

TRUSTEE PACKET

Materials and draft versions of reports and documents the board reviews during open meetings. See the Approved Minutes posted online after each meeting for a record of board decisions.



Christian County Library's Board of Trustees - Open Session
Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. (Doors open at 5:30 p.m.)
Nixa Community Branch, Large Meeting Room

Pledge of Allegiance

Consent Agenda

1. Minutes
 - a. Minutes of Tuesday, December 16, 2025, Open Meeting
 - b. Minutes of Friday, January 16, 2026, Special Open Meeting
2. Report of the Executive Director

Public Comment

Old Business

New Business

1. Financial Report
2. Welcome Ozark Area Trustee, Kristin Roussell
3. Board Officer Elections (President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary)
4. Mobile Hotspots
5. Collection Development Update
6. FY 2026 Milestones/Markers

Adjournment



Report of the Executive Director

February 2026

January and February Summary

The strategic planning cycle for FY 27-30 is underway. The board and I had a great working meeting in January at the Ozark branch. Many action items and goals for the year were agreed upon. We will also be scheduling open community discussions at the branches with their representative board member, the director, and the location manager. We are targeting May 2026 for this endeavor.

A great amount of operational time was invested in public records requests. We fielded many requests that involved multiple departments, and this caused some initiatives to be delayed. I am working with the team to better improve our procedures so that records work does not bring a halt to other operational/administrative productivity. I have made the decision to remove the free hour waiver from our fee schedule for the time being. The fee schedule itself will be updated this month.

A major project, with the operating title "Community Engagement Portal", kicked off this month. The deliverable will consist of a web page dedicated to all the many ways the community can connect with our library. It will aggregate opportunities such as donation wish lists, volunteering, programming, links to our partners, requests for book purchases, bidding on work, and more. Our collection team has put together a "Little Golden Books" wishlist on Amazon that we are sharing out now. It is my hope that this project will set the foundation for how we operate for years to come.

Personnel

- We added two more team members. Broghan Fields is our new Technology and Data Compliance Specialist who will serve as our custodian of records. Kaleigh King is newly hired at the Ozark branch as a part time library assistant. Two part-time, outreach

assistant jobs will be posted soon. Congratulations to Nicholas Holladay, who has been hired as the new Director for Library Center of the Ozarks. Nicholas will be missed by many here at the Christian County Library.

Milestones and Markers

January

- Interdepartmental work groups launch - work culture, programming, staff development
 - Certain ad hoc groups such as staff development day launched. Some were delayed for operational reasons.
- Planning for staff day to commence
- 25-26 Staff evaluations
 - Moved to February
- Branch manager description updated, listed, filled end of Jan early feb -Nixa and Clever one pool
 - Jobs posted, but still open.
- Hire IT Data Specialist
 - Hired
- Hire part time for Ozark
 - Hired
- Fiscal review of cloud based financial software suites to replace client side begins
 - Research of possible suites began
- Emergency procedures and safety review (began in Dec 2025)
 - Work began, closing procedures for inclement weather.
- Collection Data for PLS, Active Patron report
 - Need to follow up on this
- IRS tax form 1099's are due Jan 31
- Meet SAP and refresh design project
 - Met with SAP and walked through space. Designs submitted to us with invoice.
- 2026 Winter Reading Challenge continues (December 1st - January 31st)
- March/April 2025 Library events due
- 2026 Summer Reading Challenge preparation begins

February Milestones/Markers (in progress)

- First submission for CD policy development - introduction/scope
 - Worked on draft, Pushed to March
 - "Little Golden Books Wishlist" added.
- Mobile Hot Spots discussion at board meeting
- SLP Grant cycle begins (if accepted, Dana R submitted Dec 25)
- Collections first donation call - golden books idea
- Adjust language on the public comment policy sheet before the board meeting. Pushed to March
- Comms Google form to staff and public - What does the public need to know, educated about?

