

COUNTY OF MARATHON WAUSAU, WISCONSIN

OFFICIAL NOTICE AND AGENDA

A meeting of the Marathon County Public Library Board of Trustees, Monday, September 16, 2024, at 12:00 noon Library Headquarters, Wausau Community Room.

Persons wishing to attend the meeting by computer or phone may log or call into the meeting beginning five (5) minutes prior to the start time indicated above using the following website https://meet.goto.com/355252821 or number 1 877 309 2073. Access Code for dialing in 355-252-821.

When you enter the meeting, PLEASE PUT YOUR COMPUTER AND PHONE ON MUTE!

		<u>AGENDA</u>
1.	(12:00 p.m.)	Call to Order
2.		Acknowledgement of Visitors
3.		Approval of Minutes
4.		Bills and Services Report
5.	(10 minutes)	Public Comments (Anyone addressing the Library Board is asked to do so in a respectful, professional, and courteous manner. The "Public Comments" portion of this meeting is offered as an opportunity for citizens of Marathon County to be heard. The Board, however, is under no obligation to provide this forum. As such, any misuse could result in the removal of these privileges. Any person who wishes to address the Library Board during the "Public Comment" portion of meetings may only provide comment pertaining to an item on the agenda. He or she must sign in or e-mail their name, address, and the topic they wish to present to the Library Personnel Specialist no later than five minutes before the start of the meeting library-administration@mcpl.us)
6.	(15 minutes)	Reports Regarding Recent Meetings and Communications. For Discussion and Informational
		Purposes Only. No Action will be taken.
		A. President
		B. Other Board Members
		C. Library Director D. Board Committees
		E. Friends of the Library
		F. MCPL Foundation
		G. Wisconsin Valley Library Service
7.	(15 minutes)	Library Service Highlight: Central Wisconsin Book Festival – For Discussion and Informational
		Purposes Only
8.	(20 minutes)	2025 Library Budget – For Discussion and Possible Action
9.		Announcements
10.		Request for Future Agenda Items
11.		Next Meeting Dates
12.	A	Adjournment Signed:
		Library Director or Designee
	approximate and su anning to attend th	ubject to change his meeting who need special accommodations in order to participate should call the Library Administration Office at 715-261-

EMAILED TO: Wausau Daily Herald, City Pages, and	NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE
EMAILED TO: Other Media Groups	
EMIALED BY: H. Wilde	BY:
EMAILED DATE: September 10, 2024	DATE:
EMAILED TIME: 3:00 p.m.	TIME:

^{*}All times

⁷¹⁵⁻²⁶¹⁻*Any pers 7213 or e-mail library-administration@mcpl.us one business day before the meeting.

Regular meeting of the Marathon County Public Library Board of Trustees, Monday, August 19, 2024.

Present: Kari Sweeney, Reid Rayome, Gary Gisselman, LeeAnn Podruch, Andrea Sheridan

(remote), Chris Voll, Leah Giordano

Absent: Nathan Turajski

Others: Katelyn Sabelko, Heather Wilde, David Hahn, Stephanie Martell, Peggy Klein

Remote visitors: none

The meeting was called to order at 12:00pm by Kari Sweeney. Kari Sweeney acknowledged visitors at the meeting.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CHRIS VOLL; SECONDED BY REID RAYOME TO APPROVE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEE MINUTES FROM THE JULY 15, 2024, MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY KARI SWEENEY; SECONDED BY LEEANN PODRUCH TO APPROVE THE JULY 2024 BILLS AND SERVICES REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

Public Comments -None

President - None

Other Board Members – None

<u>Director's Report</u> – Presented in the Board packet and by Director Leah Giordano.

- The library is using an unfilled part-time position to create a floater position to help at all MCPL locations. The new floater will fill in for vacations, illnesses, and staff vacancies. This will also provide staff with an opportunity to expand programming.
- In January 2025, MCPL's staff day will be combined with the county's IMAGINE Day. The first half of the day will be countywide activities and the second half of the day will be department specific activities.
- Progress continues on the HVAC install despite some issues outside. The Director will attend a construction meeting about the progress on August 20th.

Board Committees - None

<u>Friends of the Library</u> – The Friends quarterly sale raised \$4,254. MCPL staff will soon be requesting annual programming funds from the Friends.

MCPL Foundation – None

<u>Wisconsin Valley Library Service</u> – The WVLS Board met August 17th and discussed budget items and the WVLS Resource Library Agreement.

<u>WVLS Resource Library Agreement</u>—The amount for collection development given to MCPL as the resource library increased to \$12,000 this year.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY REID RAYOME SECONDED BY LEEANN PODRUCH TO APPROVE THE WVLS AGREEMENT. MOTION CARRIED.

<u>Library Service Highlight: Overview and Tour of the Hatley Branch</u> – Peggy Klein, Hatley Branch Coordinator will provide a tour after the meeting adjourns.

<u>Announcements</u> - Central Wisconsin Book Festival takes place in September. September is also library card sign up month. August 19-23 is Library Trustee Training Week and there are opportunities for online training for board trustees.

<u>Request for Future Agenda Items</u>- Each month board members would like staff to highlight items on the Bills and Services reports that may deviate from the norm.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CHRIS VOLL; SECONDED BY KARI SWEENEY TO ADJOURN AT 12:21 P.M. MOTION CARRIED.

library Director or Designee

Note: These minutes subject to approval at the next Library Board meeting scheduled for September 16, 2024.

Regular meeting of the Marathon County Public Library Board of Trustees, Monday, July 15, 2024.

Present: Kari Sweeney, Reid Rayome, Gary Gisselman, LeeAnn Podruch, Andrea Sheridan,

Nathan Turajski, Chris Voll (remote), Leah Giordano

Absent:

Others: Alexander Johnson, Katelyn Sabelko, Heather Wilde, David Hahn, Stephanie

Martell, Ben Krombholz Remote visitors: none

The meeting was called to order at 12:00pm by Kari Sweeney. Kari Sweeney acknowledged visitors at the meeting.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY LEEANN PODRUCH; SECONDED BY REID RAYOME TO APPROVE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEE MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 17, 2024, MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY KARI SWEENEY; SECONDED BY GARY GISSELMAN TO APPROVE THE JUNE 2024 BILLS AND SERVICES REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

Public Comments –None

<u>President</u> – None

Other Board Members - None

<u>Director's Report</u> – Presented in the Board packet and by Director Leah Giordano.

- SLP has been very successful, but staff shortages have made it challenging. Staff have been very helpful at filling in at the branches for the positions currently open.
- The new security guard position has been filled for the last three weeks and has been a valuable addition to the library for patrons and staff.
- The outdoor portion of the HVAC project has been held up by a soil issue, so the construction team has moved to a different part of the project.
- The final NICE Project recommendations have been presented. At an August 1st meeting there will be discussion about the project, but voting on the topic may be later.
- The library elevator has continued to have issues, sometimes preventing use. Staff continue to keep records of the problems for Facilities.

Board Committees – None

Friends of the Library – The June members-only book sale brought in \$545.

MCPL Foundation – The Foundation met on July 11th.

Wisconsin Valley Library Service – The WVLS Board will meet in August.

<u>7.62 Animals in the Library Policy Update</u> – The policy is being updated to match state requirements on service animals.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY KARI SWEENEY; SECONDED BY ANDREA SHERIDAN TO APPROVE THE POLICY UPDATE. MOTION CARRIED.

<u>Library Service Highlight: Website Tour</u> – presented by Ben Krombholz, Web and Graphic Design Specialist.

- The library's website is MCPL.us. The library catalog is on a separate website that can be reached through MCPL's website.
- Between the VCat, Wisconsin's Digital Library and WISCAT sites, there are many items available for checkout.
- There is a Live Chat option available on the site so patrons can ask questions about research questions or their account.
- Services are separated by different types, including youth services, young adults, meeting rooms and research assistance. This makes it easier for individuals to find what they need.
- Online resources are available from MCPL (e.g. Mango Languages, Tumblebooks), WVLS (e.g. Ancestry, Gale Presents: Udemy), and Badgerlink (e.g. Newpapers.com and Popular Magazines).
- Events are shown for different locations and a calendar view will be added soon.

<u>Announcements</u> – None

Request for Future Agenda Items- None

A MOTION WAS MADE BY ANDREA SHERIDAN; SECONDED BY NATHAN TURAJSKI TO ADJOURN AT 12:35 P.M. MOTION CARRIED.

Library Director or Designee

Marathon County Public Library Bills for Approval August, 2024*

Section Sect	Library		
State	52131 Financial, Banking and Investment Services		
S2250 Telephone, Internet and Cable S S42.94 Prontier S 790.85 NiscNet S NiscNet S NiscNet S NiscNet NiscNet	Unique Management Services Inc	\$	93.20
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Staff \$ 227.95	Registration Fees/tuition	\$	
	53321 Personal Auto Mileage		-
Personal Auto Mileage \$ 227.95	Staff	\$	227.95
	Personal Auto Mileage	\$	227.95

53494 Technology Supplies		
Amazon Capital Services	\$	962.61
CDW Government Inc	\$	308.00
Technology Supplies	\$	1,270.61
53936 Other Supplies		
Amazon Capital Services	\$ _\$	55.24
Demco		744.27
Other Supplies	\$	799.51
55320 Building/Offices Rent	Φ.	4 007 77
Edgar, Village of	\$	1,997.77
Marathon City, Village of	\$	2,645.11
Mosinee, City of	\$	33.64
WI Public Service Corporation	\$ \$ \$	375.94 5.052.46
Building/Offices Rent Library - Gifts/Donations	Ψ	5,052.46
52164 Contractual Services		
Tank Mates LLC	\$	1,701.00
Contractual Services	<u>\$</u>	1,701.00
53161 Books Library	Ψ	1,701.00
Baker & Taylor Company	\$	311.36
Books Library	\$	311.36
53250 Registration Fees/tuition	*	
WLA	\$	305.00
Registration Fees/tuition	\$	305.00
53260 Advertising		
Destination Travel Network	\$	230.00
Advertising	\$	230.00
53936 Other Supplies		
Amazon Capital Services	\$	448.00
Demco	\$	7.04
Other Supplies	\$	455.04
CIP Library		
52140 Technology Services	_	
Harder Technologies LLC	\$	962.50
Technology Services	\$	962.50
52990 Sundry Contractual Services	•	5 400 00
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Technology Supplies 58120 Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment	Ψ	35,412.44
Office Enterprises Inc	\$	728.22
Technology Supplies	<u>\$</u>	728.22
recimology oupplies	Ψ	1 20.22
Grand Total	\$	99,137.81
	Ψ	55,107.51

^{*}Current as of 9/9/24 when pulled from Workday (county system)

Marathon County Public Library Budget vs Actual (Library cost center) for August, 2024*

Ledger Account	Ar	nended Budget	Actuals (Current Period)	Actuals (YTD)	В	udget Remaining
Library Cost Center						
Revenues						
46170 Sale of Maps, Poll Lists, Copies	\$	12,000.00	\$ 1,702.56	\$ 10,152.76	\$	(1,847.24)
46190 Other General Government Fees	\$	24,000.00	\$ 2,870.00	\$ 19,475.00	\$	(4,525.00)
46199 Employee Share of Insurance **	\$	-	\$ -	\$ 4,215.50	\$	4,215.50
47393 Local Department Charges Internal Service Fund **	\$	-	\$ 45.59	\$ 92.10	\$	92.10
46710 Library Fees	\$	45,000.00	\$ 2,791.94	\$ 32,489.59	\$	(12,510.41)
48200 Rental of Buildings and Property	\$	42,153.00	\$ 10,538.25	\$ 31,614.75	\$	(10,538.25)
48900 Other Miscellaneous Revenues	\$	-	\$ 454.37	\$ 1,314.46	\$	1,314.46
49210 Transfer from the General Fund	\$	63,085.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$	(63,085.00)
49299 Transfers from Fund Balance	\$	-	\$ -	\$ 63,085.00	\$	63,085.00
Total Revenues	\$	186,238.00	\$ 18,402.71	\$ 162,439.16	\$	(23,798.84)
Personnel Expenses						
51111 Salaries and Wages	\$	2,078,706.00	\$ 151,510.89	\$ 1,256,257.97	\$	822,448.03
51120 Overtime	\$	22,935.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$	22,935.00
51390 Other Special Pay	\$	-	\$ 769.34	\$ 12,413.72	\$	(12,413.72)
51580 Unemployment Compensation	\$	2,102.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$	2,102.00
51510 Social Security	\$	160,775.00	\$ 11,325.42	\$ 91,933.47	\$	68,841.53
51520 Retirement Employers Share	\$	131,875.00	\$ 9,665.11	\$ 79,777.08	\$	52,097.92
51541 Dental Insurance	\$	12,031.00	\$ 663.25	\$ 5,391.00	\$	6,640.00
51550 Life Insurance	\$	7,016.00	\$ 43.33	\$ 294.00	\$	6,722.00
51560 Workers Compensation	\$	1,261.00	\$ 91.84	\$ 760.27	\$	500.73

51590 Other Employer Contributions	\$ 30,030.00	\$ 1,680.00	\$ 24,586.25	\$ 5,443.75
51593 Health Insurance	\$ 508,987.00	\$ 32,427.85	\$ 253,862.92	\$ 255,124.08
Personnel Expenses Total	\$ 2,955,718.00	\$ 208,177.03	\$ 1,725,276.68	\$ 1,230,441.32
Operating Expenses				
52130 Accounting and Audit Services	\$ 1,300.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,300.00
52131 Financial, Banking and Investment Services	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 93.20	\$ 687.35	\$ 512.65
52192 Other Professional Services	\$ 6,500.00	\$ -	\$ 6,500.00	\$ -
52250 Telephone, Internet and Cable	\$ 22,750.00	\$ 2,433.79	\$ 10,879.91	\$ 11,870.09
52420 Machinery/Equipment Maintenance Services	\$ 6,500.00	\$ -	\$ 6,731.00	\$ (231.00)
52140 Technology Services	\$ 16,000.00	\$ -	\$ 11,434.97	\$ 4,565.03
52560 Other Special Services	\$ 34,000.00	\$ 5,035.70	\$ 27,648.05	\$ 6,351.95
52561 Reimburse County	\$ 6,400.00	\$ 135.00	\$ 6,275.00	\$ 125.00
52932 Copier Charges	\$ 6,500.00	\$ -	\$ 3,267.44	\$ 3,232.56
52990 Sundry Contractual Services	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 76.74	\$ 4,854.19	\$ 10,145.81
53110 Postage and Courier	\$ 1,700.00	\$ -	\$ 279.66	\$ 1,420.34
53130 Printing and Forms	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,992.00	\$ 2,008.00
53142 Software - IT	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 636.26	\$ 5,033.01	\$ 966.99
53161 Books Library	\$ 275,045.00	\$ 30,753.94	\$ 167,704.02	\$ 107,340.98
53168 Audio-Visual Materials	\$ 56,596.00	\$ 6,407.01	\$ 32,493.71	\$ 24,102.29
53169 E-Books Library	\$ 34,252.00	\$ -	\$ 34,296.24	\$ (44.24)
53190 Office Supplies	\$ 27,000.00	\$ 1,217.08	\$ 12,148.44	\$ 14,851.56
53220 Subscriptions	\$ 18,600.00	\$ -	\$ 2,154.26	\$ 16,445.74
53221 Electronic Subscriptions	\$ 35,200.00	\$ -	\$ 20,510.53	\$ 14,689.47
53240 Membership Dues	\$ 118,497.00	\$ -	\$ 118,951.21	\$ (454.21)
53250 Registration Fees/tuition	\$ 3,500.00	\$ (305.00)	\$ 305.00	\$ 3,195.00

4,000.00 \$

3,076.93 \$

923.07

53260 Advertising

53321 Personal Auto Mileage	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 227.95	\$ 1,279.31	\$ 2,220.69
53410 Meeting Expenses	\$ 2,700.00	\$ -	\$ 94.94	\$ 2,605.06
53494 Technology Supplies	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,270.61	\$ 3,673.79	\$ (673.79)
53936 Other Supplies	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 799.51	\$ 4,031.67	\$ 5,968.33
55190 Insurance Other Premiums	\$ 48,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 48,000.00
55320 Building/Offices Rent	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 5,052.46	\$ 20,363.93	\$ 44,636.07
Operating Expenses Total	\$ 833,740.00	\$ 53,834.25	\$ 507,666.56	\$ 326,073.44
Total Expenditures	\$ 3,789,458.00	\$ 262,011.28	\$ 2,232,943.24	\$ 1,556,514.76
Net Change	\$ (3,603,220.00)	\$ (243,608.57)	\$ (2,070,504.08)	\$ 1,532,715.92

^{*}Current as of 9/9/24 when pulled from Workday (county system).

