



**COUNTY OF MARATHON
WAUSAU, WISCONSIN**

OFFICIAL NOTICE AND AGENDA

A meeting of the Marathon County Public Library Board of Trustees,
Monday, May 15, 2023, at 12:00 noon

NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION:

Village of Rothschild, Community Room
211 Grand Avenue
Rothschild, WI 54474

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/179957253> or number [1 877 309 2073](tel:18773092073). Access Code for dialing in 179-957-253.**

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

AGENDA

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 concerned 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. **MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION (roll call vote suggested)**
 - A. Pursuant to §§ 19.85(1) (e) for the purpose of conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session, to wit: evaluation of strategic plan consultant proposals.
7. **MOTION TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION (roll call vote not suggested)**
 - A. Announcements and/or Action Regarding Closed Session Discussion
8. (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
9. (10 minutes) **Athens Relocation Commitment Letter – For Discussion and Possible Action**
10. (10 minutes) **Library Service Highlight: 2023 Summer Library Program – For Discussion and Informational Purposes Only**
11. **Announcements**
12. **Request for Future Agenda Items**

13. **Next Meeting Dates**
- Monday 06/19/2023
 - Monday 07/17/2023
 - Monday 08/21/2023
 - Monday 09/18/2023
14. **Adjournment**

Signed: 
Library Director or Designee

*All times are approximate and subject to change

*Any person planning to attend this meeting who need special accommodations in order to participate should call the Library Administration Office at 715-261-7213 or e-mail library-administration@mcpl.us one business day before the meeting

EMAILED TO: Wausau Daily Herald, City Pages, and
EMAILED TO: Other Media Groups
EMIALED BY: H. Wilde
EMAILED DATE: May 10, 2023
EMAILED TIME: 8:15 a.m.

NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE

BY: _____
DATE: _____
TIME: _____

Regular meeting of the Marathon County Public Library Board of Trustees, Monday, April 17, 2023.

Present: Kari Sweeney, Gary Gisselman, Brent Jacobson(remote), LeeAnn Podruch, Reid Rayome, Andrea Sheridan, Leah Giordano

Absent: Becky Buch

Others: Alexander Johnson, Katelyn Sabelko, Heather Wilde, Stephanie Martell, David Hahn Remote visitors: Marla Sepnafski and three additional remote visitors

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Kari Sweeney.
Kari Sweeney welcomed visitors to the meeting.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GARY GISSELMAN; SECONDED BY LEEANN PODRUCH TO APPROVE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEE MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 20, 2023, MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY ANDREA SHERIDAN; SECONDED BY REID RAYOME TO APPROVE THE MARCH 2023 BILLS AND SERVICES REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

Public Comments – None

President – National Library Week starts Sunday, April 23rd.

Other Board Members – None

Director's Report – Presented in the Board packet and by Director Leah Giordano.

- The library has received 50 state park day passes from the DNR for the Check Out Wisconsin State Parks at Your Library program. Starting May 1st Marathon County residents can pick up a family pass at the MCPL Wausau circulation desk.
- In response to an RFP for a Strategic Plan, the library has received four proposals. Currently, staff are looking at references and scheduling interviews.

Board Committees – None

Friends of the Library – The Friends met on March 27th and requested additional shelving for their sale items on the first floor. These may be purchased with other library shelving.

MCPL Foundation – The Foundation's next meeting is May 11, 2023.

Wisconsin Valley Library Service –The current focus for WVLS is the biannual state budget.

2022 Updated Annual Report – The Annual Report was revised to reflect the final financial numbers from the County. The corrected report will be submitted to DPI.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY ANDREA SHERIDAN; SECONDED BY LEEANN PODRUCH TO APPROVE THE UPDATED ANNUAL REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

Athens New Building Update

- The Village of Athens has made an offer on a former bank building to use for municipality functions. The Village is including the library branch in the expected move. The offer was accepted, and the Village Board approved the purchase. They hope to close on the property in mid-May.
- Progress Athens asked the Library Foundation for financial help and the Foundation donated \$5000 toward the project.
- The library will be responsible for moving branch items to the new location.
- The village has proposed working out an agreement to share internet services.

Library Service Highlight: Digitization Project Update- presented by Julie Kinney, adult services librarian.

- Wausau area high school yearbooks are scanned through 2000.
- Historical Plot Maps are in the process of being digitized.
- Oral histories will be converted from tape to CD and software will be used to increase clarity. Those that haven't been transcribed will be transcribed using software.
- The library's history will be digitized with pictures and newspaper articles of the downtown location, branches, and the bookmobile.
- Funds from a WiLS Ideas to Action grant were used to purchase the transcription software and a tape to digital player.
- Additional genealogical sources will also be digitalized when possible.

Announcements-None

Request for Future Agenda Items - None

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GARY GISSELMAN; SECONDED BY REID RAYOME TO ADJOURN AT 12:34. MOTION CARRIED.


Library Director or Designee

These minutes subject to approval at the next Library Board meeting scheduled for May 15, 2023.

Regular meeting of the Marathon County Public Library Board of Trustees, Monday, March 20, 2023.

Present: Kari Sweeney, Becky Buch, Gary Gisselman, Brent Jacobson, LeeAnn Podruch, Reid Rayome, Andrea Sheridan, Leah Giordano

Others: Alexander Johnson, Katelyn Sabelko, Heather Wilde, Stephanie Martell, David Hahn, and one additional visitor. Remote visitors: Marla Sepnafski, and two additional remote visitors

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. 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 FEBRUARY 20, 2023 MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BECKY BUCH; SECONDED BY BRENT JACOBSON TO APPROVE THE JANUARY-MARCH 13, 2023 BILLS AND SERVICES REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY LEEANN PODRUCH; SECONDED BY REID RAYOME TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER, 2022 BILLS AND SERVICES UPDATES. MOTION CARRIED.

Public Comments – None

President – None

Other Board Members – None

Director's Report – Presented in the Board packet and by Director Leah Giordano.

- The Library's Strategic Plan Request for Proposals was published on March 1, 2023. Proposals are due by March 31, 2023.
- Staff continue to learn and adapt to Workday financial and employee resource functions. Financial reports were created by combining reports that are currently available and may take a different format as new report options become available. The first employee recruitment with Workday occurred this month. There are difficulties with interviewers being able to access the applications. These issues are still being smoothed out.
- The Director received a scholarship to take part in the American Library Association (ALA) conference in Chicago and will be attending in June.

Board Committees – None

Friends of the Library – The next Friends meeting is on Monday, March 27th.

MCPL Foundation – The Foundation met on March 9, 2023. With two members finishing their terms, the Foundation is working to transition responsibilities. To help with future transitions, the Foundation Board is storing records at the library. Individuals interested in joining the Foundation Board should contact current President Mary Coates.

Wisconsin Valley Library Service –The WVLS Board met on March 18th. MCPL Board President Kari Sweeney will send information to the MCPL Board about submitting public comments supporting libraries to the State Joint Finance Committee who will be meeting about the state biannual budget on April 26th.

Year End Fund Transfers

A MOTION WAS MADE BY REID RAYOME; SECONDED BY BECKY BUCH TO APPROVE THE YEAR END FUND TRANSFERS AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.

Policy Update – 11.01 Storytime Policy – This policy was updated to provide for consistency in story telling during Storytime at MCPL. General training will be provided to staff that are hired to do storytelling.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY ANDREA SHERIDAN; SECONDED BY REID RAYOME TO APPROVE THE UPDATED STORYTIME POLICY (11.01). MOTION CARRIED.

Library Service Highlight: Trustee Overview: Presented remotely by Shannon Schulz, Public Library Administration Consultant with DPI

- Wisconsin Statute Chapter 43 defines the requirements of Wisconsin public libraries.
- Library boards operate separately from municipalities to guarantee public access to information.
- Library boards have control of expenditures from the library fund and provide stewardship of library property.
- Library boards will supervise the administration of the library by hiring a head librarian to oversee the operation of the library.
- Trustees need to ensure adequate funding by attending county meetings and advocating for the library.
- Trustees participate in the development, review and approval of policies.
- Trustees should raise awareness in the community for the library and its services.
- Library trustees should work with the director on creation of a strategic plan. This plan should be reviewed monthly or annually to make sure that the library is adapting to the changing community and technology.
- There are many training opportunities available to library trustees.

Announcements – President Kari Sweeney will be attending the ALA conference.

Request for Future Agenda Items – None

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GARY GISSELMAN; SECONDED BY BRENT JACOBSON TO ADJOURN AT 12:53. MOTION CARRIED.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Jordan", written over a horizontal line.

Library Director or Designee

Marathon County Public Library Bills for Approval April, 2023

Library		
52131 Financial, Banking and Investment Services	Unique Management Services Inc	69.9
	Financial, Banking and Investment Services:	69.9
52250 Telephone, Internet and Cable	Charter Communications	606.4
	Telephone, Internet and Cable	606.4
52420 Machinery/Equipment Maintenance Services	City-County Information Technology Commission	6059
	Machinery/Equipment Maintenance Service	6059
52561 Reimburse County	Everett Roehl Marshfield Public Library	637
	Reimburse County	637
52990 Sundry Contractual Services	Baker & Taylor Company	2409.09
	Grey House Publishing Inc	12.5
	Sundry Contractual Services	2421.59
53130 Printing and Forms	Roto Graphic Printing Inc	866
	Printing and Forms	866
53142 Software - IT	Heartland Business Software	341.04
	Software- IT	341.04
53161 Books Library	Amazon Capital Services	1251.09
	Baker & Taylor Company	15977.24
	Grey House Publishing Inc	378
	OverDrive Inc	985.05
	Books Library	18591.38
53168 Audio-Visual Materials	Amazon Capital Services	542.04
	Baker & Taylor Company	1568.13
	Midwest Tape LLC	223.61
	Audio-Visual Materials	2333.78
53190 Office Supplies	Amazon Capital Services	656.41
	Nassco	317.94
	Staples	257.61
	Office Supplies	1231.96
53240 Membership Dues	WI Valley Library Service	78300.4
	Membership Dues	78300.4

53250 Registration Fees/tuition			
	WI Library Services Inc		199
		Registration Fees/tuition	199
53260 Advertising			
	Newcomers		25
		Advertising	25
53321 Personal Auto			
	Staff		44.27
		Other Supplies	44.27
53916 Other Personal			
	Individual patrons		69.75
		Other Personal	69.75
55320 Building/Offices Rent			
	Hatley, Village		2099.3
	Marathon City, Village of		927.4
	Mosinee, City		32.09
	Stratford, Village		1794.53
	WI Public Service Corporation		497.42
		Building/Offices Rent	5350.74
Library - Gifts/Donations			
53161 Books Library			
	Amazon Capital Services		144.83
	Baker & Taylor Company		591.69
	World Book, Inc.		1074
		Books Library	1810.52
53168 Audio-Visual Materials			
	Baker & Taylor Company		17.99
		Audio-Visual Materials	17.99
53936 Other Supplies			
	Amazon Capital Services		456.36
	Lowery, Scott		250
		Other Supplies	706.36
CIP Library			
53494 Technology Supplies			
	Amazon Capital Services		6.09
	CDW Government Inc		275.2
		Technology Supplies	281.29
53936 Other Supplies			
	Amazon Capital Services		137.99
		Other Supplies	137.99
Grand Total for all cost centers			120101.36

Marathon County Public Library Budget vs Actual (Library cost center) for April, 2023