- Form sent out to staff, public version to come later.
- Opportunity “on ramp” site discussion (based on our existing store)- donation calls, giving opportunities, participation opportunities (site clean ups), native plants and trees
 - A team was put together to create this site and a kickoff meeting had. We have a strong framework set for this keystone project.
- Seed library preparation
 - DeeDee Brashers has been taking lead on this project and refining our approach for future years.
- Plan for wall repairs for Ozark
 - The bottom of the wall is rusting out and can leak. Strategizing for this has begun. This issue will likely have to be further budgeted for in FY 27

Building and Grounds

- We have asked the Finance subcommittee to review our procurement policies to adjust for inflation and to give our facility director increased operational agility to finish projects.
- We met with SAP to continue plans for the Nixa Branch and AD building

Collection Development

- Tipasa is officially launched. This is on the back end of our interlibrary loan service. Should improve efficiency.
- Ingram (our main book distributor) has its orders coming in late; New books are delayed. This is still because of an increased load from Baker and Taylor going out of business.

Youth Services

- Winter Reading has wrapped up and prizes have been sent to branches to be claimed by their winners. Here are a few numbers from this challenge in December and January:
 - 382 readers
 - 49 book reviews written
 - 290,510 minutes logged
- Spring Reading Challenge will be from March 2nd to April 30th. Prizes will include:
 - Gardening Station - An outdoor potting bench/work table, fabric grow bags, and plant pots
 - Family Yard Games - A jumbo stacking game, Kubb yard game, and a cornhole set
 - Food Storage Kit - starter sets for preserving food by canning and vacuum sealing



Year to Year Statistics

January	2026	2025
Total Patron Visits	12181	12228
Total Circulation	18565	18231
New Library Cards	300	337
Public Computer Use (minutes)	64259	71605

Director's Tip

Keep an eye out for our Local Authors' Expo Website. Let your writer friends know there will be a sign up.



Tuesday, December 16, 2025: Open Session

Trustees in Attendance: John Garrity, Mary Hernandez de Carl, Kelli Roberts and Echo Schneider.

Trustee(s) Absent: None

Start Time: 6:00 PM

Consent Agenda

1. Minutes

Mary Hernandez de Carl moved to remove the finance report from the consent agenda and approve the remaining items. The motion was seconded. The motion passed. Trustee Garrity: Aye; Trustee Hernandez de Carl: Aye; Trustee Roberts: Aye.

2. Report of the Executive Director

No board action was taken.

Public Comments

Old Business

1. Community Feedback

a. Public Comment Policy

No board action was taken.

2. Budget and Policy/Bylaw Subcommittees Updates

John Garrity made a motion to nominate Mary and John to the policy subcommittee and to nominate Kelli and John to the budget finance subcommittee. The motion was seconded. The motion passed. Trustee Garrity: Aye; Trustee Hernandez de Carl: Nay; Trustee Roberts: Aye.

New Business

1. Styron and Shilling Contract and Invoice

John Garrity made a motion to not pay invoice 00649 from Styron and Shilling. The motion was seconded. The motion passed. Trustee Garrity: Aye; Trustee Hernandez de Carl: Aye; Trustee Roberts: Aye.

2. Interim Vice President Election

Echo nominated Kelli to serve as interim Vice President until the end of January. The motion was seconded. The motion passed. Trustee Garrity: Aye; Trustee Hernandez de Carl: Aye; Trustee Roberts: Aye.

Adjournment: 6:41PM

Friday, January 16, 2026: Special Open Session

Trustees in Attendance: John Garrity, Mary Hernandez de Carl, Kelli Roberts and Echo Schneider.

Trustee(s) Absent: None

Start Time: 9:05AM

Agenda Items

- Trustee Perspectives & Representation
No board action was taken.
- Team Culture & Collaboration
No board action was taken.
- Strategic Planning Timeline Focus
No board action was taken.
- Executive Director 2026 Goals and Initiatives
No board action was taken.
- Board of Trustees 2026 Goals and Initiatives
No board action was taken.
- Timelines and Prioritizations
No board action was taken.
- Support and Sub-Committees
No board action was taken.
- Communication and Engagement Strategies for:
 - Board of Trustees and Executive Director
No board action was taken.
 - Board of Trustees and Legal Council
No board action was taken.

