

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Library News

- On November 23, the South Central Library System Foundation held its annual Cornerstone event at the Fireman's Pavilion in Columbus. At this event, our Library Board President, Peter Kaland, was recognized for his many years of distinguished service to the Columbus Public Library. His longstanding commitment and leadership have been instrumental to the library's continued growth and success. We look forward to his ongoing contributions in the years ahead.

Community Outreach

- The Library participated in the Community Trick-or-Treat event on October 31. We welcomed dozens of families throughout the evening, and it was a pleasure to see so many community members stop by and celebrate with us.
- We were pleased to host the book launch for Valerie Biel's newest release on October 29. It was a wonderful opportunity to welcome community members and celebrate a local author's work.
- The Library will host a community warm-up ornament workshop before the Holiday Train on December 10.

Youth Services

- The Wri-Mo MOJO Creative Writing Workshop with Valerie Biel began on October 30. This group will continue to meet monthly to support participants as they track their writing progress and develop their projects.
- Our afternoon clubs continue to be well attended. We currently offer Chess, Legos, Stitching Stars, and Crafternoon, and we're pleased to share that we've added a new option: the Art from the Heart Club. These programs provide creative and engaging activities for participants each week.
- Our Family Fun Day featuring Candy Sushi was well attended. Participants enjoyed a lively, hands-on activity that brought plenty of creativity and smiles.
- Our Homeschool Program continues to thrive, with meet-ups every Monday afternoon.

Adult Services

- Our Adult Craft Night on October 22 was a full house as participants enjoyed candle making.
- In response to popular requests, we've also added new release movie showings, including The Lost Bus on October 28 and The Baltimorons on November 11.
- Attendance at our regular monthly programs continues to be strong, reflecting our patron's desire for in person, hands-on programming.

Looking Ahead

- November 19– Nonfiction Book Discussion: Normal Women
- November 20– Books & Beer with Jeannee Sacken
- November 20– Third Thursday Book Club: The Secret Life of Sunflowers
- November 26– Adlut Craft Night: Paper Flower Shadow Box
- November 27 & 28– Closed for Thanksgiving
- December 2– Hooked on Books & Yarn
- December 3– Storytime at Home Again Assisted Living
- December 4– Library After Hours Book Club: The Christmas Tree Farm
- December 5– Shower-oke with Robin Hendrickson
- December 11– Closed from 11:00-1:00 for City of Columbus Christmas Party
- December 11– Books & Beer with Tracey S. Phillips
- December 15– Romantasy Book Club: Rose in Chains



Meetings

- We completed our first webinar on the transition to the new ILS system, and several more are on the way. In February, Heather and Kristen will attend hands-on training sessions to get comfortable with the new program.
- Amanda will be attending the All Directors Meeting on November 20 at the SCLS Headquarters. The main topic of the meeting will be the SCLS Strategic Plan. In the afternoon we will have a training on Working with your Municipality.
- On November 21 Amanda will be attending the Columbia County Directors meeting at Portage Public Library.

Facilities

- A few minor issues came up this month. The furnace in the Annex failed to turn on; TAS responded, identified an error message, and resolved the problem. In addition, the downstairs drinking fountain's water stream was hitting the wall. Wright Plumbing visited and adjusted the fountain.



Library Statistics		2025 Month	2025 YTD	2024 YTD	2024 Total	% Change from 2024 to 2025
	Visits (# door counts)	6,594	59,938	57,253	67,146	4.7%
	Items Borrowed (total)	4,752	51,207	50,455	58,538	1.5%
	% 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)	1,275	11,912	12,507	14,759	
	Books by Mail (# items sent)	10	124	229	259	-46%
	Public Wi-Fi (# sessions)	n/a	n/a	48,833	56,084	-4.8%
	Public Computer Use (# sessions)	217	2,222	2,639	3,077	-16%
	Wireless Printing & Faxing (# jobs)	99	839	802	967	4.6%
	Community Use of Rooms (# attended)	99	980	953	1,171	3%
	Patrons Added (# added)	32	311	327	368	-5%

Program Statistics	In-Person & Live Virtual (# programs)	In-Person & Live Virtual (# attended)	Self-Directed Activities (# participated)
Future Readers	18	388	4
Children	9	139	0
Teen	4	47	0
Adult	10	121	0
General Interest	3	34	86