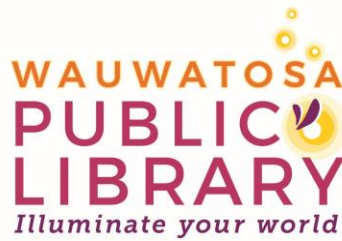


Director's Report January 2026

1. Building update (from Robert Trunley, Assistant Director): On the morning of January 13, library staff discovered in the adult library that a section of ceiling tiles and supporting rails had collapsed overnight. Maintenance staff immediately cleaned up the debris and installed new tiles and supports. Maintenance staff stated that they could see indications of faulty installation. Since that work took place over thirty years ago, we do not know how many other areas are at risk because of the same potential installation issues and the fact of aging infrastructure throughout the facility.





2. Circulation update (from Alanna Maddox, Circulation Supervisor):
December was a very busy month for the circulation department. With staff taking off, intermittent internet, and being closed for four days, two weeks in a row, we were certainly challenged with processing material quickly and effectively. My staff did a phenomenal job working through these issues and we are now fully back to our regular workflow.

Daytime Shelves Alexis Humphries-Mitchell has resigned. We currently have a job posting available to internal candidates only that closes on January 22.

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

Programs and displays:

January is always busy with the arrival of income-tax season. We now have the Wisconsin state forms and are awaiting the federal. We print many of the forms that people need that the government does not provide. We get lots of questions and refer people to free income tax preparation sites. We also have the intake forms for those sites.

Mocktails are becoming more popular, especially in January. Ann Powers had a well-attended mocktail program this month. She pulled recipes from books and the New York Times. She even made her own concoction using the Juiced! line of juices from a local company in Glendale. Look for her always popular custard tasting program in June. Genealogists from the Milwaukee County Genealogy Society had a drop in session this month. Patrons had the opportunity to speak one-on-one with experts for an hour. It was a great opportunity for people new to genealogy and for those who have hit roadblocks in their family search.

Librarians:

This month we said goodbye to Laurie Fels, who has worked for the library for 21 years. She has consistently provided great customer service to our patrons and worked diligently to make sure we had up to date materials. She worked closely with the health department and Goodwill to provide programming and resources for seniors and job seekers. She also worked with the health department to start a period pantry in the library. We will miss her and wish her well in her retirement.

Meagan Parker is our new full time librarian. She has been working for us part-time for over a year. She has been doing much of our outreach to churches. She is enthusiastic and brings lots of experience from other libraries. She is a Wauwatosa native and currently also lives in Tosa. The search for her replacement takes place this month.

4. Children's Library update (from Abby Bussen, Children's Library Supervisor):
In-person programs: 35; total attendees: 1,382
Passive programs: 5; total participants: 214

It's hard to believe another year is over! We ended 2025 having delivered 536 programs to 29,827 participants. This is an increase from our 2024 statistics, when we delivered 443 programs to 19,025 participants. The extra 10,802 attendees were not spread exclusively across those extra 93 programs. By consistently offering the same programs on a weekly basis, we were able to standardize our story time rotation and keep our community members coming back every week to reap the benefits of early literacy programming. We also increased our programming for elementary- and middle-school-aged children where small increases in the amount of programming made huge gains in engagement. I am so proud of the work that the Children's Librarians and the entire library staff put in this year, particularly in supporting the afterschool crowd.

With our Children's Librarian Brianna on maternity leave, we will be working through our January programs with one less facilitator. We're excited to work through our mainstay programs and add our new monthly program, Bot Builders, which is made possible thanks to the generosity of a donation.

5. Milwaukee County Federated Library System update: I am serving as the chair of the Library Directors Advisory Council in 2026. The Library Directors Advisory Council is composed of system member library directors and advises the MCFLS Board on the impact of policies and proposed services upon member communities.
6. Wisconsin Library Association update: I am continuing in my role as the chair of the Wisconsin Library Association's Library Development & Legislation committee in 2026.
7. Municipal Complex project update: Robert and I joined city administration, and representatives from C.G. Schmidt and met with representatives from OPN Architects, which completed the city's conceptual plan in 2023.

8. December and January staff anniversaries:

12 years Tracie Peksa, Circulation Attendant
11 years Marty Fudge, Technical Services Librarian
4 years Debbie Cincotta, Shelver
3 years Kathy Krueger, Shelver

9. Upcoming meetings:

Finance Committee: Wednesday, February 18 at 5:30 PM

Library Board: Wednesday, February 18 at 6:30 PM

Library Board: Wednesday, March 18 at 6:30 PM