

**WATERTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DIRECTOR'S REPORT
For December 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 | 4,669 |
| July: | 4,066 | 4,930 |
| August: | 3,723 | 4,022 |
| Sept. | 3,465 | 4,051 |
| October | 3,569 | 4,074 |
| November | 3,494 | 4,144 |
| December | 3,572 | |
| Totals | 44,953 | |
| | | |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Physical Circulation for November | 20,336 (21,918) |
| Nov. Libby | 4,144 |
| Nov Libby Mags | 491 |
| Nov. Hoopla | 0 |
| 2025 Monthly Total | 24,971 |
| 2024 November Total | 25,412 |
| New Cards | 82 |

Library Director's Notes:

Our annual Mitten Tree is ready for your donations! Mittens, hats, and scarves are all welcome. Watertown Family Connections will help us distribute the winter weather necessities!

I am working on completing a few webinars and the paperwork needed to keep my license.

Friends will pay for a new snowblower and Tod has already taken it "for a spin" since picking it up. We shopped local at Ace Hardware.

Jamie, Cari, Tina, Lynn, and I have been having discussions on how to address the large impact on the 2026 budget. We are doing the patron surveys, Lynn is running numbers for a variety of situations, employees are talking to concerned patrons, and a few team members have contacted me about cutting their hours or telling me about their willingness to resign from their job to help make things "easier"

Monthly Department Information

Adult:

In November, Lynn, Peg and I started weekly website development meetings every Monday. So far the process has given us a chance to look at a lot of different websites and we are working on pinpointing what we envision for a new library website. Tina and I had another successful round of Thanksgiving Feast Bingo. All of our book clubs have been well attended and they are all in the process of picking new books for 2026. I attended 2 meetings in November - one was an adult services meeting in Oconomowoc that gave me a ton of great ideas for adult programming. The other was in Brookfield, and it was about creating a sustainable Summer Challenge. Tina and I both attended. As I write this, the fireplace is roaring behind me at the Reference Desk and I'm thankful for many things, the library being near the top of the list.

~Jamie

Children's:

November brought many school and library visits, including a WUSD 3K/4K Speech Family Storytime, Webster 2nd graders and the start of monthly visits to Douglas 4K

kiddos. I also was able to go back to the Whitewater Community Space to gather free books to either add to our collection or give away as prizes for patrons and I came back with over 300 books! Jamie and I had another Thanksgiving Feast Bingo this year and Piggly Wiggly donated a turkey and 2 pies as prizes and Pick N Save donated a \$20 gift card, which was used to purchase more food items to give away as prizes. The turnout wasn't as good as last year, but those that attended had a great time! We had a Football Frenzy Scavenger Hunt with over 200 participants. Kait and I had the opportunity to meet with the WUSD Library Media Specialists here at the library this month as well! It was great to chat with them about trends we're seeing, book ordering with the closing of Baker & Taylor, give them a tour of the library (which two new librarians had never been to yet) and collaborate for the upcoming Kids Choice Awards through Bridges. They will be sharing our program details for kids and teens at their schools and we're hoping to get Watertown 4th-6th graders engaged in this Bridges program offering this year! We're gearing up for our upcoming Winter Library Challenge, which runs December 22 - February 15 this year. Early registration begins on December 15. Friends funded the purchase of Kids SuperDraw prizes this year and, as always, we are extremely grateful for their support! We're looking forward to a busy end of 2025!

~Tina

Circulation Department:

We have a mitten tree in the circulation area to collect warm accessories. We have a fun display right when you walk in and many other displays of books. We are giving a candy cane to anyone who comes in with holiday clothing on. This is a difficult time with the news of what the city council has done to the library.

~ Cari

Teens:

Teens got very creative this month! We had a take and make program with collage kits, which had everything they needed to make a big collage. Those were a hit, with every collage kit getting picked up! We also made "honk houses" (inspired by New Berlin's "quack shacks"), where we decorated mint tins into tiny houses for tiny geese. We also did a crafternoon where we made bookmarks out of paint samples and keychains out of beads! It was a smaller month as far as participation goes, but the teens who came had a great time.

~ Kaitlyn