

DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Winter is **BEARABLE** with books



WINTER READING PROGRAM:
January 5, 2026 - February 6, 2026

Community Outreach

- The Library partnered with the Recreation Department to host the Holiday Tree Lighting on December 2. The event had been postponed the previous weekend due to weather, but since we were open, we served cookies and hot cocoa by the fireplace before and after the lighting.
- On December 10, the Library hosted a Holiday Train Warm-Up event. Families stopped in to make a variety of ornaments and enjoy some festive fun.

Youth Services

- In November, teens enjoyed a *Be a Barista* program, which had an excellent turnout. Participants have already asked to bring the program back in the future.
- Wri-Mo MOJO Creative Writing Month continued through November with a writing workshop for 4th–9th graders, led by author Valerie Biel.

Adult Services

- Kristen has been expanding Accessible Services through the USPS delivery program and by reaching out to assisted living and nursing home communities. She is also building partnerships to spread the word to those who could benefit from these services.
- On November 13, Catherine hosted a very successful Trivia Night for Adults.
- On November 14, the Annex buzzed with excitement during Murder Mystery Night.
- Susan Running presented workshops on Perimenopause on December 10 and 11.

Looking Ahead

- The Library will have a programming break during the weeks of Christmas and New Year's.
- The Winter Library Program, "Winter is Bearable with Books," begins January 5, and sign-up is now open!
- On January 10, we welcome Inga Orth for her presentation *From Burnout to Backroads*, in which she'll talk about her time as a PBS *Around the Farm Table* host and how she moved from feeling overwhelmed to finding joy.
- Author Amy Pease will visit on January 13 to discuss her book *Wildwood*.
- Beginning Adult Piano Classes return in January—join Catherine every Thursday!
- January's Teen Afternoon will feature a puzzle competition.

Meetings

- The Library closed for a few hours on December 11 so staff could attend the City of Columbus Holiday Party.
- Amanda attended the SCLS All Directors Meeting on November 20, which focused largely on the new SCLS Strategic Plan. The afternoon also included continuing education with Shannon Schultz on working with your municipality.
- On November 21, the Columbia County Directors and Library Board met in Portage.

Facilities

- Nothing to report—no news is good news!



Library Statistics		2025 Month	2025 YTD	2024 YTD	2024 Total	% Change from 2024 to 2025
	Visits (# door counts)	4,086	64,024	63,592	67,146	1%
	Items Borrowed (total)	4,154	55,361	54,746	58,538	1.2%
	% Columbus residents	47%	50%	13%	21%	10%
	% Fall River residents					
	% Other Columbia County					
	% Dodge County					
	% Other					
	Digital Items Borrowed (# checkouts)	1,208	13,120	13,635	14,759	-4%
	Books by Mail (# items sent)	3	127	242	259	-46%
	Public Wi-Fi (# sessions)	n/a	n/a	52,899	56,084	n/a
	Public Computer Use (# sessions)	178	2,400	2,867	3,077	-16%
	Wireless Printing & Faxing (# jobs)	79	918	900	967	2%
	Community Use of Rooms (# attended)	90	1,070	1,079	1,171	-1%
	Patrons Added (# added)	14	325	352	368	-8%

Program Statistics	In-Person & Live Virtual (# programs)	In-Person & Live Virtual (# attended)	Self-Directed Activities (# participated)
Future Readers	18	328	5
Children	9	106	0
Teen	3	37	0
Adult	12	121	3
General Interest	3	24	24