

**WATERTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DIRECTOR'S REPORT
For May 2026**

Libby: Audio, Ebook & Magazine Checkouts		
	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>
January	3,974	4,850
February	3,671	4,120
March	3,976	4,691
April	3,986	**
May	3,937	
June	4,669	
July	4,930	
August	4,022	
September	4,051	
October	4,074	
November	4,144	
December	4,184	
Total	48,391	

Physical Circulation for April	21,293
April Libby	**
April Libby Mags	**
2026 Monthly Total	**
2025 April Total	29,254**
New Cards	99

**Libby stats were not available by the time this packet was due.

Director Notes:

Friends hosted two great fundraisers for the library; a book sale and brat sale at Glenn's. I hope you found time to stop by at both or one of the events to support Friends and the library! April was an interesting month for the library team and the library!

**Elevator phones are still not repaired in the public elevator and the lift. The Fire dept. would like to do the inspection of the building and are now aware of this issue. A meeting was scheduled for May 4 but never happened due to communication issues between City IT and the companies asked to come in to make repairs.

I also spoke with someone at the Fire Dept. about a cage over the fire alarm in the TRP center to help cut down on children pulling the alarm. The Fire Dept would oversee the installation and we would follow their guidelines. Tod will work with the inspector to see this to completion.

**Lynn brought to my attention that 5 library team members were not having their vacation time calculated equally. Despite Lynn's many attempts to rectify the issue so that all vacations were calculated the same and my attempts to reach out for clarification, we were told that calculations were correct. I asked City Finance to meet with the three library employees, individually, to explain the vacation calculation discrepancies. This request resulted in a meeting with the City Attorney, HR, and Finance without library staff present. Ultimately, the three library team members had their vacations calculated the same as the other two library team members. One team member was also given vacation time to her that she should have received last year, with an extended time frame to use it up.

**Tod contacted his attorney based on accusations that he had driven a truck that caused damage at BQ Park. Tod also had a short meeting with the City Attorney to discuss the accusations. Tod and the Mayor met at the library to discuss the situation. The letter from the Mayor is included in Jamie's packet.

I would like to provide background on the Storybook Trail out at BQ Park.

This initiative was the committee approved project for Leadership Watertown, back when I was on this board. The project was supported by Rotary (after a presentation) along with donations from community businesses and individuals. The original book stands were built by a class at WHS. They were wood and eventually succumbed to rot and ants. The posts were replaced from a grant from the Quirk Foundation. Original donors wanted to know how the trail would be maintained and Friends of WPL assumed the financial costs needed to purchase books. Library staff always assumed the responsibility of changing out the stories. I also worked with Cindy Braasch (P&R Director at the time) to get approval from the P&R Commission to install the posts and create the small kiosk.

On the day of installation, the entire Leadership Committee along with assistance from Park and Rec worked together to install the posts. This was, a great community project involving city departments, civic group participation and individual donors who believed in the value of this project.

**It has also come to my attention, after listening to the City Finance Committee meeting that the new maintenance person at city hall would start at a higher salary than Tod. Tod is currently at a Grade 120 and the new person would start at 130.

From the April 13 Finance Minutes:

A request was made to request approval for the addition to the pay table for the position of Facilities Maintenance Technician at City Hall. The departure of an employee prompted a review of the job duties and a submission to McGrath Consulting. Ald. Smith made the motion, seconded by Ald. Berg, to authorize to an addition to the pay table at Grade 130. Unanimously approved.

Tod performs the same job responsibilities as outlined in the job posting for the city hall position. (I compared them) He also comes with extensive experience in building maintenance, including how to manage all the library's HVAC units through the installed software. He is also responsible for his own budget and oversees another employee. I sent my concern to HR noting that the job description was the same as last year when it was graded by McGrath...nothing has changed and it was not updated. As of writing this document, I have not heard back from HR.

It was suggested to Tod, that he should come to City Hall to work for the pay increase. The library is fortunate to have a dedicated and loyal employee that would prefer to remain at the library. Please see this employee issue to the end for Tod. A new employee, performing the same duties as Tod, should not be making \$4.00 more an hour. Tod should not have to wait until 2027 for a pay increase.

