



Director's Report May 2026

1. Young Adult update (from Adult Librarian Katie Jentges):

Children's librarians Brianna and Sharon have been working with me to finalize the tween/teen summer programming schedule. There's an interesting assortment of events on this summer's schedule ranging from bucket drumming with the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music, an after-hours NERF war program with Milwaukee Area Nerf Outings, Pop Tart taste testing, a printmaking party, and the always highly anticipated Cupcake Wars. The three of us will be tag-teaming tween/teen programming this summer, which gives us the opportunity to offer more programs and allows more tweens and teens the chance to join in the fun.

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

Meagan Parker and Katie have been working with Milwaukee County's Department on Aging to host weekly Community Health Worker (CHW) sessions in the Student Commons. The first session was held Friday, May 8. CHW staff comes in with an incredible breadth of knowledge about senior resources, social work topics, and a willingness to help our patrons with their needs. We are looking forward to working with them, and hope our patrons will appreciate them as well.

Katie and I met with Natasha Meyer, owner of the Well Red Damsel bookstore to discuss her romance event in September. We will be hosting one end of an author crawl on Saturday the 12th and an author panel on Wednesday the 9th. This was a major event last year that had people asking, "What's going on at the library?" because there were so many people lined up to get in.

Online access has become available to the Milwaukee Journal back to 1884 and the Milwaukee Sentinel back to 1910. For years, we have only had access to microfilm back to 1979 (with no way to search) and text online access back to 1990. We had to send patrons to a Milwaukee library if they needed this information. Now we have the actual images of

the papers that are fully searchable at the library or at home. If your family is from this area, search your last name and see what comes up.

Displays this month—Gardening, flower names, musicians

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

In-person Programs: 55; Total attendance: 3, 012

Passive Programs: 4; Total participation: 41

This year, this children's department participated in SciStarter's 2.50 Million Acts of Science, a program inspired by America's 250th anniversary that asked citizens to engage with science in a big way during the month of April. Headed by Sharon Long and Katie Jentges, WPL offered "The Lorax" movie showing with seed bomb making and a "What's the Weather Like on Mars" program led by a NASA scientist. WPL also teamed up with the City's Sustainability Committee to show the movie "The Wild Robot" and teach sustainable consumerism with our take & make activity.

We were also super excited to begin using our programming iPads and Dash robots in our Bot Builders programs. Attendees loved the bridge building challenge and are looking forward to learning CAD and 3D printing with the iPads in the months to come.

April has been a strenuous month with many in-library and at-school classroom visits, with many more to come in May. We all look forward to seeing as many of our young library friends as we can before summer arrives. Watch the website for summer updates – we have SO MUCH in store for Wauwatosa!!

Finally, I'm excited to share that Sharon Long will be completing her WLA Leadership Development Institute training this month. We're very proud of Sharon and all the time she put into this. If you have a chance to stop and share some congratulations, that would be awesome!

4. Building update/Technical Services update (from Assistant Director Robert Trunley):

At the previous board meeting we mentioned we had seen a dramatic increase in the use of toner cartridges in the public printers in the adult library. We have been tracking page counts on a daily basis and we believe we have found the culprit: some of the printer cartridges we used earlier this year were only indicating a capacity of 900 pages. Usually the toner cartridges indicate a capacity of 2800 pages. The 900 page toner cartridges may have come from an Amazon seller and it is impossible for us to determine which cartridge came from which seller. Staff are now ordering from Office Depot/Office Max and we can track

those cartridges. Staff have not come across a 900 page cartridge in over a month. Note: the old cartridges we used to use in the old printers have nearly doubled in price: \$180 versus \$100.

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

May is juvenile content checking month which perfectly coincided with new Shelver Jenifer Van Able completing her onboard training. She (along with her colleagues) has begun flipping through every children's book returned to the library to find any major signs of wear and tear. We content check these books quarterly, throughout the year. Each check yields fewer and fewer results which means all the hard work is paying off!

Our automated materials handler and Cover One Book Repair machine were featured in a Bibliotheca blog post:

<https://www.bibliotheca.com/what-libraries-name-their-technology/>

We are super grateful to have these tools available to help us meet the needs of our patrons!

6. May staff anniversaries:

21 years Tim Erbes, Circulation Attendant
5 years Alanna Maddox, Circulation Supervisor
2 years Sue DeLellis, Shelver

7. Upcoming meetings:

- Finance Committee: Wednesday, June 17 at 5:30 PM
- Library Board: Wednesday, June 17 at 6:30 PM
- Library Board: Wednesday, July 15 at 6:30 PM