Adjournment: 11:55AM

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New Business - Item 1. Financial Report



Christian County Library Profit & Loss - Unaudited

January 2026

	Jan 26	Total Budget	Remaining Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Tax Rev	2,828,092.73	3,777,426.19	949,333.46
Copier/Fines/Fees	3,617.17	45,000.00	41,382.83
Grants/Donations	0.00	50,000.00	50,000.00
Interest Income	805.89	20,000.00	19,194.11
Total Income	2,832,515.79	3,892,426.19	1,059,910.40
Gross Profit	2,832,515.79	3,892,426.19	1,059,910.40
Expense			
Collection			
Technology (Hotspots)	1,237.87	22,701.00	21,463.13
Audio/Visual			
Youth AV	365.41	7,250.00	6,884.59
Adult AV	171.19	11,000.00	10,828.81
Total Audio/Visual	536.60	18,250.00	17,713.40
Books			
Youth Services	954.18	29,700.00	28,745.82
Electronic Coll. (Hoopla & OD)	10,381.17	102,500.00	92,118.83
Adult Books	1,434.45	52,000.00	50,565.55
Total Books	12,769.80	184,200.00	171,430.20
Consortia	0.00	42,000.00	42,000.00
Databases	4,012.85	52,000.00	47,987.15
Library of Things	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Periodicals & Zinio	105.69	4,400.00	4,294.31
Total Collection	18,662.81	326,051.00	307,388.19
Operating Expense			
Bank Service Charges	162.86	0.00	-162.86
Bond Fees	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Information Technology	9,125.18	92,706.00	83,580.82
Insurance	0.00	55,000.00	55,000.00
Bond Payments	0.00	837,000.00	837,000.00
Marketing	0.00	22,050.00	22,050.00
Building & Grounds	4,989.46	134,304.00	129,314.54
Development	0.00	300.00	300.00
Furniture and Equipment	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Professional Services	1,591.90	31,400.00	29,808.10
Memberships	30.00	5,000.00	4,970.00
Outreach	0.00	800.00	800.00
Postage	1,153.33	10,000.00	8,846.67
Programming	240.00	9,500.00	9,260.00
Programming Supplies	436.79	17,870.00	17,433.21
Staff & Board- Travel	114.22	2,500.00	2,385.78
Supplies	501.28	26,000.00	25,498.72
Telephone/Fax/Modem	704.36	10,000.00	9,295.64
Training	0.00	4,800.00	4,800.00

**Christian County Library
Profit & Loss - Unaudited**

January 2026

	Jan 26	Total Budget	Remaining Budget
Utilities	7,302.21	75,632.00	68,329.79
Vehicles	20.00	9,400.00	9,380.00
Total Operating Expense	26,371.59	1,349,262.00	1,322,890.41
Personnel	170,907.69	2,493,554.71	2,322,647.02
Total Expense	215,942.09	4,168,867.71	3,952,925.62
Net Ordinary Income	2,616,573.70	-276,441.52	-2,893,015.22
Net Income	2,616,573.70	-276,441.52	-2,893,015.22

**Christian County Library
Profit & Loss - Unaudited**

December 2025

Cash Basis

	Dec 25
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Tax Rev	
County Taxes	611,859.93
Total Tax Rev	611,859.93
Copier/Fines/Fees	3,649.69
Gifts/Grants/Reimbursements	370.00
Interest Income	809.07
Total Income	616,688.69
Gross Profit	616,688.69
Expense	
Collection	
Library of Things	71.29
Technology (Hotspots)	1,984.69
Audio/Visual	
Youth AV	1,567.62
Adult AV	2,297.29
Total Audio/Visual	3,864.91
Books	
Youth Services	3,468.47
Electronic Coll. (Hoopla & OD)	8,504.48
Adult Books	4,602.13
Total Books	16,575.08
Databases	14,976.25
Periodicals & Zinio	106.11
Total Collection	37,578.33
Interest Expense	14.92
Operating Expense	
Bank Service Charges	129.60
IT Discretionary Budget	
Services	1,231.37
Software/Licensing	2,933.02
Total IT Discretionary Budget	4,164.39
Building & Grounds	18,776.26
Professional Services	174.75
Insurance-Library	60,628.00
Marketing	2,886.00
Memberships	300.00
Postage	675.60
Programming	
Adult Programs	210.00
Total Programming	210.00
Programming Supplies	
Adult Programming Supplies	79.61
Youth Programming Supplies	1,222.55
Total Programming Supplies	1,302.16
Staff & Board- Travel	160.72
Supplies	2,677.70
Telephone/Fax/Modem	704.56

