightful, with everyone contributing their perspectives and questions.

Looking ahead, our next meetup is scheduled for April 17<sup>th</sup>, where we'll be diving into the Karen Read case. This controversial and complex case has sparked widespread public interest, and we're looking forward to dissecting the details, exploring the various narratives, and discussing the ongoing legal developments. As always, all viewpoints are welcome, and we encourage everyone to come prepared to engage and share.

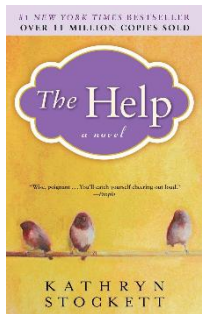
### Outreach (Javier Gonzalez)

In March, Outreach directly engaged with 486 community members and impacted many more through books and materials.

Outreach debuted new giant library cards for photo opportunities. Thanks to Marc from the Makerspace team for getting those done for us! What better way to showcase them, than at MFPL's Hill



Country Literary Festival! We had the Trekker on full display and plenty of families came by to visit our info table to get some cool library swag!



**BOOK CLUB: Books & Bites** this month read *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett. The New York Times Bestselling novel is set in Jackson, Mississippi during the early 1960s, focusing on the lives of African American maids and white women in a racially segregated society. Participants enjoyed this month's book selection and had a lively discussion. For the bites, Gina took macaroons and thumbprint cookies. There were 9 participants in addition to library staff.



**ADULT OUTREACH:** The **Homebound Delivery Program** currently has 10 patrons. We delivered a total of 24 books to our homebound patrons. At **Bulverde Assisted Living**, 10 books were checked out between the 2 residents that are avid readers. Lobby stops at the **Highlander Senior Village** have 7 regular patrons that attend our bi-weekly lobby stop. Between those patrons we had 16 books and 2 Kindle Paperwhite devices checked out for the month.

**YOUTH OUTREACH:** This month at **SJRC** the teens checked out a total of 23 books. For the activity, the girls got to make bracelets and keychains. We took a variety of new graphic novels and chapter books for the teens to choose from!

The Pre-K storytime visits for March took place at **Johnson Ranch Elementary**, **Specht Elementary** and **Rebecca Creek Elementary**. There are about 20-30 children at each school in their Pre-K programs. For the craft, Javier brought an activity to make a cute bird mobile.



Javier led a special storytime at the Winding Branch Ranch early in the month. The ranch is a nonprofit organization that rehabilitates rescued and surrendered livestock. Families got to feed animals on the property before we started the storytime. Kids planted their own sunflower seeds to take home! Outreach will be visiting the ranch once a month!



This month we also visited the **SHARE Center**. Javier led a lively storytime about spring and the families made colorful shamrocks! Javier and Montana visited **Sanctuary of Hope** to lead a fun storytime and craft. Javier also attended the Pollinator Fiesta at Guadalupe River State Park on March 15th. There were over 200 people in attendance. It was a beautiful day to visit the park. Outreach was there to promote the library by doing library card sign-ups and a cute tissue paper butterfly craft!



#### OUTREACH COLLECTIONS:

- The giveaway collections, consisting of adult and children's books and a few bilingual books in Spanish, continue to reach the community at Provisions Food Pantry and Acacia Medical Mission.
- In March we purchased **39 new books** for the Trekker collection. We added a variety of adult large print, nonfiction and juvenile fiction and graphics.

#### LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES:

- **Books by the Bundle** program had 2 patrons sign up for a book bundle this month.
- **Little Free Library**, bookcase restocking and prize give away books combined were at **123** books distributed in March.

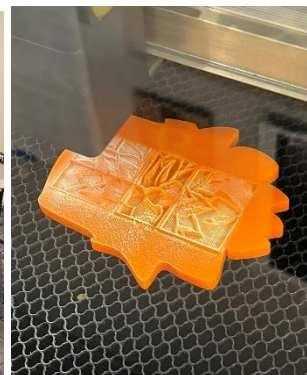
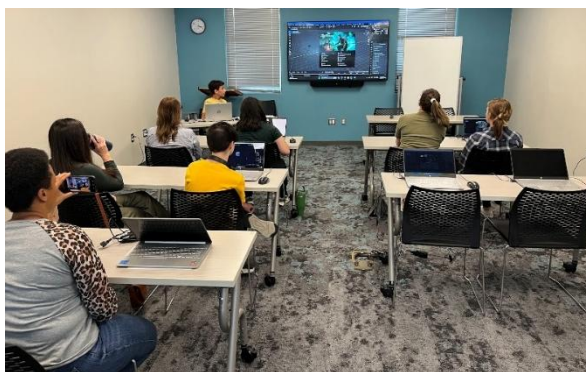
OTHER NEWS: This month Javier met with the Lifestyle Director, Katie Harmon, at Copper Canyon to plan some visits to the subdivision for the summer. We look forward to attending their Kids Day event and possibly starting a monthly storytime visit!

## Makerspace (Lindy Hargrave, Marc Dunlap)

Gina's sewing classes garnered a huge amount of interest nearly tripling the waitlist. We have added even more Sewing 101 classes to give everyone the opportunity and Gina has really enjoyed teaching them. Our annual Women's Woodworking 101 lecture and lab went well—the ladies asked great questions and gained hands-on experience with the woodworking equipment. Although attendance was low, we were able to run a few colorful projects with patrons including 3D printed lucky charms, golden pot acrylic designs and explorations into the Glowforge's 3D engraving capabilities. Earlier in the month our booth at the Hill

Country Literary Festival brought in 7 new members and gave us a great opportunity to showcase several projects and Makerspace. At the end of this month we started a 6-week Blender Animation led by a very talented young

patron! The teens taking the class and their parents are learning a lot and our instructor, Mark, is gaining valuable teaching experience.



## Youth Services (Montana Rindahl, Briana Gonzalez, Ben Gonzalez)

### Teens

This month we hosted a special Car Maintenance 101 class for teens, where they got to learn how to change a tire, jumpstart a car and learn basic car upkeep. Special thanks again to Rob for doing this class for us, it was a huge hit!

Another standout program of March was our teen makerspace class! With the help of Marc, the teens learned all about Heat Transfer Vinyl. It was our most well attended program of the month with a total of 17 teens!

We also want to recognize all of our awesome teen volunteers that helped with the literary festival, as well as our weekly volunteers that help us out on Saturdays. We couldn't do it without you!

For the month of March, our volunteers earned a total of 46 service hours.



## Children's

Spring Break and the Literary Festival were the most exciting events for Children in March! More than 150 children completed our Spring Break Scavenger Hunt, each earning a free book to keep. Bluey and Bingo were extremely popular guests on the Children's Patio during the Lit Fest, where a few local children's authors were selling their books.



The day before the Lit Fest, we had three groups of school children take a field trip to the library for the "Battle of the Genres" presented by Kari Lavelle and Lindsay Leslie. In total, we had approximately 500 students in Kinder-3rd grade visit from Arlon Seay and Rahe Bulverde Elementary Schools. Kari and Lindsay repeated their presentation for families on Saturday as our Children's Keynote!



March was a fun month for the tween club! We had a karaoke session, and made trading cards, but our standout program this month was our Shark Tank game! Tweens put on their business hats and brainstormed a new product or idea that they could sell. They then presented their ideas to the group and we definitely have some future business entrepreneurs at MFPL!

## Collections Reports

Adults (Kristin): We loaned 5 items to and borrowed 73 items from other libraries in the Interlibrary Loan (ILL) system. We worked one-on-one with 9 members to teach them how to use our electronic resources. In March the Spanish collection was inventoried and in April I will focus on weeding the DVD collection. Two adults were emailed a personalized reading list.

Youth (Montana): We weeded and inventoried the Early Readers collection this month. This is a popular collection with high circulation rates and usage, so most materials are weeded on condition. As of March 28th, nearly 40% of the collection was currently checked out! We fulfilled two requests for children's material in March.



We fulfilled 12 requests for YA material in March. We've also begun another big project for the replacing the old "Young Adult" spine labels with new bright green "YA" ones. The sticker we have used for years is no longer available for purchase. Design and processing whiz Javi created a new spine label for us that we can print in-house and use forever! The

books with the new spine labels look so fresh and clean on the shelf; we are thrilled! Removing the old stickers and replacing them with the new ones will be an ongoing processing project.

