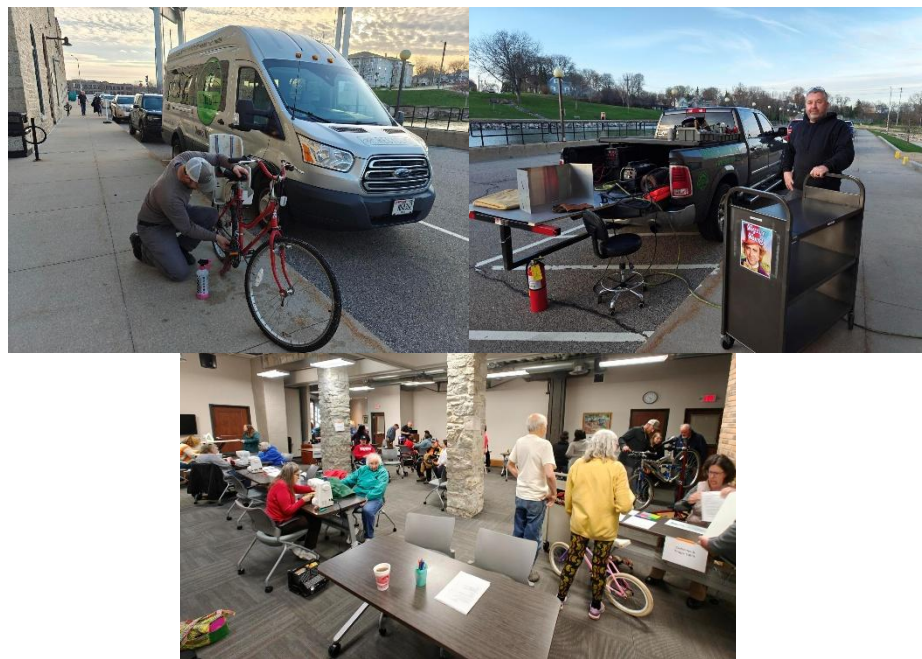


Assistant Director Report April 2026

Programming

Fix-It Clinic

Our second Fix-It Clinic was held on the evening of April 20th. At the Fix-It Clinic patrons can bring in their household items to have them fixed at no cost. Our volunteers can also talk them through the repair and/or troubleshooting process if requested. This time, our repair capabilities included small appliances, small furniture, sewing/mending clothes, computers, phones, electronics, 3d printing repairs, welding/fabrication, bicycles, and books! 76 people attended the event and 11 Volunteers helped fix 52 items in two hours! Recyclist Bicycle Co., Imagine Design Build, Heartwork Coaching & Workshop, and Crimson Repair all helped make the event a great success! Jon from Imagine Design Build even fixed one of our library carts that we overloaded and was about to collapse!



Recyclist showed up with their van and fixed 6 bikes (upper left). Jon from Imagine Build Design fixed our library cart "Wheely Wonka" and a metal yard spinner for a patron (upper right). Patrons getting various items fixed (bottom).

Make and Mingle

Madeline led our patrons through the process of creating seaglass shelves. Seaglass shelves are a kind of diorama that uses seaglass and other nautical items in combination with painting or drawing to create a dynamic work of art, with the nautical elements popping up off the canvas. Make and Mingle remains as popular as ever, our registration was full for this program!



Four different seaglass shelf creations from the program.

Puzzle Palooza

Saturday April 11th marked our 10th Puzzle Palooza event! Registration was full for this as well, with all 10 teams and 40 competitors signed up to see who can put together a 500 piece puzzle the fastest. Team Dissectologist won with a blistering speed of 29 minutes and 8 seconds. They were close to beating our all-time record of 26 minutes and 33 seconds!



The teams in fierce competition (left). Team Dissectologist proud of their victory (right)

Lego Speed Building Competition

Due to the continued success of our Puzzle Palooza programs we thought it would be fun to try the same thing but with Legos! Eight teams competed to see who could put together the same 500 piece Lego Technic set. Technic sets use smaller pieces and engineering concepts to make the Lego creation articulate in certain ways. In this case it was a garbage truck with a working bed, garbage can arm life, and steering. The first-place team completed it in a little more than an hour and a half!



The teams building their Lego Technic set (left). Carly Hammen and “Dad” celebrating their victory (right).

Junk Journaling

On April 14th Madeline debuted her first program she designed, other than the Make and Mingle classes she took over from Jenny. Junk journaling is the endeavor of using items that would otherwise be discarded to create a beautiful journal, like a repurposed scrapbook. Her first event was a great success, with 24 people attending. The great turnout has turned it into a recurring event!



A fantastic turnout, full of patrons finding creative uses for things that would otherwise be discarded.

Meet and Greet with Hagar the Comfort Dog

Hagar the comfort dog and her handlers visited us on April 10th. 18 people visited to pet Hagar and learn more about her job as a comfort dog for the Faith Lutheran Church. In addition, Kim put together an endearing stuffed animal adoption station. Children could pick out their favorite stuffed animal, name it, give it a collar, “wash it” and receive a certificate of adoption commemorating the event.



