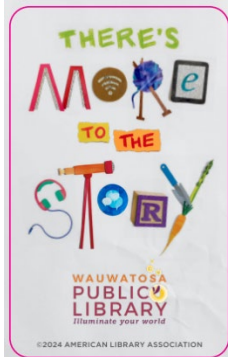


## Director's Report September 2025

### 1. Circulation update (from Alanna Maddox, Circulation Supervisor):

We wrapped up our August content checking month for juvenile materials. August is a great month for content checking as large numbers of children's items come back in when summer ends and the school year begins. The large influx of materials combined with the extra time it takes to open and check every single book kept our shelveers extra busy. The department was also down three staff members. Even with all these challenges, the shelving team kept the department running smoothly and had a very successful content checking month. Results like these are a true testament to how hardworking and talented our staff really is.

In celebration of September being Library Card Sign-up Month, we will be issuing a new, limited edition library card. This card will be available for both new and established library patrons:



- Greg Ludwig is our new, 20 hours per week Daytime Shelver. Greg started on August 25.
- Emma Thorpe is our new, 16 hours per week Circulation Attendant. Emma started on September 8.
- Ryan Jersan is our new, 12 hours per week Evening Shelver. Ryan started on September 8.

2. Adult Library update (from Shellie Anderson, Adult Library Supervisor):

Jane Austen turns 250! We have a display of her books and books inspired by her. On the 28<sup>th</sup> we are hosting a tea and a presentation of “10 things you didn’t know about Jane Austen” by the Jane Austen Society of North America's Milwaukee chapter (JASNA). This lecture explores some of the lesser-known parts of Austen's life and beloved writing.

On Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup> we were part of a rather remarkable event. A romance author convention in Milwaukee fell apart, and Natasha Meyer, a local romance bookstore owner, came up with “Meet Me on North”. She did not have enough room in her store to house all 60+ displaced authors, so she asked businesses up and down North Avenue to let them use space for the authors to sell books and talk to readers. We were one anchor and had 20+ authors in the library and Civic Center. Luckily, the day was gorgeous and there were about 2,000 readers from all over the country that attended the event. It was amazing to be a part of an event that celebrates reading and readers. Thank you to Katie Jentges for coordinating and setting up the event in our space! Natasha has already set a date to do this again next year.



The librarians are enjoying our new printing station that the Foundation has purchased. We no longer have to add charges to library cards and send patrons downstairs to pay with a credit card. The new printer station has a credit card terminal, as well as a more economical fax machine. The old service was \$1.75 for the first page and \$1 for each additional page and the machine regularly would malfunction. The new fax machine lets us charge 50 cents a page and provides a free cover page. In August, we had 42 fax sessions with 140 pages sent. The station also features a large flatbed and a double-sided individual sheet scanner. Patrons have the ability to crop and then print exactly what they want.

The foundation also has furnished us with an eye-catching sign to show patrons where the new study pods are located. This sign now greets people when they walk down the west aisle where three of our study rooms are located:



3. Young Adult update (from Katie Jentges, Young Adult Librarian):

Summer was busy this year, with teen programs nearly every Thursday from June through August. There was a mix of events on the schedule this summer including STEM-themed programs, taste testing events, and artsy projects. Events included Cardboard Creations where teens embraced their STEM skills turning curated refuse into a project. At our international snack taste program, we tried everything from matzah to Tajin on watermelon to crunchy seaweed. At Outdoor Messy Art Day, we set up three different art stations on the front library lawn where teens participated in smash painting, salt painting, and spray bottle painting. They left with awesome art and tried to outdo one another when it came to who had the messiest hands. That was a definite success! Our Pokémon paint and sip session was incredibly popular with the teen guys. They chose their favorite character, learned a new drawing technique from Jenny, our go-to art instructor, and painted their character of choice on a canvas. Approximately 130 teens attended this year's 9 summer programs.



