

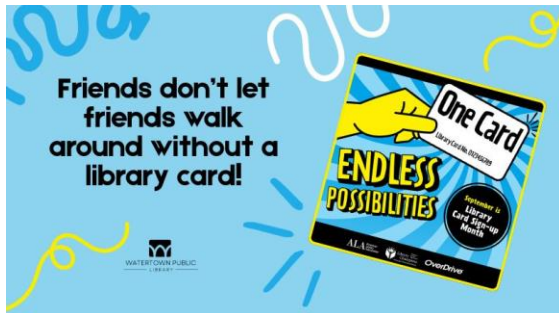
**WATERTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DIRECTOR'S REPORT
For August 2025**

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	
October	3,569	
November	3,494	
December	3,572	
Totals	44,953	

Physical Circulation for August	23,584 (24,420)
July Libby:	4,022 (3,723)
July Libby Mags	663 (363)
July Hoopla	630 (453)
2025 Monthly Total	28,899
2024 August Total	(28,959)
New Cards	115

Library Director's Notes:

It's National Card Sign-Up Month! I hope everyone has a library card



We have a variety of events planned and also the introduction of our new library giraffe family...just in time for all to get a new library card! Gerald made his first public appearance earlier in August when he assisted Xander with installing the new book at the Storybook Trail.

Surefire has made all the necessary repairs to library HVAC units. "Things" have been operating well. Two invoices for payment totaling \$2,700 have been received.

Camera installation has not gone well. Problems with Complex Security Solutions have caused a delay in launching camera software, issues with not contacting Taylor Computers for installation assistance onto our network, cameras not working, and a few cameras that are not installed/not working. They did however send an invoice, net 30 days for payment. I contacted them informing them that payment will not be made until I am satisfied with all aspects of the installation. They've also noted that we will need an additional switch. I've requested that they pay this item and not charge the library. We are unable to use all of the installed cameras until the additional switch has been added.

You may have noticed a change to the library catalog. Bridges libraries voted to add Vega, an overlay onto the existing catalog. Per our FB post:

We have upgraded our library catalog!

This new version has improved features to enhance your search experience, allowing you to seamlessly explore our entire collection at Watertown Public Library and throughout Bridges Library System.

Key features:

- Simplified design for easier navigation
- Combined formats and editions for a more efficient search

- Enhanced discovery to easily find related titles and authors
- Mobile-friendly accessibility to explore on any device, anywhere

Please take a look at the new additions to the catalog experience!

We did receive some comments from unhappy patrons regarding the discontinuing our subscription to Hoopla. A FB post was created to provide patrons with further information about the decision and the unsustainable costs for the library.

Friends are back from their summer break. The next meeting is Monday, September 8 at 10am in the MakerSpace.

I received an email from Jill Nadeau on behalf of the AAUW to gift a new sound system to the library that would accommodate more than one microphone. The AAUW would like to use the Community Room for upcoming forums and would like to have more than one microphone to use. FYI: Shortly after installation of our current system were notified that it had been discontinued when we made inquiries about adding more microphones.

I will keep you informed on the progress.

Noted in minutes from August's meeting are two bullet points under Trustee;s Report.(Develop facilities plan and Visioning for library needs and funding opportunities). Do trustees believe that these two items will be covered in the strategic planning process or should these items be added to agendas for a separate discussion or forwarded to the Buildings and Grounds Committee?

Monthly Department Information

Adult:

In August I participated in reviewing an RFP for a new Library Memory Project website through Bridges. I also spent a lot of time configuring our new catalog layout. The new layout should give patrons a more streamlined search process. I finished my work on the WLA Literary Awards Committee, with the final meeting on August 26. I was happy to have this experience but am happy to go back to reading what I want to read again. I hosted a Memory Cafe on August 27, which was a success. The theme was Fishing and we had a great time swapping stories and playing a fishing game that John K. helped me make. Regina is starting a Romance Book Club in September. Hannah is starting a cozy crafting/movie program that will run monthly through the fall. Library Card Sign-Up Month has started, and we're running a promotion for people to bring their friends in to sign up for a card and get entered to win a gift card to the Chamber. We're also holding 4 magnet making programs throughout the month.

~Jamie

Children's:

August was a bit of a slower month for us in the Children's Department, as we take a break from regularly scheduled programs after a crazy busy Summer Library Challenge and before we start back up with our school year programming. This year we continued our Friday Family Flicks program throughout the month of August and showed "Minecraft Movie", "Snow White", the new "How to Train Your Dragon", "Mufasa" and "Lilo and Stitch". We wrapped up the Little Owl Wise Owl Reading Buddy program with a small celebration of Owl Buddies and their families, had some snacks and the Owl Buddies shared the e-books that they created all summer together. We had a Speed Puzzle Family Fun Night, our new Crafty Kids Book Club and Club Lego, painted some Fruit Pavers as an all ages program and had our annual "It's Time for School Storytime!" with a chance to board a real school bus! We again had Back to School Bingo for kids and teens this August, which had kids complete 2 Bingos per sheet each week and then get to spin the prize wheel. All prizes are school supplies! This year we handed out 276 school supplies (230 to kids and 46 to teens)! I enjoyed a week vacation in August and attended the annual New Teacher Breakfast that the Watertown Chamber of Commerce hosts every year to welcome new teachers to the district. It's always great to get a chance to share all the library has to offer both personally and professionally with them and I was able to meet the two new WUSD elementary librarians and connect with them about possible collaborations throughout the school year. We're excited to start fall programming and have been enjoying the little bit of downtime to get other projects completed that we don't always have time for during the busy summer months.

~Tina

Circulation Department:

August was a mix of warmth and cool weather. Summer is winding down. School is starting up but we are still seeing lots of patrons of all ages.

We have awesome displays of books all around the lower level and a guess the theme display that patrons have really been enjoying.

The Journey of Dragons program through Bridges Library System is coming to an end and patrons who participated have given really positive comments about their visit here. One patron said it has been great because she has been able to see libraries that she would like to bring her grandchildren to in the future. Ours is one of them.

We have new cameras so we will have a good look at the circulation area and several other spots around the library.

~ Cari

Teens:

This month, tweens and teens had the opportunity to participate in a couple of craft activities. Early on in the month, we painted by blowing through straws, and they had lots of fun! The next day, one of their grown-ups said thank you, that his daughter had a great time.

We also had teens come in to make buttons and sticker art, which was a big hit! It was very meticulous work, but they enjoyed the attention to detail. Besides that, we also had the all ages coloring contest, which brought so much beautiful art into the library.