Ledger Account	Amended Budget	Actuals (Current Period)	Actuals (YTD)	Budget Remaining
<u>Library Cost Center</u>				
Personnel Expenses				
51111 Salaries and Wages	2,087,903	152,335	582,970	1,504,933
51120 Overtime	0	0	0	0
51390 Other Special Pay	(69,000)	1,823	6,099	(75,099)
51580 Unemployment Compensation	2,085	0	0	2,085
51510 Social Security	159,783	10,953	42,273	117,510
51520 Retirement Employers Share	131,080	9,678	24,344	106,736
51541 Dental Insurance	12,651	932	3,783	8,868
51550 Life Insurance	943	35	145	798
51560 Workers Compensation	1,283	263	670	613
51590 Other Employer Contributions	37,998	1,722	19,197	18,801
51593 Health Insurance	500,900	36,323	147,335	353,565
55182 Dental Insurance Premium	0	0	1,426	(1,426)
55183 Health Insurance Premium	0	0	55,506	(55,506)
55184 Life Insurance Premium	0	0	56	(56)
55182 Dental Insurance Premium-2	0	0	(1,901)	1,901
55183 Health Insurance Premium-2	0	0	(74,008)	74,008
55184 Life Insurance Premium-2	0	0	(75)	75
Personnel Expenses Totals	2,865,626.00	214,063.78	807,820.43	2,057,805.57

Operating Expenses

52130 Accounting and Audit Services	1,300	0	0	1,300
52131 Financial, Banking and Investment Services	1,300	70	338	962
52192 Other Professional Services	6,500	0	0	6,500
52250 Telephone, Internet and Cable	15,000	0	0	15,000
52250 Telephone, Internet and Cable	10,000	606	4,392	5,608
52420 Machinery/Equipment Maintenance Services	6,500	6,059	6,059	441
52561 Reimburse County	5,000	637	4,459	541
52140 Technology Services	27,500	0	0	27,500
52990 Sundry Contractual Services	56,000	2,422	12,990	43,010
53110 Postage and Courier	2,500	0	0	2,500
53130 Printing and Forms	10,000	866	866	9,134
53142 Software - IT	0	341	1,364	(1,364)
53161 Books Library	280,326	18,591	67,970	212,356
53168 Audio-Visual Materials	60,527	2,334	13,356	47,171
53169 E-Books Library	29,100	0	29,089	11
53190 Office Supplies	28,800	1,232	5,114	23,686
53220 Subscriptions	40,000	0	13,452	26,548
53240 Membership Dues	104,701	78,300	97,027	7,674
53250 Registration Fees/tuition	4,000	199	974	3,026
53260 Advertising	4,000	25	50	3,950
53321 Personal Auto Mileage	3,000	44	328	2,672
53350 Meals	400	0	0	400
53360 Lodging	400	0	0	400
53410 Meeting Expenses	2,000	0	0	2,000

53410 Meeting Expenses	0	0	29	(29)
53494 Technology Supplies	10,000	0	1,020	8,980
53936 Other Supplies	13,000	0	0	13,000
53916 Other Personal Effects	0	70	70	(70)
53936 Other Supplies	0	0	1,035	(1,035)
55190 Insurance Other Premiums	44,961	0	0	44,961
55320 Building/Offices Rent	65,000	5,351	22,210	42,790
Operating Expenses Total	831,815.00	117,147.21	282,190.66	549,624.34
Total Expenditures	3,697,441.00	331,210.99	1,090,011.09	2,607,429.91
Less expected Revenue	473,153.00			
Net budgeted	3,224,288.00			

Marathon County Public Library Budget vs Actual (additional cost centers) April, 2023

	Amended Budget	Actuals (Current Period)	Actuals (YTD)	Budget Remaining
Library - Gift/Donation Cost Center				
Total Revenues	167,326.00	1,000.00	46,135.29	(121,190.71)
Total Expenditures	167,326.00	2,534.87	13,450.91	153,875.09
Library - Gift/Donation Cost Center Net	0.00	(1,534.87)	32,684.38	32,684.38
Library-WVLS Cost Center				
Total Revenues	0.00	0.00	10,538.25	10,538.25
Total Expenditures	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Library-WVLS Cost Center Net Change	0.00	0.00	10,538.25	10,538.25
CIP- Library Cost Center				
Total Revenues	639,835.00	0.00	0.20	(639,834.80)
Total Expenditures	639,835.00	419.28	49,127.89	590,707.11
CIP-Library Net Change	0.00	(419.28)	(49,127.69)	(49,127.69)

TOTAL CIRCULATION STATISTICAL SUMMARY

For the month of April 2023

Branch	2022 CURRENT MONTH	2023 CURRENT MONTH	% CHANGE	2022 YEAR-to-DATE	2023 YEAR-to-DATE	% CHANGE
ATHENS	1,312	1,912	45.73%	5,766	7,380	27.99%
EDGAR	1,815	1,179	-35.04%	6,325	5,518	-12.76%
HATLEY	1,434	1,704	18.83%	5,662	6,981	23.30%
MARATHON	2,897	2,368	-18.26%	10,718	10,048	-6.25%
MOSINEE	2,697	2,536	-5.97%	9,809	10,069	2.65%
ROTHSCHILD	7,976	7,359	-7.74%	31,445	31,592	0.47%
SPENCER	1,099	1,100	0.09%	4,686	4,541	-3.09%
STRATFORD	1,733	2,063	19.04%	7,439	8,232	10.66%
WAUSAU	28,673	28,229	-1.55%	109,386	118,234	8.09%
WAUSAU DRIVE UP	1,845	1,564	-15.23%	7,857	7,129	-9.27%
HOMEBOUND	873	636	-27.15%	3,775	2,425	-35.76%
ILL	190	172	-9.47%	732	780	6.56%
OVERDRIVE	13,753	14,881	8.20%	55,393	61,135	10.37%
GRAND TOTAL	66,297	65,703	-0.90%	258,993	274,064	5.82%

ON-SITE CIRC TO NON-RESIDENT CUSTOMERS

April 2023

	CUSTOMER STATISTICAL CLASSES								TOTAL NON-RESIDENT CIRC	TOTAL CIRC	% of CIRC by BRANCH
	WVLS-CLARK	WVLS-LANGLADE	WVLS-LINCOLN	SCLS-PORTAGE	NFLS-SHAWANO	WVLS-TAYLOR	SCLS-WOOD				
ATHENS	75	0	0	0	0	315	0	390	7,380	5.28%	
EDGAR	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	9	5,518	0.16%	
HATLEY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6,981	0.00%	
MARATHON	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	10,048	0.02%	
MOSINEE	1	0	0	31	0	0	2	34	10,069	0.34%	
ROTHSCHILD	0	0	3	34	0	0	4	41	31,592	0.13%	
SPENCER	134	0	0	0	0	14	0	148	4,541	3.26%	
STRATFORD	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8,232	0.01%	
WAUSAU	49	0	1,136	69	0	21	0	1,275	118,234	1.08%	
WAUSAU DRIVE UP	0	0	47	0	0	0	0	47	7,129	0.66%	
MISC*									64,340		
TOTAL MCPL	261	0	1,195	134	0	351	6	1,947	274,064	0.71%	
% of CIRC by COUNTY	0.10%	0.00%	0.44%	0.05%	0.00%	0.13%	0.00%				

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

TOTAL MONTHLY CUSTOMER COUNT

For the month of April 2023

	2022 CURRENT MONTH	2023 CURRENT MONTH	% CHANGE
MARATHON COUNTY			
RESIDENT ADULT	65,558	58,801	-10.31%
RESIDENT CHILD	8,126	8,199	0.90%
HOMEBOUND	173	104	-39.88%
STAFF	65	68	4.62%
TEMPORARY	461	456	-1.08%
TOTAL FOR MARATHON COUNTY	74,383	67,628	-9.08%
NON-COUNTY ON SITE BORROWERS			
ADULT	2,942	2,835	-3.64%
CHILD	219	223	1.83%
TEMPORARY	25	26	4.00%
TOTAL FOR NON-COUNTY ON SITE BORROWERS	3,186	3,084	-3.20%
INTERLIBRARY LOAN			
ILL	402	410	1.99%
GRAND TOTAL	77,971	71,122	-8.78%

Marathon County Public Library

Director Report

May 2023

Highlights

New Sorter Installed

Our new materials sorter is installed and operational! This was a big project that took many months to complete and required coordination between MCPL, CCIT, Facilities, WVLS, and Lyngsoe/Envisionware. The project was completed on schedule, with only a couple minor network hiccups that were easily remedied along the way. Compared to our old sorter, the new device is smaller, faster, quieter, more energy efficient, simpler to configure, quicker to repair, gentler on the library materials, and (most useful of all) has an additional bin that allows it to do a finer-grained sort! We expect it will serve the library well for a decade or more.



Strategic Plan Proposal Overview

In response to the request for proposals posted throughout the month of March, we received a total of four strategic planning consultant proposals. Of those four, the top two were selected by our review committee for interviews. Interviews were held in mid-April, and after discussion, a top choice was selected that we feel best meets the culture and hopes for the library's

strategic plan. That recommendation will be presented to the Library Board at May's meeting for discussion and possible action.

Library Services

In April, Library Services focused on making and fostering community connections. Adult Services continued to offer social hour programs in the Wausau Community Room; the goal of these programs is to give people the opportunity to make new friends and socialize in person. The social hour programs held in the afternoon seem the most popular with our community, and we look forward to seeing this new program grow. Other popular adult programming this month included our virtual gardening series, hosted by Extension Marathon County. Despite the cold April weather, the promise of spring is near and our community is ready to garden! In April, we also worked with the Women's Community to set up a month-long book display to mark Sexual Assault Awareness and Child Abuse Prevention Month. We were honored to partner with the Women's Community during this important month.

Our Youth Services staff continued to provide story times throughout April; attendance continues to rise across all youth in-person programs, and we are thrilled to see familiar faces every week! April was also a busy month for our LENA program. We support the LENA organization and are thrilled with the outcome; our commitment to early literacy shines through the dedicated parents who attend classes at the library each week. Youth Services staff also held outreach story times at St. Michael's preschool and welcomed Head Start classes to the library for special story times. Other popular events included a bunnies and chicks program with our 4H partners, a grab and go stamp craft, and, as always, Pokémon Club. April book displays in the Youth Services department included spring, laugh out loud picture books, and Earth Day.

As the cherry on top of our month of fostering community connections, Katelyn attended the Wisconsin Association of Public Libraries Conference in Oshkosh, WI. Katelyn had the opportunity to network with other public library professionals, and attend conference sessions on everything from children's programming trends to strengthening management skills.

Branches

Book Club and Story Time continue to grow in popularity at many of our locations. Patrons have also visited our locations for a variety of craft days, Lego events, and school visits. Creative book displays were featured at all locations including ones like "Rainy Day Reads," "Minions of books, so little time (display complete with reading minions from the Despicable Me)," "Midwest Foraging," "Play Ball!," and "April Showers, Read for Hours."

Our Hatley branch held an introduction to composting program in April. It was a huge success! We had 6 participants pre-registered with us and ended up with a total of 13 people showing up. Everyone loved learning more about the composting process, materials and methods, using the compost and other options for managing yard trimmings and food scraps.

In Mosinee, class visits with the Mosinee area second grade classes started back up for the first time since the pandemic started. We had a total of 70 children and adults learn all about the Mosinee Branch Library and how to use their new cards.