A big thank you goes out to teen volunteer Mable Danielson who helped me assemble teen take and makes, set up for programs, and pull items in the young adult collection for my ongoing collection development project. Mable was a huge help this summer! She hopes to continue volunteering during the school year as time allows.

#### 4. Children's Library update (from Abby Bussen, Children's Library Supervisor):

In-Person Programs: 51; Total attendance: 1,863

Passive Programs: 5; Total participation: 838

The Children's Library wrapped up our summer events in sensational style with a Wehr Nature Center presentation about snakes, a Percy Jackson-themed "Camp Half-Blood" escape room for school-aged kids, a pajama & stuffed animal sleepover storytime, and of course, our outreach events at Tosa Night Out and our rotating back-to-school outreach, this year at Underwood's welcome back kickoff event. Throughout the summer, we continued to enjoy robust storytime attendance and welcomed several daycares and youth learning centers for summer visits similar to how we partner with our local schools for field trips during the school year.

Perhaps the biggest news for the Children's Department was the updated furniture, added throughout the area in mid-August thanks to a generous donation from the Wauwatosa Library Foundation. It has been such a delight to see caregivers and children reading together on the large couch, children and tutors using the new large table to study, kids charging devices on the small



tables, and engaged caregivers playing with children on the benches in the Early Learning Space. These beautiful, colorful changes add so much joy and liveliness to our happy little kids' area. We can't wait to see what else comes in the next few years!





5. Library update: (from Robert Trunley, Assistant Director):  
Employees: Brenda McCormack has returned to work as an After School Library Monitor. Brenda has been with us for three years. Due to some unforeseen circumstances, we are still recruiting for the second Monitor position.

Programs: The library kicked off the 2025-26 Foundation Speaker Series with a presentation by local historian and author John Gurda. His program was titled “Milwaukee on Tap”, a history of brewing in Milwaukee. 100 people registered for the program and 105 attended.



6. The Public Library Association published the [2024 Public Library Staff Survey](#) report on September 2. The survey gathered information nationally about staff roles and representation, hiring and retention practices, and goals and activities aimed at creating a welcoming environment for staff and community members of all backgrounds and abilities. The findings highlight both the opportunities and challenges faced by libraries.

7. Library tour update (From Peter Loeffel, Library Director: Adult Library Supervisor Shellie Anderson, Children's Library Supervisor Abby Bussen, Circulation Supervisor Alanna Maddox, Assistant Director Robert Trunley, and I toured two libraries last month.

The Elisha D. Smith Public Library in Menasha and the Appleton Public Library both opened earlier in 2025 after renovation projects. The directors of each library led our team through the public and staff areas of the library.

- Elisha D. Smith Menasha Public Library
  - Menasha Public Library: [Building Project](#)
  - Menasha Public Library: [Grand Reopening Ceremony on Saturday, February 8](#)
  - Appleton Post Crescent: [Menasha's newly renovated Elisha D. Smith Public Library shatters view of traditional library](#)
  - Appleton Post Crescent: [Check out photos of the newly renovated Elisha D. Smith Public Library in Menasha](#)
- Appleton Public Library
  - Appleton Public Library: [Grand Opening Ceremony on Saturday, February 15](#)
  - Appleton Public Library: [Building Project](#)
  - Appleton Post Crescent: [Long-awaited opening of new \\$40.4 million Appleton Public Library set for next month](#)

8. August and September anniversaries:

39 years	Bob Ash, Circulation Attendant
25 years	Shellie Anderson, Adult Library Supervisor
21 years	Laurie Fels, Adult Librarian
12 years	Robin Rajchel, Circulation Attendant
3 years	Brenda McCormack, After School Library Monitor
2 years	Jessica Baumann, Circulation Attendant
2 years	Faith Danneil, Adult Librarian
1 year	Meagan Parker, Adult Librarian

9. Upcoming meetings:

Library Board: Wednesday, October 22 at 6:30 PM

Library Board: Wednesday, November 19 at 6:30 PM