^{**} Payroll revenue- temporary holding position for County Finance

Marathon County Public Library Budget vs Actual (additional cost centers) August, 2024*

	Budget		A	Actuals (Current Period)		Actuals (YTD)		dget Remaining
Library - Gift/Donation Cost Center								
Total Revenues	\$	202,783.00	\$	5,028.40	\$	263,893.37	\$	61,110.37
Total Expenditures	\$	202,783.00	\$	3,002.40	\$	67,229.58	\$	135,553.42
<u>Library - Gift/Donation Cost Center Net</u>	\$	-	\$	2,026.00	\$	196,663.79	\$	196,663.79
CIP- Library Cost Center								
Total Revenues	\$	498,265.00			\$	498,265.00	\$	-
Total Expenditures	\$	498,265.00	\$	42,301.16	\$	120,051.19	\$	378,213.81
CIP-Library Net Change	\$	-	\$	(42,301.16)	\$	378,213.81	\$	378,213.81

^{*}Current as of 9/9/24 when pulled from Workday (county system).

TOTAL CIRCULATION STATISTICAL SUMMARY

For the month of August 2024

Branch	2023 CURRENT MONTH	2024 CURRENT MONTH	% CHANGE	2023 YEAR-to-DATE	2024 YEAR-to-DATE	% CHANGE
ATHENS	1,489	1,573	5.64%	13,162	13,820	5.00%
EDGAR	1,090	1,263	15.87%	10,090	10,521	4.27%
HATLEY	2,312	1,511	-34.65%	15,416	15,655	1.55%
MARATHON	2,695	2,375	-11.87%	20,484	19,074	-6.88%
MOSINEE	2,742	2,389	-12.87%	20,656	19,716	-4.55%
ROTHSCHILD	8,086	8,950	10.69%	65,111	65,784	1.03%
SPENCER	1,118	1,099	-1.70%	9,180	9,176	-0.04%
STRATFORD	2,543	2,279	-10.38%	17,326	17,654	1.89%
WAUSAU	34,744	34,139	-1.74%	248,743	262,422	5.50%
WAUSAU DRIVE UP	1,806	1,910	5.76%	14,478	14,282	-1.35%
HOMEBOUND	519	443	-14.64%	4,898	4,467	-8.80%
ILL	159	223	40.25%	1,320	1,330	0.76%
OVERDRIVE	16,443	17,591	6.98%	124,329	143,375	15.32%
GRAND TOTAL	75,746	75,745	0.00%	565,193	597,276	5.68%

^{*}MCPL Athens branch was closed November 6-11, 2023 to move into new location

ON-SITE CIRC TO NON-RESIDENT CUSTOMERS

August 2024

		CUSTOMER STATISTICAL CLASSES									
	WVLS- CLARK	WVLS- LANGLADE	WVLS- LINCOLN	SCLS- PORTAGE	NFLS- SHAWANO	WVLS- TAYLOR	SCLS- WOOD	TOTAL NON- RESIDENT CIRC	TOTAL CIRC	% of CIRC by BRANCH	
ATHENS	125	0	9	0	0	653	0	787	13,820	5.69%	
EDGAR	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10,521	0.01%	
HATLEY	13	0	3	0	0	0	0	16	15,655	0.10%	
MARATHON	19	0	56	0	0	3	0	78	19,074	0.41%	
MOSINEE	0	0	28	0	0	0	0	28	19,716	0.14%	
ROTHSCHILD	62	0	19	0	0	1	0	82	65,784	0.12%	
SPENCER	601	0	0	0	0	2	17	620	9,176	6.76%	
STRATFORD	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	7	17,654	0.04%	
WAUSAU	96	0	1,298	0	0	103	66	1,563	262,422	0.60%	
WAUSAU DRIVE UP	10	0	36	0	0	0	0	46	14,282	0.32%	
MISC*									149,172		
TOTAL MCPL	927	0	1,449	0	0	762	90	3,228	597,276	0.54%	
% of CIRC											
by COUNTY	0.16%	0.00%	0.24%	0.00%	0.00%	0.13%	0.02%				

*MISC=HOMEBOUND,WVLS-D,WVLS-L,III, OVERDRIVE

TOTAL MONTHLY CUSTOMER COUNT

For the month of August 2024

	2023 CURRENT MONTH	2024 CURRENT MONTH	% CHANGE
MARATHON COUNTY			
RESIDENT ADULT	51,634	53,826	4.25%
RESIDENT CHILD	8,483	8,968	5.72%
HOMEBOUND	95	104	9.47%
STAFF	66	63	-4.55%
TEMPORARY	571	484	-15.24%
TOTAL FOR MARATHON COUNTY	60,849	63,445	4.27%
NON-COUNTY ON SITE BORROWERS			
ADULT	2,523	2,681	6.26%
CHILD	228	240	5.26%
TEMPORARY	24	23	-4.17%
TOTAL FOR NON-COUNTY ON SITE BORROWER	2,775	2,944	6.09%
INTERLIBRARY LOAN			
ILL	411	416	1.22%
GRAND TOTAL	64,035	66,805	4.33%



Marathon County Public Library **Director Report** September 2024

Highlights

Aquarium Touch Pool Event

Our most popular school-age program in August was the Aquarium Touch Pool event. An outstanding 325 people participated! At this event children and families had the opportunity to see and touch starfish and sea urchins. Participants were guided by our local aquarium expert, Darren. While the most exciting component of this program was the up-close interaction with sea creatures, participants also enjoyed creating dolphin necklaces, crab headbands, ocean bookmarks, and sea creature scratch art. It was the perfect event to draw our Summer Library Program to a close for 2024. -Tara H, Youth Services Librarian



MCPL Provides Reading to Therapy Dogs

Hot diggity dog! This summer, the Marathon County Public Library - Wausau Headquarters offered a weekly 'Read to a Therapy Dog' program for children.

For two hours every week, certified therapy dogs were brought into the library and kids could practice their skills by reading aloud to a furry friend! Attendance ranged from 30 to 60 participants.

Reading to a therapy dog offers several benefits to children such as boosting their confidence, improving comprehension and fluency, and encouraging a love of reading by associating it with a fun and engaging activity.



The MCPL-Rothschild Branch also hosted the Read to a Therapy Dog program twice a month this summer, for an hour at a time. They had a steady turnout of around 20 participants for each session. The MCPL-Mosinee Branch will keep the reading fun going this fall by hosting Read to a Therapy Dog once a month after school for an hour.

"The dogs and their handlers work with a local chapter of Therapy Dogs International," said MCPL Library Specialist Robyn Vargas. "We are so thankful for the handlers who come out to volunteer with their pups every week."

Robyn said the feedback has been positive and MCPL will continue to offer this program in the future. It's a fantastic way for kids to keep up with summer reading – and it's always more fun to read to a dog!

-Robyn V, Marketing Specialist (for WVLS Newsletter)

Library Services

In preparation for the new Spencer team to start in mid-September, Adult Services has focused on readying the branch for new leadership. Throughout the summer, staff in Wausau have covered shifts in Spencer, helped weed and shift materials at the branch, and more. The upcoming Central Wisconsin Book Festival is another big project in the works for the Adult Services team. Events have been finalized, promotional materials have been designed, and we are looking forward to the festivities in Wausau, Stevens Point, and Wisconsin Rapids.

The Youth Services team wrapped up the 2024 Summer Library Program in August. Overall, the team awarded 271 children and teens a total of 432 prizes for completing their reading BINGO cards. Since participation in SLP throughout Marathon County was so high this year, the team plans to prepare more prizes for 2025 to congratulate our eager readers. Other popular youth programs in August that helped draw over 1,000 participants to the library include: Story Time

in the Park, Superhero Training Academy, Teen Dungeons & Dragons, and DIY Neon Lights.

-Katelyn S, Library Services Manager

Branches

In Athens, Kitty R participated as a storyteller at "Books at the Milk Haus" at Miltrim Farms on August 2nd. 100 children and adults had a fun-filled 2 hours at the storytelling sessions, petting zoo, farm tours and watching the robotic milking parlor. Children received free books, a t-shirt, ice cream and chocolate milk from the sponsors. For fall, Kitty R is coordinating an Athens history program in early October with the Marathon County Historical Society which will be held at the Black Creek Inn which originally was the home of William and Marianna Erbach, son-in-law and daughter of Frederick Rietbrock, one of the founders of Athens.

The MCPL Library Board met for its August meeting at the Hatley Branch Library. Peggy provided a tour of the library. Also in Hatley, the Ice Age Trail backpack, donated to the library by the Ice Age Trail Alliance, is gaining traction, having been checked out multiple times during the month of August.

In Mosinee, August started off with another session of our really popular Cat Craft and Social Hour program, where 12 patrons had a ton of fun making homemade cat toys, paw print bookmarks, and several other crafts. Patrons requested another session in the fall, and all commented on how wonderful it was to come together as strangers and leave as friends!

In Stratford, more than 100 people had a great time at the All Day Mario Party on August 6. Guests were able to complete unplugged game levels to earn a gold coin, create with Mario Legos and a Mario Building Wall, solve the Mario scavenger hunt to earn a Mario tattoo, have their face painted by our youth team, enjoy various Mario projects throughout the library, and even meet Mario when he crashed his own party from 2-4 p.m. There was a lot of joy and excitement here all day!

The relabeling crew consisting of James B., Kate S, and Murray J., visited the Athens, Mosinee, and Spencer branches to relabel items that are either being added to favorites, or set to regular shelves.

Many branch assistants attended the branch assistant meeting with Katelyn and Leah on 8/27. Some assistants and coordinators also attended the programming refresher meeting with Chad.

In staffing news, Robin, our branch assistant from Hatley, transferred to the open branch assistant position in Mosinee on August 19th. Laurie is the new branch assistant at Hatley. She started orientation on Monday, August 19. Our new branch assistant and branch coordinator in Spencer are scheduled to have orientation in mid-September. -Laura W, Branch Team Lead

Library Services Statistics & Activities

Team News & Projects

• Notary: 11 appointments

- Proctoring: 0 appointments
- Tech Time: 5 appointments
- MCPL study rooms were booked 115 times in August
- Homebound Services:
 - o Items sent out: 269
 - Volunteer deliveries completed: 24
 - o New (or recently returned) HB patrons: 5
 - Active HB accts at the start of the month: 84
 - Reading slips, letters, or notes received: 33
- Weeding:
 - o Athens: Juvenile Fiction, Juvenile Nonfiction, Adult Fiction
 - Edgar: Juvenile Nonfiction, Adult Fiction
 - Mosinee: Juvenile Biographies, Young Adult Fiction
 - Spencer: Juvenile Fiction, Adult Paperbacks
 - Wausau: Juvenile Beginning Readers, Juvenile Fiction CD Audiobooks (Yellow), Juvenile Nonfiction CD Audiobooks (Yellow), Adult Fiction, Adult Music CD

Outreach:

- Chad appeared on WXCO radio on August 27 to discuss library programs, services, and resources
- Rose and Tara are working with the Marathon County Parks Department to schedule SLP programming for 2025
- Ongoing projects:
 - Branch collection maintenance visits (Kate, Murray)
 - Mosinee visit on August 7
 - Athens visit on August 21
 - Central Wisconsin Book Festival (Chad)
 - CWBF committee meeting held on August 12
 - Finalized the event details and updated the website
 - Events database upgrades (Ben, Chad)
 - Graphic design (Ben)
 - Designed all promotional materials and graphics for the CWBF
 - Designed draft of new library card application
 - Designed draft of handout for Friends of the Library
 - History Day (Julie)
 - Reached out to educators to offer research classes to local students participating in National History Day projects
 - Presented about local history topics to 30 students at the library in collaboration with Marathon County Historical Society
 - Implementing shared book club spreadsheet for WVLS libraries (Kate)
 - Library history digitization project (Julie)
 - Library resources/services for entrepreneurs (Chad, Ben, Jordan)
 - New webpage is in development
 - Lost & Found management (Kathy)
 - Marketing and social media (Robyn)
 - Met with Channel 7 to discuss future advertisements
 - Currently taking a Udemy course on social media content creation
 - Memory Kits (Jailin)
 - Obituary index accessibility in Aspen (Jailin, Jordan)
 - Policy & procedure edits (Kate, Rose, Olivia)
 - Programming
 - All programmers are working on their 2025 budgets
 - Programmers attended refresher training on procedures and guidelines, led by Chad

- The MCPL Programming Committee met on August 5 (Chad, Julie, Laura W., Tara)
- Early winter program planning is in progress (Chad, Julie, Olivia, Rose, Tara)
- International Games Month planning in progress (Jailin, Jordan, Julie, Olivia)
- Summer Library Program wrapped up in August (Tara, Rose, Robyn, Ben, Chad)
- Reading bathtub update (Rose)
- Reference skills orientation update (Julie)
- Spencer collection refresh (Kate, Murray)
 - Weeding completed
 - Shifting completed
 - New signage installed
- Tonie collection enhancement project (Murray)
- Website and newsletters (Ben)

Events and Programs

Youth Events

Story Times:

- August 1: Family Story Tim—27
- August 5: Story Time in the Park (3M)—90
- August 7: Play & Learn Story Time (at Sunnyvale Park)—20
- August 8: Family Story Time—30
- August 14: Play & Learn Story Time—55
- August 15: Family Story Time—30
- August 19: Story Time in the Park (Alexander Airport)—60
- August 21: Play & Learn Story Time—60
- August 22: Family Story Time—18
- August 28: Play & Learn Story Time—34
- August 29: Family Story Time—22

Other Programs:

- August 1: Read to a Therapy Dog—30
- August 2: Kids Movie Matinee "King Fu Panda 4"—19
- August 6: Teen Dungeons & Dragons—13
- August 6: Pokémon Club—50
- August 7: LEGO Block Party—17
- August 8: Read to a Therapy Dog—13
- August 9: YA Movie Matinee "D&D Honor Among Thieves" —0
- August 12: Aquarium Touch Pool—325
- August 13: Teen Dungeons & Dragons—12
- August 13: Duct Tape Water Bottle Holder—9
- August 14: Teen DIY Neon Lights—25
- August 15: Read to a Therapy Dog—47
- August 20: Teen Dungeons & Dragons—9
- August 21: LEGO Block Party—40
- August 22: Teen Forensics—0
- August 26: Superhero Training Academy—115
- August 27: Teen Dungeons & Dragons—13
- August 31: Children's Room Scavenger Hunt—135
- Number of August Youth Services programs 29
- Total attendance for August Youth Services programs 1318

Adults/All Ages Events

- August 5: Adaptive Communities Stories and Crafts 12
- August 6: Cribbage Meetup 2
- August 12-17: Community Plant Swap 10
- August 13: Extension Gardening: Gardening for Resilient Weather 3
- August 13: Cribbage Meetup 2
- August 15: MCPL Movie Night: "Bob Marley: One Love" 5
- August 20: Cribbage Meetup 0
- August 27: Cribbage Meetup 0
- August 27: Adaptive Communities Stories and Crafts 12
- August 28: Felt Pomander Ball Crafts 4
- August 29: County Spotlight: Social Services Director Christa Jensen 3
- Number of August programs and activities 11
- Total attendance/participation for August programs 53

Media Summary

Social Media Statistics:

- Facebook (MCPL): 5,337 followers (+13)
 - New likes (+11)
 - Unfollows (0)
- Twitter: 1,232 followers (+0)
- Pinterest: 963 followers (+1)
- Goodreads: 348 friends (+0); 1,494 reviews (+1)
- Instagram: 1,155 followers (+5)
- YouTube: 521 subscribers (+0)

Hot Happenings in the River District (email newsletter)

- August 7 Aquarium Touch Pool & Activities
- August 14 MCPL Movie Night Bob Marley: One Love
- August 21 Superhero Training Academy

WDEZ 101.9 FM

August 26 – Marathon County Public Library Branches Open as Cooling Centers During Extreme
 Heat - https://wdez.com/2024/08/26/marathon-county-public-library-branches-open-as-cooling-centers-during-extreme-heat/

WSAU 550 AM

August 26 – Marathon County Public Library Branches Open as Cooling Centers During Extreme
 Heat - https://wsau.com/2024/08/26/marathon-county-public-library-branches-open-as-cooling-centers-during-extreme-heat/

WXCO 1230 AM, 98.9 FM

 August 27 – Chad Dally from the Marathon County Public Library. Who's your favorite superhero? - https://civicmedia.us/shows/chad-holmes-show/2024/08/27/chad-dally-from-the-marathon-county-public-library-whos-your-favorite-superhero-the-misuse-of-the-word-patriot

City Pages

August 1 – Big Guide – Ongoing- Edgar Community Cookbook, MCPL Learn How to Play Cribbage; Events – Friends of MCPL Book Sale, Cat Lover Craft & Social Hour, Stratford YA Book Club, Plant Swap, Marathon City Book Club, Edgar Book Club, Hatley Book Club, Athens Book Club; Lectures/Workshops – Extension Gardening: Extreme Weather; Kids/Teens – Backpack Buddies(ED), My Summer Adventure Book (SP), Sunflower Weaving(ST), Family Story Time(WA), Family Story Time(MA), Read to a Therapy Dog(WA), Summer LEGO Block Party(MA), Movie Matinee for Kids-WA, Summer LEGO Block Party-RO, Sidewalk Chalk Art-MA, Story Time in the

Park-WA, Family Story Time-RO, Family Story Time-ED, All Day Mario Party-ST, Pokemon Club-WA, Summer LEGO Block Party-WA, Read to a Therapy Dog-WA & RO, Summer LEGO Block Party-MA, Movie Matinee for Teens-WA, Aquarium Touch Pool & Activities-WA, Backpack Buddies-MA, Mini Paper Kites-RO, Family Story Time-AT, Duct Tape Water Bottle Holder-WA, Outdoor Story Time-HA, Play and Learn-WA, DIY Neon Signs-WA, Read to a Therapy Dog-WA, Summer LEGO Block Party-MA, Storytime in the Park-WA, Family Story Time-RO &ED, Teen Forensics Book Club-WA, Outdoor Story Time-HA, Yoga Story Time-MO

- August 8 Big Guide Ongoing Edgar Community Cookbook, MCPL Learn How to Play Cribbage; Events Stratford YA Book Club, Plant Swap-WA, MA Book Club, ED Book Club, HA Book Club, AT Book Club, MCPL Movie Night-WA, Friends of MCPL Members Only Sale-WA, MO Book Club, ST Book Club; Lectures/Workshops Extension Gardening: Extreme Weather-WA; Kids/Teens Family Story Time-WA, Family Story Time-MA, Sidewalk Chalk Art-MA, Read to a Therapy Dog-WA & RO, Summer LEGO Block Party-MA, Movie Matinee for Kids-WA, Aquarium Touch Pool & Activities-WA, Backpack Buddies-MA, Mini Paper Kites-RO, Family Story Time-AT, Duct Tape Water Bottle Holder-WA, Outdoor Story Time-HA, Play and Learn-WA, DIY Neon Signs-WA, Read to a Therapy Dog-WA, Summer LEGO Block Party-MA, Storytime in the Park-WA, Pokemon Club-ED, Sunflower Weaving-RO, Family Story Time-RO, Family Story Time-ED, Summer LEGO Block Party-WA, Teen Forensics Book Club-WA, Read to a Therapy Dog-RO, Summer LEGO Block Party-MA, American Artist Appreciation Weekend
- August 15 Big Guide Ongoing Edgar Community Cookbook, MCPL Learn How to Play Cribbage-WA; Events Plant Swap-WA, MCPL Movie Night-WA, Friends of MCPL Members Only Book Sale-WA, Mosinee Book Club, Stratford Book Club, American Artist Appreciation Weekend; Lectures/Workshops Extension Gardening: Fall Lawn Care-MA, Artifacts of the World Wars-ED; Kids/Teens Family Story Time-WA, Family Story Time-MA, Backpack Buddies-MA, Mini Paper Kites-RO, Play and Learn-WA, Read to a Therapy Dog-WA, Summer LEGO Block Party-MA, Storytime in the Park-WA, Pokemon Club-ED, Sunflower Weaving-RO, Family Story Time-RO, Family Story Time-ED, Summer LEGO Block Party-WA, Teen Forensics Book Club-WA, Read to a Therapy Dog-RO, Summer LEGO Block Party-MA, Play and Learn: Finger Painting Fun-ST
- August 22 Big Guide Ongoing Edgar Community Cookbook, MCPL Learn How to Play Cribbage; Events American Artist Appreciation Weekend, Rothschild Book Club, Felt Pomander Ball-WA, Spencer Book Club, Marathon City Book Club, Edgar Book Club, Hatley Book Club, Athens Book Club; Lectures/Workshops MCPL County Spotlight: Social Services Director-WA; Kids/Teens Family Story Time-WA, Family Story Time-MA, Play and Learn-WA, Sunflower Weaving-RO, Teen Forensics Book Club-WA, Read to a Therapy Dog-RO, Summer LEGO Block Party-MA, Play and Learn: Finger Painting Fun-ST, Superhero Training Academy-WA, Backpack Buddies-MO, Mini Paper Kites-HA, Outdoor Story Time-HA, Yoga Story Time-MO, Summer LEGO Block Party-MA
- August 29 Big Guide Ongoing Edgar Community Cookbook, MCPL Learn How to Play Cribbage; Events: Fall Craft Club: Creative Bookmarks-MO, Plant Swap-MO, Spencer Book Club, Marathon City Book Club, Edgar Book Club, Hatley Book Club, Athens Book Club; Lectures/Workshops MCPL County Spotlight: Social Services Director-WA, Extension Gardening: Spotted Lanternflies-WA; Kids/Teens Family Story Time-WA, Backpack Buddies-MO, Mini Paper Kites-HA, Summer LEGO Block Party-MA, Mini Makers-AT, Family Story Time-RO, Family Story Time-ED, Mini Makers-MO, Play and Learn-WA, Family Story Time-MO, Mini Makers-MA, Lego Block Party-RO, Stuffie Adopt-a-Thon WA, Mini Makers-SP, Family Story Time-WA, Learning Art Through Picture Books-MO, Pokemon Club-WA, Family Story Time-AT, Family Story Time-ST, Mini Makers-RO, Family Story Time-MA, Story Time with a Riverside FD Firefighter-RO, Family Story Time-ED, Bluey Extravaganza-MO, Read to a Therapy Dog-MO, Family Story Time-AT, Pokemon Club-RO, Lego Block Party-WA, Play and Learn: Are All Your Ducks in a Row-ST, Family Story Time-AT, Flextangles-WA, Morse Code Bracelets-RO

Record Review

- August 7 People Athens: Family Story Time, Book Club; Edgar: Family Story Time, Book Club;
 Marathon City: Backpack Buddies, Family Story Time, Book Club, Summer LEGO Block Party;
 Stratford: Young Adult Book Club
- August 14 People Edgar: Family Story Time, Pokemon Club, World War Artifacts, Edgar Community Cookbook; Marathon City: Summer LEGO Party, Fall Lawn Care Class, Family Story Time; Stratford: Finger Painting Fun; Marathon County: American Artist Appreciation Weekend
- August 21 People Athens: Mini Makers; Edgar: World War Artifacts, Edgar Community
 Cookbook; Marathon City: Summer LEGO Block Party, Mini Makers, Family Story Time; Stratford:
 Finger Painting Fun, Feathered Fun; Marathon County: Social Services Spotlight, American Artist
 Appreciation Weekend

Mosinee Times

- August 1 MCPL, Extension Marathon Co. to offer class on gardening in extreme weather; MCPL August Book Clubs: Wausau Teen Forensics & Rothschild
- August 8 MCPL Wausau to offer free plant swap event; MCPL to offer youth summer events: Pokémon Club-ED, Sunflower Weaving-RO, Summer LEGO Block Party-WA, Read to a Therapy Dog-RO, Summer LEGO Block Party-MA, American Artist Appreciation Weekend, Play and Learn: Fingerpainting Fun-ST, Backpack Buddies-MO, Mini Paper Kites-HA, Summer LEGO Block Party-MA
- August 15 Community invited to MCPL Edgar for presentation on Artifacts of the World Wars
- August 29- MCPL Mosinee Fall Craft Club: Creative Bookmarks-September 5, MCPL Wausau Extension Gardening: Spotted Lanternfly, September Story Time Dates Set at Marathon County Public Library

Wausau Pilot & Review

- August 2 Sensational Summer Reads: This week's picks for kids and adults https://wausaupilotandreview.com/2024/08/02/sensational-summer-reads-this-weeks-picks-for-kids-and-adults/
- August 3 Marathon County Public Library programs https://wausaupilotandreview.com/2024/08/03/marathon-county-public-library-programs-55/
- August 7 Marathon County Public Library youth programs, Aug 19-31 -https://wausaupilotandreview.com/2024/08/07/marathon-county-public-library-youth-programs-aug-19-31/
- August 9 Sensational Summer Reads: This week's picks for kids and adults -https://wausaupilotandreview.com/2024/08/09/sensational-summer-reads-this-weeks-picks-from-the-marathon-county-public-library-8/
- August 11 Marathon County Public Library programs, adults -https://wausaupilotandreview.com/2024/08/11/marathon-county-public-library-programs-adults-17/
- August 16 Sensational Summer Reads: Your weekly picks from the Marathon County Public Library - https://wausaupilotandreview.com/2024/08/16/sensational-summer-reads-your-weekly-picks-from-the-marathon-county-public-library/
- August 20 Marathon County Public Library book clubs: September -https://wausaupilotandreview.com/2024/08/20/marathon-county-public-library-book-clubs-september-5/
- August 21 Marathon County Public Library programs, adults -https://wausaupilotandreview.com/2024/08/21/marathon-county-public-library-programs-adults-18/
- August 23 Sensational Summer Reads: This week's picks from the Marathon County Public Library - https://wausaupilotandreview.com/2024/08/23/sensational-summer-reads-this-weeks-picks-from-the-marathon-county-public-library-9/

- August 28 September story time dates set at Marathon County Public Library -https://wausaupilotandreview.com/2024/08/28/september-story-time-dates-set-at-marathon-county-public-library/
- August 31 Marathon County Public Library programs, adults -https://wausaupilotandreview.com/2024/08/31/marathon-county-public-library-programs-adults-19/

Wausau Times/Buyers Guide

- August 7 MCPL, Extension Marathon Co. to offer class on gardening in extreme weather
- August 21 Felt Pomander Ball craft for adults & teens at MCPL Wausau
- August 28 Marathon County Public Library Wausau to hold weekly cribbage games

Materials

Youth

August '24	2024 Annual	Rollover	Total	Free	Spent as of	% Spent
	Budget	from 2023	w/carryover	Balance	8/31/24	
Juvenile Audiobooks	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$2.404.58	\$7,595.42	75.95%
Juvenile CDs	\$300.00	\$30.54	\$330.54	\$202.88	\$127.66	38.62%
Juvenile DVDs	\$7,500.00	\$99.53	\$7,599.53	\$681.07	\$6,918.46	91.04%
Juvenile Video Games	\$2,350.00	\$0.00	\$2,350.00	\$1,099.45	\$1,250.55	53.21%
Young Adult Audio Books	\$1,800.00	\$0.00	\$1,800.00	\$299.22	\$1,500.78	83.38%
Youth AV Subtotal	\$21,950.00	\$130.07	\$22,080.07	\$4,687.20	\$17,392.87	78.77%
Juvenile Fiction	\$26,000.00	\$10.05	\$26,010.05	\$7,273.67	\$18,736.38	72.04%
Juvenile NonFiction	\$26,000.00	\$53.24	\$26,053.24	\$6,949.61	\$19,103.63	73.33%
Juvenile Picture Books	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	\$30,000.00	\$6,815.63	\$23,184.37	77.28%
Juvenile Spanish	\$1,500.00	\$23.56	\$1,523.56	\$664.10	\$859.46	56.41%
Juvenile Standing Order	\$7,500.00	\$0.00	\$7,500.00	\$5,228.56	\$2,271.44	30.29%
Young Adult Fiction	\$12,200.00	\$0.00	\$12,200.00	\$3,495.46	\$8,704.54	71.35%
Young Adult Graphic Novels	\$3,700.00	\$30.98	\$3,730.98	\$225.88	\$3,505.10	93.95%
Young Adult NonFiction	\$3,400.00	\$0.00	\$3,400.00	\$1,075.87	\$2,324.13	68.36%
Juvenile e-books	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$30.43	\$1,969.57	98.48%
Youth Print Subtotal	\$112,300.00	\$117.83	\$112,417.83	\$31,759.21	\$80,658.62	71.75%
Youth Services TOTAL	\$134,250.00	\$247.90	\$134,497.90	\$36,446.41	\$98,051.49	72.90%

