

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

| <b>Libby:<br/>Audio, Ebook &amp; Magazine Checkouts</b> |                    |                    |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|
|   | <b><u>2025</u></b> | <b><u>2026</u></b> |
| January   | 3,974              | 4,850              |
| February  | 3,671              | 4,120              |
| March   | 3,976              | 4,691              |
| April   | 3,986              | 4,375              |
| May   | 3,937              | 4,505              |
| June  | 4,669              |                    |
| July  | 4,930              |                    |
| August  | 4,022              |                    |
| September   | 4,051              |                    |
| October   | 4,074              |                    |
| November  | 4,144              |                    |
| December  | 4,184              |                    |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>48,391</b>      |                    |

|                               |     |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Physical Circulation for June | xxx |
| June Libby                    | xxx |
| June Libby Mags               | xxx |
| 2026 Monthly Total            | xxx |
| 2025 June Total               | xxx |
| New Cards                     | xxx |

### **Interim Library Director/Head of Adult Services Notes:**

\*\*Stats are incomplete this month because of the early board meeting. Updated stats will be found in next month's packet.\*\*

A heads up to the board that I will be on vacation the week of the August board meeting.

Staff had a casual pot luck for Peg in the break room to wish her farewell and say thank you for everything. Words really can't express how big of shoes the next director has to fill.

With the vacancy of our Senior Library Assistant/Cataloger, there have been holes to fill in the schedule. Thank you to all staff who have stepped up to make sure things continue running smoothly for our patrons.

I was approached by someone affiliated with the Veteran's Memorial Wall here in Watertown. Their group is interested in working with the library to archive some of the mementos that are being left at the wall. We're meeting on July 8 to discuss ideas.

I met with Laura Scott, who is the GIS Specialist for Jefferson County. We are looking into starting a project with them that would give the library data on neighborhoods in town that maybe aren't big library users so that we can consider doing a postcard campaign to get them in to sign up for cards. This would accomplish one of the Strategic Plan objectives (Increase efforts to improve awareness of the library by non-users and underrepresented groups) under Goal 1 (Increase community awareness and visibility). I will keep the board posted on how this project materializes.

We have two author visits coming up at the end of July. Vaneesa Cook will present her book about the Empire State Building and Statue of Liberty. Bill Mueller will present his book about growing up in a family of ten children on a farm outside of Kenosha. I'm hoping for a good turnout to both of these events, especially since the topics are extra American for the Semiquincentennial.

- Jamie (MLIS)

### **Children's Department Notes:**

Our 2026 Summer Library Challenge started with a bang on June 1st! We are now half way through our SLC and registration is already near last year's total sign-ups for kids, teens and adults! We've been enjoying seeing all the kids and teens coming in for their stamps, weekly prizes and SuperDraw tickets. They're very excited about the SuperDraw prizes and I enjoy seeing which end up being the most coveted prizes every year. We've had our first Bridges sponsored program of the summer, which was the Wildlife in Need Center, who brought some of their animal ambassadors for us to meet and learn more about. We also had our first ever Worm Races for a Family Fun Night and I'm hoping to be able to do these again, as they are a ton of fun! We've been getting a bit messy this summer with our school age kids doing Tie Dyeing, messy Painting, a painted and beaded garden craft and an Egg Drop so far. We're looking forward to more SLC fun in July and wrapping up our SLC!

We also removed our kid's filtered internet computers from the Children's Department and they are being replaced with a new product from Playaway Launchpad called Quest. They are bilingual, preloaded, computer-sized touchscreen Launchpads. They will be set up very soon where the old computers were next to the AWE Stations. We were able to purchase these new devices by using the remaining funds from a GWCHF grant, as well as other donations to the Children's Department. I'm excited to get them set up and see how the kids will enjoy this new learning tool!

-Tina (MLIS)

### **Teen Department Notes:**

This month was a busy one! We've had the coloring contest going, which brought so much beautiful art into the library. We had over 130 participants, and lots of folks voting on their favorites! The Summer Library Challenge is in full swing, and we've had lots of fun programs for teens. We've done tie dye, a painting day, and a day where we try snacks from around the world. We had our first Teen Lock-In of the summer with a Back to Kindergarten night and they (as well as staff) had a great time! Teens and adults also made fairy houses at the beginning of the month, which turned out beautifully. Definitely a program we want to do again! We've also wrapped up our Steer the Story program, and ran a "Creepy Campout" escape room. We'd consider this a very successful start to summer!

-Kaitlyn & Tina (MLIS)

### **Circulation Department Notes:**

June was a nice month for the library! We have been welcoming visitors from all around the surrounding libraries looking for Bigfoot. (This summer's Bridges library program.) We had a wonderful staff potluck party for Peg. The coloring contest entries were on display in circulation for voting. We received a lot of entries! We have a nice display of movies, music, and books with a beach theme! Happy Summer!

- Cari