



## Director's Report October 2025

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

A staff member from Children's, Adult's, and Circulation attended the Tosa Farmer's Market on September 13. Staff relayed library information and handed out library promotional items such as custom-made library buttons. This was the most successful summer outreach event for the Circulation department as we signed up 23 patrons for new library accounts.

On September 22, I set up the always popular Banned Books Display complete with sticker and bookmark giveaways. This display is used to bring attention to last year's top ten most challenged books as reported to the American Library Association (ALA). The ALA received reports of 821 attempts to censor library books and other materials in 2024. This is the third highest number of book challenges since tracking began in 1990. This year's Banned Books Week is October 5- 11. I am happy to report that the Wauwatosa Library owns all 10 of the 2024 most challenged books.



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

Anna Lardinois brought her book Milwaukee Ghosts and Legends to life Tuesday the 7th. Part of the popular Haunted America series, Anna's collection of chilling tales uncovers the eerie legends, ghostly encounters, and forgotten lore hiding in plain sight across the city. She showed us spooky mansions and regaled us with stories of restless spirits.

Saturday the 4th, we had Mark Moran in house. He is the author of more than 25 books on antiques. Patrons had the opportunity to bring in a collectible piece and have Mark ID and price them. Many people stayed after their appraisal to listen to what other people had brought in.

Looking ahead, on the 25th, we have our crowd favorite: Train Day. Conductor Dave sets up 3 Lionel trains in the Firefly Room that anyone can operate. He is there the whole day complete with a train whistle.

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

Since there is no school on October 17, librarians Brianna and Katie are hosting a tween/teen print making party. Participants will be able to design their own stamps using Styrofoam trays and then will create a block-printed canvas tote bag using fabric paint and brayers. Attendees will each receive one tote bag, but are encouraged to bring in their own items to decorate as well.

This year's increased interest in our Peep diorama contest gave us the idea to host a pumpkin book character contest. Like the Peep contest this spring, kids, teens, adults, and families are invited to pick up a pumpkin and decorate that pumpkin at home to represent their favorite book or book character. Pumpkins are due back to the Library no later than October 27. At that time, the pumpkins will be divided up into their respective age categories and then be on display in the Student Commons hallway for patrons to see and vote on.

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

In-Person Programs: 37; Total attendance: 1,891

Passive Programs: 5; Total participation: 1,398

The Children's Library began our fall programs, sticking to our storytime rotation that has now become routine for our community. We also added in Intergenerational Story Time, a program hosted offsite at Oak Park Place in their community space. This program does two things: 1) it brings our storytime session to a location on the west side of Tosa, reducing a distance barrier for any families that might struggle to attend morning programming due to transportation concerns; and 2) it brings young storytime families into community with

older adults living in Wauwatosa, strengthening connections in an attempt to reduce feelings of isolation and loneliness in a demographic which has shown a need for more community connection in community surveys. Kudos to Children's Librarian Megan Jimenez for spearheading this effort.

Our Wonder Wednesday programming, which provides healthy snacks and engagement to the 100+ middle school students that visit the Library after school on early-release Wednesdays, has begun for the year. We invited students to design custom Labubus and asked for their input about snacks and activities for this school year. Children's Librarian Brianna Schwabe Khateeb will be identifying the best activities for this age group for the '25-'26 school year.

Children's Librarian Sharon Long was selected for the next round of the Wisconsin Library Association Leadership Development Institute. We're immensely proud of Sharon & are so excited for her to undertake this continuing education opportunity. If you see her around the Library, please give her a shout out!

As you can see from our programming numbers, we are as busy as ever, welcoming storytime families and class visits to our space to enjoy all the wonders of literacy and community they can imagine. We're on track to have our biggest year of programming, and appreciate all of the support from the Board, the Library's administrative team, and the community!

5. Library update: (from Robert Trunley, Assistant Director):

Employees: Dan Neddle has joined library staff as an After School Library Monitor. His first day was Monday, October 6.

Technical Services: For the past six months we have had problems getting books from our main vendor, Baker & Taylor. Orders were placed and books did not get shipped, or books were simply listed as unavailable. A few weeks ago Baker & Taylor announced they were being bought by ReaderLink but at the last minute ReaderLink pulled out. Recent news articles indicate that Baker & Taylor is beginning to wind down operations and has closed its facility in Momence Illinois. Librarians have switched all their ordering to another vendor called Ingram – Ingram has titles available and they ship on time. Ingram offers discounts similar to B&T.

Building: Several carpet tiles in the Adult Library Student Commons were damaged this summer. Facilities staff reviewed options, and opted to use their stock of extra tiles to replace three rows of tiles in the hallway. A contractor completed the work in early October.

6. October anniversaries:

- 2 years     Conor Tully, Shelver
- 1 year     Alexis Humphries-Mitchell, Shelver
- 1 year     Angie Quartana, Shelver

7. Upcoming meetings:

- Planning Committee: Wednesday, November 19 at 5:30 PM
- Library Board: Wednesday, November 19 at 6:30 PM