Christian County Library
Profit & Loss - Unaudited
December 2025

Cash Basis

	<u>Dec 25</u>
Utilities	5,676.15
Vehicles	<u>353.57</u>
Total Operating Expense	98,819.46
Personnel	<u>245,751.74</u>
Total Expense	<u>382,164.45</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>234,524.24</u>
Net Income	<u><u>234,524.24</u></u>

Christian County Library Adjustment Report for December 2025 (Unaudited)

	Anticipated	Actual	Adjustment
ADT LLC	51.66	93.53	41.87
Amazon Capital Services, Inc.	8,590.18	7,981.56	(608.62)
Bamboohr	1,283.27	1,264.23	(19.04)
Blackstone Publishing	545.92	733.86	187.94
Casey's General Store	342.25	156.11	(186.14)
Cengage Learning	11,576.25	12,340.23	763.98
Center Point Large Print	296.04	592.08	296.04
Chilton's Environmental Services LLC	108.00	430.00	322.00
City of Sparta	53.40	12.50	(40.90)
Credit Card	1,193.97	6,411.58	5,217.61
GFI Digital	81.26	794.36	713.10
GFL Environmental (formerly WCA)	304.75	610.19	305.44
GoDaddy	-	23.19	23.19
Google	-	786.81	786.81
Hoopla by Midwest Tape	6,540.68	6,437.67	(103.01)
Ingram	2,921.05	3,928.41	1,007.36
Lakeland Office Systems	484.19	518.27	34.08
Lowe's	-	44.56	44.56
Mercy Specialized Billing Services	85.50	84.00	(1.50)
Midwest Tape	491.56	991.92	500.36
Ozark Water Department	47.36	38.32	(9.04)
Personnel	164,312.03	245,821.94	81,509.91
Republic Services	407.64	-	(407.64)
Springfield News Leader	-	106.11	106.11
Square, Inc.	66.52	75.15	8.63
SWMO Services	1,081.00	2,711.00	1,630.00
UniFirst Corporation	1,313.86	2,473.17	1,159.31
USPS	-	15.60	15.60
Wal*mart Credit Card	-	293.16	293.16

Facilities exp put on CC, vendor req pmt day of serv

1/1 payroll had to be done on 12/31 due to holiday

Snow removal and salt

Original Anticipated Bills	288,573.28
Total Adjustment	93,591.17
	0.00
Total December 2025 CCL Bills	382,164.45

CDs	
CD#: 37840052 matures August 28, 2027 (int rate .9%)	250,000.00
CD#: 197708399 matures September 16, 2026 (int rate 2.5%)	264,015.71
CD Total	514,015.71
Ozark Bank Checking	1,520,876.36
Southern Bank Checking (SONDHI)	143,379.51
Cash Drawer (\$40 @ Clever, \$40 @ Nixa, \$80 @ Ozark, \$40 @ Sparta)	170.00
Printer Change Bag (Clever - \$40; Nixa - \$40; Ozark - \$80, Sparta - \$57)	215.51
Petty Cash (Nixa - \$120; Ozark - \$50)	170.00

Bond Funds	
CCL Cop 2020 REV	0.00
CCL Cop 2020 PROJ	263,090.23
CCL Cop 2020 COI	0.00
CCL Cop 18 Prj	29.23
CCL Cop 18 Lrf	0.00
CCL Cop 18 Rf	105,279.66
Total Library Funds as of December 31, 2025	2,547,226.21

Foundation Funds	
CCLF Checking	22,228.69
Edward Jones Insured Bank Deposit	5.66
Edward Jones CDs	25,000.00
Edward Jones Mutual Funds	40,563.79
Total Foundation Funds	87,798.14

