



Director's Report February 2026

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

At the request of one of our teen volunteers, the Library has started an all-ages drop-in writing group that meets twice a month on Monday evenings. Attendees who are interested in creative writing bring along the drafts they are working on, do a bit of workshopping together as a group, and then spend time writing. Two meetings in and there have been 7 or 8 attendees at each session. They have expressed interest in finding a writing instructor who can guide them, provide feedback, and inspire a thoughtful discussion.

The past few months, I have been lucky enough to have a new teen volunteer. She helps me with all sorts of projects, including processing the Yoto card collection, labeling and reorganizing the Library of Things, wrapping books for our YA Blind Date with a Book display, and is happy to tackle any random project I send her way. It has been great having her help every Thursday afternoon.

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

The [Director's report](#) for last month's board meeting included information about a section of ceiling tiles and supporting rails that fell recently in the adult library. City Facilities Manager Chuck Pomeranke provided the following update:

"As you know, earlier this month we had a section of the drop ceiling system in the adult library near the computer area fall sometime during the overnight hours. Thankfully it occurred overnight when nobody was in the Library.

"Upon investigation into the cause of the problem, the facilities team observed that there were several places where the anchors to which the wire supports for the gridwork were never anchored into solid structures. Eyebolts were screwed into drywall without backing which eventually allowed them to pull free allowing sections of the grid to fall. This appears to have been done in the original installation of the grid that we believe to have been done as part of the library remodel back in the 1990s.

"In talking to my team, we formulated a plan to identify several areas of the library that have similar ceiling to wall details and do a physical inspection of those areas to see if similar conditions exist. If we find that they do, we can have a ceiling contractor come in

and add support wires tied to structurally sound building structure. My team plans to do this in the next week or so in the early morning hours before the library is open to the public. “

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

February is a content checking month for juvenile materials so our shelvers have been busily paging through each book to make sure they are in good condition for our littlest patrons.

Daytime Shelver Gregory Ludwig was promoted to the part-time librarian position in the adult library. We are sad to see him leave the department but happy that he is still part of the library team.

Katherine Etta (from HR) and I conducted several interviews for the vacant daytime shelver positions left by Alexis Humphries-Mitchell and Gregory Ludwig. We were happy that we were able to fill all positions via an internal job posting. Joan Bahr (former volunteer and daytime shelver) and Emma Letke (former 12-hour evening shelver) were selected for the two vacant positions. Bringing up Emma from 12 hours to 20 hours produced another shelver vacancy which we filled with Alison Konicek, a former technology volunteer from the adult library. Joan started February 9, and Emma and Alison started February 10.

My 15 employee evaluations are due soon and I am slowly but surely working through completing them.

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

Programs and Displays:

February 3rd Packer expert Jim Rice discussed Green Bay's 13 Championships Seasons. This program revisited the greatest seasons in team history - 1929, 1930, 1931, 1936, 1939, 1944, 1961, 1962, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1996, and 2010. He presented a slide show featuring his extensive football card and program collection and answered questions from a lively audience.

The Board Game Club that meets here on Saturdays expanded to include painting mini figures. There are two opportunities this month to bring in your board game miniatures to paint, or paint (and keep) one of ours. Never painted a mini before? No problem, that's exactly why they made this event! Whether you've never painted before, or you've painted thousands of figures, they will have the Firefly Room set up with material to fuel creativity! Our displays this month include—Black History Month, romance, and winter sports for the Olympics.

Librarians:

Last month we discussed Laurie Fels retirement and Meagan Parker's promotion from part-time to full-time. We now have hired a new part-time librarian, Greg Ludwig. Greg has been working at the WCTC library as a librarian and also here as a shelver. He also has been a library director of a public library. We are excited for him to come on board!

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

In-person programs: 41; total attendees: 1,649

Passive programs: 6; total participation: 943

January was as busy a month as ever in the children's library! We hosted our first kids' robotics program, building simple robots with the head of a toothbrush, a small motor, and a battery. Participants were coached through the process by a librarian and a teen volunteer, then afterward were shown some of the more advanced codable robots we'll be building up to use over time. We'll be installing our 3D printers and kids in "Bot Builders" will be trained and badged on how to use those with varying levels of supervision, depending on their skill and comfort. To ensure those 3D printers are used safely, I'll be working on a 3D printing policy to put before the Policy Committee when they meet next.



We also hosted our first annual Kid Librarian Staff Party, inviting all of the young people who served as a Wauwatosa volunteer Kid Librarian in 2025 to join us for snacks and games on a Sunday in January. This was such a fun time and we look forward to offering this again next year as a wrap up party for the 2026 Kid Librarians. I'd love to design T-shirts for the

Kid Librarians, perhaps tied to development of a library merch shop.



6. Wisconsin Library Association update: I attended the Wisconsin Library Association's annual Library Legislative Day on Tuesday, February 10. I joined other library staff, trustees, and supporters in legislative meetings. This year I met with staff from:

- Senator Rob Hutton
- Representative Robyn Vining
- Senator LaTonya Johnson
- Representative Margaret Arney

7. February staff anniversaries:

24 years Anne Marie Thomas, Technical Services Librarian

9 years Sharon Long, Children's Librarian

8. Upcoming meetings:

- Library Board: Wednesday, March 18 at 6:30 PM
- Policy Committee: Wednesday, April 15 at 5:30 PM
- Library Board: Wednesday, April 15 at 6:30 PM