

DIRECTOR'S REPORT**Library News**

The Winter Reading Program concluded on February 7. We had 282 people participate, which is up slightly from last year.

Youth Programs

- The youth department has created a strong partnership with Home Again Assisted Living with the Homeschool group and Storytime each visiting once a month.
- Book Dragons Writing Lab has been meeting monthly
- The new Homeschool Program continues to be popular with several families participating every Monday afternoon.
- The regular programs including storytime, music & motion, crafternoon, Pokémon, Lego club, and babies on blankets all continue to be well attended.

Adult Programs

- Sissel Schroeder's program on Ancient Aztalan was well attended with 83 people attending either in person or via Zoom.
- Rebecca Hopman presented about the Wisconsin Historical Society Genealogy Collection and Services on February 1 with 31 people attending
- We are no longer hosting A Book and a Movie Club and the Nonfiction Book Club has been move back to quarterly.

Upcoming Programs

- The City of Columbus has declared March 20 at Fred Dartt Day, to coincide with National Frog Day. The Library will be doing frog themed youth programs that week to celebrate the day.
- Crochet Club will begin for middle school students in March.
- Kristen Hart will be hosting monthly adult craft nights starting in March.
- Tech Tuesdays– Lunch and Learn will begin the end of February to teach adult digital literacy classes.

Meetings

- The Community Services Departments for the City continue to meet monthly to go over what events we are doing and how we can support each other.
- Amanda will be presenting a sectional with two other directors at the Wisconsin Association of Public Library Conference the end of April in Oshkosh. The sectional will be about starting a Friends of the Library group.

Buildings and Grounds

- We purchased a new outdoor book drop from the Appleton Public Library via an online auction. This book drop new would be about \$10,000, but we got it for \$110. Columbus DPW made the trip to Appleton to pick it up for us. One of the old book drops will be going to Pardeeville Library for their Wyocena branch, and the other one will hopefully be finding a home in Fall River.
- We have installed a new hot water heater for the library. The old hot water heater sometimes worked, and sometimes didn't. Due to the age of the unit, a new unit was recommended.

Library Statistics		2025 Month	2025 YTD	2024 YTD	2024 Total	% Change from 2024 to 2025
	Visits (# door counts)	4,911	4,911	4,444	67,146	+10.5%
	Items Borrowed (total)	4,953	4,953	4,700	58,538	+5.4%
	% Columbus residents		52%		50%	
	% Fall River residents		11%		13%	
	% Other Columbia County		21%		21%	
	% Dodge County		12%		10%	
	% Other		5%		6%	
	Digital Items Borrowed (# checkouts)	1,381	1,381	1,265	14,759	+10.2%
	Books by Mail (# items sent)	14	14	38	259	-63.2%
	Public Wi-Fi (# sessions)	3,886	3,886	6,139	56,084	-36.7%
	Public Computer Use (# sessions)	250	250	207	3,077	+20.8%
	Wireless Printing & Faxing (# jobs)	72	72	75	967	-4%
	Community Use of Rooms (# attended)	105	105	79	1,171	+32.9%
	Patrons Added (# added)	25	25	21	368	+19%

Program Statistics	In-Person & Live Virtual (# programs)	In-Person & Live Virtual (# attended)	Self-Directed Activities (# participated)
Future Readers	21	387	15
Children	8	115	0
Teen	2	9	0
Adult	12	115	0
General Interest	2	37	76