

**Lester Public Library
Director's Report
March 2024**

News

- The World on the Move exhibit arrived in crates on February 29th. The crates were stored on the library floor by the fireplace.
- A seven-foot section of fascia blew off the library during a powerful wind storm. Great Lakes Roofing will be able to repair the damage.
- Electric work in the library included fixing outlets by the interior door, replacing outdoor lights near the front doors with LED fixtures, repairing the light that shines on the flag, and replacing an important sensor that operates the lighting system (that sensor alone was over \$1,000).
- From the American Library Association: "The number of titles targeted for censorship surged 65 percent in 2023, reaching the highest levels ever documented by ALA. The new numbers released today (March 14) show efforts to censor **4,240 unique book titles** in schools and libraries. ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom documented **1,247 demands** to censor library books, materials, and resources in 2023. Four key trends emerged from the data gathered from 2023 censorship reports: Pressure groups in 2023 focused on public libraries in addition to targeting school libraries. 1). The number of titles targeted for censorship at public libraries increased by 92 percent over the previous year; school libraries saw an 11 percent increase. 2). Groups and individuals demanding the censorship of multiple titles, often dozens or hundreds at a time, drove this surge. 3). Titles representing the voices and lived experiences of LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC individuals made up 47 percent of those targeted in censorship attempts. 4). There were attempts to censor more than 100 titles in each of these 17 states: Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and Wisconsin." "Every challenge to a library book is an attack on our freedom to read. The books being targeted again focus on LGBTQ+ and people of color. Our communities and our country are stronger because of diversity. Libraries that reflect their communities' diversity promote learning and empathy that some people want to hide or eliminate," said ALA President Emily Drabinski.

Library Foundation

The Lester Public Library Foundation Spring Book Sale was a success. The total in sales was \$1,083.75. The library pays sales tax on book sales, we deducted \$51.61 in tax for a total of \$1032.14 that was divided in two, half for the Foundation and half for the library – resulting in \$516.07 each.

Library Legislation – No Report

Activities

- 03/04/24 – Two Rivers City Council Meeting
- 03/05/24 – Explore Two Rivers Board Meeting
- 03/05/24 – Lester Public Library Management Team Meeting
- 03/05/24 – Urban Forestry Grant Partner Meeting, with Terry Ehle, Parks & Rec Staff, Urban Forestry Representative, Woodland Dunes Staff
- 03/07/24 – Two Rivers Business Association Monthly Meeting
- 03/07/24 – Met with Stanley Palmer, President, Lester Public Library Board of Trustees
- 03/08/24 – Was a guest on WOMT Radio Breakfast Club to promote the World on the Move Exhibit
- 03/12/24 – Lester Public Library Management Team Meeting
- 03/12/24 – Lester Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting
- 03/13/24 – Lester Public Library All Staff Meeting
- 03/13/24 – City of Two Rivers Department Heads Meeting
- 03/14/24 – City of Two Rivers Room Tax Commission Meeting
- 03/16/23 – World on the Move Installation
- 03/17/24 – World on the Move Docent Training
- 03/18/24 – Two Rivers City Council Meeting
- 03/19/24 – Lester Public Library Management Team Meeting
- 03/20/24 – Met with Great Lakes Roofing
- 03/20/24 – Met with Tracey Koach
- 03/21/24 – Toured the 4th grade class from Monroe Elementary, Manitowoc, through World on the Move, with Terry Ehle and Toni Pierce
- 03/21/24 – Hosted Wisconsin Shipwreck Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council and toured them through the World on the Move exhibit
- 03/22/24 – Toured four 8th grade classes from LB Clarke through World on the Move, with Terry Ehle and Toni Pierce
- 03/27/24 – City of Two Rivers Department Heads Meeting
- 03/27/24 – Dr. Pao Lor's presentation - An Almost Forgotten People: The Hmong American Experience

Jeff Dawson, Director, Lester Public Library 4/1/2024