My 30+ years with the Watertown Public Library have been an incredible journey. I began my career when card catalogs, typewriters, and punched checkout cards were the norm. It has been a true honor to serve my community and contribute to the very library I grew up using. I've also had the privilege of working alongside dedicated library staff, board members, Friends of the Library, and community supporters who respected and encouraged me—many of whom have become lifelong friends. The expansion and transformation of the library into a welcoming community space that ensures broad access to information and resources, and truly embodies what a library should be for the people it serves, stands as the highlight of my career.

So long, farewell,
Auf widersehen, adieu!

- Peg (MLIS)

Interim Library Director/Head of Adult Services Notes:

We had a great time celebrating National Library Week. Friends treated us to a lunch from PJ's and homemade treats on Library Worker's Day. We had a nice turnout for our showing of *The Librarians* as well as an engaging discussion afterward. Bookbag Bedazzling was a huge success – we had NO no-shows, which is rare. The Friends Book Sale was a success, and Friends made \$277 at the event.

We have issued a couple new stay-out orders for things ranging from inappropriate conduct with library staff, potential theft and property damage. These were issued to both teens and adults.

We did some office shifting with the news that my stint as Interim Director was to start immediately. I moved into Peg's office and she is in the Carnegie Room. This has been a huge adjustment, but we are making the best of it.

We have had several candidates apply for the Page position and will arrange interviews as soon as it closes on May 1.

I helped Cari set up a new workstation in the Circ workroom so staff have another option for when they need to use a computer. I also set up a new laptop for Circ because their old one was damaged.

Since I have moved downstairs, the Reference staff member working the desk is alone on the 2nd floor. I make an effort to take a lap a few times during each shift to check on them and offer support. They also know where to reach me by phone.

I attended the City Leadership Team meeting on May 5.

- Jamie (MLIS)

Children's Department Notes:

April was another busy month with the last few days of Spring Break Week starting us off. I was able to do a Sleepy Storytime on Wednesday evening, which is always fun for families (and for me!!) I don't get to do them often because of how busy we are on Wednesday evenings, so it's a fun treat for all of us. I was able to attend the annual Children's Day Fair at the Watertown High School and brought Clifford the Big Red Dog as our character. Fallon was a trooper, as this costume was very warm with no fan inside! 😊 She did a great job and kids loved seeing Clifford and entering to win a book and stuffie. I had quite a few school and library visits this month also with my monthly Douglas 4K, Head Start 3K & 4K, and Gingerbread 3K & 4K visits plus St Therese's Kindergarten and 6th graders coming to the library together, since their classes are Reading Buddies. It was so fun to have the big kids come along, especially since most of them used to come to storytime at the library with Mrs. Beltz when they themselves were in Kindergarten and then again in 3rd grade when their teacher brought them to the library monthly for visits with me! We were lucky to again have a "bottle baby" lamb this year and Carol Battenberg brought him in for a special storytime last week. He was a sweet little guy and the kids absolutely loved him! I'm looking forward to wrapping up this spring's storytimes with a visit from the Watertown Street Department for a Touch a Truck Storytime the week of May 12-14. We're gearing up for our upcoming Summer Library Challenge and are super busy prepping the materials, planning and scheduling all the crazy fun that is to come! Stay tuned for more details...

-Tina (MLIS)

Teen Department Notes:

This month was an eventful one for teens! During spring break, they had the opportunity to do their own spring-themed treasure hunt in the teen room, and we had over 40 participants! They had lots of fun finding flowers around their space and unscrambling the "secret password." We also started our "Steer the Story" passive program. For this, Xander writes snippets of a story, the teens vote on what they want to happen next, and the story continues the next week! We also made slime together... to be determined if we will do that again... For Homeschool Tuesday, we learned about poetry and introduced some basic creative writing concepts to the teens, and they wrote poems based on their favorite animals.

-Kaitlyn & Tina, MLIS

Circulation Department Notes:

We celebrated National Library Week! We are thankful to the Friends of the Watertown Library who bought us a really nice lunch and friend's member Kay K, who baked us delicious desserts! We handed out buttons at all the desks for patrons with the words "Library Joy". We had a fun "Decorate a Rubber Duck" contest. They are on display on a shelf in the circulation area. There is a lot of excitement in the air now that the weather is warming up. Stop in and visit the library soon!

- Cari