

MINI ILSLEY

AT THE NATIONAL BANK OF MIDDLEBURY



2025–2026

SPECIAL EDITION IMPACT REPORT

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AS WE CELEBRATE THE OPENING OF THE NEW ILSLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY, WE ARE FILLED WITH GRATITUDE—FOR THE NATIONAL BANK OF MIDDLEBURY, WHOSE GENEROSITY GAVE US A HOME DURING THIS TRANSITIONAL YEAR; FOR THE TAXPAYERS AND DONORS WHOSE SUPPORT MADE THIS BEAUTIFUL NEW LIBRARY POSSIBLE; AND FOR OUR PATRONS, WHOSE PATIENCE, FLEXIBILITY, AND UNWAVERING SUPPORT CARRIED US THROUGH EVERY STEP OF THE JOURNEY.

Meg Baker
President,
Ilsley Public Library Trustees



THE ILSLEY LIBRARY'S HISTORIC BUILDING ON MAIN STREET WAS FUNDED BY COLONEL SILAS ILSLEY, WHO WAS ALSO PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL BANK OF MIDDLEBURY DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OF OUR OWN HISTORIC BUILDING. IT SEEMS ONLY FITTING THAT THE TWO INSTITUTIONS HE LOVED WERE REUNITED TO SERVE THIS COMMUNITY. HAVING THE LIBRARY IN OUR DUCLOS BUILDING HAS BEEN A GENUINE GIFT. THEY BROUGHT ENERGY, LEARNING, AND LIFE TO OUR DOWNTOWN SPACE, AND WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE PLAYED A SMALL PART IN THEIR NEXT CHAPTER.

Caroline Carpenter
President,
National Bank of Middlebury

DIRECTOR'S LETTER



August 2026

This special impact report reflects on a unique and memorable chapter in our history, covering the period of our operations in the National Bank of Middlebury's Duclos building from March 2025 through July 2026. As we prepare to return to our beautifully renovated library building, I find myself reflecting with deep gratitude on our time in the Duclos building.

What could have been a period of disruption became, instead, a remarkable chapter in the library's story. The Bank's extraordinary generosity in offering this space was a gift to the entire community. Because of it, we remained downtown—accessible, visible, and vibrant—continuing to provide the collections, programs, and services the community relies on.

In this shared home, we worked alongside colleagues at the Bank who greeted us with warmth, flexibility, and genuine partnership. We embraced the open floor plan that allowed for intergenerational connection, and treasured the sunny front windows where the children played. Our tenure here has been a tremendous success, not only in maintaining services, but in deepening our sense of community.

As we look ahead with excitement to reopening our library, we do so with a measure of sadness in saying goodbye to this space and the people who made it feel like home. I am profoundly grateful for the space, for the collaboration, and for the spirit of generosity that made it all possible.

With gratitude,

Dana Hart

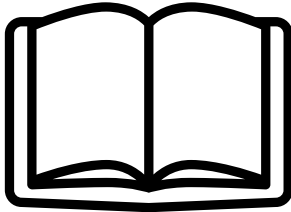
Dana Hart

Director



109,130 VISITS

The library and the bank are both popular downtown destinations!



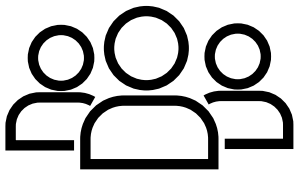
147,840 CHECKOUTS

As always, our community continues to love reading!



627 CARDHOLDERS

During the library's time in the Duclos building 627 new community members signed up for a library card.



280 ONSITE PROGRAMS

In addition to holding Storytimes in the library lobby, the bank generously allowed us to hold programs in the basement meeting space.

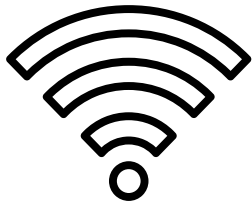


419 OFFSITE PROGRAMS

The library found new and exciting locations for offsite programs.



LIBRARIANS ANSWERED
444 REFERENCE
QUESTIONS



6,897 WI-FI USES



5,342 COMPUTER USES



14,988 BOOKS PAGED

The majority of the library's collection was stored in an offsite facility in Vergennes. Community members were able to request books online, and each day a librarian drove out to Vergennes to collect them. In the library world, retrieving requested materials is called paging. During our time in Mini lsley, the librarians paged 14,988 items from Vergennes!