The Stratford branch received great new toys for our children's area on April 26, which has already brought much delight to our small patrons. An attractive and sturdy shelf was also purchased for various displays, including the Summer Library Program.

Spencer had two well attended adult programs in April. In "So, What's Happening in Spencer?" the Village Administrator talked about municipal updates and then Shawn Bauer spoke about statistics from the 2022 year with the police in Spencer. The branch also hosted a "Spring Bell Choir Concert". The Spencer High School is one of the few schools in the state that has a program for hand bells. They played a variety of music ranging from the theme from The Phantom of the Opera to "It's A Small, Small World."

A historical window restoration expert visited our Mosinee branch on the 21st to review the current state of our windows in preparation for a restoration project intended to be completed by the city this fall.

Interviews for the open branch assistant position in Edgar were held on April 13th. Christina H. was hired for this position and began orientation on May 1st. We are very excited to welcome her to the team!

Library Services Statistics & Activities

News

- Chad submitted an application for a Community Arts Grant from the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin that, if approved, would go toward the 2023 Central Wisconsin Book Festival
- Jailin worked with the Women's Community to set up a month-long display in April for Sexual Assault Awareness and Child Abuse Prevention Month.
- Jailin is working with our Policies and Procedures Committee to develop policies for MCPL's Homebound program
- Julie and Jailin organized MCPL Wausau book displays on themes including "Modern Gothic," "Folk Horror," "Cottagecore," and Child Abuse Prevention and Sexual Assault Awareness Month
- Katelyn, Allycia, Ben and Chad met to discuss the transition for Allycia as our new Marketing Specialist
- Ben met with WVLS about the registrar transfer of the mcpl.us domain
- Ben met with Chris and James for an Aspen browse categories meeting
- Youth Services (Taylor, Tara, Rose, Elizabeth, Katelyn; Jailin, guest) held their monthly meeting on April 6th
- The Programing Committee (Chad, Julie, Taylor, Laura, Nikki, Katelyn) met on April 10th
- The Policies and Procedures Committee (Kate, Rose, Taylor, Olivia B.; Jailin, guest) met on April 13th
- Kate and Tara attended the WVLS Collection Development meeting on April 19th
- Allycia began her first day as a full-time Library Specialist on April 17th
- Allycia viewed a webinar by Ryan Dowd titled "Homeless De-Escalation 401: Managing Your Own Emotions During Conflict"

- Katelyn visited Mosinee to hold rounding with Sarah and bring back items for storage in Wausau on April 5th
- Katelyn participated in a meeting to review strategic plan proposals on April 11th
- Katelyn met with Alexander and Kitty to discuss WI state park pass circulation logistics on April 12th
- Katelyn attended the team leads meeting on April 12th
- Katelyn (along with Hannah and Heather) held interviews for the open branch assistant position on April 13th
- Katelyn attended the Library Board meeting on April 17th
- Katelyn met with Allycia for orientation to her new position on April 17th
- Katelyn attended interviews with strategic planning consultants on April 19th
- Katelyn attended the kickoff meeting for the Wisconsin Library Association Leadership Development Institute on April 26th
- Katelyn attended the SRLAAW meeting on April 26th
- Katelyn attended the Wisconsin Association of Public Libraries April 27-28
- Katelyn held rounding with individual staff throughout the month
- MCPL study rooms were booked 87 times in April
- Notary: 18 appointments
- Proctoring: 1
- Tech Time: 5 appointments
- Homebound Services:
 - Items sent out: 406
 - Volunteer deliveries completed: 14
 - New (or recently returned) HB patrons: 1
 - Active HB accts at the start of the month: 84
 - Reading slips, letters, or notes received: 24
 - Activity packets sent: 0
 - Patrons directed to WTBBL: 1
- Weeding:
 - Wausau: Adult Non-Fiction, Adult Audiobooks, Juvenile Fiction, Juvenile Picture Books, Juvenile Graphic Novels
 - Hatley: Juvenile Fiction, Young Adult Nonfiction, Young Adult Graphic Novels
 - Mosinee: Juvenile Picture Books
 - Rothschild: Adult DVD, Adult Non-Fiction, Juvenile Easy Readers
 - Spencer: Adult DVD, Adult Non-Fiction
 - Stratford: Adult Non-Fiction, Reference, Juvenile Fiction, Juvenile Graphic Novels

Events and Programs

Youth Events

Story Times:

- Apr. 3: Tales for Tots Story Time—27
- Apr. 4: MOMs Group Story Time—32
- Apr. 4: Bouncing Babies—18
- Apr. 5: Play and Learn Story Time—36
- Apr. 6: Earth Day Story Time—28
- Apr. 8: Earth Day Story Time—7
- Apr. 10: Tales for Tots Story Time —24
- Apr. 11: Bouncing Babies Story Time—8
- Apr. 11: Story Time at St. Michael's—27
- Apr. 12: Play and Learn Story Time—32
- Apr. 13: Family Story Time—18
- Apr. 14: Head Start Story Time—25
- Apr. 17: Tales for Tots Story Time—18

- Apr. 18: Bouncing Babies Story Time—18
- Apr. 19: Play and Learn Story Time—46
- Apr. 20: Family Story Time—24
- Apr. 21: Head Start Story Time—19
- Apr. 21: Head Start Story Time—17
- Apr. 24: Tales for Tots Story Time—20
- Apr. 25: Book Babies Story Time—28
- Apr. 26: Play and Learn Story Time—44
- Apr. 27: Family Story Time—42

Other Programs:

- Apr. 6: LENA Lunch Class—4
 - Apr. 6: LENA Evening Class—6
 - Apr. 11: Pokémon Club—48
 - Apr. 12: Teen Poetry Journals—4
 - Apr. 13: LENA Lunch Class—3
 - Apr. 13: LENA Evening Class—5
 - Apr. 15: Teen Poetry Journals—0
 - Apr. 20: LENA Lunch Class—3
 - Apr. 20: LENA Evening Class—6
 - Apr. 22: Bunnies and Chicks with 4H—38
 - Apr. 27: LENA Lunch Class—2
 - Apr. 27: LENA Evening Class—8
 - Apr. 1-30: Grab and Go DIY Stamp—388
 - Apr. 1-30: Readers Are Writers Online Writing Group—15
- **Number of April Youth Services programs – 34**
 - **Total attendance for April Youth Services programs – 1101**

Adults/All Ages Events

- All Month: Adult Grab and Go: Needlepoint Butterfly Magnet - 80
 - April 6: MCPL Movie Night: “The Fabelmans” – 24
 - April 6: Marathon County Historical Society History Chats: Mary Ann Norton – 11 live virtual viewers
 - April 12: Let’s Talk! Social Hour (1pm session) – 10
 - April 12: Let’s Talk! Social Hour (6pm session) – 0
 - April 13: Marathon County Historical Society History Chats: Anna Opdahl – 8 live virtual viewers
 - April 15: Marathon County Historical Society History Speaks: Scott Spoolman (in person @ MCHS) – 35
 - April 19: Extension Gardening Series: Growing Blueberries in Containers (10am session) – 7
 - April 19: Extension Gardening Series: Growing Blueberries in Containers (6pm session) – 11
 - April 20: Marathon County Historical Society History Chats: Herman Marth – 13 live virtual viewers
 - April 20: “A Song is a Poem is a Voice is a Story” with Scott Lowery - 8
 - April 25: Genealogy Basics with Ancestry – 3
 - April 27: Marathon County Historical Society History Chats: Carl Lemke – 9 live virtual viewers
- **Number of April programs and activities – 13**
 - **Total attendance/participation for April programs – 219**

Media Summary

Social Media Statistics:

- Facebook (MCPL): 4,870 followers
 - New page likes: 43
 - New page follows: 55
- Twitter: 1,231 followers (-2)
- Pinterest: 969 followers (+1)
- Goodreads: 328 friends (+2); 1,451 reviews (+0)
- Instagram: 1,079 followers (+14)
- YouTube: 521 subscribers (-4)

Hot Happenings in the River District (email newsletter)

- April 5 – MCPL Movie Night
- April 25 – Check Out State Parks at Your Library

All Events in (allevents.in/wausau)

- April 29 - Pokemon Club <https://allevents.in/wausau/pok%C3%A9mon-club/200024519617408>

WSAW Channel 7

- April 25 – State Park Passes Now Available at Marathon County Public Library
<https://www.wsaw.com/2023/04/25/state-park-passes-now-available-marathon-co-public-library/>

City Pages

- April 6 – Kids Corner Calendar – All locations: Grab and go create your own stamp for kids, 2-sentence story contest, Tween Writing Group; Wausau: Tales for Tots, Bouncing Babies story time, Play and Learn, Family Story Time, Earth Day story time, Pokemon Club, Poetry Journal for Teens, Basics of Bunnies and Chicks; Athens: Needle felting, family story time; Marathon City: Family Story Time; Hatley: Family story time, Earth Day Crafts, Teacher Appreciation Apples; Stratford: Family story time, LEGO Brick Building Brain Break; Rothschild: Family story time, DIY Rainbow Fish; Mosinee: Family Story Time; Big Guide - All locations: Mobile Wi-Fi hotspots available at MCPL, Grab and go adult needlepoint butterfly; Wausau: MCPL Movie Night – “The Fabelmans;” Marathon City: Book club – “The School for Good Mothers”

Mosinee Times

- April 14 – MCPL Media Release – April Youth Events/Activities, Part 2 – April 16-30 (2-sentence Story Contest, Tween Writing Group, Grab & Go Craft for Kids: Create Your Own Stamp, Hatley Earth Day Crafts, Wausau Basics of Bunnies and Chicks, Hatley Teacher Appreciation Apples)
- April 20 – MCPL, Marathon Co. 4-H to Teacher Kids about Rabbit, Chicken Care
- April 27 – MCPL Mosinee’s Monthly Crafts and Games Social Hour, May 3
- April 27 – MCPL Mosinee – The Last Log Drive: 1912, May 2

Record Review

- April 5 – Athens: Story time, needle felting, book club – “The Night Tiger;” Edgar: Book club – “Anxious People,” story time; Marathon City: Story time, book club – “The School for Good Mothers;” Stratford: LEGO brick building brain break, story time, book club – “Bewilderment”; All locations – Adult Grab and Go, story contest
- April 12 – Athens: Story Time; Needle felting; Edgar: Story time; Marathon: Story Time; Stratford: Story Time, Book club – “Bewilderment”; All locations: Grab & Go Adult Craft – needlepoint butterfly; 2-Sentence Story Contest
- April 19 – Athens: Story Time; Marathon: Story Time

- April 26 – Edgar: Archaeology, Weather Wheel, Story Time; Marathon: Story Time; All locations – Tween Writing Group, MCPL at Children’s Fest

Wausau Pilot & Review

- April 6 – Marathon County Public Library programs Marathon County Public Library programs - Wausau Pilot & Review (wausaupilotandreview.com)
- April 11 – MCPL, Marathon County 4-H to teach kids about rabbit, chicken care <https://wausaupilotandreview.com/2023/04/11/mcpl-marathon-county-4-h-to-teach-kids-about-rabbit-chicken-care/?fbclid=IwAR0jD3Q1awh6b7-GYxBAwc3Az3vJQCGMYv1B0XDx8Xm3ji9N7k6waZpshpl>
- April 25 – State Park Passes Available Soon at Marathon County Public Library <https://wausaupilotandreview.com/2023/04/25/state-park-passes-now-available-at-marathon-county-public-library/>
- April 25 – May story time dates set at Marathon County Public Library <https://wausaupilotandreview.com/2023/04/25/may-story-time-dates-set-at-marathon-county-public-library/>
- April 27 – Historical Society readies for next History Speaks, Chats programs <https://wausaupilotandreview.com/2023/04/27/historical-society-readies-for-next-history-speaks-chats-programs/>
- April 28 – Marathon County Public Library Book Clubs: May <https://wausaupilotandreview.com/2023/04/28/marathon-county-public-library-book-clubs-may-4/>