Large Print (Alex): Thirty five titles were purchased for the Large Print collection in March. I received a few requests to purchase more non-fiction for large print, so I tried to focus on that last month. Unfortunately, a lot of large print is not offered in hardcover. Large print books are also released a few months after the standard print is released, so I've made it a focus to monitor the best sellers in standard print so that I can purchase the LP version as soon as they're available.

Library of Things (Alex): Earlier this month, I had the opportunity to attend the TLA conference, where I participated in a couple of sessions focused on the Library of Things. These sessions provided insight for how we might expand and enhance our own collection. One idea that particularly stood out to me was the use of kits—a curated collection of related items that can be checked out together as a single unit, rather than individually.

Currently, our library offers baking kits and pasta-making kits. I believe we could further benefit from developing a larger kit system that incorporates multiple items into one package. This approach not only streamlines the borrowing process but also enhances the patron experience by providing all the necessary tools or materials for a specific activity in one checkout. Whether it's hobby-based kits, educational sets, or themed family activity kits, I see a lot of potential for increased engagement with this system.

We deleted 330 items for the following reasons:

- Weeded – 234 items
- Vanished – 12 items (due to inventory)
- Lost and unpaid for – 69 items (sent to collections)
- Lost and paid for – 11 items

## Marketing & Public Relations (Hanna Stratton)

In March I focused on refreshing some of the more permanent items around the library! With the help of Rob and Marc I was able to update most of the small tabletop signage throughout the library, as well as the slides on the self checkout kiosks. I also began promotional items such as the website and the shirt for the 2025 Summer Library Program.

### Social Media:

Compared to the previous month we saw a large increase in several things on our social media platforms! Views, Reach, Link clicks, content interactions, page visits and followers all increased by at least 30% with some increasing over 200%! Our most popular post across all categories was the Facebook post sharing the Teen Car Maintenance 101 class! It received 21 reactions, was shared 7 times, and reached over 1,000 people!



## Website:

I began creating the webpage for the 2025 Summer Library Program! Working with Montana I drafted a page that is nearly ready to be published! I also added some informational graphics to the photo slideshow at the top of our homepage. These highlight some library resources including the new virtual author talks, information about where to find program information, and library hours.



## Book Displays:

This month's display was "Find Your Lucky Treasure" in celebration of St Patrick's Day. In true St Patrick's Day fashion it featured a pot of gold on top and every book was green! The Staff Picks display also underwent some TLC in March as the sign was stabilized and rehung up.

## Technology (Rob Lerner & Marc Dunlap)

**Marc:** There is still noticeably "heavy" use of the PACs, though to some extent this can be attributed to "tax season".

The WiFi connection has seemed to have been very steady and there has been a much lower than normal "Patron complaint" (reported directly to me) about having trouble connecting.

**One-on-One Technology Help:** This past month's One-on-Ones have gone very well. Most people were happy with the experience as well as expressing their surprise in the amount of help we were able to provide.

There were several "repeat" attendees who sought help with their "new laptops" needing general guidance inside Windows 11, as well as file management "best practices". I suggested they attend the Wednesday "Let's Learn Technology" program, and two out of the three did.

**Let's Learn Technology Together:** While we are still seeing low attendance for these classes, there also still seems to be "great interest" in them as well. Once we get some consistency under our belt, I hope to see the attendance grow.

**Rob:** March we began work on some long planned upgrades and some unexpected ones. In 2019 we built our Patron Catalogs from parts and free software. Our original plan was to use them for a short while until we found a more refined solution, but then COVID happened, the supply chains fell apart, and nothing ever really materialized that was any better. They turned out to be pretty bullet proof, but over time they slowly began to fail. From the original 6 we are down to 3 Patron Catalogs. The free Linux software that we are using is also no longer free and isn't being supported. We decided that the time had come to just move ahead and replace them with new machines. We ordered 6 Dell All In One touch screen computers that we will then run with Porteus Kiosk software. Porteus is the same software that we currently used, but now we will have a subscription that will include automatic updates.