*Total Current CCLF and CCL Assets **2,635,024.35**

Christian County Library

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2025

Cash Basis

	Dec 31, 25
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Southern Bank Checking (SONDHI)	143,379.51
CCLFoundation	
CCLFoundation Edward Jones	
CCLFoundation Insured Bank Dep	5.66
CCLFoundation CDs	25,000.00
CCLFoundation Mutual Funds	40,563.79
Total CCLFoundation Edward Jones	65,569.45
CCLFoundation Checking Account	22,228.69
Total CCLFoundation	87,798.14
CD's	514,015.71
Ozark Bank Checking	1,520,876.36
Total Checking/Savings	2,266,069.72
Other Current Assets	
Cash on hand	170.00
Petty Cash	170.00
Printer Change Bag	215.51
Total Other Current Assets	555.51
Total Current Assets	2,266,625.23
Other Assets	
CCL Cop 2020 PROJ	263,090.23
CCL Cop 18 Prj	29.23
CCL Cop 18 Rf	105,279.66
Total Other Assets	368,399.12
TOTAL ASSETS	2,635,024.35
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Accounts Payable	22,153.06
Total Accounts Payable	22,153.06
Credit Cards	8,277.19
Other Current Liabilities	
A&E Tax Payable	17.00
Payroll Liabilities	-1,026.21
Total Other Current Liabilities	-1,009.21
Total Current Liabilities	29,421.04
Total Liabilities	29,421.04
Equity	2,605,603.31
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	2,635,024.35

Anticipated Bills

January 2026

	<u>Jan 26</u>
Adobe	121.96
ADT LLC	60.78
Amazon Capital Services, Inc.	880.76
BambooHR	1,280.37
Blackstone Publishing	280.27
Cengage Learning	4,570.34
Center Point Large Print	296.04
Chilton's Environmental Services LLC	214.00
City of Clever	42.86
Concur Technologies, Inc.	345.72
Credit Card	29.99
Debra Tucker - Yoga instructor	240.00
Demco, Inc.	101.10
Dollar Tree	16.25
DRI*UPrinting	56.11
Ellis Ellis Hammons & Johnson PC	812.00
Faronics	1,239.00
GFI Digital	769.77
GFL Environmental (formerly WCA)	306.13
Google	942.99
Hoopla by Midwest Tape	6,490.62
Ingram	1,063.73
Kenco Fire Equipment, Inc.	49.00
Knight Heating & Air Conditioning	210.00
Lakeland Office Systems	395.94
Liberty Utilities	2,407.05
Lowe's	41.00
Mango Languages	1,492.41
Mercy Specialized Billing Services	82.50
Midwest Tape	246.64
Missouri Employers Mutual	1,136.19
Moody's Investors Service, Inc.	500.00
Mountain Country Propane	746.02
MPLD	30.00
Nixa Utilities	2,016.51
Ozark Chamber of Commerce	20.00
Quadient Finance USA, Inc	726.43
Quadient Leasing USA, Inc.	392.76
Quality Clean, LLC	2,650.00
Recite Me NA LLC	2,000.00
Republic Services	263.94
Showcases	83.38
Socket	615.07
Spire (formerly Missouri Gas Energy)	1,521.74
Springfield News Leader	105.69

Anticipated Bills

January 2026

	<u>Jan 26</u>
Springfield Roofing Systems	350.00
Square, Inc.	87.41
The Library Store, Inc.	27.58
UniFirst Corporation	1,684.59
Unique Management Services	69.90
Verizon Wireless	1,327.16
Wal*mart Credit Card	80.67
World Trade Press	2,520.44
Zoobean	2,010.52
Personnel	169,890.76
TOTAL	<u><u>215,942.09</u></u>

Christian County Library

Balance Sheet

As of January 31, 2026

Cash Basis

	Jan 31, 26
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Southern Bank Checking (SONDHI)	143,392.78
CCLFoundation	
CCLFoundation Edward Jones	
CCLFoundation Insured Bank Dep	5.66
CCLFoundation CDs	25,000.00
CCLFoundation Mutual Funds	40,563.79
Total CCLFoundation Edward Jones	65,569.45
CCLFoundation Checking Account	22,228.69
Total CCLFoundation	87,798.14
CD's	514,519.70
Ozark Bank Checking	4,124,739.23
Total Checking/Savings	4,870,449.85
Other Current Assets	
Cash on hand	170.00
Petty Cash	170.00
Printer Change Bag	215.51
Total Other Current Assets	555.51
Total Current Assets	4,871,005.36
Other Assets	
CCL Cop 2020 PROJ	263,090.23
CCL Cop 18 Prj	29.23
CCL Cop 18 Rf	105,279.66
Total Other Assets	368,399.12
TOTAL ASSETS	5,239,404.48
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	-72.07
Credit Cards	2,656.07
Other Current Liabilities	
A&E Tax Payable	17.00
Payroll Liabilities	14,626.47
Total Other Current Liabilities	14,643.47
Total Current Liabilities	17,227.47
Total Liabilities	17,227.47
Equity	5,222,177.01
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	5,239,404.48