Wausau Daily Herald

- April 25 - Marathon County Historical Society presents History Speaks - The Vietnam War: One Veteran's Story https://www.wausaudailyherald.com/things-to-do/events/?_evDiscoveryPath=/event%2F1693166-marathon-county-historical-society-presents-history-speaks-the-vietnam-war-one-veteran-s-story-

Wausau Times/Buyers Guide

- April 5 – Out & About – Mobile Wi-Fi hotspots available at MCPL now thru the end of 2023
- April 12 – Out & About – Mobile Wi-Fi hotspots available at MCPL now thru the end of 2023; Friends of MCPL Member’s Only Book Sale, Sat. 4/15; Mosinee Book Club “All Adults Here” by Emma Straub, Mon. 4/17; Pokemon Club, Tues. 4/11; Mosinee Family Story Time, Wed. 4/12 & 4/26; Wausau Poetry Journal for Teens, Wed. 4/12, Fri. 4/15; Rothschild DIY Rainbowfish, Sat. 4/15

Volume One

- April 28 – Chippewa Falls’ Pearl Harbor Veteran: Harry W. Kramer <https://volumeone.org/articles/2023/04/28/317447-chippewa-falls-pearl-harbor-veteran-harry-w>

Materials

Youth

	2023 Annual Budget	Rollover from 2022	Total Appropriation	Monthly Allotment	Free Balance	Spent as of 4/30/2023	% Spent
Juvenile Audiobooks	\$9,000.00	\$0.00	\$9,000.00	\$750.00	\$6,485.56	\$2,514.44	28%
Juvenile CDs	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$41.67	\$310.86	\$189.14	38%

Juvenile DVDs	\$8,500.00	\$22.48	\$8,522.48	\$708.33	\$6,335.28	\$2,187.20	26%
Juvenile Video Games	\$2,300.00	\$30.68	\$2,330.68	\$191.67	\$1,376.68	\$954.00	41%
Young Adult Audio Books	\$1,650.00	\$70.35	\$1,720.35	\$137.50	\$1,040.46	\$679.89	40%
Juvenile e-books	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$125.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	0%
Youth AV Subtotal	\$23,450.00	\$123.51	\$23,573.51	\$1,954.17	\$17,048.84	\$6,524.67	28%
Juvenile Fiction	\$25,500.00	\$55.72	\$25,555.72	\$2,125.00	\$17,513.00	\$8,042.72	31%
Juvenile NonFiction	\$27,500.00	\$57.47	\$27,557.47	\$2,291.67	\$19,064.24	\$8,493.23	31%
Juvenile Picture Books	\$30,000.00	\$104.35	\$30,104.35	\$2,500.00	\$20,444.95	\$9,659.40	32%
Juvenile Spanish	\$1,400.00	\$0.00	\$1,400.00	\$116.67	\$1,034.48	\$365.52	26%
Juvenile Standing Order Print	\$7,500.00	\$0.00	\$7,500.00	\$625.00	\$4,343.01	\$3,156.99	42%
Young Adult Fiction	\$12,000.00	\$43.96	\$12,043.96	\$1,000.00	\$8,168.58	\$3,875.38	32%
Young Adult Graphic Novels	\$3,500.00	\$142.16	\$3,642.16	\$291.67	\$2,199.75	\$1,442.41	40%
Young Adult NonFiction	\$3,400.00	\$0.00	\$3,400.00	\$283.33	\$2,735.95	\$664.05	20%
Youth Print Subtotal	\$110,800.00	\$403.66	\$111,203.66	\$9,233.33	\$75,503.96	\$35,699.70	32%
Youth Services TOTAL	\$134,250.00	\$527.17	\$134,777.17	\$11,231.43	\$92,552.80	\$42,224.37	31%

Adult

	2023 Annual Budget	Rollover from 2021	Total w/carryover	Monthly Allotment	Free Balance	Spent as of May 2, 2023	% Spent
Adult Audiobooks	\$12,000.00	\$549.01	\$12,549.01	\$1,090.91	\$8,365.67	\$3,634.33	30.29%
Adult Music CD	\$5,500.00	\$699.42	\$6,199.42	\$500.00	\$3,671.57	\$1,828.43	33.24%
Adult DVD	\$17,500.00	\$1,043.69	\$18,543.69	\$1,590.91	\$10,555.23	\$6,944.77	39.68%
Adult Video Games	\$1,550.00	\$119.98	\$1,669.98	\$140.91	\$1,020.19	\$529.81	34.18%
Adult AV Subtotal	\$36,550.00	\$2,412.10	\$38,962.10	\$3,322.73	\$23,612.66	\$12,937.34	35.40%
Adult Paperbacks	\$3,035.00	\$164.63	\$3,199.63	\$275.91	\$2,617.65	\$417.35	13.75%
Adult Paperbacks S.O.	\$2,415.00	\$0.00	\$2,415.00	N/A	\$1,450.00	\$965.00	39.96%
Adult Fiction	\$47,000.00	\$429.81	\$47,429.81	\$4,272.73	\$27,231.88	\$19,768.12	42.06%
Adult LT Fiction	\$7,500.00	\$74.55	\$7,574.55	\$681.82	\$4,160.69	\$3,339.31	44.52%
***Adult LT S.O.	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$6,000.00	\$545.45	\$4,730.16	\$1,269.84	21.16%
Adult Non-fiction	\$67,000.00	\$2,592.19	\$69,592.19	\$6,090.91	\$43,675.35	\$23,324.65	34.81%
Adult Non-fiction S.O.	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	N/A	\$1,509.00	\$491.00	24.55%

Adult Biographies	\$12,000.00	\$336.33	\$12,336.33	\$1,090.91	\$7,444.58	\$4,555.42	37.96%
Adult Spanish	\$750.00	\$66.43	\$816.43	\$68.18	\$743.62	\$6.38	0.85%
Adult Hmong	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$750.00	\$68.18	\$631.06	\$118.94	15.86%
Overdrive - ebooks	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	\$1,363.64	\$11,389.96	\$3,610.04	24.07%
Adult Print Subtotal	\$163,450.00	\$3,663.94	\$167,113.94	\$14,859.09	\$105,583.95	\$57,866.05	35.40%
Adult Services TOTAL	\$200,000.00	\$6,076.04	\$206,076.04	\$18,181.82	\$129,196.61	\$70,803.39	35.40%

Support Services Statistics & Activities

Circulation Team

- New library card applications processed by the Circulation Team: 170
- Circulation total for Wausau First Floor: 28,229
- Ashley H processed 172 Interlibrary Loan items
- Homebound checked out 636 items
- April Passports News:
 - 24 Adult Passport Books
 - 12 Minor Passport Books
 - 1 Adult Passport Card
 - 2 Child Passport Card
 - 1 Card and Book

The MCPL Passport team accepted a total of 40 passport applications accepted at \$35.00 ea. and 56 photos were taken at \$10.00 each for a total of \$1,960.00 recorded. We also assisted with 17 renewal applications.

- The Circulation Team held individual rounding sessions with the Support Services Manager throughout the month of April.
- The Circulation Team assisted the Page team by checking in books during the sorter transition.
- 4/6/23 Kitty R attended the V-CAT Council Meeting
- 4/7/23 Kitty R attended passport informational meeting with Support Services Manager
- 4/11/23 Ashley H attended billing meeting
- 4/12/23 Kitty R attended Leads meetings with director and managers
- 4/12/23 Kitty R attended a State Park Pass informational meeting with Support and Library Services Managers.
- 4/13/23 Olivia B attended policy and procedures committee meeting.
- 4/20/23 Ashley H held ILL training session with Maggie B
- 4/24/23 Ashley finished Gale Course *Handling Medical Emergencies*
- 4/27/23 Circulation Team attended new sorter training
- The Circulation Team is assisting the Children's Department with processing school visit library card applications.
- Ashley H is updating ILL instructions.
- Erin Q has started accepting passports as a certified facility passport agent.
- Erin Q completed noted damage spreadsheet project.
- Jeff P finished Gale Course *"Interpersonal Communication"*
- Olivia B has organized the behavior/banning binder filing by year and date.

- Maggie B has completed Passport Acceptance training and will soon be certified to accept passport applications.
- Maggie B has been assisting Jailin P with Homebound duties.
- Over the course of the month, six patrons were asked to leave the library for the day due to minor policy violations, and two were banned for greater lengths of time due to other policy violations.

Support Services Team

- Chris L, James B and Rachel M of WVLS met with two Aspen representatives to discuss Aspen documentation regarding display formats for Books with discs on 4/4.
- Chris L attended V-Cat Council on 4/6.
- Members of Support Services “All things billing” workgroup met to review Missing Pieces & Damaged billing, V-Cat billing and Interlibrary Loan billing procedures on 4/11.
- Team Leads met with Leah 4/12.
- Chris L and James B met with Rachel M to discuss OCLC services on 4/13. They also met with Katie Z of WVLS to discuss adjustments to MCPL’s Aspen “New Books” browse category to allow inclusion of Lucky Day items.
- James B created an MCPL Test Bib to assist testing in Aspen on 4/17.
- Chris L, James B and Dawn L attended V-Cat ILS Evaluation and Review Committee (virtual) site visits to 2 libraries using the Koha-supported-by-Bywater ILS: CLiC (Colorado Library Consortium) on 4/17 and SEKLS (Southeast Kansas Library System) on 4/20.
- Dawn L, Alexander, Stephanie M and Chris L met on 4/20 to discuss the possibility of applying barcodes in-house rather than paying to Baker & Taylor to do it. B&T performs several processing services for us (barcode application, jackets, head stamping, spine labels, taping). Each is charged separately and prices have increased recently. A plan to analyze and evaluate the cost of each service versus the cost of doing it ourselves (staff time + materials) has been created. The goal is improved customer service through cost savings and efficiency.
- James B worked with Kate S, Tara H and Taylor W to create a list of desired new Location codes and updates to unused Location codes on 4/24. He is coordinating with Katie Z of WVLS to make the changes in Sierra.
- James B, Ben K and Chris L met on 4/27 to discuss creation of an MCPL Aspen “On Order” browse category. The current MCPL browse categories do not include titles which have been ordered but not yet received. These “On Order” titles are searchable, but not browse-able. The new “On Order” browse category will highlight new titles as soon as they are ordered and improve patron access.
- Support Services staff attended training for the new sorter on 4/27.
- Kayla K worked with James B and Kate S to update the call numbers on Adult holiday books (Christmas, Halloween) for more consistent shelving. Current relabeling project: Juvenile Picture books (2nd pass).
- Kayla K has continued to work regular shifts on Main Desk, with a goal of being fully trained within 40 hours of on-desk time. Janice A has been covering most of Kayla’s Drive Thru hours during her training.
- Dawn L is working on balancing funds in Workday and Sierra. She is also being trained in additional Support Services tasks; currently, submitting orders to B&T.
- Circulation total for Wausau Drive Up: 1,564.