Adult

	2024	Rollover	Total	Monthly	Free	Spent YTD	% Spent
	Annual	from	w/carryover	Allotment	Balance		
	Budget	2023					
Adult Audiobooks	\$11,500.00	\$279.58	\$11,779.58	\$1,045.45	\$3,773.55	\$8,006.03	69.62%
Adult Music CD	\$5,000.00	\$102.72	\$5,102.72	\$454.55	\$1,867.78	\$3,234.94	64.70%

Adult DVD	\$17,750.00	\$284.08	\$18,034.08	\$1,613.64	\$5,586.63	\$12,447.45	70.13%
Adult Video Games	\$1,550.00	\$0.00	\$1,550.00	\$140.91	\$442.21	\$1,107.79	71.47%
Adult AV Subtotal	\$35,800.00	\$666.38	\$36,466.38	\$3,254.55	\$11,670.17	\$24,129.83	67.40%
Adult Paperbacks	\$2,500.00	\$6.29	\$2,506.29	\$227.27	\$871.52	\$1,634.77	65.39%
Adult Paperbacks S.O.	\$450.00	\$0.00	\$450.00	N/A	\$450.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Adult Fiction	\$47,000.00	\$139.22	\$47,139.22	\$4,272.73	\$9,387.10	\$37,752.12	80.32%
Adult LT Fiction	\$7,500.00	\$96.97	\$7,596.97	\$681.82	\$2,229.11	\$5,367.86	71.57%
***Adult LT S.O.	\$5,500.00	\$0.00	\$5,500.00	\$500.00	\$3,146.91	\$2,353.09	42.78%
Adult Non-fiction	\$71,000.00	\$386.22	\$71,386.22	\$6,454.55	\$23,170.16	\$48,216.06	67.91%
Adult Non-fiction S.O.	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	N/A	\$1,047.78	\$952.22	47.61%
Adult Biographies	\$11,000.00	\$37.54	\$11,037.54	\$1,000.00	\$3,417.25	\$7,620.29	69.28%
Adult Spanish	\$500.00	\$11.33	\$511.33	\$45.45	\$42.72	\$468.61	93.72%
Adult Hmong	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$750.00	\$68.18	\$443.29	\$306.71	40.89%
Overdrive - ebooks	\$16,000.00	\$0.00	\$16,000.00	\$1,454.55	\$4,097.08	\$11,902.92	74.39%
Adult Print Subtotal	\$164,200.00	\$677.57	\$164,877.57	\$14,927.27	\$48,302.92	\$116,574.65	71.00%
Adult Services TOTAL	\$200,000.00	\$1,343.95	\$201,343.95	\$18,181.82	\$59,973.09	\$140,704.48	70.35%

Support Services Statistics & Activities

Circulation Team

- New library card applications processed by the Circulation Team: 254
- Accounts linked: 64
- Checkout total for Wausau First Floor: 34,139
- Ashley H processed 223 Interlibrary Loan items
- August Passports News:
 - 30 Adult Passport Books
 - 20 Minor Passport Books
 - 8 Adult Passport Cards (7 attached to passport book applications, 1 solo card application)
 - 1 Minor Passport Cards (1 attached to passport book application)

The MCPL Passport team accepted a total of 51 passport applications at \$35.00 each, and 57 photos were taken at \$10.00 each for a total of \$2,355 recorded. We also assisted with 10 renewal applications.

- Ashley H:
 - o 8/14 Helped move items on 3rd floor
 - o 8/19 Trained Laurie Beranek on Sierra & ILL
 - Conducted additional ILL work beyond traditional circulations (64 requests received and processed, 2 not picked up):

- Too new: 7 (informed patron of purchase suggestion instead)
- V-Cat items: 10
- Under \$10 on Amazon: 3
- Feature film: 1
- Unable to fulfill: 2
- Inquiries: 3 phone call, 3 emails.
- Renewals: 6 phone calls, 1 emails
- Hold pickup phone calls: 4
- Sent overdue email/letter: 1
- Courtesy returns to other libraries (non-WVLS): 5
- Available on Public Domain: 1
- Digital version (Libby): 1

Margaret P:

- Finished unlinking several juvenile 16 and 17 year old's accounts from their linked guardian. Added messages to accounts to inform them they've been unlinked due to privacy laws in WI and that the patron can choose to re-link if they would like.
- Assisted the page team by emptying return bins and sorting carts to be shelved.
- New adult fiction and young adult graphic novel and manga switchovers.
- o Completed CD weeding list.
- Assisted at the drive thru and worked on labeling by placing new labels on "Favorites" hooks.
- Reviewed Library policies and procedures.
- Searched for missing books.

Maggie B:

- Ordered supplies for the team.
- o Continued to assist with the Homebound program.
- Helped the Page team by emptying bins, sorting carts, and doing transits.
- o Had regular shifts at the drive-up and is continuing to help out on projects downstairs.
- Juvenile to Adult account switch-overs.
- New adult non-fiction switchovers.
- Began unlinked 16 and 17 year olds from signing parent. Added notes in accounts that
 the patrons had been unlinked due to 16 year old privacy rights and that the patron
 could now sign the linking form for themselves.

• Erin Q:

- o 29 billed items, 22 paid, 4 waived
- o 12 NDLs
- Teen D&D program
- o Billing/Page orientation for Laurie (HA)
- o Added labels to magazine back issue containers
- AF switchovers

Mai Yia L:

- Completed the missing in transit list.
- YA switchovers for fiction and non-fiction.
- o Had regular shifts at the drive-up and worked on projects downstairs.
- Withdrawals for adult materials.
- Library card application double checks.

Mollie P:

- Assisted the page team by emptying return bins and sorting carts to be shelved.
- Assisted with pull lists.
- Adult biography switchovers.
- o Adult non-fiction switchovers.
- Explored the new WVLS resource Udemy.

- Adult fiction weeding and withdrawal.
- Over the course of the month no patrons were banned for different lengths of time due to policy violations.

Support Services Team

- James B, along with Kate S and Murray J of Collection Development Team completed branch visits to Mosinee on 8/7 and Athens 8/21. They continue to work to make collections easier for our patrons to use: relabeling Juvenile Favorites and addressing shelving issues.
- The Memory Kits are nearly ready! Support Services Team is pleased to have had a hand in helping Jailin P of Adult Services provide this fine new resource for the engagement of Library patrons who may be struggling with memory loss. Following is a list of tasks completed by James B and the Support Services Team: seek/purchase appropriate packaging, create/apply labels, create bib/item records, coordinate Sierra codes (new Location Codes, re-purpose/shift existing Item Types), and ensure correct display in the Aspen catalog.
- Team Leads met with Leah 8/14.
- Chris L and James B participated in the V-Cat Bibliographic/Interface Committee meeting on 8/6.
 Topics discussed:
 - 1. Addition of a local subject heading to make "easy reader boxed sets" more easily keyword searchable.
 - 2. 979 ISBN prefix. The inventory of available ISBNs with the 978 prefix in wide use since the 2007 switch to 13-digit ISBNs is becoming depleted. The U.S. ISBN agency has started to assign ISBNs with a 979 prefix. A key difference: ISBNs beginning with 979 do not have a 10-digit equivalent (as the 978s do). We need to see that "false equivalent" 10-digit ISBNs do not become present in our bib records and cause issues.
 - 3. Aspen (public-facing catalog) updates. Recent updates will improve experiences for: Staff: "Force re-index" behavior improved and "Diagnostics" tool explains the steps by which Aspen assigned an item's format. Patrons: "Manga" label in addition to "Graphic Novel" label and improved performance of subject searches which include punctuation.
 - 4. Aspen test server is installed. It will enable V-Cat staff and libraries to try out changes to the Aspen catalog without disrupting the patron experience.
- Support Services Team gave an orientation tour to new Hatley Branch Assistant Laurie B on 8/19.
- Thank you to the Circulation Team members for covering the Drive Thru window a couple of
 afternoons a week. It has been a great help to Kayla K now that she has assumed receiving duties
 in addition to Drive Thru. In addition, Kayla and James covered Circ Team lunches on 8/16, and
 Kayla covered again on 8/23.
- Dawn L reports that August was balanced across all funds.
- The Tonies are a big hit with our young patrons and their parents! Nearly every Tonie Pack (the character figurines which play stories and songs) and Toniebox (the player which plays them) has multiple requests and is constantly checked out. Naturally, now that they have been circulating a few months we see room for improvement. The original plan included 1 Tonie in each Toniebox and packaged all other Tonies in Tonie Packs. That meant that patrons who do not own their own Tonieboxes needed to be able to check out both a Tonie Pack and Toniebox at the same time and this can be difficult given the number of holds. The revised plan: 1. Purchase more Tonie figurines and Tonieboxes. 2. Add 3 additional Tonie figurines to each Toniebox so that all patrons have access to sufficient content. 3. Repackage, relabel and re-catalog Tonies accordingly. We are in the early stages of implementing this plan.
- Dawn L reports that Baker & Taylor has raised the price of taping paperback books to \$2.15. That
 is nearly as high as the cost of some Juvenile Easy Readers. Support Services Team has been
 asked to explore other options for taping.
- Circulation total for Wausau Drive Up: 1,910.

Page Team

- The page team has been down a page for since mid-July. Despite being down a team member they have really focused well on their number one priority which is getting items back onto the shelves. They haven't had a lot of time for other projects but they are still getting items back on the shelves within 48 hours of return.
- Throughout the month of August the Page Team shelved 32,490 items. They handled an additional 4,019 more items for holds or transits to home libraries.

Information Technology

- Pharos Update:
 - David is working with Katelyn S. and Katie Z. to finalize a process for guest passes in Sierra. Testing continues.
- Public Computer Deployment Update:
 - The process of replacing public computers on the first floor of Wausau headquarters continues with the arrival of more computers.
- Printer Replacement:
 - New printers arrived on August 23. David has begun to deploy the printers in Wausau.
- Staff Computer Replacement:
 - New computers have been ordered for public desk staff at Wausau Headquarters and branch locations.
- Several projects remain ongoing:
 - Update to fiber at branches:
 - Athens: It looks like we can treat Athens as a new install and Josh K. at WVLS
 has initiated the install process. An on "On Site" inspection will be scheduled
 before proceeding.
 - Edgar:
 - Hatley: Connected to WCAN on 05/12/2023
 - Marathon City:
 - Mosinee:
 - Rothschild: Fiber Connection through Rothschild PD (WiscNet)
 - Spencer:
 - Stratford:
 - Creating technology tutorials for staff.
 - Outdoor Wi-Fi antenna installation at remaining branches:
 - Athens: InstalledEdgar: Installed
 - Hatley: Approved
 - Marathon City: Approved
 - Mosinee: Installed
 - Rothschild: Final approval not secured in time for program participation.
 - Spencer: ApprovedStratford: Installed
- Additional projects are on the horizon:
 - Plan a deployment date for Windows 11. (Will be deployed with new patron computers)
 - Investigate moving library to Office 365 licensing instead of the current Office 2013 in use.
 - Investigate hosting Teams phones on our own Microsoft tenant.
 - o Investigate hosting mcpl.us email on our own Microsoft tenant.

o Investigate RFID readers to replace our aging 3M readers.

Branch Statistics & Activities

Athens Monthly Report

Events and Programs

- Book Club: 8/13/24 the Athens Book Club topic was The Girls of August by Anne River Siddons; five people participated. September Book Club will be held on September 10 at 2:00 featuring Tom Lake by Ann Patchet.
- The bi-weekly Family Story time was held on Monday, 8/12 at 10:30am. 1 child and 1 adult participated. Story times will be held on Wednesday mornings starting September 11.
- Kitty R participated as a storyteller at "Books at the Milk Haus" at Miltrim Farms on August 2nd. 100 children and adults had a fun-filled 2 hours at the storytelling sessions, petting zoo, farm tours and watching the robotic milking parlor. Children received free books, a t-shirt, ice cream and chocolate milk from the sponsors.
- August 5-10 was Olympic week. We had an Olympic book display and 18 children participated in our five Olympic rings craft project. The rings were covered with construction paper squares, and enhanced with gold, silver, and bronze medals.
- August 12-17 was the official Athens Fair week. Seven children created a cotton candy craft. We
 had out of town people visiting the library over the fair weekend.
- August 23-31 was "American Artist Appreciation Weekend" which we extended to the end of the month because of its popularity. 21 youth and adults enjoyed this craft.
- Local citizens continue to enjoy the Athens Local Focal architectural scavenger hunt with pictures
 of different architectural features in downtown Athens.

Circulation Statistics

• August circulation totaled 1,573 items. This is a 5.64% increase from the same month last year. In 2024 year-to-date, Athens has circulated 13,820 items. This is a 5.00% increase from 2023.

Library News

- The relabeling crew consisting of James B., Kate S., and Murray J. visited the Athens branch to relabel items that are either being added to Favorites, or set to regular shelves.
- Shahara and Kitty have filled in at Spencer Branch 9 days during August to help out until Spencer staff has been hired.
- Passport Photo Service has taken 10 photos in August. Kitty has assisted 7 customers with passport forms.
- Kitty R is coordinating an Athens history program in early October with the Marathon County
 Historical Society which will be held at the Black Creek Inn, the original home of William and
 Marianna Erbach, son-in-law and daughter of Frederick Rietbrock, one of the founders of Athens.
- A bi-weekly Social Security and Medicare information program is be planned for September 19,
 October 3 & 17. ADRC Elder Specialist, Bettina Rinard will be presenting.

Facilities

- Athens Clerk, Lisa C., replaced the back children's area door alarm.
- An acrylic cover in a ceiling light box was put back into place after coming loose in the corner.

Edgar Monthly Report

Events and Programs

- Book club discussed the book In the Lives of Puppets by TJ Klune on the 13th with 5 in attendance
- Story time was held on the 6th with 4 people in attendance and on the 20th with 5 in attendance
- Pokémon Club was held on the 19th with 5 in attendance
- Our final summer program 'Backpack Buddies' was held from the 29th of July to August 3rd with 17 participants

- American Artist Appreciation Weekend (Week) started on the 23rd and had 7 participants
- The Wausau Historical Society held a presentation on the world wars with 2 in attendance on the 26th
- Our passive program for the summer was a book tent with a campfire that kids could add colored stars and moons to; we had 20 participants in this activity
- Two children turned in their 200 sheets for 1,000 books before kindergarten; their stars were moved to the corresponding number on the wall

- The circulation statistics for the month of August were 1,263 checked out. This is a 15.87% increase from the same month last year. A total of 10,521 items have been checked out so far this year. This is a 4.27% increase from 2023.
- There were 0 curbside pickups for the month.

Library News

• Hannah filled in at Spencer on the 16th and the 27th

Facilities Updates

• None at this time.

