

Director's Report May 2025

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

Displays:

The Health Department is featuring Bike Walk Tosa in the atrium. They are committed to improving bike riding and walking experiences for all users. Their website is full of maps of bike trails and walking tours around the area, as well as information on Bublr Bikes and electric scooters. We are showcasing our walking and biking books on our display kiosk as well.

Tosa's All-City Read held a photograph competition in conjunction with their book, "What the Tide Leaves Behind" by Malcolm McDowell Woods. The three categories were: Wauwatosa Landscapes, Tosa Pets, and Tosa Community Connections. The Best of Show was won by Gregg Fuhrman (see below). All of the photographs are now displayed in our Student Commons hallway.

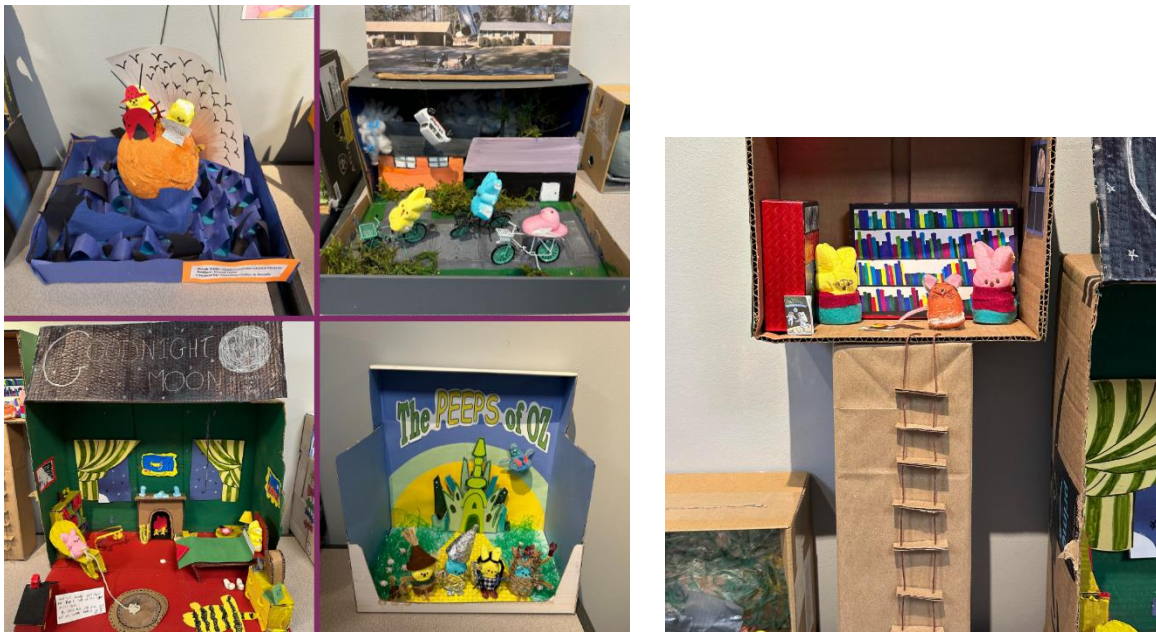


Programs:

The month of May we are having an art sale in the Firefly Gallery. We are selling many of our older prints in the collection, as well as donations from patrons and Art 64. Our gallery was bursting with items on May 1st, and we had many people on that first day. One couple even said that they took the day off from work to be here for the sale. Tracie Peksa, Laurie Fels, and Katie Jentges worked very hard setting up and facilitating this sale.

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

This April the Library hosted its second Peeps Diorama Contest! We had 13 entries in four categories including youth, teen, adult, and family. Dioramas had to include at least one Peep and had to be literary or movie themed to be considered. Winners were chosen by library patrons who voted using an in-person ballot for their favorite in each category. The winners were James and the Giant Peach for the youth category, Stranger Things for the teen category, Goodnight Moon for the family category, and the Peeps of Oz in the adult category. The People's Choice winner was chosen by the number of likes on our Facebook page. The winner was Magic Peep House.



