

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### Library News

The Winter Library Program is in full swing and runs through **February 7**. We have about **200 people participating** this year.

### Community Outreach

Helen continues to offer **monthly storytimes** at daycares and schools in **Columbus and Fall River**, helping us connect with families beyond the Library walls.



### Youth Services

- Puzzles have been especially popular this month. We hosted a **Teen Puzzle Competition** and a **Family Puzzle Night**, both with solid participation and a nice mix of ages.
- We will be discontinuing the monthly **Saturday Storytime** after several months of zero attendance. Staff are exploring other ways to engage families on Saturday mornings.
- The **Homeschool Group** continues to grow and has enjoyed activities such as a puzzle competition and a Yule Ball.

### Adult Services

- We had a great turnout on **January 10** for **Inga Orth's** presentation on burnout and the work it takes to re-connect with yourself.
- The **Adult Piano Class** is meeting every Thursday in January. The in-person class filled quickly, and several additional participants are joining us via Zoom.
- Author **Amy Pease** joined us for an author talk on **January 13**, which was well received.
- New pamphlets highlighting the delivery program for homebound patrons have been distributed at several locations around the City. We've had a couple new people sign up!

### Looking Ahead

- **January 22** – Books & Beer with author Jeff Nania
- **January 23** – Family Pizza & Board Game Night
- **January 28** – Adult Craft Night: Bedazzled Books
- **February 2** – Teen Afternoon: Chocolate Candy Sushi
- **February 3** – Hooked on Books & Yarn
- **February 5** – After Hours Book Club: *Broken Country*
- **February 9** – Art From the Heart Club
- **February 12** – Grievance Journaling
- **February 16** – Romantasy Book Club: *A Forbidden Alchemy*



### Meetings

- Amanda attended the **Columbia County Directors' Meeting** on **January 16**.
- Amanda will be attending the **Public Library Association Conference** in Minneapolis from **March 31–April 3**.
- Amanda, Helen, Catherine, and Kristen will all be participating in sectionals of the **Wild Wisconsin Winter Web Conference**, which is free, online, and available to watch on demand.

### Facilities

Nothing to report — again!

Library Statistics		2025 Month	2025 YTD	2024 YTD	2024 Total	% Change from 2024 to 2025
	Visits (# door counts)	3,964	67,988	67,146	67,146	1.25%
	Items Borrowed (total)	4,313	59,674	58,538	58,538	1.9%
	% Columbus residents		47%		50%	
	% Fall River residents		13%		13%	
	% Other Columbia County		23%		21%	
	% Dodge County		11%		10%	
	% Other		7%		6%	
	Digital Items Borrowed (# checkouts)	1,101	14,551	14,759	14,759	-1.4%
	Books by Mail (# items sent)	8	135	259	259	-48%
	Public Wi-Fi (# sessions)	n/a	n/a	56,084	56,084	n/a
	Public Computer Use (# sessions)	192	2,592	3,077	3,077	-15.8%
	Wireless Printing & Faxing (# jobs)	75	993	967	967	2.7%
	Community Use of Rooms (# attended)	65	1,135	1,171	1,171	-3%
	Patrons Added (# added)	21	346	368	368	-6%

Program Statistics	In-Person & Live Virtual (# programs)	In-Person & Live Virtual (# attended)	Self-Directed Activities (# participated)
Future Readers	16	241	3
Children	7	85	0
Teen	3	28	0
Adult	10	106	6
General Interest	3	78	15