Hatley Monthly Report

Events and Programs

- Library Board met for its August meeting at Hatley Branch Library. Peggy provided a tour of the library.
- American Artists Appreciation drop-in activities attracted 25 participants. These activities were
 available to patrons from Thursday, August 22, through Saturday, August 30. Hatley extended
 these activities beyond the scheduled weekend, to also coincide with the paper kite activity.
- A traveling Paper Kite drop-in craft activity attracted 22 participants. This activity was available to patrons from August 26 30. Patrons enjoyed the overlap of this craft with the American Artists Appreciation activities.
- Robin led storytime on Tuesday morning, August 13, and was enjoyed by 18 attendees. The topic of Back to School, including home schooling, was enjoyed by 18 attendees.
- Peggy facilitated the Hatley Book Club on Tuesday afternoon, August 13. *Firefly Lane*, by Kristin Hannah, was eagerly discussed by 8 attendees.
- Peggy led storytime, on Tuesday, August 27. The topic of Farm Animals was enjoyed by 5 attendees.
- 46 youth participated in the Summer Reading Adventure program. 43 completed one or two Reading Bingos to claim prize books. 64 prize books were awarded. 18 have figured out the code word, in the Summer Program Activity Booklet, and earned a temporary tattoo.
- One child signed up to begin the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program. One participant completed reading 400 books. The child advances his/her start on the public display in the library, for every 100 books read, and earns stickers for their literary garden. At the 200, 400, 600, 800 book levels, the child picks out a free book. At the 1,000 book level, the child earns the book entitled, *The Night Before Kindergarten* written by Natasha Wing, illustrated by Julie Durrell.

Circulation Statistics

• Hatley circulated 1,511 items for the month of August. This is a 34.65% decrease over August 2023. Year-to-date circulation is 15,655 items. This is a 1.55% increase from 2023.

Library News

- Laurie is the new Library Assistant at Hatley Branch Library. She started orientation on Monday, August 19, with five days of orientation in Wausau and one day of orientation in Rothschild. Her first day in Hatley was Tuesday, August 27. She is readily acclimating to the MCPL network.
- The Ice Age Trail backpack, donated to the library by the Ice Age Trail Alliance, is gaining traction, having been checked out multiple times during the month of August.

Peggy has been unable to tend to the library cart at the Hatley's Farmer's Market, since midAugust, due to library assistant staffing transition requiring her presence inside the library. An
unstaffed cart promoting the library is placed at the market inviting people to visit with staff in
the library. This is less effective than having a human presence, but is the only option presently.
The market was originally slated to end on September 11, but will likely be extending through the
month of September.

Facilities Updates

A regular library patron has expressed concern with the library not being accessible, with buttons
to auto open building entrance doors and restroom doors. I offered for the patron to call the
library to have staff assistance, when she arrives at the library, and also made her aware of the
home bound program.

Marathon City Monthly Report

Events and Programs

- Book Club: Lisa M. and 9 patrons had a lively, thoughtful discussion of the book *Crying in H Mart* by Michelle Zauner. The book club meets on the second Monday of the month from 5:45-6:45 pm. The next book club session will meet on Monday, September 9th with a discussion of the book, *Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern.
- Story Time: Our 30 minute family story time programs are held on Thursday mornings at 10:30 am. We held 4 family story time events in August with a total of 34 children and caregivers attending. The themes focused on frogs, turtles, vegetable gardens and backyard sleepovers. We listened to stories, sang songs and made simple crafts.
- We have been holding a Lego Block Party each Friday afternoon this summer. In August, 14 children dropped by to show their creativity and build with Legos.
- It has been another busy month in Marathon! The week of August 5 10 was sidewalk chalk art week with 10 children and adults stopping in to decorate the sidewalks outside the library. During the week of August 12 17 we had our last craft week of the Summer Library season where 56 kids dropped by to create a cute beaded "buddy" to adorn their backpacks for the upcoming school year. Unfortunately, the UW-Extension Lawn Care event was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances, but Janelle Wehr will be back in October for a fall gardening event.
- In September, our monthly book club and weekly story time will be held as usual. During the week of September 16 21, we will have our annual Plant Swap. Folks can stop in anytime the library is open to drop off or pick up a plant.

Circulation Statistics

 Marathon circulated 2,375 items during the month of August, which is an 11.87% decrease from this time last year. So far in 2024, Marathon has circulated 19,074 items. This is a 6.88% decrease over last year.

Library News

- We officially had 50 children participate in the SLP reading club this summer by turning in Bingo cards and earning free books as incentives.
- Lisa M. attended the virtual assistants' meeting on August 27.
- Lisa H. will attend the virtual coordinators' meeting on September 20.

Facilities Updates

None at this time.

Mosinee Monthly Report

Events and Programs

August started off with another session of our really popular Cat Craft and Social Hour program,
where 12 patrons had a ton of fun making homemade cat toys, paw print bookmarks, and several
other crafts. Patrons requested another session in the fall, and all commented on how wonderful
it was to come together as strangers and leave as friends, bonding over our shared love of our
animal companions!

- Nine patrons joined us for Adult Book Club and all agreed *I am Anastasia* was their least favorite read ever during our Book Club, despite it being highly recommended!
- American Artist Appreciation Weekend had 5 participants this year; we had activities available on both floors of the library.
- The second series of the summer Yoga Story Time series was dinosaur themed, which was a huge
 hit for kids and adults! Seven patrons listened to stories about dinosaurs doing yoga, and did
 yoga poses along with the characters. We also a really fun dinosaur song and dance, practiced
 dinosaur calming breaths, and did multiple dinosaur crafts afterwards.
- The month finished out with 37 patrons making their own Backpack Buddies.
- Passive Programs: Throughout the summer we asked patrons what their favorite adventure is, with a total of 28 responses. We've also had an incredibly popular scavenger hunt that we changed several times throughout the summer; August's theme of dragons provided fun for 65 children.
- Upcoming Programs: Adult Book Club will continue as usual along with regular sessions of Family Story Time on the first Wednesday of the month. We will also start our Mini Makers Process Art program on the first Tuesday of the month, and an adult and teen Craft Club on the first Thursday of the month. The following week we will have our second yearly session of our popular Plant Swap program, along with a program that teaches kids about art using picture books as guides and inspiration. We'll be starting a monthly "Read to a Therapy Dog" program on the third Tuesday of the month, where kids can practice their reading skills in front of a furry and friendly audience. We will also host a Bluey extravaganza on the 17th, where kids will be invited to create masks, headbands, and wands all inspired by the show, and we will finish out the month with a Genealogy presentation.

• Mosinee circulated 2,389 items in August 2024. This is a 12.87% decrease. Mosinee has circulated 19,716 items in 2024. This is a 4.55% decrease.

Library News

- Displays continued to match the Summer Reading Program theme of "Adventure Begins at your Library" for this last month of September. Adult fiction books centered around ocean settings for a "Sail into a New Adventure" display while our Mosinee Teen Advisory Group made a "Travel Through Time" display for our historic fireplace. Our all-ages group display by the public computers featured travel books for a "Books take you on an Adventure" travel display. Behind our circulation desk we featured an "Up" inspired "Adventure Never Ends at the Library" display complete with a house floating under a canopy of blown up balloons, and our picture books were of course all about adventure. We also had a "Within the pages of a book is a sea full of adventure" display featuring aquatic themed juvenile chapter books.
- A huge thank you goes out to Robin, Wanda, and Lisa H. for covering throughout the month!
- We hosted James, Kate, and Murray on the 7th to revamp our children's collection and area, along with lots of relabeling and shifting. A huge thank you to the team for making our children's section work better for our collections and patrons.
- We welcomed Robin to the branch on August 19th and patrons and staff are absolutely thrilled to have her here!
- Robin attended the assistant meeting on the 27th.

Facilities Updates

 The second floor air conditioning stopped working on the 28th, and was reported to Public Works. LPG Services came the following day and discovered the first floor unit needed a new motor for the fan, and that a new thermostat was needed for the second floor.

Rothschild Monthly Report

Events and Programs

• We held two family story times in August. 31 people joined us for our first story time session, and 20 people joined us for our second session. We also hosted a special outreach story time at Key

- to Life daycare (64 children) and had another local daycare visited the library to look at books and participate in one of our craft weeks (15 children).
- In August, 8 members of our book club met to discuss *Malibu Rising* by Taylor Jenkins Reid. In September, the club will read and discuss *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman.
- SLP events In August, we hosted a paper kite craft week (83 participants) and a sunflower craft week (36 participants). Our monthly Lego party had 14 people in attendance for building fun! We also had patrons participate in our second annual American Artist Celebration weekend. Over the course of the summer, we had 92 children participate in our SLP reading program, and have handed out 134 books. This is 18 more children than last year!
- In August, we had various book displays around the library including "Kids can Cook," "Back to School," "Happy Birthday Smokey Bear," "Let's Read S'more Books" and "Managing Caregiver Stress."

• In August, Rothschild circulated 8,950 items. This is a 10.69% increase from last year. In 2024, Rothschild circulated 65,784 items. This is a 1.03% increase from last year.

Library News

- Rothschild staff covered shifts in Hatley, Mosinee, Stratford, and Spencer.
- Megan, Julie, Deborah, and Wanda attended the branch assistant meeting on 8/27.
- Julie, Megan, and Wanda attended the programming refresher meeting with Chad.
- Laurie B., the new Hatley branch assistant, completed orientation in Rothschild on 8/26.
- Staff weeded and shifted the adult nonfiction.

Facilities Updates

- All lights in the building are in the process of being replaced with LED bulbs.
- Our alarm was acting up, but Per Mar was able to reset it.

Spencer Monthly Report

Events and Programs

- Spencer held a passive craft event throughout the first week of August featuring a Summer Adventure Book activity.
- Spencer participated in the MCPL-wide American Artist Appreciation event, offering patrons of all ages the chance to be an artist for a weekend.

Circulation Statistics

• Spencer circulated items in the month of August. This is a decrease of %. Spencer has circulated items in 2024. This is an increase of %.

Library News

- Katelyn S. would like to highlight the following MCPL staff who covered in Spencer throughout the month of August to keep the branch open:
 - Darla R. (Stratford), Lisa H. (Marathon City), Julie Kinney (Wausau), Kitty R. (Athens), Jailin P. (Wausau), Shahara F. (Athens), Chad D. (Wausau), Hannah D. (Edgar), Laura W. (Rothschild)
- Ann B. was hired as the next Spencer Branch Assistant. Ann's first day will be September 16.
- Ashley H. was hired as the next Spencer Branch Coordinator. Ashley's first day will be September 16.

Facilities Updates

None at this time.

Stratford Monthly Report

Events and Programs

More than 100 people had a great time at the All Day Mario Party on August 6. Guests were able
to complete unplugged game levels to earn a gold coin, create with Mario Legos and a Mario
Building Wall, solve the Mario scavenger hunt to earn a Mario tattoo, have their face painted by

- our youth team, enjoy various Mario projects throughout the library, and even meet Mario when he crashed his own party from 2-4 p.m. There was a lot of joy and excitement here all day!
- Thirty-one patrons enjoyed the weaving Sunflower Craft provided as part of our Summer Library Program the week of July 29-Aug. 3.
- Fifty-eight young readers participated in our Summer Reading Bingo, earning 81 prize books.
- Two patrons attended our Young Adult Book Club on Aug. 8 to discuss *Salt to the Sea* by Ruta Sepetys.
- Six patrons attended our Book Club on Aug. 21 to discuss *All That is Mine I Carry With Me* by William Landay.
- Twenty-one people enjoyed a Play & Learn "Finger painting Fun" program that was held at our branch Aug. 26. A representative from Children's Wisconsin/Marshfield Family Resource Center helped children express their creativity and develop their fine motor skills by working with finger paints.
- An additional 33 patrons enjoyed the Mario Scavenger Hunt we continued to hold at the library throughout the month of August.
- There were no participants in the Art Appreciation event on Aug. 23 and 24.

• We circulated 2,279 items in August. This is a 10.38% decrease from last year. So far in 2024, we have circulated 17,654 items. This is a 1.89% increase from 2023.

Library News

- Our library presented a "Book it to the Beach" display in August featuring books with a beach theme or cover. We also provided a display of juvenile books to help patrons make progress with their Summer Reading Bingo cards for SLP.
- Darla attended the Branch Assistant's Meeting on Aug. 27.
- Darla covered the Spencer Branch on Aug. 1 and covered for my vacation on Aug. 22.
- Wanda subbed on Saturday, Aug. 24, at our branch.

Facilities Updates

None at this time.

Director's Report

WVLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING August 17, 2024

WVLS Loses a Family Member HEATHER ANN (ELSMO) ELDRED, WVLS DIRECTOR EMERITA

Former WVLS Director Heather Eldred passed away on August 4 following a brief illness.

She was born September 4, 1942, in Racine, WI to the late Sverre and Fern (Fulton) Elsmo. She graduated from Washington Park High School and received a Bachelor of Arts degree and master's in library science degree from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Heather's professional library career included positions at Cudahy (WI) Public Library, Marquette University Law School Library (Milwaukee), Holy Redeemer College (Waterford, WI), and the Wisconsin Valley Library Service, a seven-county library system.

While at WVLS, Heather served as a consultant for 8 years and as its Director for 27 years. At the time of her retirement in September2007, the WVLS Board of Trustees granted Heather the honorary title of WVLS Director emerita for 35 years of system leadership.



Heather Eldred; WVLS Board of Trustees meeting, August 13, 2022

During her career, Heather served on many state-level committees and was active in the Wisconsin Library Association (WLA) for over 30 years. She served as WLA President in 1988 and served on the WLA Foundation Board for two terms, one as its Vice-President. Heather received the Muriel Fuller Award for outstanding accomplishments which have significantly improved and benefited library services.

A donation to the WVLS Carol Ruth Wessler Scholarship fund will be made in her memory.

Correspondence

NOTES OF GRATITUDE

WVLS Summer Library Program Performer Grants

We had a beautiful morning and a great crowd for Tom Pease today. There were around 170 adults and kids in attendance. Our thanks for helping us to bring Tom's joyful performance to Tomahawk!

-- Annette Miller; Children's Librarian, Tomahawk Public Library

I've attached a few photos from the performance by Christian Strutz (Wesley Waffles) at our library last week. We used our performer grant to sponsor him. He always puts on a fantastic show! He's one of my favorites. Thank you to WVLS for the performer grants each summer! They really do make a difference to us! -- Erica Dischinger, Youth Services Coordinator, Minocqua Public Library

LEANWI Website Support

We are very excited about the website, and **Brendan** was an absolute pleasure to work with! So far, I have been able to go in and make any changes I have needed to. I did a Zoom meeting with Brendan the other day and he showed me a few things that I wanted to do, and because he's so super awesome, I was able to learn those things, and remembered how to do them on my own the next day when I needed to create yet another carousal! This has been a great experience to work with [Brendan and **Erica**]. — **Cortney Williams**, Youth Services Coordinator/Assistant Librarian, New Lisbon Memorial Library

I was able to make the changes needed. Thanks for sending the training! Extremely helpful. —Robin Kruse, Assistant Librarian, Ellsworth Public Library

People / Libraries / Systems in the News

STAFFING CHANGES

Theresa Schmidt has been hired as the new Public Library Administration Consultant for DPI's Division for Libraries and Technology Team. Her first day on the job was Monday, July 15. Theresa previously served as the Mercer Public Library Director. She replaces **Shannon Schultz** who resigned from the position on March 1 to become the new Director of the South Central Library System.

The Antigo Public Library Board of Trustees has hired **Toni Edge** as the library's Acting Director. She replaces Director **Ada Demlow** who resigned from the position on April 27.

On May 12, **Tana Elias** became the new Director of the Madison Public Library. Before this new roll, Tana had 30 years of work experience at the Madison Public Library, most recently as its Digital Services and Marketing Manager. She replaces **Greg Mickells**, who retired from the position on February 2.

