

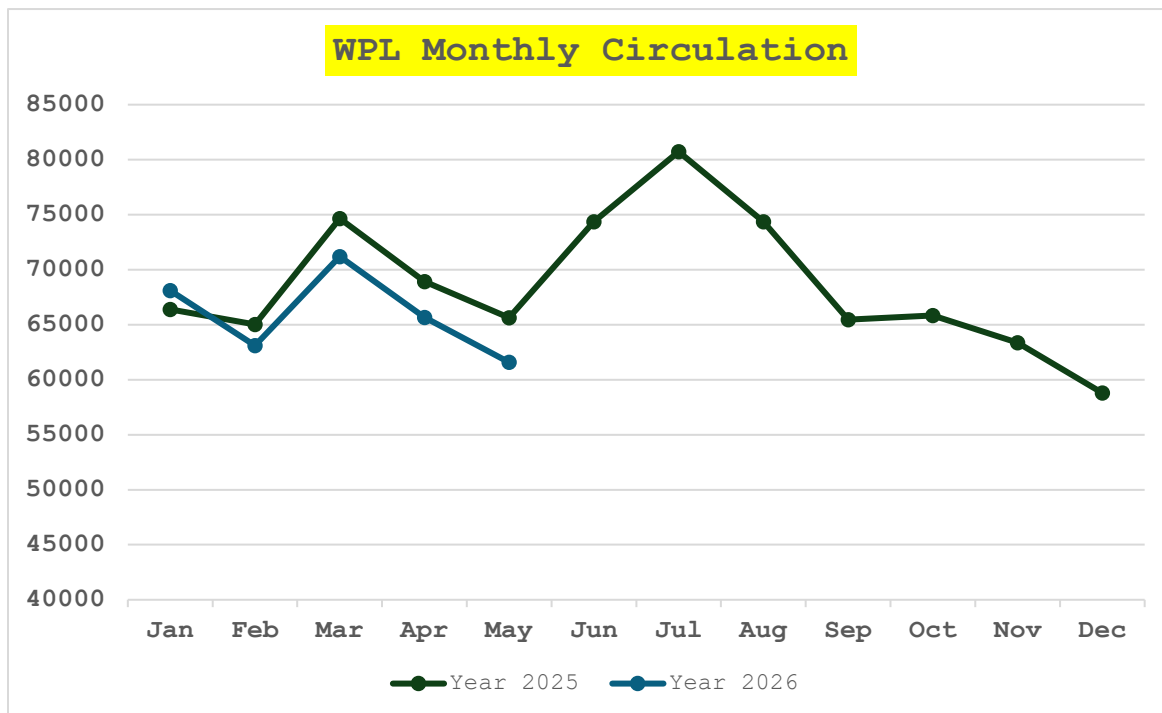
Administrative and Staff Reports for July 9, 2026 Board Meeting

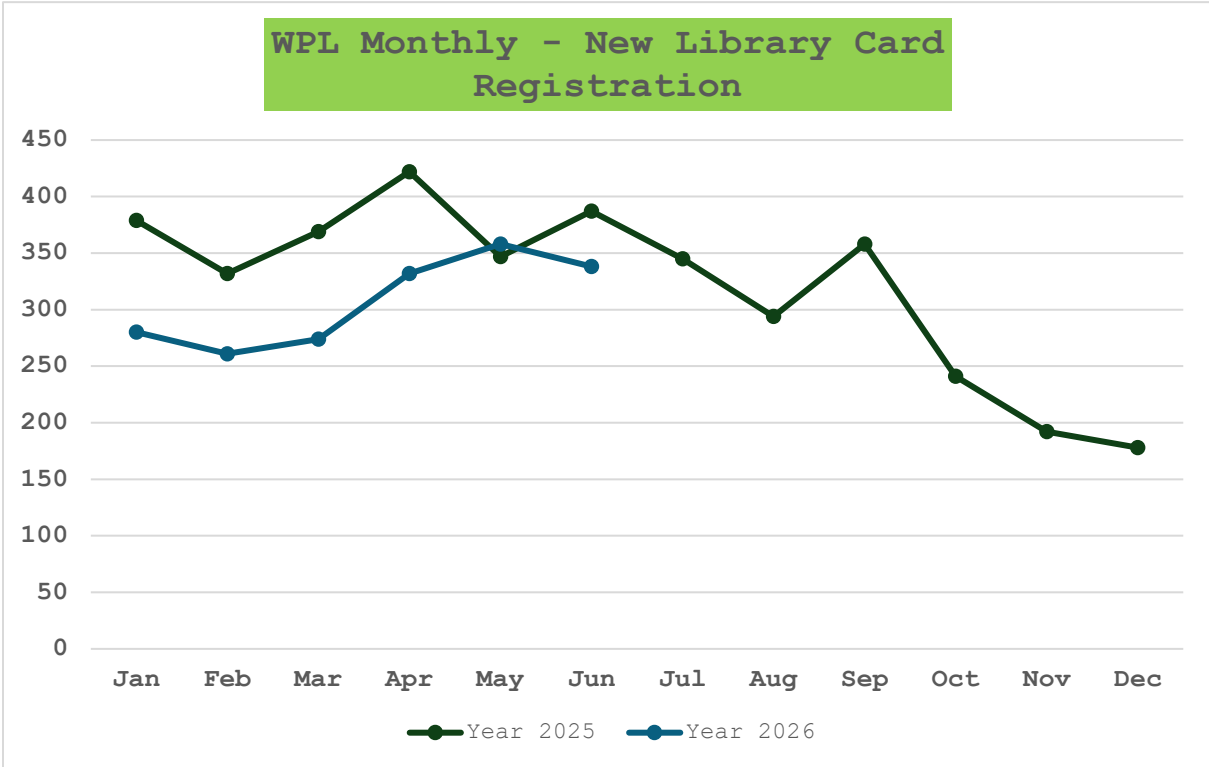
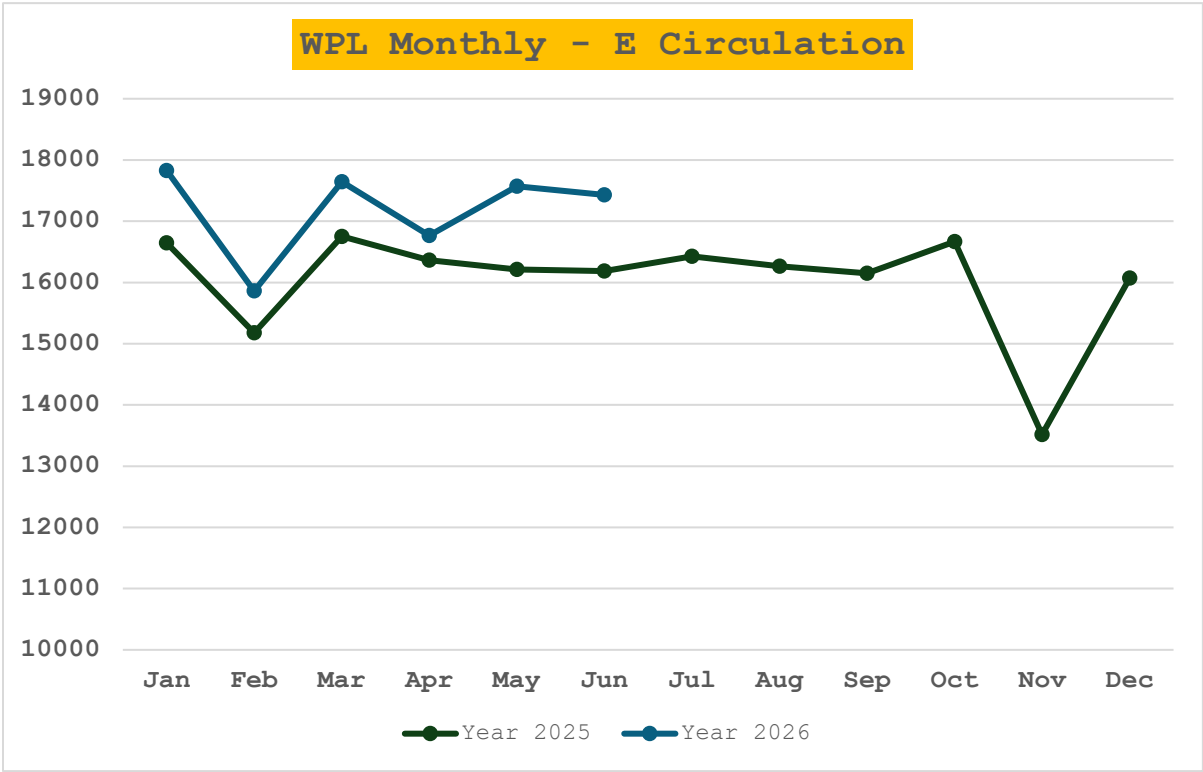
LIBRARY DIRECTOR, BRUCE GAY