Page Team

- Finished weeding in the adult non-fiction 300's.
- Weeded the juvenile audiobook collection and shifted the whole collection back so we could space out and give some much needed room to the growing Spanish collection.
- After days of increasingly finicky and deteriorating ability the sorter finally gave out on April 11th just in time for Facilities to begin work on the area for our new sorter.
- April 11th moved us into our stretch of manually checking in all returned materials and transits. Far, far more labor intensive but really makes us appreciate having a functioning sorter!
- We completed the Missing and Missing in Inventory Quarter Four and February lists. Between the two lists we found 4 items.
- As part of the ongoing effort to sort through all the storage items the page team did a lot of switch outs for picture books. We took items from storage and moved them to the shelves while weeding older copies that were currently on the shelves.
- We began the massive project of shifting adult non-fiction. Since the remodel and shelving move we have noticed that we have significantly more room at the end of the collection and the beginning of the collection is extremely tight. So the hope is that in doing a shift of this whole collection we will have a better balance of room for growth throughout.
- Our new sorter arrived April 24th and by the end of the day April 28th it was fully functioning!
- The whole team received training of various degrees on the new sorter April 27th.
- Due to only having a sorter for a couple of week's statistics for April would only be a guess. We are looking forward to the end of next month when we will have extremely accurate statistics with our new sorter!

Information Technology

- David has created a server to run Windows Deployment Services. This service will allow us to set up a single computer with a specific configuration and duplicate that configuration to apply it to other computers. He is using this Windows feature as a test to set up our new laptops. Once fine-tuned this will speed up the process of replacing groups of computers.
- Our 12 new Dell laptops are set up, licensed, and ready for use along with our new storage/charging cart that can hold up to 18 laptops.
- Our new materials sorter is installed and operational (see highlights on Page 1 for further details).
- Several projects remain ongoing:
 - Continued organization of the IT work area and server areas.
 - Creating technology tutorials for staff.
 - Investigate what needs to be done to continue outdoor Wi-Fi antennae installation at remaining branches.
 - Athens: Pending approval to install in new building.
 - *Edgar: Installed*
 - Hatley: Pending install
 - Marathon City:
 - *Mosinee: Installed*
 - Rothschild: Need written permission to install
 - Spencer:
 - *Stratford: Installed*
- Additional projects are on the horizon:
 - Plan a deployment date for Windows 11.
 - Plan a deployment date for new patron computers.

- Investigate moving library to Office 365 licensing instead of the current Office 2013 in use.
- Investigate tools or services to replace CASSIE's multiple functions.
- Investigate wireless printing options.

Athens Monthly Report

Events and Programs

- Book Club: This month the Athens Book Club read *The Night Tiger* by Yangsze Choo. A lively discussion was held on April 11 with 8 patrons attending.
- Athens hosted a Needle Felting craft program the week of April 10th. There were 4 patrons who came in to create felted keepsakes.
- There were 24 participants in the children's quarterly Grab & Go craft program for creating your own stamp, and there were 9 participants in the adult's quarterly Grab & Go craft program for needlepoint butterfly magnets.
- Upcoming Programs: The Athens Book Club will be reading *The Family Upstairs* by Lisa Jewell for May. Book Club meets on Tuesday, May 9 at 2:00pm in the Board Room of the Athens Village Hall. On Thursday, May 11th patrons are invited to the Athens library during open hours of 1:00pm-7:00pm to bedazzle, bejewel, and decorate their very own book bag to keep!

Circulation Statistics

- Athens had a total of 0 curbside appointments in the month of April.
- In April, Athens circulated a total of 1,912 items. This is a 45.73% increase from April of 2022. In 2023 year-to-date, Athens has circulated 7,380 items. This is a 27.99% increase from 2022.

Library News

- This month's adult displays included "Autism Awareness Month" featuring a variety of types of books about autism and "Rainy Day Reads" showcasing books with rain on the cover or in the title.
- We had up a children's display for Earth Day and a general interest display to celebrate National Poetry Month.
- We continue to do our own replacement of faded labels on books.
- Nikki worked on the 2023 Inventory.
- Nikki attended the Programming Committee Meeting on April 10th.
- We held a passive programming this month for kids to color rain boots and add them to the decorative puddles on our circulation desk.
- Shahara covered in Athens while Nikki helped out at Rothschild, Edgar, and Hatley, and also while Nikki was on vacation in Scotland.

Facilities

- None at this time.

Edgar Monthly Report

Events and Programs

- Grab and Go crafts: 21 children's stamps
- Grab and go crafts: 8 adult needlepoint butterflies
- Book club discussed the book "Anxious People" with no library facilitator
- Story time was held on the 4th with 2 adults and 6 children, followed by a gardening craft (8); Story time was also held on the 18th with no patrons attending, followed by a hippo craft (6) that was converted into a grab and go for patrons to take later

Circulation Statistics

- The circulation statistics for the month of April were 1,179 items checked out. This is a 35.04% decrease for the same month last year. A total of 5,518 items have been checked out so far this year. This is a 12.76 % decrease from 2022.
- There were 0 curbside pickups for the month.

Library News

- Nikki Filled in on the 4th and 17th
- Katie filled in on the 6th
- Lisa filled in on the 14th
- MJ filled in on the 15th
- Sarah filled in on the 18th and 24th
- Interviews for assistant position were held in Edgar on the 13th

Facilities Updates

- None at this time.

Hatley Monthly Report

Events and Programs

- Book Club – “The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek” was a hit and had 8 participants.
- Grab N Go programs
 - Grab n Go – Create Your Own Stamp – we had a total of 40 to start the Quarter off with and gave out 13 kits leaving us with 27 for the rest of the Quarter.
 - Grab n Go – Butterfly Magnets – we had a total of 22 to start the quarter off with and gave out 16 kits leaving us with 6 kits for the rest of the quarter.
- Story Time is held weekly on Tuesdays @ 10:30a
 - April 4th we did books on Chicks and Bunnies and had 0 participants.
 - April 11th we did books on Pets and had 0 participants.
 - April 18th we did books on Earth Day and had 0 participants.
 - April 25th we did books on Bees and had 5 participants.
- Earth Day Crafts brought in 4 participants to create their very own Terrarium with Sunflowers and a Felt Flower Pin to give to someone. I was also able to create 10 Grab and Go kits with our leftover supplies.
- Wooden Apple program brought in 2 participants. They were able to create their own Mini Wooden Apple using mini Jenga pieces. We were able to create 3 Grab and Go kits with our leftover supplies.
- The intro to composting program was a huge success! We had 6 participants pre-registered with us and ended up with a total of 13 people showing up!
- Upcoming Programs
 - Book Club on May 9th will be “The Giver of Stars”
 - Grab N Go Crafts – Create Your Own Stamps and Needlepoint Butterfly Magnets
 - Pressed Flower Coasters on May 8th
 - Tie Dye Butterflies on May 16th
 - Growing Veggies in Containers May 23rd
 - Story Times are back to being EVERY Tuesday morning at 10:30a

Circulation Statistics

- Hatley circulated 1,701 for the month of March. This is a 18.83% increase. Year to date is 6,981 items. This is a 23.30% increase from last year.

Library News

- Nikki F and Laura W both helped covers shifts
- Robin helped in Rothschild
- Heather helped cover shifts in Rothschild and Marathon City
- Heather attended a Zoom meeting for the PBS learning Cohort
- We continue to send in items to be labeled and cleaned
- Inventory is continuing
- YA nonfiction and graphic novels have been weeded
- Juvenile Fiction was weeded
- Adjustments to the number of Juvenile Series have been adjusted
- Our Wish list items have started to arrive!

Facilities Updates

- None at this time.

Marathon City Monthly Report

Events and Programs

- **Book Club:** Megan and 9 patrons had a deep and thoughtful discussion of the book *The School for Good Mothers* by Jessamine Chan. 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, May 8th with a discussion of the book *The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon* by Stephen King.
- **Story Time:** We began offering regular story time programs on January 5. These 30-45 minute programs are held on Thursday mornings at 10:30 am. April was a great month to come to story time. We had 44 caregivers and children join in the fun with themed stories, songs and activities. The themes we focused on this month were Eggs, Bunnies/Rabbits, Farm Animals and Rain. We have had a slow start, but are seeing a great increase in participation and are hopeful that more families will continue to discover our fun-filled story time.
- The 4K classes from St. Mary's School made their monthly visits again on April 12th & 13th. Lisa read stories and led some songs. The students also got a chance to check out a book by themselves. Two teachers and 10 students visited each day. A parent also dropped in for a visit.
- In the month of May, we will offer our monthly book club and our weekly story time events. The 4K from St. Mary's will also make its last monthly visit of the school year. We will also be hosting end of the year classroom visits from Marathon Elementary and will be gearing up for our Summer Library Program.

Circulation Statistics

- Marathon circulated 2,368 items during the month of April, which is an 18.26% decrease from this time last year. So far in 2023, Marathon has circulated 10,048 items. This is a 6.25% decrease over last year.

Library News

- Megan attended the branch bonding event.
- We are working on "spring cleaning" and organizing craft supplies and branch items.

Facilities Updates

- None at this time.

Mosinee Monthly Report

Events and Programs

- Family Story Time on the 8th again brought in no participants. After getting only 1 non-repeating participant since we went back to in person story time last fall, and offering two different time slots without success, we will be temporarily pausing our biweekly Family Story Time offerings.

We will work on re-building connections with families and community this summer with a special focus on growing a new story time audience.

- Book Club: Due to a staff vacation this month's book club met downstairs on the 20th so that Sarah could still participate in the discussion on *The Reading List* with the 3 participants.
- We held our popular Craft Swap program on the 28th and had 13 patrons drop off supplies which 6 patrons had a ton of fun picking out something new from!
- Passive Programs: This month we had a March Madness themed voting for our patron's favorite genre, with 48 patrons voted in favor of fantasy as their favorite. We also started back up our popular annual March Month of Crafts and Coloring in the children's section, with 22 adults and 52 children making cherry blossom wind socks, paper loop bugs, and coffee filter butterflies.
- Upcoming Programs: Yarn and Games Social Hour and Adult Book Club will continue. We will also be starting our Second Grade school visits again with Mosinee Elementary, so second graders can learn all our library and get their own library cards.

Circulation Statistics

- Mosinee circulated 2,536 items in April 2023. This is a 5.97% decrease. Mosinee has circulated 10,069 items in 2023. This is a 2.65% increase.
- Curbside services continued throughout the month with 6 patrons really appreciative of the service.

Library News

- Displays: A popular "Minions of books, so little time" display complete with reading Minions captured a lot of patrons' attention behind the circulation desk. Spring picture books were featured in the children's section along with books celebrating the great outdoors in honor of National Park Week. Our large display by the public computers celebrated the library and books in honor of National Library Week. Our historic fireplace housed gardening books in honor of National Garden Month, and our adult fiction section encouraged patrons to escape into one of our books, since "books are lives we don't have time to live".
- Stephanie and Katelyn visited MCPL Mosinee to help Sarah remove items no longer used here, to be housed in Wausau. Katelyn also had rounding with Sarah while she was here. We appreciate the visit!
- Staff continued sending in items that needed new spine labels, and appreciate all the hard work Support Services is doing!
- Sarah and Katie covered at the Edgar Branch several times this month.

Facilities Updates

- We are still waiting on A&A Lock Services to redo our entrance locks.
- We have now heard that a handrail will be installed in the coming weeks to our handicap ramp outside the Second Street entrance, which has been requested by several patrons in our community to help allow access to all into the building.
- A historical window restoration expert visited our library on the 21st to review the current state of our windows in preparation for a restoration project intended to be completed this fall.
- Our elevator had its state annual inspection completed on the 19th.

