

**WATERTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DIRECTOR'S REPORT
For April 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	
May	3,890	
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 April	
April Libby: April Libby Mags	
April Hoopla	
2025 Monthly Total 2024 April Total	28,472
New Cards	108

Library Director's Notes:

Circulation figures are missing due to logistics of city timeline vs system report timeline

Please welcome Beth Mueller to the library board! Beth was appointed to the board by the Jefferson County Board.

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

Mayor Stocks stopped in for a visit on April 23rd. We had a nice discussion about future meetings and sharing of library related information.

Tina and I held several interviews for the open PT Library Assistant-Childrens. We hope to fill this ahead of summer reading events.

I spoke at the Retired Teacher's Luncheon. Always a great opportunity to share library information with familiar and friendly faces!

I attended Main St. Matters as a member of the Main St. Board. I learned a bit of information about our new neighbors across the street...Sassy Sweats and Raffa Bowls.

Our library is part of the Prescription for Reading Program. During checkups, local physicians give 4 and 5 yr. olds a prescription to pick up a book at their local library. The books offered are dual language and at this time this is a one year pilot program sponsored by the GWCHF.

Our May Bridges Director's Council meeting on May 9 will be Karol Kennedy's last meeting before she retires. As of today, there has not been an announcement about her replacement.

We successfully met the guidelines for the East Asia grant and will be expecting a reimbursement from UW-Madison.

Monthly Department Information

Adult:

In April we hosted the Warrior Ink display (put together by Menomonee Falls Public Library), which is a visual exhibit of WI veterans and their military tattoos. We received mostly positive feedback. I spoke at Marquardt about the library, focusing on our Library of Things. Our weeding projects on the second floor are complete (for now). I have most of the adult programming planned for the summer, but will surely add some more as additional ideas come up. Kate hosted a poetry workshop with a local author (Grace Bucher) that received positive feedback. Danielle spoke at our Memory Cafe about traditional German clothing. Participants were very engaged, and it was nice for me to show another member of our staff what Memory Cafes are all about.

~Jamie

Children's:

April was a busy month with all our regular programs and visits plus National Library Week activities, the Children's Day Fair, a Head Start Family Night at the library, interviews for our part-time opening, and starting a 6-week CE class through UW Madison focused on Play in the Library! Children's Day Fair is always a highlight of April and we had, not one but two, characters this year with Mo Willem's Elephant & Piggie making an appearance in Watertown! These are two of my personal favorite characters so it was fun to see how excited kids were to see them. I worked with Head Start to coordinate having one of their monthly Family Nights here at the library. I was able to read to the kids, talk to the families about getting library cards and all of the cool stuff we offer here at the library. They then had Head Start staff around the building (located in areas that I suggested such as adult Spanish collection, the sorter area, Library of Things, the TalkReadPlay Center, the teen area, etc.) and families had to do a scavenger hunt to find these areas and explore the building. It was fun for the families and I know at least a few of them got new library cards and came to the library for the first time! We started interviewing for the part-time Children's position and have been busily planning for the rapidly approaching Summer Library Challenge. May is sure to be another crazy busy month!

~Tina

Circulation Department:

We celebrated National Library week with several challenges. We had a total checkout challenge and our patron Robert W won with a savings of 12,938.78.dollars this year! That is a lot of checkouts and a tremendous savings! That is what makes the library so wonderful! It expands access for patrons. So many patrons are able to read, watch and listen to so much more than they might be able to if they had to purchase all of those materials.

We also had a challenge to see if we could beat our last year's National Library Week checkout total of 5,525 items. We surpassed that total, so to celebrate we had a cookie party for patrons. What a sweet reward!

We have an awesome display featuring photos of staff pets with materials recommended by them for checkout. The display also promotes our wonderful Reading with Rover program and also we are collecting much needed items for the Watertown Humane Society. The work they do is so important.

It is a wonderful time of year and with warmer days and the bridge opening we should see lots of patrons coming in to the library!

I hope you are enjoying the splendor and beauty of spring!

~ Cari