



Director's Report November 2024

1. Adult Library update (from Laurie Fels, Adult Librarian):
 - The Milwaukee Lionel Club will host Train Day at our library on Saturday December 21st from 10:00 – 3:00 pm in the Firefly room. This has become a very popular (and loud) event. It seems trains are appreciated by all ages.
 - NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month) is taking place in Conference Room A, every Wednesday in November from 7:00 – 8:30 pm.
 - Maria & Katie J are co-sponsoring a Holiday Wrapping Session for all ages on Sunday, December 15 from 1:00 – 4:00 pm. The community can drop in and wrap holiday gifts with provided supplies.
 - Our Library of Things has grown with the collaborative effort of Katie J (Adult), Abby (Children's), Anne Marie (Tech Services), and Tracie (Circulation). A patron has donated a new Brother sewing machine. Other items added are a Crime Scene Investigation Kit, a Hawaiian Shaved Ice machine and Robots for coding & drawing.
 - We have added approximately 65 DVDs to our popular Christmas collection. We added several copies of Charlie Brown Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas movies, since they are no longer shown on regular TV.
2. Children's Library update (from Abby Bussen, Children's Library Supervisor):
In-Person Programs: 35; Total Attendance: 1,167
Passive Programs: 7; Total Attendance: 1,162

Starting in September, the Children's Library made several patron-centered collection shifts which were completed in October. Our incredibly popular Graphic Novel collection has expanded to meet community demand, but like a foot in too-tight shoes, it was uncomfortably constrained in its former shelving. Children's Librarian Jennifer Hron took on the big task of weeding down the chapter book Series collection, allowing the Graphic Novel collection to fully expand along the entire wall. As graphic novels have shifted to take the place of so-called "early chapter books" for many transitional readers, bridging the gap between the decodable book/emerging reader collection and juvenile fiction chapter books, we were eager to give this collection room to breathe. We also undertook the major task of taking decodable and phonics books from several different collections around the Children's Library and, with the help of Librarian Marty Fudge, we moved them to their own collection,

allowing reading specialists, educators, and caregivers easier access to all of the books that fall under this umbrella.



As the weather has changed, we've been happy to welcome in elementary class visits from all around Wauwatosa. Lincoln, Roosevelt, McKinley, and St. Jude came to the Library (or had the Library come to them!) to say "Hello" to Children's Librarians Ms. Maria, Ms. Sharon, and Ms. Jennifer. Our partnerships with the schools gave us face time with 448 students, plus many more educators and caregiver chaperones. We also had students without their own library cards utilize our school cards to check out books. These unique cards allow every child who visits us to walk out the doors with a book. Students without an individual card are each allowed one checkout on the school card. We have communicated the benefits of the school cards to educators and because we do not penalize the district for the very small amount of books that don't make it back to the library, there is no downside to using these cards. November will usher in 12 more class visits from students at Roosevelt, Underwood, Wilson, McKinley, Wauwatosa Montessori, and Washington, so we'll be busy keeping the shelves stocked and our young patrons excited about reading!

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

Automated Sorter:

The new automated sorter was installed the week of October 21. By the end of the week it was operational. The new sorter is much quieter and takes up less space than the old one.



Adult Library Rest Rooms Remodel:

The rest rooms project was completed a couple of weeks ago. The remodeled rest rooms have been well received by the public. The only thing yet to be completed is the replacement of manual controls on toilet fixtures with touchless ones.



4. Circulation update (from Alanna Maddox, Circulation Supervisor):
- We hired Angelica Quartana as a 20 hour Daytime Shelver. Her first day was October 28.
 - We hired Alexis Humphries-Mitchell as a 20 hour Daytime Shelver. Her first day was October 28.
 - We hired Samantha Herrera as a 12 hour Evening Shelver. Her first day was October 28.

5. Young Adult Library update (from Katie Jentges, Young Adult Librarian):
- To celebrate spooky season, 12 teens got together in October to watch the classic Halloween movie *Hocus Pocus* and build haunted gingerbread houses out of graham crackers, holiday candy, and frosting. From making their own frosting to eating a lot of candy, they had so much fun and their gingerbread houses were really creative.



During winter break in December, we are hosting a rubber duck cosplay program for teens. Teens will get rubber ducks, quick dry clay, paint, beads, and other crafty supplies to dress up their rubber duck based on their favorite fandoms. Cannot wait to see their creativity at this program!

6. Strategic Plan:

The Wauwatosa Public Library's current strategic plan runs from 2020 through 2024. In 2019, the Library Board hired a consultant, WiLS, to facilitate the completion of a five-year strategic plan. The current plan focus on three planks: improving services, improving spaces, and improving communications and community engagement.

During their December 11 meeting, the Library Board planning committee can consider rewriting a new plan (with or without paid outside consultants), making significant changes to the existing plan, or extending the existing plan for a given number of years.

Because of the nature of the current status of the City's Municipal Complex plans, WPL staff recommends that the Library Board planning committee recommend that the Library Board consider extending the current strategic plan for a determined number of years. This will allow the current strategic plan to continue to serve as a guide for library services and spaces until plans for the Municipal Complex are fully realized.

If the planning committee takes this course, a future strategic plan is expected to be on the agenda during the January, 2025 Library Board meeting for Board approval.

7. November Anniversaries:

10 years Tony Handzlik, Shelver
9 years Carolyn Witt, Circulation Attendant
4 years Robbie Locher, Circulation Attendant

8. Upcoming meeting:

Library Board Planning Committee: Wednesday, December 11 at 7:00 PM
Library Board: Wednesday, January 15 at 6:30 PM