

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Library News

- The Winter Library concluded on February 6 with 297 participants, which surpassed last years number.
- The Library remained open on January 23 despite many other closures. As we serve as a designated warming shelter for both Columbia and Dodge Counties, we felt it was important to remain open during the hours we had been advertised as available. Throughout the day, we welcomed several individuals and families who spent extended time at the Library seeking warm place.
- Our statistics this month are slightly lower than we hope for, however it was a very cold month which could be the reason we had less patrons and checkouts.

Community Outreach

- Helen will be participating in Literacy Night at the Columbus Elementary School on March 4.

Youth Services

- Family Pizza & Board Game night was cancelled in January due to the weather
- Teen Chocolate Candy Sushi was extremely popular— and delicious!
- Art from the Heart Club created pipe cleaner flowers to distribute to the residents of Home Again Assisted Living.

Adult Services

- All of our book clubs had great turn-outs again in January.
- Adult Craft Night and Hooked on Books & Yarn are both well attended and bring in our crafty patrons.
- Grievance Journaling took place on February 12 at the library, where participants could air their grievances with hilarious prompts.
- The library teamed up with the Community Center for a Galentine's event on February 13 in the Annex, which featured snacks and trivia.

Looking Ahead

- February 19– Third Thursday Book Club
- February 20– Family Pizza and Board Game Night
- February 24– Murder Mystery at the Annex: Nightmare at a Northwoods Cabin
- February 25– Adult Craft Night: Glass Tumblers
- February 26– Cookbook Club and Tasting
- March 3– Hooked on Books & Yarn
- March 5– Library After Hours Book Club: Say You'll Remember Me
- March 12– Gaelic Harp Player Jeff Pockat
- March 16– Romantasy Book Club: Silver Elite

Meetings

- Amanda is now serving as our county representative on the Administrative Council for SCLS. This groups meets every other month at SCLS.
- March 6 will be the Columbia County Library Board and Directors meeting in Pardeeville.

Facilities

- Both buildings did amazingly well during the cold snap in January. The Annex at one point was down to 58° but that was as low as it went and we didn't seem to have any freezing issues. The Library building maintained temperature with no issues.
- The Annex had a CO2 alarm/smoke detector chirping to indicate that it was at its end of life. DPW replaced it with a new one.



Library Statistics		2026 Month	2026 YTD	2025 YTD	2025 Total	% Change from 2025 to 2026
	Visits (# door counts)	4,607	4,607	4,911	67,988	-6.4%
	Items Borrowed (total)	4,549	4,549	4,953	59,674	-8.5%
	% Columbus residents		43%		46%	
	% Fall River residents		13%		12%	
	% Other Columbia County		20%		23%	
	% Dodge County		13%		11%	
	% Other		10%		8%	
	Digital Items Borrowed (# checkouts)	1,333	1,333	1,381	14,551	-3.5%
	Books by Mail (# items sent)	15	15	14	135	+7%
	Public Wi-Fi (# sessions)	5,566	5,566	3,886	39,324	+43%
	Public Computer Use (# sessions)	227	227	250	2,592	-9.2%
	Wireless Printing & Faxing (# jobs)	59	59	72	993	-18%
	Community Use of Rooms (# attended)	110	110	105	1,135	+4.7%
	Patrons Added (# added)	21	21	25	346	-16%

Program Statistics	In-Person & Live Virtual (# programs)	In-Person & Live Virtual (# attended)	Self-Directed Activities (# participated)
Future Readers	18	273	3
Children	7	107	0
Teen	4	30	0
Adult	12	166	0
General Interest	2	18	0