

Libraries in the News: Edith B. Ford Library in Ovid

On the evening of January 21, 2025 a major fire destroyed a block of buildings on Main Street in Ovid, NY. One of our members, the [Edith B. Ford Memorial Library](#), located across the street, was unharmed but found itself meeting the immediate needs of a community in crisis. A library trustee, also a member of the Ovid Fire Department, was key in bridging the two organizations. The library continues to be an epicenter of support and activity for the town as it recovers. Just last week it hosted Catholic Charities for the distribution of donated funds to those affected by the fire. Library senior staff volunteered at the Ovid Fire Relief Fund pop-up thrift store at the Outlet Mall in Waterloo. Member libraries in Interlaken and Lodi provided mutual support to their neighbors.

Sometimes it's not your library that suffers the disaster--it's your community. In her [Letter to the Editor](#), Library Director Andrea Tillinghast shares her experience. The letter serves as a reminder that library staff are both front-line workers and community members who may be uniquely affected by these types of events. Library work--staff or trustee--isn't easy. If it were, everyone would do it.

Disaster Preparedness and Planning Resources

- [Do 1 Thing Disaster Preparedness Guide](#) *this resource breaks down planning into manageable chunks.*
- Disaster Preparedness Basics-People, Policies, Practices, and Procedures Workshop
[Recording](#)
[Resources](#)



A place of support in the aftermath of the fire, the library is seeing more patrons now than it has during some of their busiest summer months.

Libraries in 2025

We've all heard the saying "the only constant is change." Directors and Boards work together to navigate changes on the horizon in 2025 and beyond, each with their own [roles and responsibilities](#).

Lawyer Stephanie "Cole" Adams has created a tool to help. We encourage you to review her [Top Ten Risk Management Exercises For Governing Boards of Libraries & Cultural Institutions During the 2025 Federal Shift](#)

Upcoming Workshops and Recordings

Practicing Empathetic Listening with People Different from You with Mike Bishop

March 19, 2025 | 10:00-11:30 am | [REGISTER](#)

Trustee Handbook Book Club – Board Development: Recruitment, Orientation, Education and Evaluation April 30, 2025 5:00-6:30PM [REGISTER](#)

[Ask the Expert Series](#) Follow this link for HR resources and to register for upcoming workshops remaining in the series.

Ask the HR Expert Series
with Stephanie “Cole” Adams

FRIDAYS FROM
10 AM - 11:30 AM

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| New Laws in the New Year | JANUARY 24, 2025 |
| Innovations in Employee Benefits | FEBRUARY 28, 2025 |
| AI on the (GLAM) Job | MARCH 28, 2025 |
| Open Ask HR | APRIL 25, 2025 |

Empire State
Library Network

Benefits Survey

People are the most important resource in a library. FLLS is currently working on a series of surveys to learn more about salaries, benefits, job titles and descriptions for library staff throughout our service area.

This data can help libraries and boards make informed decisions when it comes to creating competitive wages and benefits packages to attract and keep qualified personnel.

Patron Privacy

Please note that there is sensitive information in Polaris’ Patron Records. [It is illegal to share this info](#) with anyone other than the patron unless you have their explicit written permission (excludes situations with parent/guardians and children).

If law enforcement requests any information regarding a patron’s records, they will have to submit a warrant to Finger Lakes Library System as we own all Polaris records.

Trustee Toolkits: Open Meetings Law

We’ve taken your frequently asked questions and created an online guide to help you navigate all the ins and outs of running a Board meeting:

[Trustee Toolkit: Open Meetings Law](#)

NYS Budget & Libraries

Spring is state budget season! Here are the recommended requests developed by the [New York Library Association](#):

- \$176.8M for State Library Aid. The Governor’s budget includes \$104.6M. This represents what libraries need due to lack of full funding since FY 2007 with inflation and increased costs factored in.
- \$175M for Library Construction. The Governor’s budget includes \$34M. NYLA estimates that the State’s public libraries need \$1.75 Billion to address issues ranging from roofing to ADA compliance.