Automatic updates did, however, prove to be problematic for our security camera system. An update to their operating system managed to glitch the IP addressing of just one of our two NVRs. It took about a week and multiple factory resets to clear the glitch and to get everything working smoothly. We decided that we needed a get another NVR to spread the camera load and act as a backup. We're now integrating it into the system and moving cameras on to it. Unfortunately, this is a slow and tedious process, but it's moving along a few cameras at a time.

We also found a possible solution to our door control project that we had to put on hold last May. The magnetic locks that were supposed to be a drop in solution proved to be anything but. While they fit into the frames easily enough the way our doors were installed means the locks don't line up the striker plate. The potential solution is an over the frame magnetic lock. Instead of going into the striker plate it will attach directly to the frame and we won't have to worry about it lining up. We have the control wires already in the door, so installation should be relatively easy. We're going to start with the Teal Study Room to test the system and when we're sure it works will do the other rooms.

## **Facilities Management** (Warren Pichon)

### **Study Room Use: 534**

- Cleaned "Old Bulverde Wood Store" display case
- Cleaned drive up windows inside and outside and sanitized
- Cleaned Employee exit door glass
- Septic System Treated with 2 gallons of Bleach
- Tightened all toilet seats throughout the library including employee toilets
- Treated water feature weekly with Algaeoff and "Sludge Away"
- Did daily "Walk Around" that includes blowing debris from all entrance ways, walkways, patio areas and butterfly
- garden area. In addition: check grounds for trash and debris left by raccoons and others and for anything out of place
- Cleaned and sanitized 24hour book drop, book lockers and Drive up window containers
- Stored Water feature net in Chiller room
- Swept up fallen leaves at entrances to the library
- Treated AC unit in the Data Closet with tablet
- Changed Story Time Sheets
- Cleaned Inside Book Lockers

Master Naturalist: Trimmed, weeded and cleaned handicap walkway garden area 3.4.2025/3.11.2025

Firetrol: Replaced the worn internal clapper assembly, replaced 2 reliable concealed cover plates, to correct errors from Sprinkler System annual inspection 3.5.2025

Carter Irrigation: Septic System scheduled inspection 3.12.2025

HomeTeam Pest Defense: Monthly Pest control completed 3.18.2025

Chabelo: Weeded, trimmed and stacked cut trees on new property 3.17/31.2025

Star State Plumbing: Took out toilet in employee ladies restroom and preparing floor for shower installation 3.17.2025/3.31.2025

Parks Coffee: Changed water filter in coffee maker in staff kitchen 3.20.2025

Macon Precast Concrete, LLC: Installed 42 wheel stops in parking lot 3.26.2025

Master Gardeners: Weeded and worked in butterfly garden area, planted in area at end of FOL patio 3.26.2025/ 3.26/27.2025

**Master Gardeners and Naturalist Worked In Butterfly Garden Area**



**Bullet Tile Installing Showers In Employee Bathrooms**



**Inside Book Lockers Before Cleaned**



**Inside Book Lockers After Cleaned**



## **Administration** (Susan/Cathy)

Susan completed the annual report and submitted it to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission along with our Application for Accreditation for next year.

Kayli Blalock, who was hired as our Youth Services Specialist in December, resigned from the library. We posted the position and interviewed several great candidates. We hired Ben Gonzalez who started with us April 7<sup>th</sup>.

We received our Zenbooth kits for our two new small, portable study rooms. Rob, Warren and Hanna spent a lot of time putting one together although we felt that there might be some parts that weren't correct. We also were missing some hardware from one of the kits. We notified the company and they sent the missing parts and asked us to check that the other kit was

undamaged. Warren and Rob discovered some damaged parts and the company sent replacements and are also sending a professional team to assemble it at no cost to us. They will also check the one we built to ensure it doesn't have wrong parts and correct any issues. The booths will work well as additional study spaces to relieve the demand we currently have. The booths should be built on April 18<sup>th</sup>.

Some library staff and Debbie Soelberg, BARLD Secretary, visited with Marmon Mok Architects at their office for a design charette in March to determine whether the future plan for the Children's addition could be more feasible and still accomplish what we need. We are waiting on updated plans based on the discussion.

Susan hosted some local library Directors for the monthly meeting in our area this month. A small group attended but it is always helpful for information sharing.