

# Lester Public Library of Rome

Long Range Plan 2023-2028



# Introduction

The Lester Public Library of Rome was built in 2001 from generous donations from Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lester and the Sigler Family. This 2,500 square foot library offered an adult reading area, children's area, fully equipped computer stations and internet access. In 2008, the library director and library board recognized the need for a larger and updated facility. In fall of 2011, the library board formed a capital campaign committee to plan fundraising events. The funds were raised and matched by the Town of Rome and in May of 2016, the groundbreaking ceremony took place. The additional 4,025 square foot space would add a community room with a kitchenette, study room, spacious reading area with fireplace, expanded children's area, handicapped accessible entrance, and additional restrooms. The library reopened to the public in February of 2017 and had a grand opening ceremony June 10, 2017.

Over the years, the library collections have grown, programs have expanded and we have hired outstanding staff to meet the growing needs of our patrons. The Lester Public Library of Rome remains a community asset and we will continue to focus on serving the community.



# Mission Statement

To provide quality, high-interest materials and services which fulfill educational, informational, and recreational needs of our community and surrounding areas.



Inviting Children's Area

Adult Programs and Crafts



Celebrating Shark Week at the library



2019 Program Award for "Drive in Movie" at our library

## Strategic Goal 1: Access to information

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Patrons will have access to materials and services in a variety of formats that meet the needs of our community.

### Objectives:

1. Evaluate collections annually to meet needs of the community.
2. Maintain all collections of books, movies, audiobook, and magazines.
3. Increase access to digital formats to take full advantage of the library system's wide selection of digital materials.
4. Offer essential training and internet access so all ages can participate in a digital world.

## Strategic Goal 2: Communications

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Increase awareness of library services and resources to the community.

### Objectives:

1. Work with library system and providers to maintain an updated website.
2. Develop best practices for use of social media that will allow the library to showcase local programming.
3. Explore ways to increase awareness of the library's resources and services.
4. Create various methods to publicize current and upcoming programs and services.
5. Improve awareness of current library offerings through posting, mailings, and signage.

## Strategic Goal 3: Adult and Children's Programs

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Promote programs to patrons of all ages and provide educational and enjoyable learning experiences.

### Objectives:

1. Develop programming opportunities specifically for older community members.
2. Create programs and opportunities for teens to gather to collaborate, learn and socialize.
3. Sponsor events appealing to a broad range of interests that provide opportunities to connect with other residents and be involved in the community.
4. Expand collaboration with other libraries and library organizations.

## Strategic Goal 4: Library Staff and Funding

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Create a work environment where staff are able to reach goals of this strategic plan and meet the service needs of the community.

### Objectives:

1. Continue promoting educational opportunities and staff training to support full and part time staff.
2. Implement practices that support the needs of staff and decrease staff turnover.
3. Offer competitive compensation to attract and retain library staff.
4. Promote a healthy workplace environment where staff will be active, productive and responsive members of the library system.
5. Explore finding volunteers and interns to increase staff capacity during summer months.
6. The Library Director will assess standards regarding staff knowledge and ability to use technology, and include them in job descriptions, hiring criteria, annual evaluations, and criteria for promotion.
7. Library Director will work with Library Board to review and implement policies and procedures.

## Strategic Goal 5: Partnerships within the Community

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Create greater awareness of the services and resources the library provides and promote advocacy in and around the community.

### Objectives:

1. Partner with school, civic, and social organizations to create and promote events and programs both at the library and in the community.
2. Increase awareness and support of the library through strong library advocacy.
3. Support the efforts of the Friends of the Lester Library to involve community members as volunteers and advocate for the library.
4. Explore outreach service opportunities to the rural community.
5. Increase signage to direct residents to the library.
6. Educate and promote library services to the Town of Rome and surrounding businesses.
7. Collaborate with Town of Rome, Town Board, and Library Board to increase engagement with the library.

## Strategic Goal 6: Library Building and Grounds

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Provide a welcoming and safe place for families and individuals to visit.

### Objectives:

1. Explore options for additional staff work space and storage.
2. Redesign space in adult area for additional shelving units for library materials.
3. Maintain a capital improvement plan for maintaining building and replacement of furniture, equipment, etc.
4. Create walking trails and seating for visitors and families to enjoy.
5. Develop an ADA accessible outdoor space dedicated to programming and exploring options and costs.

## Strategic Goal 7: Assessment and Communication

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The Library Director will regularly update the Library Board on the progress of this long range plan. The timeline for progress and assessment will be communicated to the Library Board. The review of the long range plan will take place annually at the April and September Library Board meetings.



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of Rome

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