An adoption in progress (left). Hagar providing comfort (right).

Workforce Development

I have been working with Danielle Zeamer who runs JobPod, an organization based in Green Bay that provides both physical pods and resources to libraries for job seekers. I learned that they offer physical “JobPods” to libraries for job seekers to apply for jobs, interview, create resumes, or conduct any other job seeking endeavors in. Currently Oshkosh and Green Bay have a JobPod, but there is a large gap between the two cities that I thought Kaukauna could fill, especially since the Menasha Job Center closed recently. Many of our patrons ask for help with various aspects of job seeking and use our public computers to search for jobs and write their resumes. The JobPod can provide a dedicated space for them not only to do these activities, but also to take video interviews since the pod will be equipped with a laptop and webcam. This currently isn’t possible on our public computers.

I had a chance to visit the two suppliers offered as choices and view the features of their respective JobPod options. I ended up choosing Creative Business Interiors to create the JobPod. Their unit was more soundproof and plugs into an outlet instead of needing an electrician to hardwire the pod. The pod will be stationed in adult nonfiction near the corner of the local history room and the northeast facing wall. It also comes equipped with wheels, making moving it easy if the need ever arises in the future. These pods are grant funded

through JobPod and will be at no cost to us. I have attached the proposal and invoice to my report.

PLA Sessions

Ashley has summarized our trip to Minneapolis and the great success we had there via the materials we brought back with us, so I'll jump into my standout sessions.

The first session that was remarkable was *Protecting Patron' Privacy with Digital Vendors* presented by Dorothea Salo from UW Madison's Information School. I was reminded that libraries face escalating privacy threats from commercial surveillance services, data brokers, and the digital vendors we rely on, primarily Google and Facebook. Many libraries unintentionally expose patrons to tracking through website embeds, mobile apps, authentication systems, and vendor platforms. Specifically, 97% of Wisconsin libraries have web trackers or finger printers embedded on their homepage. Most of these are via Google or Facebook widgets or services.

This is an issue because we, as a library, prioritize our patron's privacy while they are using our services. When patrons are at the library and Google a book or log into their Infosoup account using services such as web browsers that have not been optimized for privacy, there is a real risk of that information being tracked and sold to data brokers. Dorothea noted that although this data is usually anonymous to comply with certain regulations and policies, the data brokers can resell this "anonymous" data to identify users via a process called reidentification.

She recommended not using Google Chrome as the library's web browser, or as the browser that we make available to our patrons on our public computers. Recently, Google changed Google Chrome so adblockers don't work that effectively anymore. She recommended Duck Duck Go or another browser that prioritizes privacy. Additionally, she recommended using an open sourced adblocker called Ublock Origin for our adblocking needs. This combination affords patrons the most privacy by means of blocking ads, trackers, and when using our digital services.

I will discuss the feasibility of making these changes with Spencer as time allows. Additionally, if these changes are made I would like to review our privacy policy and put these considerations in the policy in some capacity. I would also like to add a page, or at least some links to our resource page to instruct patron how to do this on their own devices.

The other standout session that I attended was *Boundary Building with Patrons* presented by Assistant Director Kait Matesich of Benzie Shores District Library. I am notorious for setting aside my boundaries to help our patrons to the best of my abilities. This often includes helping them for longer than I should without them making an appointment, indulging their non-library-related small talk for

extended periods of time, and assisting patrons with long technology requests outside of set appointment times. I have been working on this and attended this session to help myself maintain boundaries better.

This session explained how library workers, especially in smaller libraries in more rural locations, can maintain healthy, professional boundaries while still offering warm, effective service. Kate outlined the many types of boundaries staff navigate daily, including physical, emotional, time-based, and relational boundaries, and explains why these lines often blur. Factors include social conditioning to be helpful, the loneliness epidemic, gendered expectations, and the familiarity that tends to grow from repeated patron interactions.

The presentation also included scripts, or stock phrases for saying no, and a structured “boundary audit” that helps employees identify their default reactions and replace them with responses that are professional, yet retain their boundaries. She gave these in the form of a fillable spreadsheet along with a helpful graph to determine which kind of patrons staff might struggle with the most and how to tackle the issue. I would like to share these tools with staff after reading one of the following books that were recommended by Kait to better understand the topic. Excuse the profanity-laden titles, I’m not sure why so many of them are so aggressive!

- *Say the Thing: Boundary-Setting Scripts & Phrases to Communicate Directly & Speak Up with Kindness* by Kami Orange
- *F*ck No!: How to Stop Saying Yes When You Can't, You Shouldn't, or You Just Don't Want To* by Sarah Knight
- *Unf*ck Your Boundaries: Build Better Relationships Through Consent, Communication, and Expressing Your Needs* by Faith G. Harper
- *Unf*ck Your Boundaries Workbook* by Faith G. Harper & A. LPC-S
- *The Power of Saying No: The New Science of How to Say No That Puts You in Charge of Your Life* by Vanessa Patrick