The Portage County Public Library Board of Trustees announced that **Alexander Johnson** has been hired as library director. He will replace **Larry Oathout**, who will retire on September 6. Alexander worked at

Marathon County Public Library since 2021 as library support services manager where he supervised technical and circulation staff. He has experience on the library's Strategic Plan Leadership Team and served on committees of the Wisconsin Valley Library Service.

MATCZAK TEACHES ISCHOOL COURSE

WVLS Continuing Education Consultant **Jamie Matczak** is teaching a new continuing education course on **Tackling Tough Work Conversations** for UW-Madison's Information School. This 4-week course assists librarians in developing skills to navigate tough conversations by focusing on trust, active listening, how to stay calm, and more. While tough conversations are not enjoyable, this course shares tools and best practices to apply when having them to ensure a positive result and stronger workplace. The 18 learners enrolled in the course are from public and academic libraries from across the U.S.

WALENTON IS MEMBER OF DPI'S FINANCIAL DATA WORKGROUP

In July, WVLS Business Manager **Brenda Walenton** volunteered to participate in a Financial Data Workgroup on behalf of the WI Department of Public Instruction, Division for Libraries and Technology. The workgroup will review proposed updates and clarifications to multiple sections of the Public Library Annual Report including sections on local appropriations, other funds, trust funds, funds carried forward, operational versus capital funds, and funds flowing through systems to libraries. The workgroup is anticipated to meet first in August to discuss expectations and 2 to 3 times in late August to October to finalize annual report proposals.

AREA LIBRARIANS ATTEND FOUNDATIONS OF WISCONSIN LIBRARIANSHIP WORKSHOP

Area colleagues Antigo Public Library Community Engagement Specialist **Kristie Heistad** and Greenwood Public Library Director **Amber Brill** attended a workshop sponsored by the WI Department of Public Instruction called *Foundations of Wisconsin Librarianship: Essential Skills for Library Media Specialists and Public Library Staff Serving Youth.* 21 people from 11 systems participated in the three-day event, held August 6-8 at Hotel Marshfield. The goal of the workshop was to support public library staff who are new to youth services work in Wisconsin. Participants were provided opportunities to network and develop genuine connections with their peers while learning about early literacy, programming, collection development, library services for all ages, intellectual freedom, digital media, compassion resilience, BadgerLink resources for public libraries, and the importance of gaming and libraries.

Grant Projects and Scholarship Opportunities

2024 SUMMER LIBRARY PROGRAM GRANTS

Through WVLS Summer Library Program (SLP) grants, financial support was provided for 30 performances hosted by area libraries throughout the summer months. Each library that participated in the SLP grant program was awarded up to \$300 for a performance. Those who attended the events

enjoyed a variety of performances that included musicians, raptor education, magicians, juggling, storytellers, a dragon training academy, animal and nature education, and theater shows.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING FUNDS

WVLS will receive LSTA funding in FY 2024-2025 specifically to support our efforts to provide continuing education and professional development for our member libraries. These funds will help to offset costs for continuing education courses and participation at statewide and national conferences. More information will be shared at future meetings.

LSTA FY 2024-2025 GRANT AWARD SUPPORTS LEANWI INIATIVES

\$77,028 was awarded in aggregate to LEANWI Partners under the newly named LSTA Core Services channel. While it is nice to think that DPI adopted naming based on the LEANWI "Core Services" terminology, it is a common concept and naming convention and makes sense. \$10,784 of this is already committed to the continuation support for Kajeet Hotspots through the end of 2024. \$49,200 is expressly designated within the LEANWI 2025 proposed budget plan to support LEANWI tenancy for rack 1, through WiscNet, at the Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC) Regional Datacenter (RDC), to support a potentially significant increase above planned 5-year Faronics licensing renewal expenses, and to help offset Pharos and Splashtop licensing/subscription expenses. Approximately \$17,044 remains undesignated in the budget.

GRANTS AVAILABLE THROUGH CYBERSECURITY PILOT PROGRAM

The LEANWI partnership is reviewing the federal <u>Cybersecurity Pilot Program</u> (CPP), available to schools and libraries that meet the E-Rate program's eligibility requirements. This pilot "... will evaluate the effectiveness of using Universal Service funding to support cybersecurity services and equipment to protect school and library broadband networks and data in order to determine whether to fund them on a permanent basis." Questions remain regarding applicability of Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) certification, required for certain use of federal funding support through the E-Rate and LSTA programs, and whether it will be more meaningful for individual libraries to apply for specific needs, or for broader consortial efforts to be made at system or multi-system partnership levels.

WVLS Services

COLLABORATIONS

WPLC News

The WPLC (Wisconsin Public Library Consortium) board held meetings on June 10 and August 5. During these meetings they approved the 2025 budget, *discussed the possibility of an increase to the Digital Library Buying Pool 2026 and 2027 budgets*, approved the budget for Statewide delivery, appointed a

Collection Development Committee, discussed possible mission and vision statements, and formed a Nominating Committee.

With regard to the Digital Library Buying Pool budgets, there was general agreement that there should be an increase, but not more than 5%. Highlights from the WPLC Board discussion will be shared with the WPLC Collection Development Committee to consider as part of its Digital Library recommendation process.

LEANWI Partnership, Collaborative Projects, and Core Infrastructure Support

LEANWI Core Infrastructure: Our colleagues at South Central Library System (SCLS), hosting partners with the LEANWI partnership for collocated Backup and Digital Archiving appliances and services, began the quoting process with Dell in July 2024 to renew maintenance for a final period mid 2025 – mid 2026. Under the governance of WPLS, efforts will begin to investigate and prepare for the next lifecycle(s) of these two multi-system collaborations.

The TEACH division of the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) has a new contract for statewide networking. The previous network and services, labeled "BadgerNet Service," is still in the process of being replaced by a new network, labeled "TEACH Network Service." AT&T will continue to be the Managed Service Provider (MSP) for the statewide networking fabric for schools and libraries and is still in the process of completing the migration of service connections. The end of the "current" BadgerNet contract was originally January 31, 2024, but after AT&T struggled to meet that deadline an extension of contract through June 2024 was put into effect. Circuit migrations were paused until management access migrations and handoff from WIN to GLS (the new network management and support provider) were/are completed. Schedule invites for circuit migration test and turn-up (TTU) events began being sent again in late July for August and are expected to continue until all sites are on TEACH Network.

In June, TEACH announced that all sites that currently receive service less than 100 Mbps will be upgraded to 100Mbps synchronous service, pending complete migration. This will likely need to correspond to adjustments on the LEANWI WAN fabric to WVLS head-end circuit speeds or to finally implementing the merger of the WVLS head-end with primary "LEANWI" head-end circuit IFLS and NWLS are currently merged into.

LEANWI Service Explorations: Last fall, LEANWI partners began exploring a relationship with a new Microsoft Licensing vendor due to struggles with responsiveness from our current vendor, to better understand program renewal and new procurement options. After much back and forth, and another change up of our primary account rep, we were able to work with our current MS licensing vendor to renew existing licensing for another 36-month period before the end of the previous term (June 30-2024). Before attempting to procure new licensing, we will review our vendor relationship again and will continue to investigate and prepare for the inevitable program migration. We also continue to

monitor our Microsoft 365 tenancy, also currently under an academic program, for indications of the initiation of a mandatory migration to the charity program (e.g. for non-profits).

WPLC Technology Community of Practice. During its meeting in mid-June, participants discussed challenges with large-scale email sending, namely from ILS applications for patron notices, related to recent mass-email related security initiatives by global providers Google and Yahoo. The LEANWI Partnership announced in April that it has begun reviewing Faronics Deep Freeze licensing and intended to be engaging with Faronics reps during late Spring or the Summer of 2024, and reminded the group of that effort and the opportunity for a broader multi-system collaboration. The LEANWI five-year maintenance term with Faronics expires in November 2025. Given other systems' past indications of significantly increased costs, we want to get in front of our own renewal early enough to have time to review alternative options and potentially migrate away from Faronics Deep Freeze if cost increases prove prohibitive. We also want to increase awareness of our project among our peers and maximize the window of opportunity for additional licensing pool mergers with other systems to reduce duplications of effort and increase our collective economy of scale.

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

WVLS Adds Items to Makerspace Collection

In recent months, several new items have been added to the WVLS Makerspace Collection to support member library programming. New items include: two murder mystery kits, three puzzle competition kits, geoboards, straw connectors, building plans, and four math-themed kits. Each puzzle competition kit contains 9-10 copies of the same puzzle for teams to complete simultaneously. Each of the themed math kits contain five or six resources that support such topics as counting and numbers; sorting and patterns; addition and subtraction; and shapes.

In collaboration with the IFLS Library System and Northern Waters Library Service, WVLS is able to offer our member libraries a unique collection of makerspace kits, equipment, story time kits, and memory kits through a Lend Items booking program. More information about this service may be found on the WVLS website .

Gale Presents: Udemy

Following months of research and with input from member libraries, *Gale Presents: Udemy* was selected in late spring to replace *Gale Courses*. With *Gale Presents: Udemy*, library users can connect to thousands of video-based courses in business, technology, leadership, and personal development – and more than 15,000 courses are taught by instructors in their native language. This top collection, curated from over 210,000 courses from Udemy.com and powered by Udemy Business, gives users access to relevant skills training, helping them achieve success at work and in life. As part of a soft rollout of the product, virtual training was offered to member libraries in July.

Visit the <u>WVLS website</u> to access *Gale Presents: Udemy* and other online resources available to library users.

COMMUNICATIONS

SCAA Form Focusing on Service

Part of the mission of WVLS is to *ensure the ultimate level of library service to residents throughout its* seven county system area. A way for WVLS to assess the service it provides is by capturing data and information from its member libraries, other systems and partner organizations.

WVLS Education Consultant Jamie Matczak created an online form called a "SCCA" to record Suggestions, Complaints, and Compliments/Accolades on WVLS services. The form is currently being piloted by Jamie and Public Services Consultant, Kristie Hauer. Eventually, all WVLS staff members will be using it. The idea for the form originated from ZingTrain's *The Art of Giving Great Service* training that Jamie completed in April.

WVLS Newsletter Highlights

Published during the first week of each month, the WVLS newsletter highlights ways that member libraries are providing service and support to their communities, national library news, WVLS updates and more. Recent issues include:

- June 2024 "New Makerspace Items Available for Checkout," "Zimmermann Talks About V-Cat and ILS Management," "Rhinelander Hosts First After-Hours Event," "Clark County Starts 'Passport Adventures' Program," "Guest Feature: River Falls and Junior Librarians," "Unlocking Efficiency for the 2024 Annual Report," "WVLS Members Receive WAPL Conference Scholarships."
- July 2024 "Registration Open for Trustee Training Week," "Gale Presents: Udemy Coming to WVLS, "Hodag on the Roof Helps Kick Off Rhinelander Campaign," "Three Lakes Features Library of Things," "Guest Feature: Middleton Creates New 'Paw-Licy'," "Marketing Support Grant Pilot Project Underway."
- August 2024 "Three WVLS Libraries Receive ALA Grant," "Library Card Sign-Up Month is Almost Here," "Medford 'End of Summer' Party a Success," "Rib Lake Hosts Island Adventure," "10 Things to Know About Kari Sweeney," "Granton Partners on Story Hour in the Park," "Registration Open for Tech Days 2024."

Thank you to colleagues and friends for sharing news from their libraries!

Inclusive Services News

Inclusive Services Updates are published monthly by the Northern Waters Library Service Director and WVLS Inclusive Services Consultant **Sherry Anderson**, emailed to all member libraries in WVLS and NWLS, announced in Monday Mentions and archived on the <u>WVLS website</u>.

The <u>August 2024 Update</u> announced color blind glasses to give away, information from a webinar recording of "More than Welcome: Libraries Serving Families of You Children with Disabilities," and three

IMLS Discretionary Grant projects the WI Dept. of Public Instruction plans to work on in upcoming grant cycles. It also shared resources for an upcoming webinar on "New Title II ADA Regulations for Websites and Mobile Apps: What Libraries Need to Know."

The <u>July 2024 Update</u> encouraged readers to give themselves permission to step back when feeling overwhelmed and to take time for themselves. The update also announced two upcoming webinars, "Telehealth 101: What libraries need to know" and "Wellness in the Library Workplace," and shared a toolkit from Mental Health American to use to bring awareness to BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) Mental Health Month in July.

The <u>June 2024 Update</u> offered resources to celebrate Immigrant Heritage Month in June, invited libraries to apply for a 2024 DEI Consultant Funding Opportunity, provided a resource guide from DPI on Juneteenth, and shared a link to a resource that addresses the ways that Libby supports readers and users with a range of accessibility needs.

DELIVERY SERVICES

On April 30, WVLS assumed the responsibility of sorting all materials running through the inter- and intra-system delivery at Waltco's Wausau hub on behalf of our member libraries. During the month of May, WVLS in-office staff and a volunteer pitched in to complete the daily sort of all incoming materials and re-binning of all outgoing materials. Since then, **Amelia Zimmermann** and **Belanna Werner** were hired to assist with the sort over the summer months.

Since taking on the sort, WVLS has been tracking the number of incoming and outgoing bins, and the amount of time required to complete the sort each day. This data has helped to assess hours needed to complete the work and to determine work schedules for sorters. In late June, WVLS announced our plan to hire three sorters on a part-time basis, and a job description was posted to the Wisconsin Job site and through various communication channels used by WVLS. In July, following several interviews, WVLS hired 4 people. Thus far in August, **Bennet Sweeney** and **Gracie Engebrecht** have gone through orientation and training.

Data from the daily sort during May and June indicated significant variance in courier volume on Tuesdays and Wednesday, with the former being almost double that of the latter. To alleviate the pressure to get courier done on Tuesdays, WVLS added a fourth stop to the Rothschild Branch Library and to the Minocqua Public Library. Early data in August indicates a slight increase in volume on Mondays along with a slight decrease on Tuesdays. The week of August 5-August 9 saw a record number of 359 outgoing bins. It will be interesting to see how/if the courier volume is impacted once schools open in September.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Results of the primary election were not known at the time this report was written. A report will be shared as **Exhibit 16a**.

MEMBER LIBRARY / WVLS GATHERINGS

WVLS Listening Session

The second WVLS listening session of 2024 will take place on September 23 at the Frances L. Simek Memorial Library in Medford. Held twice annually, listening sessions are opportunities for area library staff and WVLS staff to come together to have informal discussions on current challenges and successes, and to hear the latest library-related news. More information about this event will be shared in an upcoming *Monday Mentions*.

Youth Services Meetup

Several times throughout the year WVLS hosts Youth Services Information Exchanges (YSIEs). Planned and hosted by Kristie Hauer, YSIEs are opportunities for area library staff to gather virtually or in-person for informal discussions on issues relevant to youth services.

On August 12, a YSIE get-together took place at the Granton Community Library. Those who attended toured the library, discussed early literacy text services and explored the use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools in program planning.

The next YSIE will be held virtually on September 10 and in collaboration with member library youth services staff from the IFLS Library System. During this event, youth staff will be divided into smaller groups to participate in different topic-focused session, before regrouping to share and recap.

WVLS Library Advisory Committee Meeting

The second meeting of the WVLS Library Advisory Committee (LAC), a multi-type advisory group of the WVLS Board of Trustees, was held on August 15 at the WVLS office. During the meeting, LAC members discussed how their libraries prepare for materials challenges, reviewed drafts of the 2025 WVLS Plan and WVLS Budget, and received service updates from WVLS staff in attendance. LAC meeting highlights and recommendations will be shared with the WVLS Board at their meeting on August 17.

PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSULTANT SERVICES

Data Analysis and Reporting

WVLS Data and Technology Services Consultant **Erica Brewster** completed a library service and funding infographic template for WVLS-member counties using data presented in the **2023 WVLS Statistics Booklet**. She worked with representatives from each county to further customize the template to support local library advocacy and marketing efforts, and in preparation for libraries' 2025 budget planning processes.

Public Library Services Support

Assistance was provided to the **Rhinelander District Library** by reviewing and providing feedback on their Flexible Facilities Program (FFP) grant application. These grants support important capital projects

that directly enable work, education, and health monitoring in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The program focuses on constructing new or renovating existing libraries, community centers, and multipurpose community facilities with a focus on offering reliable, affordable high-speed internet and other digital connectivity technology, including remote options. The State of Wisconsin Department of Administration has been awarded \$107 million for this initiative, which aims to address the needs of residents disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. Each awarded project can receive a maximum of \$4,250,000. The **T.B. Scott Library** (Merrill) and **Tomahawk Public Library** also submitted grant applications.

Assistance was provided to the **Antigo Public Library** regarding considerations for creating a Parenting Collection. A list of topics and themes typically included in Parenting Collections was provided along with reliable collection development sources.

TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS OVERVIEW

Communication and Training

Erica continues to do site visits to member libraries to deploy new computer equipment. As new equipment is installed, she trains local staff on the use of Deep Freeze, Pharos, Princh, and offers an orientation on library network equipment.

Erica also continues to add technology tips to https://wvls.org/services/technology-faqs/.

Procurement and Asset Inventory

New computers were deployed at libraries in Antigo, Crandon, Granton, Loyal, Medford, Rib Lake, and Rhinelander, with more being staged for Minocqua, Medford, Neillsville, Rhinelander and Three Lakes. A few libraries have requested that computer installation be done after the busy summer season, so installation timelines are being adjusted accordingly.

Work continues on the inventory of assets with two entities, Marathon County Public Library and WVLS, yet to be completed. All inventories still need to be uploaded to the shared LEANWI asset-tracking system.

Erica began network inventories this summer. Thus far, network equipment inventories have been completed for Crandon, Merrill, Rib Lake, Three Lakes, Westboro and White Lake, and an inventory at Antigo is underway. As part of this project, Erica is assessing which sites have router equipment (EdgeRouter Lite) that are on the list of equipment to be replaced.

Assistance was provided to libraries in Antigo, Crandon, Elcho, Granton, Loyal and White Lake to migrate to a central Deep Freeze Console so WVLS IT staff can monitor the status of public computers remotely and better address issues directly. Local library staff still have access to a console for local computer management.

Project tracking:

	Asset	Network	Replace Deep Freeze		
Member site	Inventory	inventory	EdgeRouter Lite	Central Console	TTU
a1 Antigo	in progress	in progress	complete	complete	pending
a2 Elcho	in progress	pending	pending	complete	1/18/2024
a4 White Lake	in progress	complete	complete complete		2/29/2024
ab Abbotsford	complete	pending	complete	ete pending	
co Colby	complete	pending	complete	pending	pending
cr Crandon	in progress	complete	pending	complete	2/29/2024
do Dorchester	complete	pending	pending	complete	pending
ga Granton	in progress	pending	complete	complete	pending
ge Greenwood	complete	pending	complete	pending	pending
gi Gilman	complete	pending	complete	complete	pending
la Laona	complete	pending	pending	pending	pending
lo Loyal	in progress	pending	pending	complete	pending
m1 Wausau	pending	pending	n/a	complete	pending
me Medford	in progress	pending	complete	pending	pending
mi Minocqua	in progress	pending	pending	pending	pending
mr Merrill	in progress	complete	complete	complete	1/16/2024
ne Neillsville	in progress	pending	complete	pending	pending
ow Owen	complete	pending	pending	pending	pending
rh Rhinelander	in progress	pending	complete	in progress	pending
rl Rib Lake	in progress	complete	pending	complete	pending
st Stetsonville	complete	pending	pending	complete	pending
th Thorp	complete	pending	pending	pending	pending
tl Three Lakes	in progress	complete	complete	pending	1/25/2024
to Tomahawk	complete	pending	complete	pending	pending
wa Wabeno	complete	pending	pending	in progress	pending
we Westboro	complete	complete	pending	pending	pending
wi Withee	complete	pending	pending	pending	pending

Member Library Services

Hotspots Update: LEANWI Partners NWLS and WVLS are continuing support for currently provisioned mobile hotspots and data plans with Kajeet through the end of 2024 before discontinuing system-level direct service management and support. We are working to collect information and to be able to provide guidance to libraries currently hosting Kajeet hotspots so they may gracefully discontinue their own programs by the end of 2024, budget and plan for the continuation of services directly with Kajeet or migrate from Kajeet to work directly with other services and service providers (e.g. Mobile Beacon via Tech Soup).

Ongoing Projects: WVLS worked with MCPL IT staff to test deploy new PC imaging system with Deep Freeze public PC management, Pharos public PC timing software, and Princh print management in live testing situation in the Wausau location. The pilot has thus far been successful and expanded from 6 "Internet" PCs on the ground floor in Wausau to include "Teen" PCs. New public PCs will eventually be deployed at all MCPL locations, replacing older units.

V-CAT AND ILS ADMINISTRATION

V-Cat Council Meeting Highlights

The V-Cat Council had meetings on June 6 and August 1.

During its **June 6 meeting**, the V-Cat Council approved the <u>March-April 2024</u> financial reports and 2025 V-Cat Budget and briefly reviewed guidelines for <u>Damaged and Missing Pieces</u>, <u></u>

The Council received an update on the Northern Wisconsin ILS Exploration (NICE) project and were briefed on several new documents including Key Takaways from 2023, the NICE Decision Making Principles, and new/updated information for the NICE Holds Fulfillment Recommendation, NICE Holds Fulfillment Recommendation, NICE ILS Vendor Selection Recommendation, Additional NICE Project informational documents shared included Information about NWLS and WVLS registered borrowers, extended service population, library collections, and circulation and a preliminary draft of NICE budget information.

A discussion occurred regarding the new/updated recommendations and the additional shared documents. It was noted that additional information and responses to questions and comments would be shared with individuals and on the NICE Project FAQs page in the near future and that a full 2024 NICE report would be available by the end of June.

Library staff and directors were invited to participate in a NICE Town Hall on Tuesday, June 11, which was also recorded for library staff who were unable to attend. All library staff were invited to share questions and feedback through the NICE Project Feedback Form.

At the **August 1 meeting**, the Council met to discuss an ILS merger. As part of the discussion, they reviewed <u>NICE Key Takeaways</u> and <u>Report</u> (June 2024), <u>NICE Why Merge?</u> (June 2024), <u>NICE Benefits and Common Questions</u>, <u>V-Cat NICE 2025 DRAFT Budget Estimates</u> and <u>Letter from Wisconsin Department of Instruction</u>.

The discussion also included a brief update about NWLS's recent decision on an ILS merger. During a meeting on July 18, the directors of the Northern Waters Library Network (NWLN) discussed the NICE Project Recommendations and Report and an ILS merger. The discussion highlighted benefits of an ILS for patrons, DPI support of an ILS merger, concerns about the NICE Holds Recommendation, satisfaction within NWLN services and resource sharing, and whether the financial savings were enough of a benefit to justify the change. The directors voted against merging the ILS with V-Cat. The NWLS Board of Trustees supported the NWLN vote and voted against an ILS merger during its meeting on July 20.

It was noted that WVLS will take time to carefully process the information provided and to have follow-up conversations with NWLS staff, WiLS and DPI. It was unclear whether there was room to keep talking about a potential ILS merger in the near future. It was anticipated that more information would be available to share with the Council during its meeting in September. Regardless, WVLS and NWLS staff will continue to collaborate, and we anticipate future planning will include discussions about potential ILS mergers.

Each V-Cat member library representative had an opportunity to share their thoughts about a potential ILS merger including benefits, sticking points, and other comments. When asked if Council members were ready to vote on an ILS merger, a handful requested additional time to communicate NICE information with their boards. A vote about the NICE project was then tabled until the next V-Cat Council meeting slated for September 5.

V-Cat Bibliographic and Interface Committee Activity

The V-Cat Bibliographic / Interface Committee met on August 6 to discuss cataloging practices and procedures, and Aspen Discovery updates. An update will be provided to the WVLS Board of Trustees in September.

V-Cat Cooperative Circulation Committee Activity

During its meeting on June 12, the V-Cat Cooperative Circulation Committee discussed draft guidelines for Book Clubs, Teacher/Institutional Library Card Applications, and Short Term/Temporary Library Card Application.

Other Projects

Cataloging Work Completed: WVLS ILS Administrator **Katie Zimmermann** and Database and ILS Support Specialist **Rachel Metzler** worked closely with Maria Pregler (Merrill) and Elisha Sheffer (Rhinelander) to enhance bibliographic records in the V-Cat database for matching in the event of an ILS merger.

Backstage Work Completed: Records were sent to Backstage to improve them for matching in the event of an ILS merger. 4,230 records were sent for the insertion of the physical description. 4047 records were able to be improved in this way by Backstage. 7669 records were sent to Backstage for OCLC numbers and overall updating to the current OCLC record. 7453 were able to be improved.

The regular quarterly Backstage work was also completed in July. This work is to assist with maintaining subject, author, and genre authorities, convert to RDA style cataloging, and add Lexile and AR information were available.

Training: Fall V-Cat Training sessions are scheduled, and a survey has been shared with V-Cat member libraries to identify interest areas to determine training topics for sessions in November 2024 and Spring 2025.

Rachel provided cataloging training for Antigo Public Library staff, a cataloging refresher for T.B. Scott Public Library (Merrill) staff, a training on using Sierra for WISCAT lending and receiving for Antigo and Wabeno public library staffs, and a Web Management Reports and circulation statistics overview for Antigo Public Library staff.

WEBSITE SERVICES AND SUPPORT

Website Support Help Desk

A Help Desk ticketing system, launched exclusively for website-related support earlier in the year, is working well. Libraries across the four library systems in the LEANWI Website Service — Northern Waters Library Service (NWLS), IFLS Library System, Winding Rivers Library System and WVLS - are able to submit website-specific questions to a single email, websitehelp@librarieswin.org. Tickets can be transferred seamlessly between each system's helpdesk if an incoming question or need would be better addressed through a system-specific helpdesk. **Erica Brewster** and LEAN WI Technology Support Consultant **Brendan Tuckey** comprise the LEANWI technology team's primary website services staff.

Winding Rivers Library System Websites

Brendan and Erica continue to work on WRLS member library websites. Due to the nature of their builds, the status of websites varies from needing complete rebuilds to updating the current site and training staff to manage their sites effectively. Systematic review is ongoing.

WRLS and member libraries are currently undergoing an ILS Migration to Polaris. As part of the migration, WRLS purchased "Vega Programs" for their ILS member libraries. This product integrates online calendars and booking tools into the discovery layer and ILS functions. LEANWI website services is working with WRLS libraries using Vega programs to add calendar and booking links as appropriate to their websites.

Website Development

Brendan Tuckey is actively **developing and designing new websites**. Four new websites have been deployed, one website rebuilt, and four additional sites are under development and one more will be rebuilt. One new request has come in from a NWLS library. All websites are designed in collaboration with the individual library and with website accessibility and Divi best practices. **List of current new builds**: Grantsburg (NWLS, deployed), New Lisbon (WRLS, deployed), Winter (NWLS, waiting library feedback), Wonewoc (NWLS, waiting library feedback), Viroqua/McIntosh (in development), LaFarge/Lawton (in development), Hurley (NWLS, on deck). **Rebuilds**: Menomonee (IFLS, complete), Hammond (IFLS, in development).

A new centrally managed **Online Resources page was released** (examples: simple - https://dorchesterpubliclibrary.org/online-resources/, with local resources added - https://spoonerlibrary.org/online-resources/) for the four library systems in July. Deployment for IFLS,

NWLS, and WVLS libraries is complete; additional requested resources were added, and several trainings were provided on the project in general and on adding local resources to the page. We are planning more generalized training for promoting the use of this page with all library staff and the public soon. WRLS libraries will receive their pages as appropriate. A method for tracking "clicks" on online resources has also been developed – we are beginning to see which resources are most frequently accessed by those accessing the shared Online Resources page!

Brendan researched new options for **website calendars**. There are now three (four) viable options for libraries:

- **Tockify** either free or paid version; allows updating through tockify.com website rather than needing to log into library website; paid version also allows for syncing with Google Calendar.
- Google Calendar with plugins to enhance appearance on website.
- The Events Calendar (yearly unlimited use license purchased by LEANWI) plus Pee-aye plugin enhancements managed within library website.
- WRLS libraries: Vega Programs for events calendar and room booking.

The LEANWI Website team completed several website improvement projects, including:

- Moving standard global footers to Divi Builder global footer section and remove footer from individual pages.
- Installing Supreme Pro Plugin on all IFLS/NWLS/WVLS sites. WRLS sites will be installed as they are built or consulted with. Training on use of these new plugin features will begin in the fall.

Website Training

The following website training topics were covered in May/June/July: creating website images and text with online tools and AI, website accessibility, understanding Divi, journey mapping and understanding website users, introduction to the new Online Resources page.

Additional training and reference materials are regularly added to https://training.librarieswin.org/. A minimum of four trainings are offered per month; recordings are uploaded to YouTube and posted with the topic on the training blog.

Continuing Education and Training

NEW DIGITAL BYTES

WVLS staff have produced several new *Digital Bytes*, short training videos, that area library staff might find helpful.

- <u>Scheduling Emails in Gmail</u> In this *Digital Byte*, Kristie talks about why and how to schedule an email in a Gmail account.
- <u>Tips for Packing Delivery Items</u> In this Digital Byte, Jamie provides tips and best practices to packing delivery items.
- <u>DPI Program Tracker</u> In this Digital Byte, Kristie explains how to use the DPI Activity and Program Tracker Spreadsheet that can be used to track annual report information.

• <u>Analyzing Your Collection (Part 2)</u> In Part 2 of this Digital Byte, Kristie discusses three tools that can be used to audit your library's children's collection, from a diversity standpoint.

UPCOMING WEBINARS

Wisconsin Trustee Training Week

Registration is open for <u>Wisconsin Trustee Training Week</u>, an annual event that offers a week-long series of one-hour webinars on topics of interest to system, public library and county library board members, and library staff. This year's Wisconsin Trustee Training Week will be held from August 19-23. Topics covered include:

- Monday, August 19: <u>Everything You Want to Know About Book Challenges...and a Bit You</u>
 <u>Probably Don't</u>
- Tuesday, August 20: Wisconsin Library Law
- Wednesday, August 21: <u>Making Each Other Look Good: The Library Board and the Library Director</u>
- Thursday, August 22: Organization and Governance Best Practices for Boards
- Friday, August 23: <u>Robert's Rules Refresher</u>

All webinars will be recorded and archived for later viewing at the <u>Wisconsin Trustee Training Week</u> website.