Rothschild Monthly Report

Events and Programs

- Story time is scheduled for every other Tuesday and Thursday. In April, we had 37 participants.
- In April, book club met and 8 members discussed *The Henna Artist* by Alka Joshi. In May, the club will discuss *The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides.

- Grab and Go Kits continue to be popular. So far, we have handed out 28 needle point butterfly magnets and 48 make your own stamp kits.
- 8 people joined us for Lego Block Party and were thrilled to use their imaginations and build interesting creations in the library. We also held a craft day for kids where we made flying rainbow fish and a craft night for adults where we made macramé key chains.
- In April, we had various book displays including ones featuring books celebrating libraries, survival stories, and books about migrating birds and foraging.

Circulation Statistics

- In April, Rothschild circulated 7,359 items. This is 7.74% decrease from last year. In 2023, Rothschild circulated 31,592 items. This is .47% increase from last year.
- We had 0 curbside pickups.

Library News

- Rothschild staff completed many collection maintenance tasks. We weeded the J easy readers and adult DVDs. We also continued inventory, disc cleaning, and relabeling.
- Wanda attended county orientation on 4/3.
- Laura attended the team leads meeting on 4/12.

Facilities Updates

- None at this time.

Spencer Monthly Report

Events and Programs

- “So, What’s Happening In Spencer?” was held on April 11th. Paul Hensch the Village of Spencer Administrator and Police Chief Shawn Bauer were the guest speakers. 23 local adults were in attendance to hear what is being built in Spencer, new businesses coming to Spencer, road repair and new wells being drilled, while Shawn Bauer talked about the different police calls that were responded to in the past year, who is on the police force in Spencer and what they are planning in the next year. There were many questions asked to both Shawn and Paul.
- “Cribbage At The Library” was held on April 11th with 8 adults having a great time playing cribbage.
- On April 12th, the Kindergarten classes from Spencer Elementary School came to the library. Audrey read them two stories and then they were allowed to check out a book. A total of 32 attended.
- A story time was held at the Rookie Rockets Daycare Center on April 12th. Lue read 2 stories with 9 in attendance.
- Grab N Go crafts started again in April. Children had a chance to “Create Your Own Stamp”. All 16 kits were enjoyed.
- April was the beginning for an adult craft, “Needlepoint Butterfly Magnets”. All 20 of the crafts were handed out.
- This month’s book club changed the date of their club meeting due to a snowy Monday on the 17th. The Spencer Book Club met on April 26th, to discuss “Heartbreaker” by Julie Garwood. 10 adults were here to participate.
- On April 27th, the public was invited to a Spring Hand Bell concert. The choir of hand bells was made of students from Spencer High School under the direction of Saydi Olson. The choir did an outstanding job. The music was beautiful and fun. 35 adults attended the concert.

Circulation Statistics

- Spencer has circulated 1,100 items in the month of April. This is an increase of 0.09%. Spencer has circulated 4,541 items in 2023. This is a decrease of 3.09%.
- Spencer had one curbside in the month of April.

Library News

- Audrey and Laura Wood held a rounding on April 3rd.
- Audrey and Katelyn Sabelko held their rounding on April 4th.
- Audrey and Lue held their rounding on April 19th.
- Audrey wrote an article for the Village Voice, a local newsletter, with upcoming events for May. I also took notes from the "So, What's Happening In Spencer?" program to be published in the May edition of the newsletter.
- Audrey received a letter from a Virginia youth, who was seeing information from a Wisconsinite. She is a 3rd grader who is doing a project for school. She had written a list of questions she was hoping I would answer. Her questions included, why do I work at a library, what is unique about Wisconsin, do we have a state athletic team, what is a traditional food/recipe people in Wisconsin eat and other quite unique questions. I did write her back, and I hope it helps make Wisconsin shine!

Facilities Updates

- The fire extinguisher was checked by the Spencer Fire Department.
- An area by the Emergency Exit, in the southeast corner of the library had water soaked carpet. I talked to the Paul Hensch the Village of Spencer Administrator who took a look at it and discovered the weather stripping on the bottom was gone. With the extreme rain and wind it was blowing in under the door. The next day they put weather stripping on the bottom by the threshold and caulk around the sides.

Stratford Monthly Report

Events and Programs

- We welcomed 78 children and adults to our weekly Family Story Times on Wednesday mornings in April. The story times included interactive readings of wonderful books, as well as action songs, crafts, and flannel board stories.
- Nine children from St. Joe's P-K visited the library for a story time and book check-out April 12.
- 6 people attended our Book Club on April 19 to discuss Bewilderment by Richard Powers.
- St. Joe's 1/2/3rd graders visited the library for book check-out on April 3 and 17. A total of 14 students and 2 adults attended.
- St. Joe's 4th and 5th grade classes visited the library and checked out books on April 14, 21, and 28. A total of 3 adults and 18 children visited.
- St. Joe's 6th and 8th grade classes visited the library and checked out books on April 14 and April 21. A total of 2 adults and 26 children visited.
- 30 people participated in a self-directed indoor Lego Brick Building Brain Break.
- 39 children picked up the Create Your Own Stamp craft kit.
- 10 adults picked up the Needlepoint Butterfly Magnet craft kits in April.
- The Stratford History Society Met in our Community Room on April 18. Seven people attended.
- Bug Tussel met in our Community Room on April 29. There was 1 attendee.

Circulation Statistics

- We circulated 2,063 items in April. This is a 19.04 % increase from last year. So far in 2023, we circulated 8,232 items. This is an 10.66 % increase from 2022.
- We had 2 curbside pick-up requests this month.

Library News

- Our library branch received great new toys for our children's area May 26, which has already brought much delight to our small patrons. An attractive and sturdy shelf was also provided to us for various displays, including the Summer Library Program.

- We provided an April Showers, Read for Hours book display for adults. We also had a Play Ball! book display for children and adults.
- Darla worked overhours to sub during a program in Spencer on Wed., April 12.
- Darla worked overhours in Stratford so MJ could cover Edgar's subbing need on Sat., April 15.
- We weeded our Reference and Wisconsin Reference sections, as well as our Juvenile Fiction and Juvenile Graphic Novel sections.
- We sent in books to Support Services for relabeling.
- We sent in discs to Support Services for disc clean up.
- We offered proctoring services to one patron this month.
- We provided technology service to one patron needing help with an online job interview.

Facilities Updates

- David visited the branch on April 10 to set-up our third public computer and to fix our public printer.
- We shifted our entire Adult Non-Fiction section to make better use of the space.

Thank you to Alexander, Katelyn, Dan, Taylor, Chad, David, Team Leads and Library Coordinators for this month's contributions!

Director's Report

WVLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

March 19, 2023

CORRESPONDENCE

2023 WVLS Board of Trustees Appointments

In February, following the WVLS Board of Trustees meeting, a press release announcing the 2023 WVLS Board Appointments was submitted to all the newspapers in the WVLS seven-county service area. The announcement also included the names of the newly elected officers and WVLS Executive Committee members.

Notes of Thanks

Thanks, from Outgoing Library Director

"Thanks to the WVLS team for the beautiful flowers that came just in time for the open house the library board held on Monday [February 13] for the "Director transition." They really added to the sunshine of the day and kept the hope of spring alive through the rain the last two days. Plus, they matched the book covers and brought some amusing (at least to me) irony to the "icy cold reads" book display. I'm still not sure what the flower in the front is, but it is unusual and beautiful! It was a great selection.



Thanks to all of you for being a great behind the scenes support team. It's been an interesting ride these last 8 years and I've learned a ton. Thank you for all your patience and teamwork and for being an amazing "pit crew" for us out on the racetrack of library land. I know you always dream of doing more, but everything you have done is greatly appreciated. Sometimes it's done so well we forget you're even doing it!

All the best for the best that's yet to come,

Erica Brewster; former director of the E.U. Demmer Memorial Library, Three Lakes

Public Library Annual Report Help is Appreciated

Sue Hafemeister and other members of the WVLS Annual Report Team received many thanks for the support provided during this year's member library annual report project.

"Thank you, Susie, and everyone else behind the scenes!" – Rita Ludvigsen, Western Taylor County Public Library (Gilman) Director

“Susie and the Annual Report Team, once again you have amazed me in how easy you make the annual report season. Thank you for your clear instructions and helpful notes. As rules change from year to year, you are all staying on top of them so we can be efficient. Thank you for your continued support!”

-Teresa Hall, Loyal Public Library Director

“...Thank you, Susie, Brenda and the entire WVLS annual reports team for a (mostly – and mostly none of our fault’s) smooth AR process. We will follow through on the rest of the steps on our end and get the report to you ASAP after our February 21 meeting. Appreciate all of your help over the years and wishing everybody the best as you continue to support those who provide public library service to rural/remote Wisconsin!” – Erica Brewster and April Hansen, E.U. Demmer Memorial Library

“Thank you, Susie! I couldn’t have done it without you.” – Melissa Highfill, Westboro Public Library

Library Legislative Day Thank You

Thank-you messages were received from two first-time LLD attendees.

A card from Loyal Public Library Director Teresa Hall to the WVLS Staff stated *“Once again I find myself being thankful, you’re here. Thank you for the nudge to apply for the scholarship to attend Library Legislative Day. The opportunity was an eye-opening event to how connected we are to the legislators. Thank you for your advice, detailed itineraries, and encouragement for such an important event. Here’s hoping our stories made an impact as [the legislators] make their financial decisions.”*

MCPL Library Services Manager Katelyn Sabelko’s email to Kris Adams Wendt and Marla Sepnafski stated *“Just a quick note to say thank you for all the work you poured into Library Legislative Day. Kris, your capitol directions were a godsend! Thank you for holding a prep meeting the Friday before, too; that was so helpful. Marla, thank you for being our team lead! I’m grateful for the whole WVLS crew. Please pass my thank you on to them! Looking forward to Legislative Day 2023!”*

Public Library Annual Reports – Compliance Issues and System Effectiveness

The WVLS Annual Report Team is pleased to report that all 25 public library annual reports were submitted to DPI by the March 1 statutory deadline. The WVLS audit of members’ 2022 annual reports revealed no issues of noncompliance. Also, all 25 member public libraries indicated in the system effectiveness section of the annual report that WVLS provided effective leadership in 2022. Favorable comments were reported in the areas of consulting, customer service, ILS administration and technology support. Comments shared by library boards are shared as **Exhibit 11a**.

PEOPLE / LIBRARIES / SYSTEMS IN THE NEWS

Three WEMTA Conference Scholarships Awarded

WVLS awarded scholarships to three area public and K-12 school library staff to attend the 2023 Wisconsin Educational Media and Technology Association (WEMTA) Conference held February 5-7 in

Rothschild. The recipients were **Julie Beloungy** (School District of Thorp), **Kay Heiting** (Granton Community Library and Granton School District), and **Kristie Heistad** (Antigo Public Library). The scholarship provided for full conference registration, one-year WEMTA membership, lodging, mileage, and meal reimbursement. Applicants had to currently work at a WVLS area public or K-12 school library and have one year of library work experience. Conference highlights are shared as **Exhibit 12** in this Board Packet and via this [short video](#).