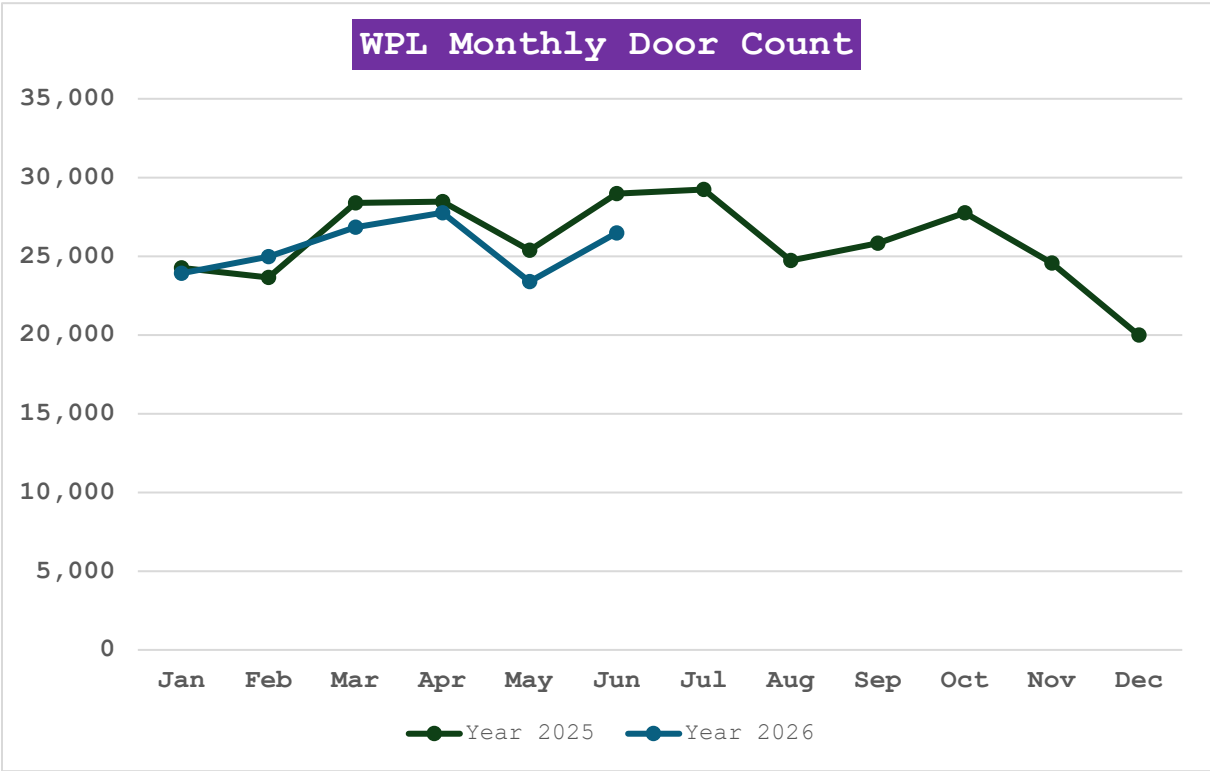
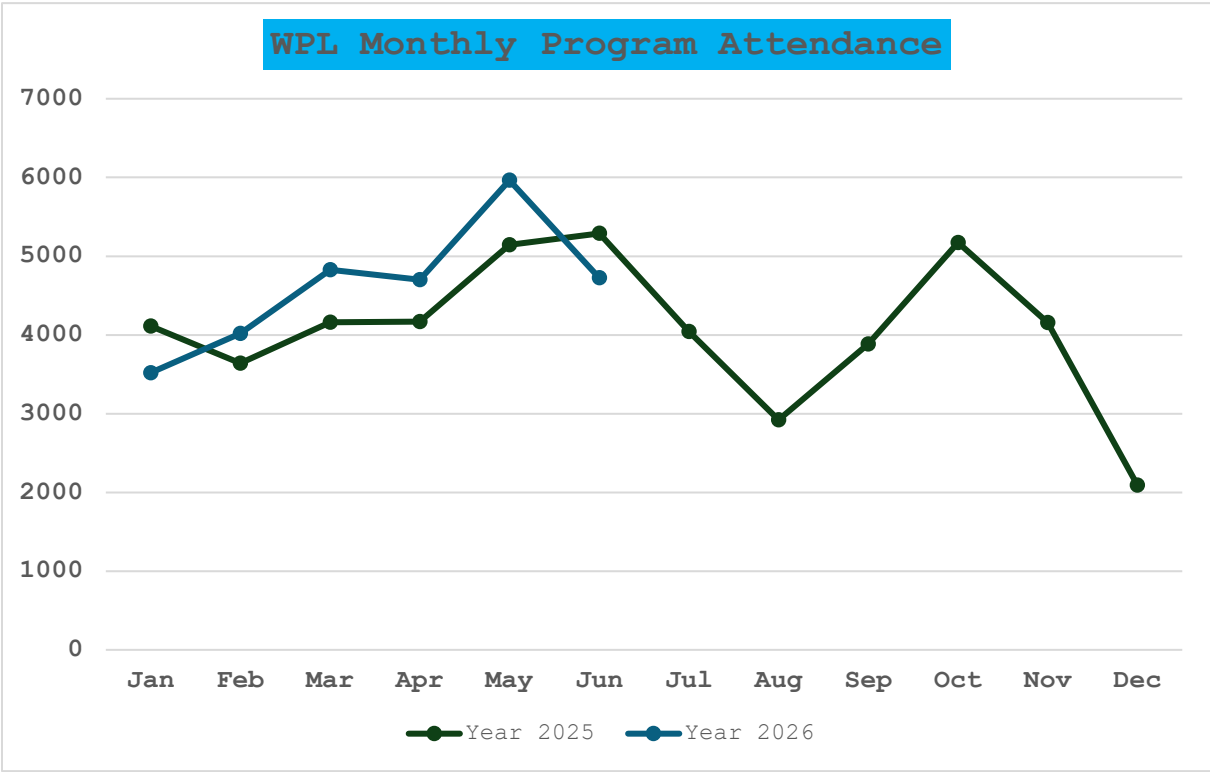
- E-book Fair Pricing Work Group:** At a Library Development and Legislation (LDAC) committee meeting on May 29, WLA Executive Director Kara Sullivan announced her interest in forming a workgroup to look at libraries and e-book pricing. The next week she reached out and asked if I would be on the committee. Several states have passed legislation addressing e-book licensing. This has been a large issue for libraries across the state over the past decade or longer. The group will start meetings in July.
- Revolving Door Repair:** The City is accepting bids for repairing the revolving door. The repair will be a complete rebuild of the mechanical parts and will come with a ten-year warranty. Based on estimates for acquiring the materials, it is likely the door will be rebuilt in the early Fall.
- Bridges App RFP:** The committee selecting the Bridges App (through an RFP process) had demonstrations from three vendors on May 18. After the demos, the committee reviewed its rankings and made minor changes. All vendors were closely ranked, and OCLC was chosen based on committee ratings and pricing. Because this is the current vendor, there should be no significant transition to the new contract in 2027—Waukesha County approved the winning bid on June 17.