Tech Days 2024

Tech Days is an annual collaboration between all 15 public library systems and the WI Department of Public Instruction to provide webinars to the library community on technology-related topics. Tech Days 2024, this year's 2-day event, will be held September 17-18 and will offer the following 90-minute webinars:

- Tuesday, September 17, 10:00-11:30 a.m.: <u>From Basics to Breakthroughs: AI Strategies for</u> Library
- Tuesday, September 17, 1:00-2:30 p.m.: <u>Navigating Artificial Intelligence Through a Public Librarian's Lens</u>
- Wednesday, September 18, 10:00-11:30 a.m.: Virtual Reality for Career Readiness
- Wednesday, September 18, 1:00-2:30 p.m.: Trends in Emerging Tech with Laura Solomon

Visit the <u>2024 Tech Days</u> website to find descriptions of the webinar sessions, read about the presenters, and to register for the sessions. Each webinar is worth 1.5 technology hours toward Wisconsin public library director certification. All webinars will be recorded and posted to the <u>2024 Tech Days</u> website.

In addition to the above webinars, on Tuesday, September 17, from 3:00-4:00 p.m., **Monica Treptow** and **Chris Baker** of the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction will offer an introduction and overview of "Empowering Lifelong Learning: Al Guidance for Enhancing K12 and Library Education." They will also offer insights about using the guidance in practice and share future Al plans at the state level.



2025 Wild Wisconsin Winter Web Conference

WVLS continues to work with the South Central Library System and IFLS Library

System on planning speakers for this annual state conference scheduled for January 22-23, 2025. The session tracks for the conference will be Management, Internal Communications, Small Libraries, and Reference and Reader's Advisory (R&RA). Registration for the conference will open in early December.

INFO TO GO

CHECK OUT JUNE 2024 ISSUE OF THE MUNICIPALITY

The <u>June 2024 issue</u> of *The Municipality* includes several articles that may be of interest to library staff and trustees. This issue includes articles on advocacy (p. 11) and Wisconsin transparency laws (p. 19-22), as well as a legal FAQ on the relationship between municipal governments and library boards (p. 25 - 26). *The Municipality* is the digital publication of the League of Wisconsin Municipalities.

Upcoming Events / Meetings

- August 1 WVLS V-Cat Council meeting
- August 2 SRLAAW (System and Resource Library Administrators of Wisconsin) meeting
- August 5 WPLC (Wisconsin Public Library Consortium) Board meeting
- August 6 WVLS V-Cat Bibliographic Control / Interface Committee meeting
- August 12 WVLS YSIE (Youth Services Information Exchange); Granton Community Library
- August 12 WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Office Hour: Marketing Online Resources
- August 13 DPI-hosted meeting of System Directors
- August 13 WPLC Technology Steering Committee meeting
- August 14 Statewide Bibliographic Standards Committee meeting
- August 15 WVLS Library Advisory Committee meeting
- August 15 WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Office Hour: Website 201 [Just] Beyond the Basics
- August 15 WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Office Hour: Managing Menus
- August 17 WVLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
- August 19-23 "Wisconsin Trustee Training Week"
- August 20 Website Accessibility Learning Group meeting
- August 20 DPI-hosted meeting of System Youth Services Consultants

- August 20 WLA Conference Planning Committee meeting
- August 20 DPI-hosted meeting of ILL/ILS Coordinators
- August 21 Annual Teck Talk Gathering, Kilbourne Public Library
- August 27 DPI-hosted Financial Data Workgroup meeting
- August 27 Library Workforce Connection meeting
- August 28 DPI-hosted meeting of System Continuing Education Consultants
- September 2 WVLS OFFICE closed
- September 9 WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Office Hour
- September 10 WVLS Youth Services Information Exchange (YSIE)
- September 11 Statewide Bibliographic Standards Committee meeting
- September 11 14 ARLS (Association of Rural and Small Libraries) Conference; Springfield,
 Massachusetts
- September 12 V-Cat Training: Item Attachment
- September 12 WPLC Steering Committee meeting
- September 13 COLAND (Council on Library and Network Development) meeting
- September 16 WPLC Digital Archives Backup Workgroup meeting
- September 17 Website Accessibility Learning Group meeting
- September 17 WLA Conference Planning Committee meeting
- September 17 NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY; learn more <u>here</u>
- September 17-18 Tech Days 2024
- September 18 DPI hosted meeting of Library Services Data Workgroup
- September 18 WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Office Hour: Website 201 [Just] Beyond the Basics
- September 19 WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Office Hour: Website 201 [Just] Beyond the Basics
- September 19 WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Office Hour
- September 19 21 ALSC National Institute; Denver, Colorado
- September 21 WVLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
- September 23 WVLS Listening Session; Francis L. Simek Memorial Library, Medford
- September 24 Library Workforce Connection meeting
- September 25 DPI-hosted meeting of System Continuing Education Consultants
- September 26 Connecting WI Libraries meeting
- September 26 DPI-hosted Financial Data Workgroup meeting
- September 26 V-Cat Training: MARC Alerts
- September 27 WLA Library Development and Legislation Committee meeting
- October 1 DPI-hosted meeting of System Inclusive Services Consultants
- October 2 WVLS Youth Services Workshop; T.B. Scott Library, Merrill

Thank you for reading!

Marla

ONEIDA COUNTY (Town of Nokomis in AD35) **Libraries:** Minocqua, Rhinelander, Three Lakes

Senator Mary Felzkowski (R) SD12

Mail: P.O. Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882 Mail: P.O. Box 8953, Madison, WI 53708-8953

Office: 415 South Office: 123 West

Phone: (608) 237-9134 or toll free (888) 534-0034 **Phone:** (608) 266-2509 Email: Sen.Felzkowski@legis.wisconsin.gov Email: Rep.Swearingen@legis.wisconsin.gov

Challenger to Rep. Swearingen: Dennis Nitzel Sr. (D-Rhinelander)

LANGLADE AND LINCOLN COUNTY

Senator Mary Felzkowski (R) SD12

Challenger to Senator Felzkowski:

Andi Rich (D-Marinette) Challenger to Rep. Callahan: Elizabeth McCrank (D-Merrill)

FOREST COUNTY

Senator Mary Felzkowski (R) SD12

Challenger to Rep. Mursau:

Benjamin Murray (D-Porterfield)

Libraries: Antigo, Elcho & White Lake branches, Merrill, Tomahawk

Representative Calvin Callahan (R) AD35

Representative Rob Swearingen (R) AD34

Mail: P.O. Box 8952, Madison, WI 53708-8952

Office: 15 West

Phone: (608) 237-9135 or (888) 534-0035 Email: Rep.Callahan@legis.wisconsin.gov

Libraries: Crandon, Laona, Wabeno

Representative Jeffrey Mursau (R) AD36

Mail: P.O. Box 8953, Madison, WI 53708-8953

Office: 113 West

Phone: (608) 237-9136 or toll free (888) 534-0036

Email: Rep.Mursau@legis.wisconsin.gov

Libraries: Gilman, Rib Lake, and Westboro in AD68; Athens-MCPL, CLARK AND TAYLOR COUNTY Abbotsford, Colby, Dorchester, Granton, Greenwood, Loyal, Medford, Neillsville, Owen, Stetsonville, Thorp and Withee in AD69.

Senator Jesse James (R) SD23

Mail: P.O. Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882

Office: 319 South **Phone:** (608) 266-7511

Email: Sen.James@legis.wisconsin.gov

Senator James, drawn out of SD23 and into SD31, has not

announced his plans for re-election in 2025.

Rep. Karen Hurd (R) is running for AD69.

Challengers: Roger Halls (D-Stanley), and

Joshua Kelley (I-Greenwood)

Representative Karen Hurd (R) AD68: Rep. Hurd moving to AD69

Mail: P.O. Box 8952, Madison, WI 53708-8952

Office: 15 North

Phone: (608) 237-9168 or (888) 534-0068 Email: Rep.Hurd@legis.wisconsin.gov

Rep. Rob Summerfield (R-Bloomer) lives in newly redrawn AD68.

Challenger: Richard Pulcher (D-Lubin)

Representative Donna Rozar (R) AD69 Rep. Rozar drawn into AD86.

Mail: P.O. Box 8953, Madison, WI 53708-8953.

Office: 13 West

Email: Rep.Rozar@legis.wisconsin.gov

MARATHON COUNTY Libraries: Wausau-MCPL in AD85; Edgar, Marathon City, Spencer, and Stratford MCPL branches in AD86; Hatley, Mosinee, and Rothchild MCPL branches in AD87. (Athens branch in SD23/AD68)

Senator Cory Tomczyk (R) SD29

Mail: P.O. Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882

Office: 310 South

Phone: (608) 266-2502

Email: Sen.Tomczyk@legis.wisconsin.gov

Odd numbered Senate seats not up for re-election until 2025. Challenger to Rep. Snyder: Yee Leng Ziong (D-Weston)

Representative Patrick Snyder (R) AD85 Moving to stay in AD85.

Mail: P.O. Box 8953, Madison, WI 53708-8953

Office: 307 North

Phone: (608) 237-9185 or toll free (888) 534-0085

Email: Rep.Snyder@legis.wisconsin.gov

Rep. Spiros beat Rep. Donna Rozar in the Aug. 13 Primary.

Challenger: John Small (D-Marathon)

Representative John Spiros (R) AD86

Mail: P.O. Box 8953, Madison, WI 53708-8953

Office: 212 North

Phone: (608) 237-9186 or toll free (888) 534-008

Email: Rep.Spiros@legis.wisconsin.gov

Candidates: William Switalla (D-Wittenberg) and Brent

Jacobson (R-Mosinee) are competing for open AD87 seat.

(Rep. Snyder was drawn into AD87 but is moving back into new AD85. Rep. Edming was drawn into AD68.)

Representative James Edming (R) AD87 Rep. Edming is retiring.

Mail: P.O. Box 8952, Madison, WI 53708-8952

Office: 129 West

Phone: (608) 237-9187 or toll free (888) 534-0087

Email: Rep.Edming@legis.wisconsin.gov

Marathon County Budget Report

Library

Cost Center Level: 55110 Library Fund: 101 General Fund

Programs: None (uncategorized) Grant: None (uncategorized)

2024 Amended		202	25 Requested	Variance		
\$	3.603.220	\$	3.845.985	\$	242,765	

GL Accounts		24 Amended Budget	2025 Requested		Variance	
41110 - 41110 General Property Taxes (Tax Levy)	\$	3,603,220			\$	(3,603,220)
46100 - 46170 Sale of Maps, Poll Lists, Copies	\$	12,000	\$	14,000	\$	2,000
46100 - 46190 Other General Government Fees	\$	24,000	\$	27,500	\$	3,500
46700 - 46710 Library Fees	\$	45,000	\$	47,000	\$	2,000
48200 - 48200 Rental of Buildings and Property	\$	42,153	\$	42,153	\$	-
48900 - 48900 Other Miscellaneous Revenues	\$	-			\$	-
49200 - 49210 Transfer from the General Fund	\$	63,085			\$	(63,085)
49200 - 49299 Transfers from Fund Balance	\$	-			\$	-
Total Revenues	\$	3,789,458	\$	130,653	\$	(3,658,805)
50210 - 52130 Accounting and Audit Services	\$	1,300	\$	2,500	\$	1,200
50210 - 52131 Financial, Banking and Investment Services	\$	1,200	\$	1,200	\$	-
50210 - 52192 Other Professional Services	\$	6,500	\$	6,500	\$	-
50220 - 52250 Telephone, Internet and Cable	\$	22,750	\$	22,300	\$	(450)
50240 - 52420 Machinery/Equipment Maintenance Services	\$	6,500	\$	6,500	\$	-
50250 - 52140 Technology Services	\$	16,000	\$	13,946	\$	(2,054)
52164 Contractual Services			\$	54,000	\$	54,000
50250 - 52560 Other Special Services	\$	34,000	\$	43,000	\$	9,000
50250 - 52561 Reimburse County	\$	6,400	\$	7,500	\$	1,100
50290 - 52932 Copier Charges	\$	6,500	\$	12,000	\$	5,500
50290 - 52990 Sundry Contractual Services	\$	15,000	\$	9,000	\$	(6,000)
50310 - 53110 Postage and Courier	\$	1,700	\$	1,700	\$	-
50310 - 53130 Printing and Forms	\$	5,000	\$	5,000	\$	-
50310 - 53142 Software - IT	\$	6,000	\$	9,600	\$	3,600
50310 - 53161 Books Library	\$ \$	275,045	\$ \$	274,250	\$ \$	(795)
50310 - 53168 Audio-Visual Materials	э \$	56,596	\$	60,000	э \$	3,404
50310 - 53169 E-Books Library	э \$	34,252 27,000	\$	35,749 21,000	э \$	1,497
50310 - 53190 Office Supplies 50320 - 53220 Subscriptions	\$	18,600	\$	18,600	\$	(6,000)
50320 - 53221 Electronic Subscriptions	\$	35,200	\$	24,650	\$	(10,550)
50320 - 53240 Membership Dues	\$	118,497	\$	125,068	\$	6,571
50320 - 53250 Registration Fees/tuition	\$	3,500	\$	1,200	\$	(2,300)
50320 - 53260 Advertising	\$	4,000	\$	4,000	\$	(2,000)
50330 - 53321 Personal Auto Mileage	\$	3,500	\$	1,700	\$	(1,800)
50340 - 53410 Meeting Expenses	\$	2,700	\$	2,200	\$	(500)
50340 - 53494 Technology Supplies	\$	3,000	\$	5,000	\$	2,000
50390 - 53936 Other Supplies	\$	10,000	\$	10,000	\$	_,
50510 - 55190 Insurance Other Premiums	\$	48,000	\$	50,400	\$	2,400
50530 - 55320 Building/Offices Rent	\$	65,000	\$	65,000	\$	· -
Total Operating Expenses	\$	833,740	\$	893,563	\$	59,823
50110 - 51111 Salaries and Wages *	\$	2,078,706	\$	2,141,067	\$	62,361
50110 - 51120 Overtime	\$	22,935	\$	22,935	\$	-
50130 - 51390 Other Special Pay	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
50150 - 51510 Social Security	\$	160,775	\$	165,546	\$	4,771
50150 - 51520 Retirement Employers Share	\$	131,875	\$	150,398	\$	18,523
50150 - 51541 Dental Insurance	\$	12,031	\$	12,993	\$	962
50150 - 51550 Life Insurance	\$	7,016	\$	7,016	\$	-
50150 - 51560 Workers Compensation	\$	1,261	\$	1,261	\$	-
50150 - 51580 Unemployment Compensation	\$	2,102	\$	2,123	\$	21
50150 - 51590 Other Employer Contributions	\$	30,030	\$	30,030	\$	-
50150 - 51593 Health Insurance Total Personnel Expenses	\$ \$	508,987 2,955,718	\$ \$	549,706 3,083,075	\$ \$	40,719 127,357
		2,000,710				
Net Total	\$	0	\$	3,845,985	\$	3,845,985

^{*} All personnel numbers were estimated by Finance based on 2024 personnel numbers. Library staff is still waiting to receive actual numbers from the county.