

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

Libby: Audio, Ebook & Magazine Checkouts		
	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>
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	
Total	48,391	

Physical Circulation for May	20,579
May Libby	4,505
May Libby Mags	553
2026 Monthly Total	25,637
2025 May Total	27,066
New Cards	107

Interim Library Director/Head of Adult Services Notes:

Peg and I met with the new Park and Rec Director, Ryan Schmidt. We knew that P&R had been given a copy of a key to the library, but it was discovered during this meeting that the key has been copied at least three times by previous P&R staff and we do not know where the original is.

We have been working with Jody Purtell on a new marketing campaign to draw attention to the library and our services. Jody is designing window wraps to put in several of our large windows that will be very visible from the street and the town square. She has been sending mock ups for Peg and I to look at. If we have any selected by the board meeting I will make sure to bring them. Jody is donating her time for this project, and we will be paying for the wraps and installation with a grant from Bridges.

Bridges has organized another program to encourage patrons to visit all the libraries in the system. This year's program is called "Tracks in the Stacks: A Bigfoot Hunt" and runs June 1-August 21. We're looking forward to another summer of welcoming patrons who don't usually use our library.

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

The emergency phone in our lift is operational again. This was part of the issue when our POTS lines were cut. We are now operating how we were before that occurred, with the exception of not being able to send faxes.

Shout out to Tina for completing all of her school visits to promote the Summer Library Challenge. Summer is a busy time for everyone who works at the library as the number of visitors, programs, check outs and returns increase, but Tina has the most amount of prep work. She does a great job.

I sent an email to the board about Trustee Training Week, which is August 10-13 this year. Each webinar is from noon-1 pm and recorded if you're not available to attend live. I hope you are able to attend at least one of these sessions.

Our new page, Kelcy LePlavy, started last week. It will be great to be up to full staff in the page department as we start to get more returns as summer progresses.

We left the Main Street doors open late for the first summer concert at the Towne Square on May 30. It appears everything ran smoothly.

- Jamie (MLIS)

Children's Department Notes:

May was an incredibly busy month (as per usual) for me and the Children's Department! I wrapped up spring Little U Storytime's with a visit from the Watertown Streets Department for a Touch a Truck Storytime! The kids absolutely loved it and I think the Streets crew enjoyed all the attention as well. 😊 I scheduled and completed all of my school visits today to get kids excited about the Summer Library Challenge. I saw all of the kids at each of the public elementary schools 4K-5th and all of the kids 4K-8th at TSL, Calvary, Lebanon Lutheran, St. Therese, St. Paul's Ixonia, St. John's, Good Shepherd and St.

Mark's (dropped off materials) as well as Gingerbread and Head Start classes. It's a lot of schedule coordination and running around but a lot of fun to get the kids hyped up for the SLC! We officially kicked off the SLC on June 1st and we're ready for the whirlwind that all things summer bring our way!

-Tina (MLIS)

Teen Department Notes:

This month, we continued Steer the Story, where teens vote on how they want the story to go and we set out a new chapter each week. Participation has fluctuated a bit, but we're keeping it going steadily. We also opened up a new passive program – "The Dictionary Game," where teens learn a new word to earn a piece of candy. We had our last Homeschool Tuesday of the year and played board games, parachute games, hula hoop rock paper scissors, and more! Teens also had the chance to make their own squishy fidgets out of memory foam and puffy paint, which was a blast. We are gearing up for the Summer Library Challenge and our weekly programs for teens in June and July. We have a lot planned that we think they will enjoy! Registration has already opened for our lock ins, and teens are signing up fast!

-Kaitlyn & Tina, MLIS

Circulation Department Notes:

Summer weather has arrived!

Patrons really enjoyed the decorated duck display. Xander did an excellent job creating a display for them. He set them on blue material that looked like water. It drew a lot of interest from all ages.

Sue created a display of books with sprayed edges books that are so pretty, interesting to look at, and just may be someone's next great read!

The tiny art contest entries are on display on the lower level, it is so amazing what patrons come up with to decorate them. The talent of patrons is amazing! One entry is actually completely crocheted!

A dictionary has been placed in the teen room, teens look up a word and then visit the circulation desk to tell us the word's description for a tiny prize. Kaitlyn created this neat passive program to give us the opportunity to have positive interactions! It has been very successful!

- Cari