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New Business - Item 2. Welcome Ozark Area Trustee, Kristin Rousell



Section VIII.

Trustees shall be registered Christian County voters. Newly appointed Trustees shall reside in the district from which the vacancy occurs. Districts shall be set by political township:

- 1) West - West Polk, East Polk and Lincoln Townships
- 2) Nixa Area - Union Chapel, Rosedale, Northview and Garden Grove Townships
- 3) Southwest - North Galloway, South Galloway, North Linn and South Linn Townships
- 4) Ozark Area - Cassidy, Riverside, West Finley, East Finley, Linden and McCracken Townships
- 5) East - West Benton, East Benton, Sparta, Bruner, Oldfield, Lead Hill, Chadwick, Garrison and Seneca Townships.

Districts will be adjusted to cover all of Christian County when a change occurs in names or territories of townships.

Section IX.

Newly appointed Trustees will serve four year terms. If a seated Trustee leaves mid-term, their replacement will first serve out the remainder of that previous term and then be eligible for a term renewal.

Article III: Quorum, Attendance, & Removal

Section I.

A quorum for the transaction of Library Board business shall consist of a simple majority of the Board members duly appointed.

Section II.

Failure to attend three consecutive meetings (unless absence is excused) will result in a recommendation to the County for removal.

Section III.

Trustees whose conduct when representing the Library or participating in Library-related work does not comply with established Library Policy principles, expectations, standards, and guidelines, may be recommended to the County for removal by a majority vote of the entire seated Board of Directors.

Article IV: Committees

Section I.

Any special committees as may be appointed from time to time shall serve until a final report is made by the committee to Christian County Library's Board of Trustees, at which time the committee passes out of existence, provided that all committees must make a progress report to the Library's Board at each of its meetings.

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New Business - Item 3. Board Officer Elections (President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary)



Article II: Elections & Appointments

Section I.

Officers of Christian County Library's Board of Trustees shall be elected at least once a year at the July meeting, but may be elected at any open regular or special meeting. Such officers shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section II.

The President of Christian County Library's Board of Trustees shall preside at all meetings, appoint special committees as needed, and authorize calls for any special meetings. The President shall not vote unless needed to reach a majority.

Section III.

The Vice-President of Christian County Library's Board of Trustees shall assume the duties of the President in the latter's absence.

Section IV.

In the absence of both the President and the Vice-President, the members present shall select a President pro tempore by majority vote.

Section V.

The Secretary of Christian County Library's Board of Trustees, with assistance from the Library's Executive Director or designee, shall keep a true and accurate account of all Board meeting proceedings and shall share custody of meeting minutes with the Library's Executive Director and designee.

Section VI.

The Treasurer of Christian County Library's Board of Trustees shall be the official custodian of all monies of the Library District. The Treasurer of the Board, Executive Director of the Library, and Director of Finance and Business Operations of the Library shall be bonded by a corporate surety. As outlined in the Library's [Procurement Policy](#), checks are required to have two signatures: one from an authorized member of the Board of Trustees (Treasurer or Vice-President) and the other from an authorized member of the Library's Administrative Staff (Executive Director or Designee).

Section VII.

Christian County Library's Board of Trustees shall follow the Christian County Commission process for appointment and re-appointment of members to the Library Board in accordance with Missouri state statute Title XI § [182.050](#). Qualified citizens interested in serving should review the Christian County Commission website or contact their office for details.

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New Business - Item 4. Mobile Hotspots



Hotspot use for Internet Access

For addition to the packet and discussion at February open meeting

Use case for hotspot - provides WiFi broadcast such that internet access is available for a third party device (e.g. phone or PC)

Currently hotspots are designed to help rural customers with no cable internet provider. Historically, they were provided when pandemic closures of library services were in effect.