2023 WLA Conference Planning Committee Hard at Work

Planning for the 2023 WLA Conference in Middleton on Tuesday, October 25 - Friday, October 27 is in full swing. The theme for the 2023 state library conference is “Don’t Stop Believing.” After selecting volunteers for the Conference Planning Committee in 2022, WVLS Education Consultant **Jamie Matczak** led online committee meetings in January and February, and an in-person meeting earlier this month. The volunteer committee roles and members are:



- **New!** Accessibility and Inclusion: **Mark Jochem**, South Central Library System
- Book Signing: **Jean Anderson**, South Central Library System
- Conference App: **Nancy Bell**, Oshkosh Public Library
- Exhibits: **Michelle Dennis**, Hedberg Public Library; **Brenda Walenton**, WVLS
- Local Arrangements: **Katharine Clark**, Middleton Public Library
- **New!** On-Site Volunteer Coordinator: **Emily Rogers**, Brown County Library
- Programming: **Carol Hassler**, Wisconsin State Law Library; **Meredith Lowe**, UW-Madison
- Proofreading: **Desiree Bongers**, Ripon Public Library
- Publicity: **Chad Glamann**, Outagamie Waupaca Library System
- Registration: **Elizabeth Timmins**, Muehl Public Library (Seymour)
- Technology: **Brendan Lenzner**, Marquette University

Current priorities are to determine keynote speakers, develop a conference timeline, coordinate local arrangements, and send out a call for program proposals.

WVLS and Area Library Staff Outreach

Sabelko to Present at Upcoming WILSWORLD Shorts. WiLS is hosting a panel discussion, *Book Challenge Hindsight: What You Wish You'd Known*, on Friday, March 24 at 1:00. WiLS is honored to welcome representatives from K12 and public libraries who have valuable experience and advice to share on handling book challenges. Panel members include:

- **Ashley Knapp**, Library Media Instructional Technology Specialist at West De Pere High School
- **Matt Mulder**, Current Oconomowoc Common Council member and former Oconomowoc Public Library Board of Trustees member
- **Katelyn Sabelko**, Library Services Manager at Marathon County Public Library

WiLSWorld Shorts are webinars provided to WiLS members for free on a quarterly(ish) basis. Visit <https://www.wils.org/do/giving-back/shorts/> to register for the upcoming webinar and to watch recordings or view slides of previous WiLSWorld Shorts.

Metzler to Serve on WPLC Budget Committee. During a February 20 meeting of the WPLC (Wisconsin Public Library Consortium) Board, the 2023 Budget Committee was formed to include Rachel Metzler and three other members of the WPLC Board. As a Board Liaison to the Digital Library Steering Committee, Metzler will help determine the amount of the annual buying pool.

Matczak Completes iSchool Course, Perfecting Your Presentations

WVLS Continuing Education Consultant Jamie Matczak completed a new Continuing Education course called “Perfecting Your Presentations” for the iSchool at UW-Madison. This four-week course examined strategies and best practices on being prepared and confident public speakers. Learners had to create and deliver a presentation as a culmination of the course. One person shared, *“Thanks for this course, its resources, and the opportunity to develop a presentation that I will eventually give to my library board.”* The 10 learners enrolled in the course were from public and academic librarians all over the world, including one from Doha, Qatar!

Bridges Library System Receives National Award

[Family Caregiver Alliance](#), in partnership with the [Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation](#) and [Bader Philanthropies, Inc.](#), named Bridges Library System as one of three recipients of their 2022 *Innovations in Alzheimer’s Caregiving Award*. The award recognizes model programs that address the needs of caregivers and those they care for living with Alzheimer’s disease or a related condition.

Bridges Library System will receive \$20,000 for the [Library Memory Project](#) (LMP), an initiative consisting of 21 public libraries across multiple counties and library consortia. The LMP offers rotating monthly social opportunities for those with memory loss and their caregivers, serving more than 200 people annually. Individuals living with memory loss and their care partners can count on finding warm

companionship, acceptance to be who they are, and enjoyable discussions and engagement in music, art, theater, poetry, and literature.

“It is such an honor to be recognized with an Innovations in Alzheimer’s Caregiving Award for the work library staff have done in our community,” said Angela Meyers, Inclusive Services Coordinator at the Bridges Library System. *“The Library Memory Project wouldn’t be possible without the passion and dedication of the library staff involved and the relationships they’ve built with those who attend every month.”*

An award reception will be held in Atlanta, Georgia on Tuesday, March 28 during the Aging in America Conference. The award funds will be used to help further the LMP’s innovative service to family caregivers and those they care for. <https://bridgeslibrarysystem.org/caregiver-award/>

GRANT and SCHOLARSHIP PROJECTS

WVLS Offering ALA Conference Scholarships

WVLS is awarding scholarships to area library staff to attend the 2023 American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference that will be held in Chicago from June 22-27. As the world’s largest library event, the ALA Annual Conference & Exhibition brings together thousands of librarians and library staff, educators, authors, publishers, friends of libraries, trustees, special guests, and exhibitors.

The WVLS scholarship is valued at \$3,800, and covers costs such as conference registration, lodging, round-trip mileage and meals. Scholarship recipients are expected to attend the entire conference. The scholarship application deadline is Monday, March 13.

2022 LSTA Improved Discovery Solutions Grants

LSTA Cooperative Cataloging Grant. Eight Wisconsin Public Library Systems were awarded an LSTA grant to investigate current and potential cataloging standards across the state as suggested during the multi-year Public Library System Redesign (PLSR) study. Colleagues from each system worked with WILS consultants to complete survey and focus group processes that was completed in February.

During the Focus Group session on February 17, catalogers throughout Wisconsin discussed their policies and practices for cataloging materials. WVLS’ cataloging process is more collaborative than what is seen in other consortiums. WVLS employs cooperative cataloging from its member libraries. All WVLS catalogers must attend training to be able to save records into the V-Cat database, cataloging procedures vary depending on an individual’s level of training. WVLS uses [standards](#) set by the V-Cat Bibliographic/Interface Committee, as well as [training guidelines and standards](#).

Many other methods of cataloging are used in the state. These include centralized cataloging done in contract with a resource library, centralized cataloging done at the system, and hybrid cooperative/centralized models that allow for some cataloging by library staff and are then checked by cataloging partners or system staff.

Staff at WVLS libraries have permission to edit bibliographic records. In the state, 31% of systems allow bibliographic record edits by library staff and 77% have this controlled by centralized catalogers.

WVLS staff use spot checking methods to ensure an accurate database. Library staff are also encouraged to report bibliographic records that seem incorrect to WVLS staff for follow up.

Overall, allowing more library involvement in cataloging allows for libraries to get items circulating very quickly, as they do not have to wait for centralized staff to catalog materials.

Next, WiLS will use data analysis from the survey and focus group to create a report. Feedback from the survey and follow up focus groups will help to establish mapping of inclusive subject headings in an effort to standardize the use of alternative vocabularies where deficiencies exist in Library of Congress Subject Headings.

LSTA Joint ILS Consortium Exploration Project. The grant for the WVLS/NWLS ILS Consortium Exploration has been awarded. A name for the project has been selected, Northern Wisconsin ILS Consortium Exploration (NICE). With the announcement of the grant award, a NICE Team was formed. Recent activities of the NICE Team is shared with this document as **Exhibit 11b**.

2022-2023 Grants

Technology – Increase Capacity for Technology Tools and Resources Sparsity Aid.

LEAN WI partners were allocated **\$75,297.00** in aggregate and were notified of award. LEANWI partners are planning utilizations for this funding pending official notice of award. Planning was partially on hold until ECF award announcements came through mid-January 2023.

2023 Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) - Extension of services for existing mobile hotspot devices and additional of devices and services. LEAN WI partners were awarded an aggregate of **\$309,832.45** across three applications for continuity of existing mobile hotspot data services through 2023 and for additional devices and funding of services through 2023. Our vendor advised we request changes to the invoicing model from BEAR 472 (passthrough with reimbursement) to SPI (direct payments to provider) and we are currently waiting for final confirmation from USAC for the changes.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dates Set for JFC Public Hearings

The legislature's powerful Joint Finance Committee has announced [dates and locations for four public hearings](#) to solicit citizen input for the 2023-2025 biennial state budget. JFC members will be taking testimony during marathon sessions from 10 AM to 5 PM in Waukesha on April 5, Eau Claire on April 11, Wisconsin Dells on April 12, and at Lakeland Union High School in Minocqua on April 26. WLA LD&L members are serving as site captains. Kris Adams Wendt and Northern Waters Library System Director Sherry Machones are organizing library supporters to literally stand up for state library aid

behind designated speakers at the Minocqua hearing. Please contact kawendt@wvls.org for additional information regarding the Minocqua hearing or at other locations.

New this year is [an online portal featuring a public comment form](#) for testimony that will be gathered and shared with all 16 [members of the Joint Finance Committee](#) through the end of April. WLA is asking library supporters to message in favor of a modest increase of \$6 million for regional public library system aid in the 2023-2025 biennial budget, as well as cost-to-continue funding for BadgerLink, Newsline for the Blind, and contracts with providers of specialty library services from the Wisconsin Talking Book & Braille Library, Cooperative Children’s Book Center, UW-Madison and Milwaukee Public Library.

[More information about state aid for Wisconsin library services is linked here.](#) Identify yourself and your relationship to a specific local library. Share an anecdote about the way your library makes a difference to the people who value its services and programs. In closing, thank the JFC members for their past support of Wisconsin library services.

State aid budgeted for public library systems like WVLS benefits all residents of Wisconsin by providing cost effective infrastructure and expanding access to library resources well beyond what is funded with local investments. Receiving a remarkable number of public comments will enable WLA’s library champions on the Joint Finance Committee like 12th District Senator Mary Felzkowski to demonstrate citizen support for our biennial budget requests.

V-CAT and ILS ADMINISTRATION PROJECTS

Key Projects

Cataloging. On January 17, Rachel Metzler facilitated a discussion with catalogers from MCPL and Antigo to have a plan for the best method of cataloging braille items.

Collection Development. Libraries reported positive feedback about the lists of materials over 10 years old and not checked out in the past 10 years sent by WVLS as a result of goals set during the V-Cat Collection Development meet up. The list proved to be a helpful tool for record clean up and item review. Libraries were invited to email WVLS staff for assistance with similar lists.

2022 LSTA Improved Discovery Solutions Grants. Information on the LSTA Cooperative Cataloging Grant Project and LSTA Joint ILS Consortium Exploration Grant Project is provided above in this report under GRANTS and SCHOLARSHIP PROJECTS.

Council and Committee Meeting Highlights

V-Cat Council. During its meeting on February 3, Council members approved the October-December 2022 financial reports and revised 2023 V-Cat Appropriations Plan, and elected Neillsville Public Library Director **Janay Ziebell** as 2023 V-Cat Council Vice Chair/Chair Elect. Minocqua Public Library Director

Peggy O’Connell is serving as Chair of the V-Cat Council this year. WVLS announced that a Sierra upgrade to 5.6 was planned for March and shared the [Spring 2023 V-Cat Training Schedule](#) that included additional opportunities slated for the fall.

Council members had a lengthy discussion about high demand item types and serving patrons. Library staff were encouraged to contact other libraries when a local patron requests access to an item that is set to high demand at another library. Overall, council members expressed openness to granting access and were reminded to communicate with staff about how to handle this type of request consistently.

During the Northern Wisconsin ILS Consortium Exploration (NICE) project update, WVLS staff shared that the feasibility study is exploring the benefits of V-Cat and the Northern Waters Library Network working together and that it is building on the previous Project WIN (WVLS, IFLS and NWLS) study. The Public Library System Redesign multi-year study facilitated by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction indicated that merging Integrated Library Systems is a priority.

