

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Summer Library Program Summary

We're happy to share that the 2024 Summer Library Program concluded with **617 participants**.

On **Monday, August 11**, about **350 people** joined us at the Aquatic Center for our end-of-summer celebration. Families enjoyed a picnic meal sponsored by the **Columbus Kiwanis** and **Kwik Trip**, along with a petting zoo, face painting, and yard games. At 6:00 p.m., children were invited to swim for free, and everyone enjoyed ice cream treats generously donated by **Mullins Short-Stop**. We are especially grateful to the **Kiwanis** and **Friends of Columbus Library** for serving the meal and handling clean-up duties.

Community Outreach

On **August 5**, the Library participated in **National Night Out**, partnering with the Department of Public Works to help children decorate hardhats and safety vests and add colorful handprints to a snowplow. We also handed out program information and fun giveaways.

Library staff representing us at the event included Amanda, Helen, Catherine, Kristen, Deb, and Pat.

Youth Services

We were fortunate to welcome several special guests this month:

- Fire Chief **Scott Hazeltime** and Police Chief **Dennis Weiner**
- Recreation Director **Amy Jo Meyers**
- Columbus Utilities Lineman **Jake Boness**
- Columbus Police Officer **Julia Knoll**
- Library Board Members **Jim Schieble** and **Dana Pike**
- City Administrator **Matt Amundson**



Our summer program lineup featured:

- ***The Wonders of Physics*** from the University of Wisconsin–Madison
- **J & R Aquatic Animal Rescue**
- A musical performance by **Angela Puerta**

Adult Services

- **July 17** – Author visit with **Dean Robbins**
- **July 24** – **Cookbook Club**, where members prepared dishes to share and swapped recipes
- **Lotus Lantern Craft Workshop**, led by Helen and Kristen in collaboration with the Korean Spirit and Culture Promotion Project, filled to capacity with 20 participants
- **August 7** – **After Hours Book Club** met at The 161 Building and welcomed 28 attendees, continuing to grow in popularity

Looking Ahead

- **September 9** – Author **Ruth Conniff** will discuss her book *Milked: How an American Crisis Brought Together Midwestern Dairy Farmers and Mexican Workers*
- **September 18** – Classical guitar performance by **David Rogers**
- **Books & Beer** with **Valerie Biel** – Monthly author talks will take place in the Annex
- **September** – Library Card Sign-Up Month, with raffles for both new cardholders and current patrons who update their information
- **September 18**– New Art from the Heart Art Club for kids.

Meetings

- **July 17** – South Central Library System All Directors Meeting in Wisconsin Dells, including training on crisis management and media relations
- **July 18** – Columbia County Directors Meeting, focusing on the near-completion of the county strategic plan. Amanda will help present the county library budget to the Finance Committee on **September 24**

Facilities

- The west side window has been removed and is being rebuilt by the Department of Public Works in-house
- Quotes are being collected for cleaning and sealing the bathroom grout the bathrooms.

Library Statistics		2025 Month	2025 YTD	2024 YTD	2024 Total	% Change from 2024 to 2025
	Visits (# door counts)	7,383	42,022	40,061	67,146	4.9%
	Items Borrowed (total)	5,991	37,132	35,196	58,538	5.5%
	% Columbus residents		47%		50%	
	% Fall River residents		13%		13%	
	% Other Columbia County		24%		21%	
	% Dodge County		11%		10%	
	% Other		6%		6%	
	Digital Items Borrowed (# checkouts)	1,252	8,378	8,884	14,759	-6%
	Books by Mail (# items sent)	9	91	142	259	-36%
	Public Wi-Fi (# sessions)	5,837	35,402	36,696	56,084	-3.5%
	Public Computer Use (# sessions)	228	1,581	1,795	3,077	-12%
	Wireless Printing & Faxing (# jobs)	70	564	546	967	3.3%
	Community Use of Rooms (# attended)	108	680	677	1,171	.5%
	Patrons Added (# added)	27	197	246	368	-20%
Program Statistics		In-Person & Live Virtual (# programs)	In-Person & Live Virtual (# attended)	Self-Directed Activities (# participated)		
Future Readers		12	336	5		
Children		4	164	0		
Teen		4	37	0		
Adult		8	109	1		
General Interest		14	463	0		