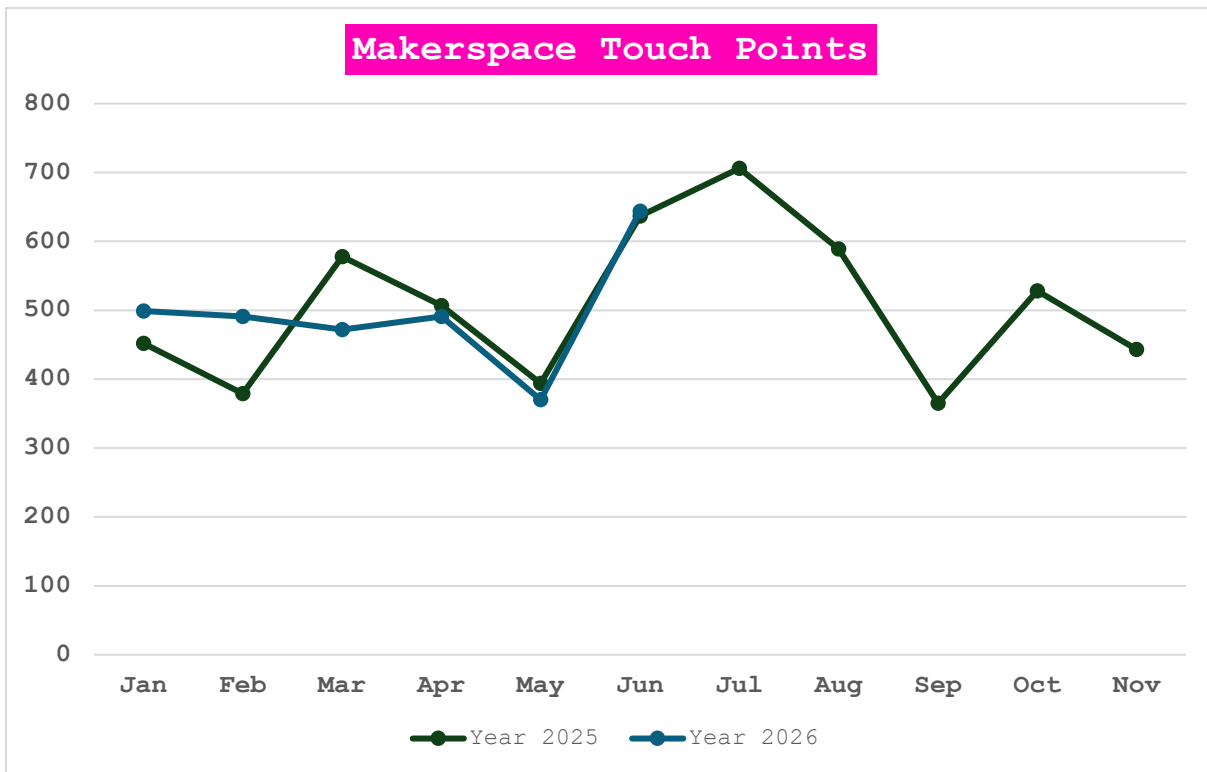
Waukesha Public Library Service Standards	
	<p style="text-align: center;">WE ARE PEOPLE-CENTERED</p> Purpose over task • Respect for privacy • High regard for all
	<p style="text-align: center;">WE CELEBRATE OUR SPACE</p> Shared ownership • Proactive helpfulness
	<p style="text-align: center;">WE ARE CONSISTENT IN OUR SERVICE</p> Unified experience • Timely responses Effective referrals • Fair enforcement
	<p style="text-align: center;">WE RESPECT EACH OTHER</p> Positive library culture • Presence matters • Self-awareness

WPL By the Numbers:









ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES, THERESE LYONS

Human Resources

We reviewed applications and selected candidates for interviews for our two open positions, the 10-hour Library Security Guard position (internally, the Patron Relations Associate position) and the Public Services Library Associate Summer Intern position.

After interviewing and deliberation, we extended job offers for the Intern position, and the candidate accepted. The candidate will begin on Tuesday, June 9. The Library Security Guard position remains open.

The Public Services Library Associate Summer Intern started on June 9. Her name is Alyssa Lambert and here is a little bit about her in her own words:

I'm Alyssa Lambert, a graduate student getting master's degrees in both English (with a focus on digital media) and in Library and Information Science at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee! I live and breathe games as they're my objects of study (video, tabletop, board games you name it!) but am always more than willing to talk about anything remotely nerdy! I have had some experience in the history department's archive of computing technology called the RetroLab and tinkering around historically important computers, so I am incredibly excited to be surrounded by books again! Most of my current reading has been dedicated to academic work, but as summer has come at last, I'm delighted to finally pick up a novel again and go on some hikes!

I'm very excited to meet you all and be part of the team!

(My brother, my mom and I at Devil's Lake this past Fall. That's me in the middle!)



On June 26, Carol Rose retired as a Library Assistant from the Materials Collection Department after 34 years of service to the Library. Carol started her career with the Library as a shelver and later became a Library Assistant.

We posted her position and hope to have someone in place by late July. We've also started the process of posting a 20-hour shelver position. Aster Nelson will be leaving us to become a Student Life Wellness Advocate at Carroll University. We wish her the best!

Staff Development and Projects

On May 1, we had our half day of staff training. The theme for the day was physical and mental safety. Officer Paul Ball, from the City of Waukesha Police Department presented active shooter training and Waukesha Fire Department Division Chief of Training, Pat Rettler and his team from the fire department provided hands on training to staff for medical emergencies, including stop the bleed and AED training. The day ended with a presentation from Trevor Huskey, a licensed clinical social worker, on coping with anxiety in the workplace.

Our May THAMs included presentations about IT and Strategic Plan Updates, Makerspace 101, Summer Programming, and the City Clerk/Treasurer's Office. Our June THAMs included PLA Conference share out, Workplace Productivity Hacks, Workplace Wellness and Bed Bugs Presentation.

I attended a webinar entitled: Library Accessibility 101: Because People with Disabilities Need Libraries. I also attended De-Escalation Skills training at the Mukwonago Public Library, presented by NAMI, and "Fundraising Across the Generations." Finally, on May 28, I attended "New Libraries, shared spaces: Developing Mixed Use Library Spaces."

Friends

The Friends Board met in May and approved new merchandise that is for sale including coolers and stuffed animals. The Friends also voted to fund Library branded apparel for staff (up to \$30 an item). Administrative Services Staff created a form for employees to complete and 48 employees

participated. The apparel is in the process of being ordered. Thanks to our Friends for supporting this effort.

The Friends are also moving forward with three fundraisers later this year. Margo, Kori, Kelly and Bruce met with Bruce to discuss the upcoming Waukesha Reads fundraiser. Big thanks to Kori and Maddy for working to update the flyer. Friends are expecting to mail out the flyer in June.

Building

We met with Joe Welter, the Facilities and Construction Manager for the city of Waukesha, to discuss 2026 building projects, including the outdoor sign project.

Here is a photo of one proposed location for the sign:



We are also moving forward with the first-floor bathroom remodel to make it more ADA accessible. We hope to have a contractor in place in June. We will be removing the doors and creating open access like something you would see in a movie theater or a sports stadium.

Thank you to the volunteers from Waukesha North High School who spent the morning here on Friday, May 22, laying mulch. A special thank you to Librarian Gloria Makris for arranging the volunteer time and working right alongside the volunteers.

Another big thank you to Library Associate Laura Sumpter for donating, designing, and planting foliage in the staff parking lot. This is in addition to the time and effort that she spent designing the landscaping in front of the library last year. Thank you, Laura, for supporting the Library's mission of celebrating our space: shared ownership and proactive helpfulness, and for making WPL a beautiful place for patrons and staff.

The City of Waukesha Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department removed a significant amount of old and overgrown shrubs. Maintenance mulched the area, getting it ready for new landscaping.



As soon as space was cleared, Laura got to work planting hostas. Most of the plants are hostas that she divided and cultivated from her own home garden. She designed the plantings just like she did with the plants in the front of the library. Thank you, once again, Laura!

On May 18, we met with Joe Welter and Chris Till from Lemberg Signs to choose a location for the sign and start the design process. The precise location of the sign has not yet been determined. We're continuing to work on the location and design for an outdoor Library sign. Chris Till, from Lemberg Sign Department, proposed the following:

Waukesha Public Library / Monument Sign
CONCEPTUAL DRAWING

Monument Specifications

One (1) New Monument Sign, Double Sided, Illuminated
34.2 sq. ft.

(A) Sign Cabinet:
18" +/- Sign Cabinet with 2" aluminum retainers and white polycarbonate faces, decorated with 3M First Surface Vinyl Graphics (3M Silver 3630-121) & (3M Standard Color Blue TBD). Cabinet painted MP Brushed Aluminum (or MP metallic silver to match faces TBD). Internal white LED illumination (standard white).

(B) Reveal:
2" aluminum reveal, with MP metallic paint finish.

(C) Cap (for Masonry Base):
1" aluminum cap to fit over top of fabricated thin brick Masonry Base. MP metallic paint finish.

(D) Masonry Base (Thin Brick):
Fabricated steel frame with cross structure bracing as needed, backer-board, & Thin Brick Masonry Base: Summitville / 26 Savannah - Wirecut Thin Brick.

(E) Mounting:
Sign to Saddle Mount 4" x 4" x 1/4" sq. steel post, at 11" Length +/- Set in 24" dia. concrete footing 5' deep.

Colors:
Paint
[P-1] MP metallic silver to match faces TBD

Vinyl Graphics:
[V-1] 3M Silver (3630-121)
[V-2] 3M Standard Color Blue TBD

Specialized Products
[S-1] White Polycarbonate

Proposed Placement (Zoom Out)

Proposed Placement (Zoom In)

Illumination

	Client: Waukesha Public Library Location: 321 Wisconsin Ave. City: Waukesha, WI 53186	Sales Representative: Chris Till Project Manager: TBD Designer: Eric Bailey	Scale: 1/2"=1' Paper Size: 11x17 Signature / Date:
	4825 North 128th Street Brookfield, WI 53005 P: 262-791-1500 www.LembergElectric.com		Client / Location in Project / Sign Classification / Vertical or Horizontal / Drawing Status: WPL_MON_v01_r01_D Date: 6-11-26

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Staff Development and Projects

On June 2, I attended "Grow Solar Milwaukee + Waukesha= Solar Power." Of interest, were the benefits of solar powered panels in construction projects, including building incentives and energy savings. I also attended "Core 101: The Science of Conflict," presented by Ryan Dowd.

The Administrative Team continues to work on a document describing specific job responsibilities for each position to prepare the next staff person if a position is vacated.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, ALYSSA PISARSKI

In MAY the Library hosted 81 programs with 5,964 attendees

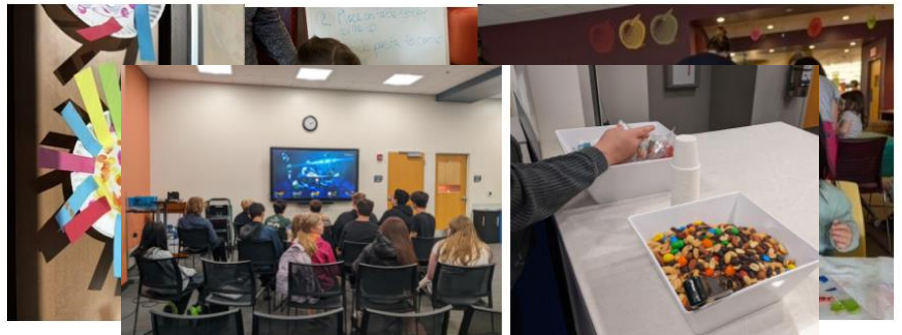
- Children's Programs: 31 programs, 4,667 attendees
- Teen Programs: 11 programs, 301 attendees
- Adult Programs: 10 programs, 408 attendees
- General Interest: 29 programs, 588 attendees

In JUNE the Library hosted 111 programs with 4,726 attendees

- Children's Programs: 40 programs, 3,283 attendees
- Teen Programs: 10 programs, 179 attendees
- Adult Programs: 17 programs, 559 attendees
- General Interest: 44 programs, 705 attendees

Program Highlights

- **Messy Masterpieces:** We had 187 patrons participate in Messy Masterpieces sessions. Kids were able to experience different art techniques and mediums including painted lasagna noodles, paper plates, and lots of washable paint.
- **Teen Super Smash Bros Tournament:** 39 Teens joined the excitement of the SSB Tournament in Program Room A/B. Teens brawled on the Nintendo Switch in these 1 vs 1 matches by choosing their favorite main character. The reigning champion from last year's tourney won this year as well. There were a lot of new faces joining the fray. Spectators and duelists had a healthy snack of trail mix and fruit chews.
- **Volunteer Fair:** We welcomed 138 attendees to our annual Volunteer Fair with 22 organizations in attendance. Attendees had the chance to engage with a wide variety of area non-profits and organizations and sign up for volunteer opportunities giving back to the Waukesha community.



- **Memory Cafe:** Dr. Tom Schlei from Waukesha County Historical Society took us on a “Moo-ving” journey through Waukesha’s farming history. Attendees were able to step back in time and reminisce about old-time farm life. 56 people attended.



- **Outdoor Storytime:** Outdoor storytime attendance averaged 70 attendees at each session in June, from babies to young grade schoolers. We enjoyed great weather, utilizing the grass and shade while most attendees brought blankets and snacks.
- **Book Club Summer Camp** - We received rave reviews from kids and parents alike on our 2nd annual Book Club Summer Camp. Library Associate Kristine built three days of programming around *Once Upon a Tim* by Stuart Gibbs. Day one was a scavenger hunt, day two we made knight’s helmets in the makerspace, and day three was knight shield’s pizzas and wizard wand treats in the kitchen. All 24 children had a blast!



- **Kidz Fun Zone: Mini Golf:** 102 patrons enjoyed our first Kidz Fun Zone on June 25! We had five mini-golf holes, with various themes, such as The Cat in the Hat, The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Dinosaurs. We provided putters and foam golf balls (and FUN)! A new drop-in activity will be offered every Thursday, 10am-4pm in the children’s program until the end of July!
- **Carnegie Series: The Man Behind the Millions:** We had 45 people attend the first of the Carnegie Series with a presentation on Andrew Carnegie by Dr. Abigail Markwyn from Carroll University. Patrons learned all about Andrew Carnegie, how he made his fortune, and why he felt the need to give 90% of it away.
- **Composting From Start to Finish:** We had 23 patrons attend our composting program led by Jenna Biermann from Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use. Jenna went over how to get started with composting, the dos and don’ts of composting, and how to tell when the compost is ready.



- **Chef In Residence: Fiber Forward:** We welcomed 31 patrons to the first of our “Chef in Residence” series with Jessica Gawrys, a recent graduate of Mount Mary University with her Master's in Nutrition and Dietetics. Everyone enjoyed a nutritious sample of date energy balls (each of which contains 2 grams of fiber!) while learning how to better integrate fiber into their diets.



Outreach Highlights

- **Total outreach circulation:** 694 items were delivered to and borrowed by Waukesha Outreach Patrons in May. The Outreach Services team had 118 in person interactions with outreach patrons this month, and received 77 phone, text, and email requests.
- **Total outreach circulation:** 872 items were delivered to and borrowed by Waukesha Outreach Patrons in June. The Outreach Services team had 100 in person interactions with outreach patrons this month, and received 89 phone, text, and email requests.

Library & School Collaboration

- **Summer Library Program School Visits:** As the Library prepares for summer reading, CE staff visited nine schools to promote our Summer Library Program. Nearly 3,000 elementary students enjoyed hearing about summer reading and had fun interacting with puppets and listening to read-alouds.
- **School Field Trips:** In early May, 340 students and staff members from Heyer School enjoyed a field trip to the Library. Classes rotated throughout the day, listening to read-alouds, touring the Library, and checking out books. Community Engagement and Public Services staff supported this all-hands-on-deck experience!
- **Hadfield Picnic:** Michele brought the Book Bike to Hadfield School for their annual family picnic on May 29. She connected with 160 students and family members, signing up 77 kids for our Summer Reading Program.
- **Family Literacy Nights:** Hawthorne and Hadfield Schools held their Family Literacy Nights in May, scheduling dates a few weeks after their school field trips. Along with activities facilitated by the schools, students had the opportunity to register early for our Summer Reading Program. Forty-eight Hadfield students and 50 Heyer students signed up for summer reading; along with their picnic sign-ups, approximately 125 Hadfield students have already registered for the summer library program, compared to 43 last summer!
- **Les Paul Lunch Bunch:** Seven students enjoyed their last Lunch Bunch of the school year on May 14. They decorated sunglasses for summer, discussed vacation plans and ate cupcakes.



Partnerships/Collaborations

- **Waukesha West Mental Health Walk:** The library teamed up with the Waukesha West High School counselors to share resources at their outdoor mental health walk. It was a beautiful day for making buttons, sharing library swag, and talking with over 50 teens about how the library can be a resource for their mental health. It was heartwarming to see the excitement



on familiar faces who remember that the library is the place to be!

- **Sentry House Resource Visit:** Librarian Khorye Huffman met with around 15 temporary residents of Sentry House shelter. She shared information about library resources, like Udemy and Cypress, over an activity of key chain decorating. Residents were able to take a break and get in touch with their inner child while learning about all the library has to offer.
- **Spring Celebration:** WPL's third annual Spring Celebration for teens and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities was a great success, with 180 participants and caregivers attending. Community members from Waukesha North, South and West High Schools, Waukesha Transition Academy, Adult Day Services, Pantheon Industries, and ACAP enjoyed socialization, snacks, crafts, a Sensory Museum, and even a visit with two therapy dogs! Thank you to Rachel, Kelly, and Alyssa for supporting this busy morning, as well as Michele for organizing the event – feedback from all who attended was very positive!