There is little need today as there is no pandemic in effect and libraries are open. Additionally hotspots are no longer needed as cellphone technology includes that functionality and networks are much more widely available. Similar to library branch WiFi the library-provided hotspots should comply with [15 CSR 30-200.030](#), which mandates filtering software, an internet use policy, and certification to receive state funds, ensuring compliance with federal laws like CIPA.

Current state of Wifi availability

Most common access points according to Industry indicators for 2025 show that **virtually 100% of modern smartphones** sold in the U.S. include hotspot hardware as a standard native feature.

- **Smartphone Penetration:** As of June 2025, **91% of U.S. adults** own a smartphone.

Key Statistics from 2025:

- Overall Adults: Around 90-91% of U.S. adults own a smartphone.
- Teens (13-17): 98% have access to a smartphone.
- Age Demographics:
 - 18-29: 98% ownership.
 - 30-49: Near 97% ownership.

- 65+: Around 79% ownership.

Public Wifi availability and Technology changes

For the Christian County, Missouri area (like Ozark or Nixa), common free Wi-Fi spots include: fast-food chains (McDonald's, Starbucks), major retailers (Walmart), public libraries to include all **Christian County Library system branches.**

Carrier Coverage in 2026

- As of 2026, 5G is widely available across the county's major hubs:
 - Ozark and Nixa: High-speed 5G and 5G Home Internet are available from Verizon, AT&T, and T-Mobile.
 - Rural Areas: Coverage has improved in rural areas through state-funded grants, with several new 5G-NR (New Radio) tower projects slated for completion between 2025 and early 2026 to eliminate remaining dead zones.

Background on Original purpose

- Christian County Library (CCL) in Missouri started offering Wi-Fi hotspots to patrons in June 2019, a need highlighted by later pandemic closures.
- SOS - Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Grants Awarded July 2020 - CCL Received \$29,387 [Through its Project D.I.V.E \(Digital Inclusion through Virtual Engagement\)](#)
- Statewide Expansion: In October 2020, Governor Mike Parson awarded over \$870,000 to 39 Missouri libraries through the Missouri State Library to expand broadband access in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, further broadening the availability of these programs across the state.

Data Sources

The data for smartphone ownership and hotspot usage in 2025/2026 is derived from several leading telecommunications and research reports:

[Pew Research Center \(January 2026\)](#): Confirmed in their most recent [Mobile Fact Sheet](#) that **91% of U.S. adults** own a smartphone. This organization also identifies "smartphone-dependent" users (those without home broadband), which includes **15% of U.S. adults** as of early 2026.

- **Industry Standards**: As of 2026, major device manufacturers (Apple, Samsung, Google) include native hotspot capability in **100% of their new smartphone models** sold in the U.S..
- **CTIA (Annual Survey, November 2025)**: Reported that total U.S. wireless connections reached **579 million** (roughly **1.7 connections per person**). They noted that "data-only" devices, which include standalone hotspots and secondary connections, grew to **252 million**.
- [Ericsson Mobility Report \(November 2025\)](#): Forecasted that **5G penetration** in North America would reach **79%** by the end of 2025. This report is a primary source for tracking how 5G increases the viability of using smartphones as hotspots.
- [Cognitive Market Research \(November 2025\)](#): Their Wi-Fi Hotspot Market Analysis identified that **North America holds 39%** of the global revenue share for hotspot technology.

1. Low-Income Internet Assistance

- **Lifeline Program:** Provides a monthly discount of **\$9.25** for broadband or up to **\$24.00** for bundled voice and internet. You can apply through the National Verifier.
- **Provider-Specific Plans:** Several local providers offer low-cost tiers for those who qualify for SNAP, Medicaid, or SSI:
 - **OzarksGo:** Offers a 100 Mbps fiber plan for **\$25.70/month** specifically for Lifeline-eligible customers.
 - **Spectrum Internet Assist:** Offers 30 Mbps speeds for **\$14.99/month** for eligible households.
 - **AT&T Access:** Provides speeds up to 10 Mbps for **\$5–\$10/month** for SNAP participants.

