

**WATERTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DIRECTOR'S REPORT
For March 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 March	25,278
March Libby: March Libby Mags	3,976
March Hoopla	
2025 Monthly Total	29,254
2024 March Total	29,147
New Cards	161

Library Director's Notes:

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK: April 6- April 12

Gabby Schuett has resigned her position. She was the Senior Library Assistant for Teen Services.

Elevator inspection update: We do use the same company as the school district. Lynn has still not received a reply to her phone calls and email.

With the resignation of Gabby, full-time staff are taking turns during the week to monitor the room during after school hours. I have a plan in place to make some changes. Please see the agenda. Cameras are very helpful.

We received a \$1,000 from the Educational Foundation. (Jig Jog) A thank you has been sent and we will note on our FB page when we purchase materials in honor of this donation!

We had a productive Staff In-Service on March 12. Agenda items included an historical review of the library, two videos: one on customer service and another on creating library displays to improve circulation of materials. Both videos were well received. We had a full team discussion about teens and broke off into department meetings and worked on catching up on circulation processes. We ran out of time so did not get any videos completed this time. Brunch was provided by Friends and we had cake to celebrate John K.'s birthday!

Jamie and I met with a representative from Complex Solutions regarding adding cameras and modifying recording angles to cameras already installed inside and outside of the facility. He emailed back today so I hope to bring information to you at the meeting.

I am working with Andi and the GWCHF on a city-wide read event based on the book, "The Anxious Generation". We are finalizing plans for a community discussion in July.

Friends had a successful Pi Day on March 14. I hope you had a chance to stop by for a piece of pie and support Friends. Thank you to Chandler House for donating pies for the fundraiser. We were fortunate to have several local businesses make donations to the event!

Included in the packet is information from the Wisconsin Library Association regarding the closing of IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services)

From the Bridges Director to a Library Director:

I don't have all the budget specifics you are looking for. You have looked at the Tracking Federal Funding website. That is the same information I have. I do know federal funds are used for services other than DPI staffing, including Badgerlink and interlibrary loan.

You are not alone in your concern about system funding should there be cuts in federal funding. At this point, there are many unknowns.

For now, encouraging supporters to contact elected officials and submit video testimonials are actions that can help. The statewide marketing cohort is putting together social media posts and other tools to help spread the word of the value of libraries. A list of talking points for libraries regarding the proposed federal funding cuts will also be provided. This may be helpful in answering some of your questions.

Attending the JFC hearings is another way people can show support for library funding.

Karol Kennedy

Director

Bridges Library System

We continue to work on the project in the non-fiction collection. The gardening books have been relocated to the new bookcase. Books that are part of the Wisconsin Collection will be moved to the Wallman Display Case. High school Orbits will be relocated to the other side of the room, closer to genealogy area. We are shifting the ever shrinking collection of magazines to make room for the Orbits.

We had a visit from the Fire Department because the alarm was going off. The facility was cleared by the Fire Department but the fire panel remained in "trouble mode". Advantage Systems found a defective sensor in one of ducts and was replaced.

The Jefferson County Board would like to have TNR representation on local library boards. Our new member will be Beth Mueller. Beth is a familiar face around the library. She is an avid supporter of libraries and will be a wonderful addition to the board, representing county residents.

I was contacted by the Police Dept. in regards to a man who was identified as a registered sex offender. A complaint was made to the Police Dept. by a mother who

felt uncomfortable with a discussion the man had with her daughter. The man was issued a one year stay out order, per my approval, from the Police Dept.

Monthly Department Information

Adult:

We held a couple really fun programs in adult services in March. At Snacks from Around the World people got to try snacks from 11 different countries. Everyone was enthusiastic to try some of these unique items. Danielle presented her 18th Century Women's Fashion program for the third year in a row and had a nice turn out. The Puzzle Contest was very successful, with 16 people attending and the winning team finishing their 500 piece puzzle in 1 hour flat. I hope to have another puzzle contest this summer. We showed *Wicked* on a Monday night and had a great showing. Attendees asked if we were going to show more evening movies, so I will try to show more new releases in the coming months. We have several things planned for National Library Week. We will be hosting a display called "Warrior Ink" that showcases veterans and their military tattoos. This is a traveling display that is owned by Menomonee Falls Public Library. It will be up from April 14-30, so be sure to come check it out!

~Jamie

Children's:

March was a busy month with lots of fun in the Children's Department! I went to St. Henry's to be the Mystery Reader for the 3K/4K and Kindergarten classes, had my monthly school visits at Head Start 3K and 4K classes and Ladybug Adventures, and had St Henry's Kindergarten and LEAP Elementary classes come to the library for visits as well. We had a busy Spring Break Week with our scavenger hunt having 252 participants, a special Choose Your Own Adventure Book Club, STEAM Team making edible playdough, a drop-in Spring Break Science Fun day and a showing of "Moana 2" to wrap up the busy week. We had a TON of visitors all week long and stayed very busy up in the TalkReadPlay Center. Unfortunately, we lost two more staff members in March, with Annika and Gabby both resigning with no notice. We have been having many discussions about what to do going forward, but one thing that we do know is that the staff that is here is always willing to jump in and help with whatever we need! We've got some fun things planned for National Library Week April 6-12, 2025 and I'm looking forward to attending the annual Children's Day Fair at the Watertown High School on April 12 with two of my favorite book characters... Elephant & Piggie!

~Tina

Circulation Department:

We have had a lot of new patrons visiting the library and signing up for library cards. It is so exciting to welcome them and share with them all the great things the library has to offer!

March was Women's History month. This month's display was titled: She does have a NAME! It features materials for checkout with stories about women throughout history. A big shout-out goes to Sue in circulation for creating these awesome displays.

March 14th was Pi day and friends of the library sold slices of pies and pizza! Stephanie from friends reported that every last slice of pie sold!

March 15th the Jig Jog was held by the library. This event also turns out to be a promotion for the library due to the fact that a lot of the participants are visiting the library for the first time and seeing how wonderful it is!

We moved the community puzzle table up to the second floor by the south facing windows. This new spot offers wonderful views, lots of natural lighting and a peaceful environment for puzzling.

April is National Library Month so please stop in and visit us here at the library!

~ Cari

Teens: