

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Library Card Sign-Up Month

September is Library Card Sign-Up Month! To encourage library card sign-ups, we have raffle prizes donated by Farmers & Merchants Union Bank, Author Valerie Biel, and Royal Guernsey Creamery. We also have free cookie vouchers for anyone who signs up for a new card from The Coffee Garage. Existing patrons also receive a raffle ticket if they make sure their information is up-dated. We are focusing on trying to get as many accounts with email addresses as possible to cut down on the cost of mailing out overdue letters.

Community Outreach

- Helen and Deb attended the open house at Columbus Elementary School along with members of the Friends of the Library.
- Helen will be doing a Storytime at Sadie Bee's Orchard in Fall River on September 20.

Youth Services

- The early learning programs started back up in September. Every week features Storytime at the Library, Storytime at Home Again, or Music & Motion.
- Chess Club happens every other week at the Library. Once a month our instructor, Louie Pace, does a chess talk where he goes over strategy and techniques.
- The Homeschool Program started back up with a NOT Back to School Party on September 8. This group will continue to meet weekly on Mondays.
- Storytime at Home Again Assisted Living continues to happen monthly.



Adult Services

- Books & Beer was held on August 28 with author Kevin Kluesner. There were 18 people who attended in person.
- The first Hooked on Books and Yarn was very popular with 13 people attending. This will be a monthly program.
- Adult Craft Night continues to be held every month. We have a great turn-out in person, and then Kristen makes take-and-make bags with any leftover supplies.
- Amish in Wisconsin with Larry Scheckel was a very well received program with several people attending.
- After Hours Book Club, Romantasy Book Club, and 3rd Thursday Book Club all continue with great numbers and consistent attendees.
- Milked by Ruth Conniff had a small group of readers attend her program about Wisconsin dairy farms and immigrants.

Looking Ahead

- September 18 – Classical guitar performance by David Rogers
- September 18– New Art from the Heart Art Club for kids.
- October 9–Cook Book Club: Autumn Harvest
- October 17– Writing Mysteries in Tandem with Peggy Joque Williams and Mary Joy Johnson












Meetings

- Amanda will attend the Columbia County Library Board Meeting and Directors Meeting on September 19 in Rio. On September 24 she will be presenting the county library budget to the finance committee.

Facilities

- On September 19 Reliable Floorcare from Sun Prairie will be deep cleaning and sealing the grout in the bathrooms. They will be coming in the late afternoon and start with one bathroom and not start the 2nd bathroom until 5:00 to make sure we always have a bathroom available to patrons. The sealer needs to dry for 6 hours so it will be ready to go for patrons Saturday morning.
- There is water in the basement around the furnace and water heater. Wright Plumbing confirmed it is not from the water heater. TAS thinks it may have been from the air conditioner, but since they have been here, it has not been leaking but it's because it hasn't been hot enough for the air conditioner to run a lot. We'll continue monitoring the situation.

Library Statistics		2025 Month	2025 YTD	2024 YTD	2024 Total	% Change from 2024 to 2025
	Visits (# door counts)	6,041	48,063	46,374	67,146	3.6%
	Items Borrowed (total)	4,873	42,005	40,686	58,538	3.2%
	% 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)	1,080	9,458	10,102	14,759	-6.2%
	Books by Mail (# items sent)	6	97	170	259	-43%
	Public Wi-Fi (# sessions)	3,922	39,324	41,141	56,084	-4.4%
	Public Computer Use (# sessions)	227	1,808	2,077	3,077	-10%
	Wireless Printing & Faxing (# jobs)	86	650	635	967	3%
	Community Use of Rooms (# attended)	95	775	770	1,171	.7%
	Patrons Added (# added)	40	237	278	368	-15%

Program Statistics	In-Person & Live Virtual (# programs)	In-Person & Live Virtual (# attended)	Self-Directed Activities (# participated)
Future Readers	8	201	7
Children	3	43	0
Teen	4	38	0
Adult	7	102	12
General Interest	6	655	0