

**WATERTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DIRECTOR'S REPORT
For May 2025**

Libby: Audio, Ebook & Magazine Checkouts		
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
January:	4,028	3,974
February:	3,630	3,671
March:	3,934	3,976
April:	3,832	3,986
May	3,890	3,937
June:	3,750	
July:	4,066	
August:	3,723	
Sept.	3,465	
October	3,569	
November	3,494	
December	3,572	
Totals	44,953	

Physical Circulation for May	21,992
May Libby:	3,937
May Libby Mags	588
May Hoopla	549
2025 Monthly Total	27,066
2024 May Total	26,247
New Cards	147

Library Director's Notes:

Sophia Manske joined the library staff in May. Her main focus will be in Children's. Kaitlyn Von Behren transitioned from her PT to FT Library Assistant position, and we hope to complete the hiring process with the addition of Hannah Hirsch on June 11. We will be fully staffed for the first time since opening in the new facility.

I would like to recommend to all that you watch the PBS film: *Free for All: Inside the Public Library*.

Lynn created and added genre signs in the Adult Fiction areas and Teen Room.

Flowers were added to the north and south sides of the building...Peg selected and John planted. Tod has added mulch in the planters and around trees on the west side of the building.

Park and Rec repaired and planted grass in the boulevard on S. Water St. It looks very nice and patrons are happy to not step into mud exiting the passenger side of their car.

We are on the DPW's schedule for repainting lines in the parking lot! Hopefully within the next month.

Jamie reached out to me regarding the ALA Conference in Philadelphia. She secured a \$3,000 grant to attend and I believe we have resources to make up any differences. This is her first national convention and I can attest to how inspirational and meaningful this conference can be for librarians! I'm happy that she will have this opportunity!

We received positive community response from posting the approved/updated behavior policies on the library FB page. Patrons exposed to some of the behaviors/language in the facility are aware that the library team and trustees are working to create a library friendly atmosphere for all to enjoy! Watertown PD has also been very supportive!. We had some success last Wednesday playing Speed BINGO with the tweens

As Cari noted in her monthly report, city tornado sirens were activated in May. We noted that we could not hear the sirens inside the facility so I've invested in a weather radio.

Fiber installation is planned for July 9 or 10. A reminder, trustees voted to pay for this cost, not included in the 2025 budget, out of the library's construction fund.(Donations).

We had two false fire alarms in May; alarms pulled by children in the Talk Read Play Center. If this continues, the WFD can help us with some preventive measures.

With the rain came leaks...a leak that has plagued this building for 40+ years. No one, from professional roofers, construction crews, maintenance staff and our handy dandy volunteer from across the street, have successfully stopped the leak. In an effort to save ceiling tiles and drywall, Tod and John have placed "catch basins" above the ceiling. So far so good after our June 3 rainstorms Note: Leaking only occurs if wind driven from the N/NE/E direction.

Josh Rios, the city's IT Coordinator, has resigned. His last day was June 6.

Mayor Stocks' first Mayor Meetup was held at the library. I attended the evening meeting.

In May:

TV broken in one of the first floor Study Rooms

Table in the Teen Room was broken

2 Stayout Orders were issued by Watertown PD

Bridges provides a grant to all 24 libraries in the system. Amount is based on size of the library and we are considered a "large" library. This year our funds will be spent on:

A wall mounted phone charging station in the Teen Room

A wall mounted book display to be installed outside of the Storytime Room

Free standing display units for Children's and Teens

Table top display boxes

3 Tables to be used for displays. I added one in the front lobby for library information about programs.

I would also like to report that it is wonderful to see community members taking advantage of the quiet study/working spaces around the building. Many times all 6 study rooms are occupied with overflow of needed space into the MakerSpace and Storytime Room!

Monthly Department Information

Adult:

In April we hosted the Warrior Ink display (put together by Menomonee Falls Public Library). We had an awesome response to our Tiny Art Show, which we began displaying in mid-May. If you haven't checked it out yet, please do! I was finally able to install the upgraded program for logging into the computers in the lab. I ran into some technical difficulties, but in the end it all worked out ok. The fire alarm was pulled twice in the past month. We are all becoming pros about what needs to be done in that situation. Angela Meyers (from Bridges) and I set up a table at the Senior Care Fair at the Watertown Senior Center and gave out a lot of information about Memory Cafes. The most exciting part of my month was learning that I earned a scholarship from SEWI (Southeastern Wisconsin Libraries) to attend the ALA conference in Philadelphia at the end of June! I have never been to Philadelphia and am thrilled to have the opportunity.

~Jamie

Children's:

May is always a crazy month in the Children's Department, and this year was no exception! I spent the last 2-1/2 weeks of the month training our new staff member Sophia and heading out to all the schools (all 5 public elementary schools and 8 of the Watertown and Ixonia private schools!) to talk to the kids and teens about the upcoming Summer Library Challenge! It's always fun to see what programs and prizes they are most excited about every year but it's a bit exhausting saying the same things over and over and over again. 😊 I've got them thoroughly hyped up and ready to have some fun at the library this summer! Prizes have been ordered, programs are being planned and prepped for, and the 2025 Summer Library Challenge is underway as of June 2! Early registration opened on May 27 and we already have 276 kids, 107 teens and 96 adults signed up. Let the whirlwind begin!

I had the opportunity to attend a facepainting and balloon twisting workshop sponsored by Bridges early in the month and we'll be using some of those skills that I am passing along to Xander, Fallon and our new staff member, Sophia, on Monday for our Kick-Off Party. We also were invited back to the Whitewater Community Space to go through their huge selection of donated books to use to add to our collection or give away as prizes! I was able to bring 366 books back to Watertown this year, more than doubling what I was able to bring back last year! They are a great resource and we'll be heading back in the fall to stock up on books for our Winter Library Challenge as well.

~Tina

Circulation Department:

We had a tornado siren this month and escorted patrons to a safe area by the circulation workroom. All was well and after a short time the storm moved away.

This month we have more great book displays! We have a fun guess the theme display, a "Popular on Tik Tok book display, and a display of books with flowers on the cover to celebrate this wonderful time of year!

We have been receiving lots of compliments on the beautiful flowers by the parking lot entrance.

We are looking forward to our coworker Kate changing to the full time position. She will be working with us here in circulation as well as all the desks.

Stop in and look at the tiny art canvas display. So many talented artists!

Summer reading program will be starting up soon as we roll from spring to summer. What an exciting time of year!

~ Cari