

**WATERTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
DIRECTOR'S REPORT  
For March 2024**

<b>Libby: Audio and Ebook Checkouts</b>		
	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
January:	3,591	4,028
February:	3,274	3,630
March:	3,729	3,934
April:	3,210	
May	3,484	
June:	3,607	
July:	3,712	
August:	3,744	
Sept.	3,614	
October	4,044	
November	3,837	
December	3,836	
Totals	43,683	11,592

Physical Circulation for March	24,529
MARCH. Libby:	3,934
MARCH Hoopla	684
2024 Monthly Total	29,147
2023 Monthly Total	31,450
	101

## **Library Director's Notes:**

### **APRIL 7 –APRIL 13 is NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK**

**We will be introducing our newest addition: Tea Library. Our assortment of teas will be displayed on the second floor. During this week, patrons can stop by and enjoy a hot cup of tea while relaxing next to the fireplace.**

March 28 was Cindy Krysinski's last day at the library. We celebrated her retirement with a meal of her choice, retirement gifts, and many well wishes and hugs from team members. Cindy was employed at the library for over 20 years. Cindy's departure left some big holes to fill. Jeannette will take over the mending responsibilities and Cari will teach Brittany how to complete the state Inter-library Loan requests. A representative from WisCat will also stop in to teach Brittany the new ILL system. My thanks to both for stepping up and taking on new responsibilities!

We have a healthy number of applicants for our two open positions. Cari and I will sort through the applications and complete the interviews.

A reminder that Stephanie Curtis and I will present at WAPL on May 2 in Stevens Point. The name of our program is "The Dynamic Duo: A Tale of Two Organizations Coming Together to Work Towards a Common Goal of Strengthening Families".

Last week we hosted an event for Bridges regarding Hearing Loops in Libraries. I had requested the install of a hearing loop in our facility but have now learned that one was not installed...and FM transmitter was installed. I have conveyed my unhappiness and disappointment to Darren because I have always talked about the installation of a hearing loop. The FM transmitter was installed per spec. The good news: Bridges had allocated funds to install hearing loops in our county libraries. Whitewater PL is backing out due to their upcoming construction project so I was contacted by Angela at Bridges to see if we would want to take advantage of this updated situation. My answer was "yes". I'm not sure if our install will go over and above the allocated amount but I will keep you informed.

.A reminder to check that your Friends of the Library membership is up to date. Also, if you would know a local business or organization that would want to be a monthly coffee sponsor, your willingness to reach out on behalf of Friends is greatly appreciated!

The newest member of the library team is already making an impact. Noah has created several videos for FB/IG promoting library services!

Miron completed the extra work inside the facility as promised. Two ceiling diffusers were added in the Makerspace (cold air does not blow down on individuals) and damper replacement leading into Tina's office. Wiring and programming will be completed week of April 7.

Our current subscription to Hoopla allows for 4 checkouts per library card. Due to system wide concerns about costs, Directors have voted to approve a reduction in checkouts down to 2 per card. Hoopla is giving pushback but Mellanie and Karol (Bridges) are negotiating. I will keep you posted.

FYI: Kevin came in on Saturday, March 23 and cleaned all the carpeting in the Talk Read Play Center. He wanted to finish the entire job so he stayed until 9:30pm. As you can imagine, cleaning was needed and now it looks great! He has now cleaned about 95% of the carpeted areas in the facility within the last month.

### **Monthly Department Information**

#### **Adult:**

In March we received 31 entries for our Tiny Art Show. Every time we do one of these I am amazed at how talented Watertown is! The gallery is near the parking lot entrance and I encourage everyone to check it out before the next board meeting! If you are on social media, I hope you've seen the content that Noah has been putting out. He is very creative and up on what is currently trending. He will continue to focus on highlighting library services and material with his own sense of humor. Monday nights feel a little empty since Cindy retired, as we are operating with one less person. Laura started a mystery book club, with the clever name "Murder They Read Book Club." The first meeting was a getting to know you/planning session and they will meet again the last Thursday of April for their first book discussion. Staff is throwing around ideas of how to increase our circulations, so I'm rearranging displays and hoping to plan a reading competition to capture patrons' interest.

**~Jamie**

#### **Children's:**

March was another busy month for the Children's Department! We collaborated with the Parks & Rec department to coordinate the Lucky Leprechaun Event on St. Patrick's Day, with a coin hunt and photo booth at the Bentzin Family Town Square and the Lucky Leprechaun Scavenger Hunt from 3/11-3/17 at the library and a Pot of Gold Craft on 3/17 in the Creative Zone. We went through all of our prepped supplies and had 245 participants that week in the scavenger hunt! I was also able to participate, and the library was able to host, the Multi-Lingual Family Night with the WUSD and the Watertown Chamber of Commerce. It was great to see so many new families in the library and that they got to experience how great our library is! We had our annual visit from Renee from Ebert's Greenhouse for Little University Storytime in March as well! It is always one of my favorite storytimes of the year. 😊 We had a fun Spring Break Week at the library this year, with a busy Dog Man Day to celebrate the release of the new "Dog Man: The Scarlet Shedder", a special STEAM Team making Galaxy Jars, a special Games Club playing Disney Trivia, and a No School Movie Day showing "Trolls Band Together". It was a great week and we are ready to finish out the next 7 weeks of our regular programming before we break to prepare for the 2024 Summer Library Challenge! .

**~Tina**

### **Teens:**

"March was filled with a lot of programs I was very excited for! The big one was at the beginning of the month- the Wonka Chocolate Shoppe, based around the new movie. It was a bigger hit than anticipated! So many teens showed up to make chocolate, with some turning out better than others. The other big event I was excited to try was paint pouring. It was very entertaining to see the different designs and colors the teens came up with for their canvases. They all said how fun it was and I would like to try something similar in the future.

I also had some more chill programs like a St Patrick's Day one, a spring break one, and an Oreo guessing game, which was a fun snack time. Xander and I collaborated for the Homeschoolers program, which was March Madness themed, but with a book twist. There's always a large group for that one, so it was good to help Xander get used to running it for the future events.

I also rearranged and ordered more video games, since most of our collection was a little outdated. Many people have told me they didn't know we even had video games available at the library! I am going to see how the circulation with them changes now that they've been moved, and since I've added more current games, in the coming months; hopefully for the better."

**~ Brittany**

## **Circulation Department:**

Happy Spring!

This is my favorite time of year watching the Earth come alive! It feels so good to see the green grass and watch as the flowers pop up!

Here at circulation our display stands are full and fun to browse. We have a great display titled: As luck would have it. It is a great collection of items with the word luck in them. Our video display this month has been movies with Green artwork; it has generated a lot of checkouts!

We have a display by the circulation desk with books and information about the upcoming total eclipse on April 8th! The display features information and books on this topic. The circulation desk has glasses to give out for observing the eclipse! We rearranged the desks at circulation. When you stop in, check out the new look, we think it has a good flow!

This month we are saying farewell to Cindy who has been a faithful library employee for so many years. We thank her for all her years of service and we wish her only the very best in her retirement. A chapter closes and a new one opens.

~ Cari