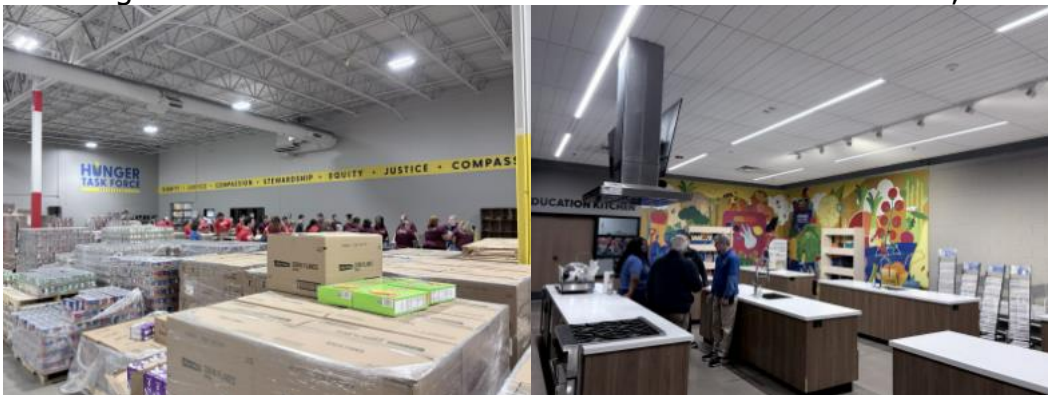


- **Safety Days:** This summer's first Safety Day was held at Frame Park on June 22. Michele rode the Book Bike to the park, sharing stories about safety and an activity focusing on playground safety. More than 70 community members participated, including regular library visitors for Adult Day Services and a group from Momentum Childcare, a group that will be visiting the Library in early July.
- **Summer Explorers:** Large groups of kids are attending Summer Explorers park programs facilitated by WPRF. Michele has been working with more than 150 participants at Banting, Heyer, and Summit View summer programs, sharing read-alouds, crafts and games. Banting's program will continue through the summer, and Michele will work with groups at EB Shurts and Schuetze Recreation Center after Heyer and Summit View wrap up in early July.
- **WIC Garden Storytime:** Library Associate Rachel visited the WIC Kid's Container Gardening event to present a garden storytime and to sign participants up for the summer reading program and library cards. 39 attendees listened to garden stories, participated in fingerplays and scarf songs before moving on to plant tomatoes and other vegetables with the WIC staff.



Community Engagement Highlights

- Family Foundations Home Visiting Program Presentation:** I was invited to speak about early literacy and language development to agencies participating in the Family Foundations Home Visiting Program. The meeting and the program is managed by the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families. Over 80 people attended and learned about fundamentals of early literacy practices and skills, library resources available to young children and caregivers, and tips for partnering with their local library.
- Summer Library Program Volunteer Training:** 23 volunteers attended the training sessions, which took place over two days. We are excited for their assistance all summer long at the reading table and other busy programs! The next volunteer training will be on Monday, June 15 at 3pm!
- Fishing for a Good Book:** 137 young patrons went "Fishing for a Good Book" this month. An aquarium filled with magnetic fish book recommendations was set up in the children's area. Kids were able to use a rod to find their next favorite read!
- Summer Library Program –** The summer library program is off to a busy start with a 17% increase in registration compared to June 2025. 3,959 kids, teens, and adults have registered and logged 1,138,838 minutes of reading, and our youngest readers have logged 4,685 books read! The summer reading table is primarily staffed by volunteers of all ages, with 40 volunteers logging 315 hours at the library in June!
- Hunger Task Force Tour –** Alyssa toured the Hunger Task Force headquarters in West Milwaukee with the Waukesha County Nutrition Coalition. Hunger Task Force Staff led an in-depth tour of the facility, discussed their advocacy initiatives in the state, and shared details about their nutrition education programs for families and seniors. A highlight of the tour was seeing their demonstration kitchen and "Click and Grow" vertical, indoor garden.



- **Leadership Development Institute Graduation** – Librarian Gloria Makris completed the Leadership Development Institute through the Wisconsin Library Association. LDI is an 11-session program that is held over six months. Each session created an opportunity for librarians from across the state to come together to learn about different aspects of library leadership like advocacy, crisis communication, and project management. After the in-person graduation at the Portage County Public Library, Gloria and her cohort went to the World’s Tallest Potato Masher in Plover, WI.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, JOHN KLIMA

- **Studio 321 in May**
 - 370 patron touchpoints
 - 15 makers were trained on makerspace equipment.
 - Every May we close Studio 321 for a week to clean and organize before summer starts. Maintenance staff gave the floor a much-needed washing, our storage area in the video room was reorganized for easier access and mobility, a large shelf was also added to the video room, and staff went through donations. This week is incredibly helpful as Sarah and Amy are able to dedicate their attention to making Studio 321 a welcoming, clean and accessible space for users.
 - May was also the final visit of the school year from the Kettle Moraine high school and Pewaukee high school Transition Academy classes. This year, students watched movies and worked on art in the space the second Friday each month. We are already planning next school year’s visits.
- **Studio 321 in June**
 - 644 patron touchpoints
 - 61 makers were trained on makerspace equipment.
 - New this summer: Makerspace staff has opened Appointment Only hours on Wednesdays without previously scheduled programs. This allows makers to reserve time on the machines and get training on a separate evening than our regular open studio evenings on Thursdays. It also opens the space for a few more hours each week for folks to come in after work, as evenings are often requested. We are planning to continue Appointment Only Wednesdays into the Fall.

Reading pages. We saw a small bump in traffic on the Adult page at the end of May. We'll keep watching those pages to see if we generate additional traffic to them.

- **Generic Email Accounts** – IT Technician II Jason Penckofer and I have been helping staff access email via shared mailboxes. Many staff who had access to generic email accounts—specifically adult and children's reference emails—already had the email added to Outlook as a folder. This prevented the new shared mailbox folder from populating properly. After we remove the old folder, the new folder shows up and staff can access email messages.
- **ALA Annual** – I spent one day at the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago. I spent most of the day in the exhibit hall talking to vendors about holds lockers, book sorters, selfchecks, and printing solutions. I always appreciate being able to talk to all my vendors in a single place, and more importantly, to be able to see the products we're talking about so that I can better assess what might work for us.
- **Program Room AV Closet** – Sarah is helping me organize and streamline the AV equipment bins and their storage in the AV closet in our Program Rooms. The plan is to have a future THAM refresh people about using AV in the Program Room. We also put in a request for maintenance to install shelving that should make the space better organized.

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS, KORI HALL

Summer Library Program Promotion

With the Summer Library Program just around the corner, Marketing spent May bringing the excitement of summer reading to life! The team transformed the Children's Department wall, created eye-catching promotional materials for every summer activity, refreshed the catalog banner and website, and made graphics for display on the City's downtown kiosks. The building looks fantastic, and WPL is ready to welcome readers of all ages to "Unearth a Story" this summer.



Tracks in the Stacks: A Bigfoot Hunt

This summer, Bridges Library System is sponsoring a system-wide adventure for patrons called *Tracks in the Stacks: A Bigfoot Hunt*. Players are challenged to explore all 24 member libraries, discover the name of each library's friendly Bigfoot, and collect footprints along the way. Library trustees are welcome to participate and win prizes, so what are you waiting for? Pick up your map at either of our service desks and start your Bigfoot hunt today.



