

Director's Report

July 2026

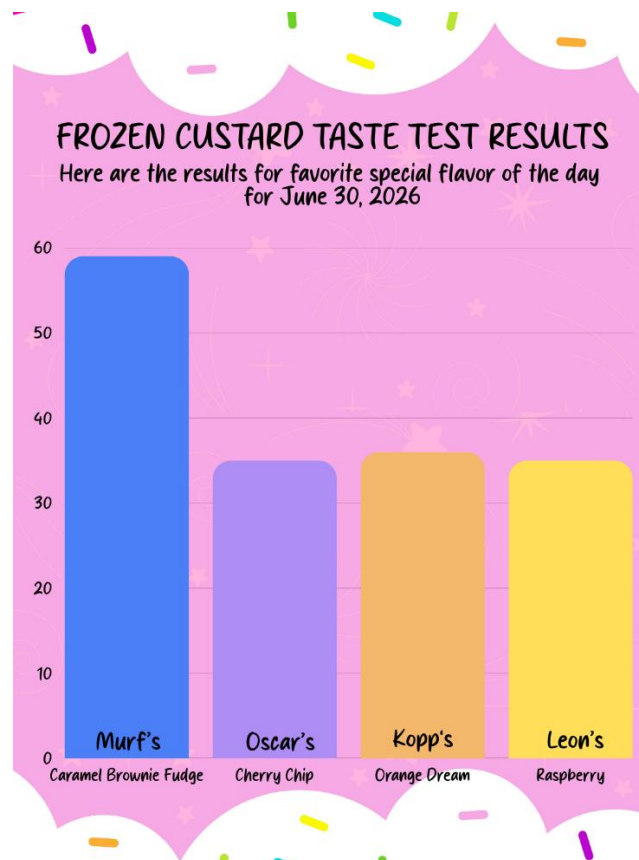
1. Circulation update (from Circulation Supervisor Alanna Maddox):
A job posting to replace former Circulation Attendant Jessica Baumann closed on July 7. We will begin interviewing the week of July 20th and hope to fill the position by the first week of August.
2. Young Adult update (from Adult Librarian Katie Jentges):
Summer young adult programming is in full swing! We kicked off this summer with a taste test of almost 20 flavors of Pop Tarts. As usual the taste test program filled up quickly, so we used that program to have a discussion with the teens in attendance why they love the library and what they would like to see in a new building. They had thoughtful answers, particularly from one teen, who said something along the lines of "I don't have a lot of friends, but when I come to teen events at the Library, I feel like I make friends and easily fit in." As for what they would like to see in a new building? The overwhelming response was the fish tank.

Our second program of the summer was making homemade paper. Teens made a mess as they used a blender, recycled paper, and water to make paper pulp. From there they used moulds and deckles to make paper in various sizes, which they decorated using liquid watercolor, tissue paper, and other craft supplies. We had leftover seeds from a program this spring, so teens even got to make a piece of seed paper that they are able to plant and watch grow. We will report back on the success rate of the seed paper as the summer continues.



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

The always popular custard taste test was held June 30 in honor of June Dairy Month. This year more than 270 attendees tried the flavor of the day custard from Kopp's, Leon's Murf's, and Oscar's. Adult Librarian Ann Powers and her army of volunteers dish up samples of the flavors and patrons vote on the winner. This year's clear winner was Murf's Caramel Brownie Fudge, with the other flavors closely all tied behind.



The Milwaukee Aging and Disability Resource Center has continued their weekly Friday sessions. During these sessions, community health workers help people who are looking for housing assistance, appropriate medical care resources, and apply for Medicare. Knowing that they are here once a week helps staff at the Adult Reference Desk provide a helpful in-person resource, rather than just another phone number when it comes to answering these types of questions.

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

In-Person Programs: 53; Attendees: 3,154

Passive Programs: 5; Participants: 639

Summer is upon us and WOW can we see and feel the excitement in the Children's Library! Every day, we are full to bursting with kids and their grownups looking for materials and attending programs. This month, we kicked off our programming with magician Zack Percell who brought in 260 people to check out his incredible show. We were able to capitalize on that event by holding a simultaneous, joint Library & City Hall community listening session in the link, where we welcomed program attendees and complex visitors to take the survey and were available to field questions alongside members of the City engineering team. It was a very successful event! The Children's Library also continued our outreach partnership

with the Ronald McDonald House, offering a tailored evening program to meet the needs of their current residents. We'll continue to offer that throughout the summer.

We hosted some of our first summer STEAM programs, including our first Kids' 3D printer training, which had full attendance, and we were able to badge 30 kids (plus several of their parents – hey, they did a lot of work too!). Those makers have been avidly using the 3D printers ever since. In less than a month since the class, we have had 99 prints and counting from our young makers! A dedicated makerspace with a full-time staff member to coordinate it would be well used in our community. We also learned about simple robots, motors and circuits to make cool scribblebots in STEAM time.



We were overjoyed to welcome author Judy Campbell-Smith, illustrator Maggie Carroll, and mascot Bernie Brewer to celebrate the book *Baseball for Breakfast: a (Mostly) True Story*. We listened to the story, made a cute craft, and got to meet and greet the creators & Bernie at this awesome event, pulled together by ourselves and our friends at Boswell Book Company.



Onward to July!

5. Registration for this year's [Trustee Training Week](#), August 10 - 13, is open. This year's line-up includes:

- [Wisconsin Library Law](#) with Kris Turner on Monday, August 10
- [What You Need to Know about AI and Libraries](#) with Crystal Trice on Tuesday, August 11
- [Board Documents 101](#) with Laura Meade on Wednesday, August 12
- [All Playing in the Same Orchestra](#): Collaborating for Community Success with Kami Lynch and Teresa Schmidt on Thursday, August 13

Register for each one-hour webinar individually. Webinars take place from noon - 1 pm each day and will be recorded if you're not able to attend live.

Trustee Training was made possible thanks to the [Wisconsin Department of Instruction \(DPI\) Bureau of Libraries](#), with funding support from the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#). All 15 public library systems in Wisconsin [support Trustee Training Week](#).

6. July staff anniversaries:

12 years	Cori Lutz, Administrative Assistant
9 years	Katie Jentges, Adult Librarian
5 years	Karen Schleicher, Shelver
2 years	Abby Bussen, Children's Library Supervisor

7. Upcoming meetings:

- Library Board: Wednesday, September 16 at 6:30 PM