SPOTLIGHT ON THE NATIONAL BANK OF MIDDLEBURY

PROGRAMS

It was a joy to work with the bank on programs that combined our individual institutional strengths. A highlight was a special Storytime held in honor of Financial Literacy Month. Megan Norris, NBM's CIO, read few books she's authored, along with other age appropriate titles.



COLLABORATIONS

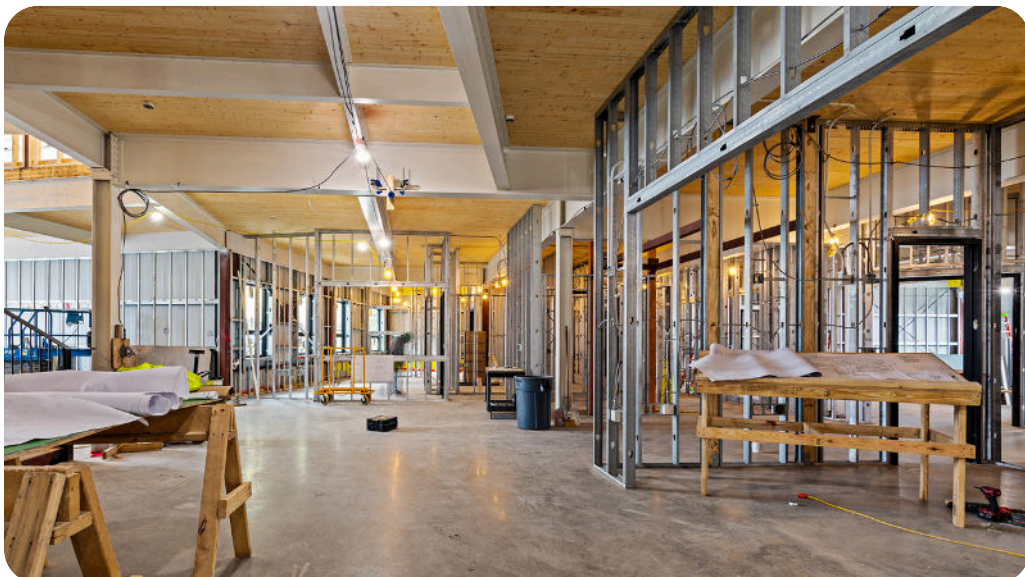
The National Bank of Middlebury sponsored the library's summer reading program in both 2025 and 2026. The library's summer reading program keeps literacy skills strong during school vacation, and the bank's support allowed us to offer new incentive prizes for reading. Participants loved walking over to the bank lobby to receive their grand prize from a bank teller!

LOOKING AHEAD

After nearly two decades of dreaming, planning, and building, the library renovation and expansion project is complete. The relocation will officially begin with a Book Cart Parade down Main Street at 4 pm on August 6. From August 10 to the 28 the library will be closed as we move, unpack, and setup the new space.



The library's grand reopening at 75 Main Street is scheduled for Saturday, August 29 at 10 am. We look forward to welcoming the community into the new library!





SHARING SPACE WITH THE ILSLEY HAS BROUGHT TREMENDOUS ENERGY AND JOY TO OUR MAIN OFFICE. WHAT WAS ONCE A QUIET AND UNDERUTILIZED AREA IS NOW FILLED WITH THE SOUNDS OF STORYTELLING, CHILDREN'S LAUGHTER, AND THE EXCITEMENT OF YOUNG LEARNERS. THIS COLLABORATION DEMONSTRATES HOW TWO DISTINCT ORGANIZATIONS CAN COME TOGETHER TO CREATE A MEANINGFUL AND SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP THAT ENRICHES THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY.

Leah Kerr, Community Office Manager at National Bank of Middlebury

I LOVED HOW ILSLEY MADE A SPACE FOR EVERYONE IN THE DUCLOS BUILDING--A SPOT FOR KIDS TO PLAY, A QUIET CORNER FOR READERS, AND COMPUTERS AVAILABLE TO PATRONS--DESPITE LIMITED SPACE.

Hannah Pennock, library user



ILSLEY'S TEMPORARY LIBRARY WAS LIKE A MAGICAL CLOWN CAR OR MARY POPPINS BAG THAT CONTAINED SO MUCH MORE THAN WE THOUGHT IT WOULD. THEY MANAGED TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES, AN INCREDIBLE BOOK SELECTION.

Cinse Bonino, library user and local author, educator, & facilitator

Photos on cover, page 6 and 7 by Eric Killorin