Tracks in the Stacks

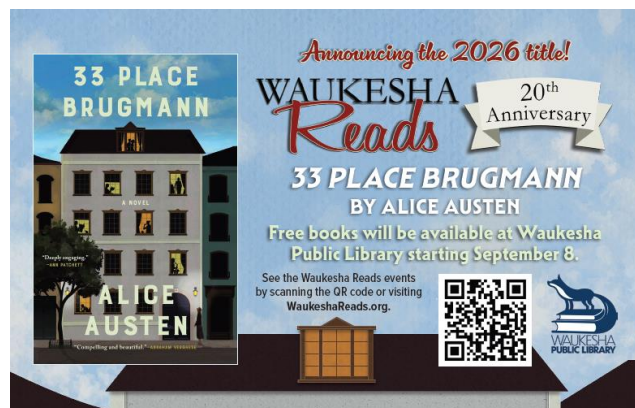
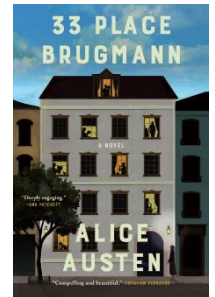


Continuing Education

The Marketing Department virtually attended the Bridges Marketing Meetup on May 20. Emily Heller discussed the importance of social media accessibility including color contrast, alt text, hashtags, closed captions, and video transcripts.

Waukesha Reads

- Waukesha Reads received a \$1,000 grant from the WE Energies Foundation and a \$1,500 grant from the Waukesha Rotary Club Charitable Fund. The Library is very grateful for this community support.
- A Special Sales Request form was submitted to OverDrive requesting permission to use unlimited, simultaneous ebook and audiobook copies of the Waukesha Reads title from September 8 through October 30, 2026.
- The Waukesha Reads Partner Committee met on May 12 to review and discuss the current status of the event calendar. The committee welcomed three new members at the meeting: Hannah Lingenfelter from Literacy Services of Wisconsin and Meghan Dziengel and Rachel Atan from Carroll University.
- A press release was sent to the *The Freeman* on June 30 announcing that *33 Place Brugmann* by Alice Austen will be the 2026 Waukesha Reads title. Complimentary copies of the book will be available at Waukesha Public Library starting September 8. Read more about the selection on [Amazon](#).
- A half-page ad was placed in Park Rec's *Fall Activity Guide* promoting the 2026 Waukesha Reads title. It is expected to be in homes around August 14.



June Google Reviews

The Marketing Department is responsible for reading and responding to the user reviews on the Library's Google Business Profile. WPL currently has 291 reviews, with a 4.7-star rating! In June, patrons left nine 5-star reviews for the Library, which was exceptional. Please enjoy the comments:

- 5 stars, "Great place to study!"
- 5 stars, "Excellent library!"
- 5 stars, "I've been going to the Waukesha public library for years. The staff are kind and helpful, the range of books and services is phenomenal, and the atmosphere is perfect. I love this place."
- 5 stars, "The library is laid out very nicely! I love how the whole upstairs is dedicated to kids. I also love their puzzles section!"
- 5 stars, "Great library and staff. The artwork and service are top notch."
- 5 stars, "Colin kaepernick in waukesha?" (unsure what this means)
- 5 stars, "Signed up for the Summer Reading Program! Great place for all ages!"
- (2) 5-star reviews, no comments

Other Marketing Projects:

- The April "Welcome" email was sent to 150 new cardholders on May 13. It was opened by 97 people, and nobody unsubscribed.
- May social media statistics:
Adult Facebook and Instagram=28 posts (including 7 reels) and 19 stories
Children's Facebook=22 posts (including 7 reels)
- May newsletter blasts were sent out for the following events: the May Monday Movie Matinee; the Volunteer Fair; Hot Talks with Rob Goplin; The Enumerator Visited Today; Summer Volunteer Training; and the Summer Library Program. Blasts were also sent out for the Makerspace closing/spring cleaning; the Memorial Day closing; and the start of summer hours.
- Summer Library Program t-shirts were ordered for the CE Dept.
- The *Featured Children's Materials* lists were updated in the Vega and Polaris catalogs to reflect titles chosen for the Summer Library Program.
- The *Magic Tree House Fact Tracker* brochure was updated.
- The Summer Book Bingo cards were updated in English and in Spanish for the adult and teen displays.
- The Café app was updated to reflect closures for Memorial Day and summer hours.
- Marketing updated the cover images for all 30 booklists on the Library's website after LibraryAware lost access to the Baker & Taylor thumbnail images previously used on our site.
- Character cutouts were designed and printed for the children's Book Club Summer Camp.
- Friends' sale signs were updated to include the new stuffed fox and cooler bag.
- The reading log images on CE's THAM slides were updated with current artwork.
- An *Unearth a Story* hero slider was created for the Vega catalog.
- A sign was designed for the *Tracks in the Stacks* register-to-win box.
- Thirteen signs were made to label the new Yotos and Tonies Collection.
- A [*We Like Them Spicy*](#) reading list was added to the website to accompany the book display of the same name. It features romance novels for all readers with an estimated level of "spiciness" listed for each title.
- Decorative signs were created for the May Memory Café on farming.
- Ten book display signs were created for the month of June.
 - Adult Displays: Adult Book Bingo, Pride Month, Summer Programs at WPL
 - Teen Display: Teen Book Bingo
 - Children's Displays: Read with Pride, Trail Tales & Campfire Stories, "Bug Out" with a Good Book, Unearth a Story, Way Back When, 2026 World Cup
- June event information was submitted to the City of Waukesha calendar, the Downtown Waukesha calendar, and the Eras event calendar.
- June event information was submitted to Peachjar.
- The May "Welcome" email was sent to 133 new cardholders on June 4. It was opened by 101 people, and nobody unsubscribed.
- June social media statistics:
Adult Facebook and Instagram=23 posts (including 8 reels) and 7 stories
Children's Facebook=25 posts (including 8 reels)
- June newsletter blasts were sent out for the following events: Summer Book Tastings; Book Club Summer Camp; Medicare Monday; Chef-in-Residence Programs; the Andrew Carnegie Series; Outdoor Storytime; Composting From Start to Finish

Blasts were also sent out for: Outdoor Storytime moving inside

- The Waukesha Reads donation letter was updated for the Friends.
- Two decorative signs were created for the Summer Library Program registration table.
- A directional sign was created to guide visitors to the Children's Desk when the Summer Library Program registration table is unstaffed.
- The *Celebrating Pride* Booklist was updated with current titles.
- A flyer was made for Healing Warrior Hearts to promote the upcoming Nick Petrie events.
- Signs and slides were created to thank the Summer Library Program sponsors.
- A flyer was made to promote the Kids Vision Screening with the Waukesha Lions Club.
- The Kids Summer Handout was edited to accommodate the new Peachjar posting guidelines.
- The Memory Café brochure was redesigned and updated for July-December 2026.
- Memory Café information was added to the Library Memory Project newsletters for July-December 2026.
- Memory Café information was added to the Library Memory Project calendar for July-December 2026.
- A Spanish flyer was made for Colorín Colorado.
- A bilingual flyer was made for *Asi Respiro: Bilingual Storytime*
- The *Library Book Discussions & Book Events* newsletter was created for Summer 2026. It was added to the website's *Books and Reading* page.
- A directional sign was created to guide patrons to the new Spoken Books area.
- A sign was created offering complimentary bottled water and directing patrons to the bottle-filling station in the bathroom hallway.
- Decorative signs were created for the June Memory Café celebrating America's 250th anniversary.
- Promotional materials were created for the Independence Day closing.
- Eleven book display signs were created for the month of June.
 - Adult Displays: Adult Book Bingo, Pride Month, Summer Programs at WPL
 - Teen Display: Teen Book Bingo
 - Children's Displays: Read with Pride, Trail Tales & Campfire Stories, "Bug Out" with a Good Book, Unearth a Story, Way Back When, 2026 World Cup, Happy 250th America
- July event information was submitted to the City of Waukesha calendar, the Downtown Waukesha calendar, and the Eras event calendar.
- July event information was submitted to Peachjar.