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

In-Person Programs: 33; Total attendance: 1,587

Passive Programs: 5; Total attendance: 124

The annual Wauwatosa School District Student Art Month installation filled our Children's Library and atrium spaces to the brim throughout the month of April. Children and their

loved ones were invited to come in and browse the pop-up installation whenever the Library was open. The Library also co-hosted two special events with WSD, Art Reception on April 8 and 9, which allowed the students and their caregivers to visit with the art educators in our space. At each event, we hosted AWE (Artists Working in Education) who led collaborative mural creations in the Story Room. We were also delighted to have music provided by volunteers: Washington Elementary music teacher Will Ulrich & Tosa West orchestra students on Tuesday; and the Longfellow Fiddle Club on Wednesday. We are so grateful to all the student musicians, their conductors TJ Hull & Lauren Roznowski, and to Will Ulrich as well for making the night extra joyful. Between the two nights, we estimate over 500 people visited us for the WSD Art Reception! We are already making plans for next year's art month (and cooking up ideas for bonus art displays during the school year, too!).



We closed our month by welcoming Children's Librarian Megan Jimenez on April 21 and couldn't have asked for a kinder, brighter fit. Megan joins us from Milwaukee Public Library, where she worked at the Bay View branch as their Children's Librarian. In addition to her years working in Youth Services at MPL, Megan also has academic library experience at UW-Milwaukee and Loyola University Maryland. Her story times have gained her local recognition and she served as the leader of the Early Middle Childhood Workgroup for MPL. Megan's years of work as a dynamic Children's Librarian will help us continue to enhance the wonderful services we offer here at the Wauwatosa Public Library.

We have a big summer planned with exciting programs for all ages. We can't wait till school's out!!

4. Circulation update (from Alanna Maddox, Circulation Supervisor):

- May is a juvenile content checking month. We continue to see less and less damaged items when we go through content checking which points to how effective Shelves are regularly processing materials.
- I attended the first Tosa Supervisor Leadership Training on Monday, May 12. This is the first in a series of trainings the City is providing for all City supervisors. I sat with and worked with staff from facilities, police, and engineering departments as we engaged in various discussions and exercises. It was a very worthwhile, enjoyable presentation and I look forward to attending others sessions later in the year.
- I attended the virtual *Beyond the Pizza Party Panel Discussion on How to Maintain Staff Morale* presented by Ryan Dowd. The panel offered suggestions and examples of how to boost staff morale. They offered some helpful suggestions, some of which I plan on taking forward with my own staff.
- I had a meeting with each of my 16+ hour staff members to go over their 2024 Performance Evaluations. I took notes and checked in with each individual to assess any issues or needs.

5. Building update:

- The Adult Library restrooms were refinished last year. City facilities staff finished the updates in those two rooms this past month by installing motion sensors at the urinals and toilets.
- City facilities staff will oversee a refresh of the Art Gallery restrooms this summer. This will be a minor refresh, with new sensors installed along with new stall dividers.
- City facilities staff will be updating the janitor closet locks to a fob entry system. This will make it easier for all staff to access the janitor's closet as needed.

6. Patron issue update (from Robert Trunley, Assistant Library Director):

Over the years the Wauwatosa Public Library has had to ban a few patrons. These bans range from thirty days, to six months, to one year, depending on the severity of the violation of the code of conduct. Being unruly and disruptive are the types of behavior that warrant six-month bans. Being violent or threatening are the types of behavior that warrant one-year bans. The City Attorney has advised library staff in how long bans should generally be. A new City Attorney begins work in the next few weeks and we will consult with them regarding our banning procedures.

At any given moment in time there was maybe one patron banned and usually there were none. Currently, the library has twelve banned patrons. To be clear, the library is not getting stricter in its approach to violations of the code of conduct. There are just more violations and more escalations.

7. May anniversaries:

20 years	Tim Erbes, Circulation Attendant
4 years	Alanna Maddox, Circulation Supervisor
1 year	Susan DeLellis, Shelver

8. Upcoming meetings:

Library Board: Wednesday, June 18 at 6:30 PM

Library Board: Wednesday, July 16 at 6:30 PM