Key Considerations for Evaluating WiFi Hotspot Retention

Christian County Library – February 2026

Executive Summary

The Christian County Library's WiFi hotspot program provides internet access to residents who do not have reliable or affordable broadband service. Devices remain in consistent use, with active holds and limited shelf availability.

If adjustments are needed, policy modifications could improve availability, accountability and sustainability while maintaining service.

1. Community Access to Broadband

The FCC updated its broadband definition in 2024 to 100 Mbps download / 20 Mbps upload.

In Christian County:

- Approximately 68% of households have fiber, cable or DSL connections. ([14 Best Internet Providers in Christian County, MO | Compare Plans](#))
- Rural areas rely heavily on fixed wireless or satellite internet.
- Fixed wireless requires line-of-sight access to towers.
- Satellite service typically requires \$350–\$550 in equipment and \$100–\$200 per month in fees.
- Some providers in the county do not meet current FCC broadband speed standards.

Residents in communities such as Clever and Sparta have limited provider options that meet FCC speed benchmarks.

Hotspots provide:

- Temporary internet access
 - Service during outages
 - Access for job applications, schoolwork, telehealth and government services
-

2. Affordability Considerations

While smartphone ownership is high nationally, phone-based hotspot use may involve:

- Additional data costs
- Data throttling
- Limited device connections
- Reduced battery life

Library hotspot devices:

- Provide unlimited data
- Support up to 10 connected devices
- Operate up to 24 hours per charge

PEW Research indicates lower home broadband subscription rates among ages 18–29 and 65+. ([Phone Tethering vs. Mobile Hotspots: Pros & Cons](#)):

3. Program Usage

The hotspot program began in 2019.

As of February 2026:

- 1,472 total checkouts since launch
 - 329 checkouts in 2025
 - 37 devices currently in circulation
 - 57 active holds on 37 devices
 - Devices are routinely checked out
-

4. Possible Policy Adjustments

If changes are desired, options may include:

- Increase replacement fee (currently \$50)
- Increase late fee (currently \$0.10/day)
- Shorten checkout period
- Designate a small number of devices for short-term emergency use, no holds, first-come first serve model
- Suspend borrowing privileges after non-return threshold

- Remotely disable overdue devices
 - Add optional anonymous usage survey
-

5. Strategic Alignment

The program supports:

- Workforce development
 - Student success
 - Digital access
 - Access to healthcare and government services
 - Rural residents
 - Small businesses
-

Conclusion

The WiFi hotspot program provides circulating internet access devices to residents of Christian County. Devices remain in consistent use. Broadband access varies across the county.

If needed, policy adjustments are available to improve efficiency and accountability while maintaining service.

TRUSTEE PACKET

Materials and draft versions of reports and documents the board reviews during open meetings. See the Approved Minutes posted online after each meeting for a record of board decisions.

New Business - Item 5. Collection Update





TRUSTEE PACKET

Materials and draft versions of reports and documents the board reviews during open meetings. See the Approved Minutes posted online after each meeting for a record of board decisions.

New Business - Item 6. Milestones and Markers



January

- Interdepartmental work groups launched - work culture, programming, staff development
- Planning for staff day to commence (work culture group)
- Branch manager description updated, listed, filled end of Jan early feb - Nixa and Clever one pool
- Hire IT Data Specialist
- Hire part time for Ozark
- Fiscal review of cloud based financial software suites to replace client side begins
- Emergency procedures and safety review (began in Dec 2025)
- Collection Data for PLS Active Patron report
- 1099 s are due Jan 31
- Meet SAP and refresh design project
- 2026 Winter Reading Challenge continues (December 1st - January 31st)
- March/April 2025 Library events due
- 2026 Summer Reading Challenge preparation begins

Feb

- Mobile Hot Spots discussion at board meeting
- SLP Grant cycle begins (if accepted Dana R submitted Dec 25)
- Collections first donation call - golden books idea
- Comms Google form to staff and public - What does the public need to know, educated about?
- Opportunity "on ramp" site discussion (based on our existing store)- donation calls, giving opportunities, participation opportunities (site clean ups), native plants and trees
- Seed library preparation
- Plan for wall repairs for Ozark
- 25-26 Staff evaluations