MATERIALS COLLECTION, CAROLYN PEIL

New Children's Collection – Individual Tonie figurines & Yoto cards

Months of collaborative effort by many members of the MC team culminated (finally) in the debut of a collection of 94 individual tonies and 97 yoto cards- with more coming in the next few months. Most of this collection will circulate for 7 days. There is a limit of 2 per card (but we are suggesting 2 per family while the collection is new and growing.) No holds are allowed. These are displayed on 2 new shelving units near the Children's AV collection.



Tonie figurine



Yoto card



New Explore pass

We added 2 passes to the East Troy Railroad Museum. These passes circulate for 3 days and will provide free admission for 4 people and 10% off gift shop purchases.

Seed Library

The Seed Library was disbanded on May 30. We added a grand total of 6,138 seed packets to the seed catalog library this year! Thanks to LA Carol Rose for compiling this number. Huge shout out to Carol, Library Page Tracy Esser, Library Associate Amanda Neuendorf, and Librarian Sara Byrnes for keeping seed library filled every day.



New Collection and Relocation

The ++ Spoken Book collection has been relocated to the first row of AV shelving bins.

A small, but mighty, new collection, + Spoken (Chapter) Books, has taken up this space on the Bridge.



Materials Collections Happenings Librarians Erin Kramer and Sara Byrnes and I met with Todd Duncan from Midwest Tapes on June 3rd. Todd is our new rep. and wanted to discuss how Midwest Tapes meets our A/V needs.

On June 4th and 5th, I attended the WILIUG (Wisconsin Illinois Innovative Users Group) Spring Conference at held at the Milwaukee Public Library. Some of the sessions I attended covered: Official RDA; Ethics, AI, and Cataloging; Amazon EDI; and New Vendor Survival Guides. Bridges Library System covered my registration for the June 4th session.

Read a good cookbook lately?

Librarian Sara Byrnes traveled to the Dwight Foster Public Library in Fort Atkinson on June 16 to observe their "Cooking Club." Sara is planning something similar here at WPL.

Goodbye

LA Carol Rose retired after 17 years in the Technical Services/Materials Collection department on June 26th. Carol is moving to the Twin Cities to be closer to her twin grandsons.

PUBLIC SERVICES, JUSTIN STEVENSON

Highlights and Happenings:

- In preparation for a presentation on safety at the WLA conference, Public Services Manager Justin Stevenson met with Waukesha Police Crime Analyst Erin Christensen to discuss emergency call stats since 2016. This data will be used to gather insights into WPL's safety and security improvements, especially over the last three years. The rough data shows the following number of calls since 2016:

Erin noted not all these calls necessarily originated from library staff or things happening in the library building, but are tagged as happening "at the library" by dispatch because of what a caller tells them. This means that the numbers paint a largely accurate picture of positive trends, but are not exact, as that would require diving into every single call detail to see what exactly happened. (This level of detail was not part of Erin and my discussion.) The numbers, paired with the frequency of certain types of calls decreasing over the years, illustrate WPL's greatly improved stance on and culture of safety and security.

2016	135
2017	129
2018	140
2019	107
2020*	54
2021*	50
2022*	65
2023	75
2024	94
2025	79
2026 (Jan-Apr)	31

- Technology Services Manager John Klima and Public Services Manager Justin Stevenson continue to investigate new vendor options for WPL's holds locker. Justin met with staff at both the Mead Public Library (Sheboygan) and the Jefferson Public Library to see how their holds lockers work from both the patron and staff ends. Mead has a D-Tech locker, Jefferson has an Envisionware locker. Justin and John have sent cut sheets and invoices from other libraries to Bruce so numbers can be put together for an upcoming request. We are confident a new holds locker will be a massive workflow improvement for staff and a customer service upgrade for patrons.
- Justin trained managers on how to handle video footage requests from police and how to export and send footage when necessary. These types of requests are usually handled by the Safety Team, but it is important to have library managers trained as well.
- Library Page Collin Brinkmann's first book, *Late Style in Film*, was released on May 15 through New York-based Sticking Place Books. In his book, Collin "challenges the entrenched narrative that artists inevitably "peak" in mid-career and thereafter taper off. [He] proposes a more nuanced and humane framework, one that treats late style not as decline or transcendence, but as a mode of evolution shaped by time, history, and changing artistic conditions."
- WPL's first Public Services Library Associate Intern, Alyssa Lambert, started on June 9. Alyssa is a grad student at UW-Milwaukee working toward a dual master's degree in Library & Information Science and English. She is learning a lot about various aspects of the library all while working at the reference desk, children's reference desk, in Studio 321, and with different programs. The internship position has been very successful so far. Alyssa will be with the Library until early August.
- The e-reference team, which handles email reference requests, is expanding from two members to five, plus backups. This will ensure better customer service for our patrons and more evenly distributed work among staff.



- Patron Relations Assistant Corrine Klister will work Saturday afternoons through the summer. This is to provide safety coverage on Saturdays following the end of WPL's partnership with Elite Protection Specialists and while the Library continues the search for a 10-hour Patron Relations Assistant.
- At the last meeting of the CAFÉ Circulation Committee, member libraries discussed removing outdated notes from patron accounts to keep records current and uncluttered. With help from Justin Stevenson and Shawn Carlson, Library Associate Stacy Hillmer used a variety of data tools and programs to generate targeted lists of patron accounts needing cleanup. She reviewed 3,500 patron accounts, deleting unnecessary notes, some of which dated back to the late 1990s. Many recent notes referred to unsuccessful text notifications and allowed Stacy to bring these records into compliance with new text notification standards.
- The Library is once again an Extreme Weather Location for 2026. This means we are a public facility that provides short-term relief from extreme weather during our normal business hours. This definition is set by the collaborative group of Waukesha County HHS, Impact 211, and Waukesha County Emergency Management. Whenever possible, we provide free cool bottles of water on days of feels-like temps of 90 and above, and free coffee and tea on days of feels-like temps of 10 and below. Being listed as one of these facilities means local organizations (like 211 and certain shelters) will refer people to us when they reach out in need of respite from extreme weather conditions.
- Desk staff conducted the year's second reference count, where they tally all reference questions during the week. The count took place from June 22 to June 27. In that time, desk staff answered **1,647** questions. This is a very high number since we were not open for a full week due to summer hours.
- Quality-of-life improvements: a combined information board in the circ workroom to facilitate better communication across the three different sections of the Public Services department; oscillating fans to improve airflow, and a new weather radio.