



Director's Report April 2026

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

We kicked things off with a couple of KonMari Tidying workshops. The KonMari Method, popularized by Marie Kondo's books like *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up*, is a decluttering system that involves tidying by category (clothes, books, papers, sentimental items) in a specific order, not by location, and keeping only items that "spark joy." Rory Gaouette from spark joy mke, tailored the program to include the library as a resource to use in this endeavor.

We are collaborating with Ruckus and Glee in hosting a speed puzzling competition. Several teams of two will battle and see who can put a 500 piece puzzle together the fastest. Ruckus and Glee provided the puzzles and prizes. We have not done this before, so it will be interesting to see what the fastest time will be.

Also in April, we will be giving out seeds to patrons. We purchased seeds and repackaged them with 5 or 10 seeds in the envelope. Our seed library is an opportunity for people to try out a variety of different plants without having to purchase a whole packet of seeds where many will be wasted. This has been a very popular program in the past and we will encourage people to send us pictures of their plants for our social media.

We will have a gardening display of books in conjunction with the seed library. Our other display features books from our large and diverse collection of poetry to celebrate Poetry Month.

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

In-person Programs: 45; Total attendance: 2,223

Passive Programs: 5; Total participation: 591

March gave us our highest in-person program attendance of 2026, putting us on track to meet or possibly exceed our programming numbers of 2025. We're so proud of the exceptional programming that we offer to our community, from our weekly story hours to

our unique partnerships like this month's collaboration with Cashel Irish Dance Academy. In our Story Times, we hosted community partners like the Wauwatosa Police Department, the Milwaukee Ballet, and the Wauwatosa Health Department, who all shared information about their careers with the young readers in unique ways. Cashel Irish Dance Academy helped us prepare for St. Patrick's Day with beautiful dancing and music in the Civic Center. We also were excited to co-host a Purim Celebration Story Time with Chabad of Wauwatosa, a story hour which welcomed non-Jewish families to join their neighbors and learn more about how our Jewish community members celebrate Purim. We're eager to continue offering cultural celebrations by partnering with community organizations to inform the learning experience.

Our beautiful Wauwatosa School District Art Month display is also under way, having been hung up throughout the children's library and atrium the last week in March. We invite our Board of Trustees and all of our community to stop by and take in the museum-like atmosphere. Don't forget to look up – there are even overhead pieces in this immersive gallery!

3. Building update (from Assistant Director Robert Trunley):

Between Wednesday April 8 and Thursday April 9, a window in the children's library was shattered. Fortunately, only the exterior pane was broken. It is unclear what caused the damage.

The Facilities Maintenance Department will contact a local glass contractor. They will come out, measure and get back to them with a price and ask for approval to proceed. From there they will fabricate the glass and when its ready, call facilities to schedule the installation. This could take a month or more depending on their availability.



The library replaced two public printers in the adult library during the last quarter of 2025. The toner cartridges for the new printers are more expensive than the cartridges for the older printers that were replaced, and the frequency that the cartridges need to be changed appears to have increased as well. These two factors have combined to accelerate spending from the printing and duplication account 6004 at a much higher rate than expected. We have made adjustments to the printer settings to mitigate toner use, and we are tracking page counts and revenues to determine how much increased printing volume is impacting costs as well. The library currently charges \$0.10 per page for black and white printing, and \$0.25 per page for color printing. We are examining our rates to ensure that we can continue to recoup our printing costs. Due to the sudden increase in printing costs, we will likely need to explore a fund transfer in 2026 to ensure that printing and duplication account 6004 has enough allocation for our expenses.

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

March was a super busy month in the circulation department. After a slower February, checkout numbers have spiked in March. Shelves have been inundated with returns and have worked hard to keep circulation workflow at an optimum level. The increase in program attendees for the children's department has also meant an increase in traffic, checkouts, and the creation of library cards.

After a successful round of interviews at the end of March, we have found our newest evening shelvee. Jenifer Van Able will start on Monday, April 13, filling our 8-week vacancy left by the previous shelvee. We are excited and relieved to finally be welcoming her to our team.

5. Municipal Complex update: We have continued to join city staff in program meetings with OPN Architects and C.G. Schmidt to develop conceptual options for the municipal complex renovation of the library and city hall. The next program meeting is on Tuesday, April 14, and the architects are looking at modifying the original conceptual plan as well as continuing to complete due diligence with exploring new options. The architects believe they are still on track to meet a May completion date given that the phase is still conceptual/high level with a goal of getting a final budget number before the next phase of jumping to full design begins. OPN Architects, C.G. Schmidt and city staff are scheduled to attend the May Library Board meeting to discuss the current phase.

6. April staff anniversaries:

12 years Ann Powers, Adult Librarian

10 years Derick Braun, Circulation Attendant
2 years Lisa Desmond, Shelver
1 year Emma Letke, Shelver
1 year Megan Jimenez, Children's Librarian

7. Upcoming meetings:

- Planning Committee: Wednesday, May 20 at 5:30 PM
- Library Board: Wednesday, May 20 at 6:30 PM
- Finance Committee: Wednesday, June 17 at 5:30 PM
- Library Board: Wednesday, June 17 at 6:30 PM