Libraries were invited to update Aspen browse categories to limit new materials features to titles first published in 2022 and 2023.

Kitty Roesler (MCPL) demonstrated how to use the Sierra Clear Expired Holds and Holdshelf function. It is recommended that libraries perform this task on a daily basis every day that the library is open. Instructions were provided and are posted on the V-Cat Training page.

V-Cat ILS Evaluation and Review Committee. In November and December 2022, committee members, and staff from WVLS and NWLS member libraries were invited to product demonstrations by Koha, supported by ByWater Solutions, The Library Corporation’s CARL, and Innovative’s Sierra. Each demonstration took place over the course of a day and a half with presentations organized by modules. All demonstrations were fully remote and recorded to encourage maximum participation.

Staff who attended the demonstrations were encouraged to fill out a survey on the specific modules they attended. The results of the surveys were aggregated for the committee's review, and committee members were asked to complete a second survey to rate and rank the products ahead of its February 9 meeting.

During its meeting in February, the Committee decided to pursue site visits to libraries using Koha and Sierra. At its March 10 meeting, the Committee discussed site visit priorities and the viability of remote vs. in person site visits. Site visits will be scheduled in April and May. The Committee will meet again in May to discuss information gathered during site visits.

V-Cat Cooperative Circulation Committee. During its meetings in December and March, the Committee reviewed requests for changes to the V-Cat Standardized Checkout Period Recommendation and the V-Cat High Demand. No changes were recommended by the committee. Work continues on recommendations for a standardized library card application, patron record fields and related

procedures. The committee discussed overrides on item level holds and will bring an updated recommendation to V-Cat Council in April. A procedure specific to damaged and missing pieces was discussed, and committee members are testing out a flow chart to assist with steps and options for libraries to consider.

TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS OVERVIEW

LEAN WI Core Infrastructure

The partnership will be reviewing core switching update options in March and April. Routers and certain network equipment for libraries are still on backorder or in limited supply. The partnership continues monitoring supply for opportunities to procure operational and lifecycle replacement equipment.

LEAN WI Service Explorations

LEAN WI partners received quoting for antivirus management licensing to be implemented as an alternative to Faronics as a managed Antivirus product. The licensing quote was tricky to secure as the generation of the product we were seeking is scheduled for end of sale. As our 3-year cycle ends/renews mid-2023, we are holding off on procurement until we've had more time to review the new generation of Microsoft's endpoint security management products and determine if it is cost-feasible. An application version management utility has also been identified for procurement and implementation as part of a joint effort intended to consolidate antivirus licensing, client management, and common application updates support. The partnership is pursuing version management licensing but has not yet executed an order.

Libraries Win Services

LEAN WI partners will be reviewing the "take rate" of member libraries adopting the BYOD (bring your own device) and Public PC printing management services available through Princh. Libraries that have not yet opted into the service will be able to do so at any time over the next several years. We will be reviewing other print management options from Princh in the future and working with interested libraries to provide as much funding and technical support as feasible once the initial implementation sweep of Princh services is complete with operations and support models stable.

WVLS Internal Projects, Library Projects, and Core Services Support

The review and update of the comprehensive WVLS IT assets tracking remains on hold pending the hire of a new technology support technician and other project completions. The portion of large cap assets necessary for annual audit was presented to the auditors last year for the 2022 audit, and we will do the same this year. We still intend to review and update our comprehensive internal tracking, and this may move into the LEAN WI scope as discussion about implementing the same asset management application has now come up from partners as well.

All WVLS Libraries: Prior to departure, Achraf was working on ongoing/recurring maintenance projects including:

- Ensuring computers throughout the membership have updated firmware and device drivers and have the latest Windows Updates (remains on hold for proactive service but is accomplished per PC during PC-related support resolutions).
- Ensuring all libraries are using the currently supported stable version of Deep Freeze Enterprise. This project is in slow progress using related support cases as an opportunity to review and remediate Deep Freeze Consoles. The proactive project to sweep through all member libraries is on hold.

PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSULTANT SERVICES

Youth Services Meetup

IFLS Library System and WVLS hosted a Youth Services Meetup on January 24. During this listening and sharing opportunity, staff who work with youth discussed collection development practices, challenges and solutions. Approximately 26 people participated in the event. The upcoming Children’s Book Fest will provide the next networking opportunity for area youth services staff from school and public libraries.

WVLS OverDrive Advantage Selectors Committee

Rachel Metzler facilitated a meeting of the WVLS OverDrive Advantage Selectors Committee on February 27. During its first meeting of the year, the committee reviewed processes for selecting and ordering materials and determined a monthly budget for the year. Members of the committee include **Kate Sullivan** (MCPL), **Cindy Hultman** (Minocqua Public Library), **Jenny Jochimsen** (Abbotsford Public Library), **Maria Pregler** (T.B. Scott Free Library, Merrill), and **Loralee Petersen** (Owen Public Library).

Website Services Projects

“Hi Anne, I can't thank you enough for all your help with the new website. It only took 6 weeks to design, move the content, and publish the site, which has to be some sort of world record (especially with all the snow days and extra stuff happening at the library). It is a joy to work with you.” --**Kim Kiiskinen**, Reference and Technology Librarian, River Falls Public Library
to **Anne Hamland**, WVLS Public Library Services Consultant

A compromised website in January inspired the River Falls Public Library to move to the LEAN WI website services shortly thereafter. The new website, launched on March 1, features a translation function and soon will have a plug-in with additional accessibility features similar to the [City of River Falls Website](#).

The [Hudson Area Public Library](#) also went live with a new website on March 6.

With the addition of five new databases from the Northern Waters Library Service to its member libraries, websites for libraries participating in the LEAN WI website services were updated in February to announce and provide access to these resources. Visit the Spooner Memorial Library [Spooner Memorial Library](#), [Sherman & Ruth Weiss Community Library \(Hayward\)](#), or [Ben Guthrie Lac Du](#)

[Flambeau Public Library](#) to see Kanopy, a video streaming service, The New York Times, New York Times Cooking, Creativebug, and Transparent Language Online. With these new resources, the NWLS libraries no longer subscribe to Gale Courses.

WVLS Newsletter Highlights

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

- [March 2023](#) – “WVLS Acknowledges Leaders,” “Library Legislative Day Sees Record Attendance,” “Matczak Connects and Communicates,” “ALA Conference Scholarships Available,” “WVLS WEMTA Conference Scholars Enjoy the Experience,” and “Privacy Tutorials Now Available,”
- [February 2023](#) – “Tomahawk Aims to *Light Up Your Winter*,” “MCPL Partners with Community Outreach Specialist,” “Merrill Serves as Warming Center,” “Abbotsford Creates *Blind Date with a Book*,” “Loyal Starts Golden Agers Gab and Gobble,” and “Crandon Asks Community to *Spread the Love*.”
- [January 2023](#) – “Scholarships Available for WLA’s Library Legislative Day,” “Don’t Forget to Register for ‘Wild Wisconsin’ Sessions,” “WAPL Conference Accepting Program Proposals,” “MCPL Aquarium Celebrates 10 Years,” “Delivery Reminders This Month,” “WVLS Awards WEMTA Scholarships” and “NICE Update.”

Thank you to the area library staff for their contributions!

Inclusive Services Consulting Report

Sherry Machones, NWLS and WVLS Inclusive Services Consultant, continues to share an *Inclusive Services Update* with each system’s member libraries each month.

The **January Update** shared facts about Braille, a list of classes available through UW-Madison’s iSchool and other continuing education opportunities, a \$2,500 grant opportunity for new library programs that directly serve patrons living with dementia, a toolkit of resources to work with underserved patrons, a list of diverse holidays in January, and more.

The **February Update** highlighted February’s Black History Month, a list of upcoming continuing education opportunities including [Toward One Wisconsin 2023](#) - a conference on equity, diversity and inclusion held April 25-26 in Appleton, [the Lincoln and Marathon County Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Welcomeness Study](#) conducted by WIPPS (Wisconsin Institute for Public Policy and Service), “People Like Me in Places Like Mine: Authentic Representation in Rural Picture Books” (*Children and Libraries*, Winter 2022), and WTMJ-TV Milwaukee news feature ["Could bolstering public libraries be the key to reducing crime and violence?"](#).

The **March Update** announced BadgerLink resources for Women’s History Month, ADA requirements for individuals in the workplace with hearing disabilities, a new brief on [Wisconsin's Older Population and](#)

[Vision Loss, Tips For Creating a More Inclusive Workplace](#), tips for creating a more inclusive work place, and diverse holidays in March.

CONTINUING EDUCATION & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

NEW! Privacy Tutorials Now Available

Wisconsin public library workers now have access to tutorials covering the basics of privacy and public libraries, with specific attention to Wisconsin laws. These tutorials were created by the University of Wisconsin-Madison's iSchool and are sponsored by Wisconsin Public Library Systems with support from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, with funding from the Institute for Museum and Library Services.

- [Privacy and Wisconsin Public Libraries Tutorial for Front-Line Staff](#): This tutorial includes three modules. Each module consists of a short (8-9 minute) video, links to additional reading, and a short comprehension quiz. The goal is to help front-line staff understand the reasons behind privacy policies and laws, as well as learning how to interact effectively with library users about privacy.
- [Privacy and Wisconsin Public Libraries Tutorial for Managers and Directors](#): Library directors and managers can access a short tutorial with suggestions for working with staff, creating policies, and other administrative tasks related to protecting patron privacy. Completion certificates are available.

Children's Book Fest Set for May

WVLS and the Rhinelander District Library are pleased to announce that the 35th Annual Children's Book Fest will be held in-person at the Pines Event Center in Rhinelander on May 1-2.

This event provides school and public librarians a unique opportunity to browse recommended youth and teen titles published in 2022 made available through the Children's Cooperative Book Center (CCBC). Stay for the CCBC presentation "Current Trends in Children's Literature and the Best New Books of 2022" and learn how its nationally renowned Intellectual Freedom Information Services can help libraries.

Books will be available for purchase on site with special thanks to Mind Chimes Bookshop. Cash, card, check, or invoice request will be accepted for payment. Attendees should bring a copy of their organization's 2022 tax exemption form. The May 1 evening session offers 1.5 hours, while the May 2 morning session 2.0 contact hours, toward public library director certification.

[Register here to attend](#) either session, or both. Light refreshments will be provided.

2023 Wild Wisconsin Winter Web Conference Recap

The Wild Wisconsin Winter Web Conference took place on January 25-26, 2023, and was a big success. There were 14 presentations over the two days, focused on marketing, library management, reference and reader's advisory and sustainability. Total attendance for the conference was 1418, with an average of 101 attendees per session. The recordings are averaging close to 100 views on the conference YouTube channel. Feedback for the conference was positive. Some of the comments were:

- *Thanks so much for all of the thought-provoking information!*
- *Thank you for inspiring me. I feel like I've been born again into librarianship.*
- *I loved how the presenter invited people to share with each other! She did a great job of getting everyone involved and talking to each other.*
- *Thanks again, Jamie, Leah and Jean, for your work on another great conference!*

Slides and videos of the 14 one-hour sessions may be found on the Wild Wisconsin Winter Web Conference website <http://www.wildwiscwinterweb.com/> under "Post Conference Resources." Next year's Wild Wisconsin Winter Web conference will be held on January 24-25, 2024.

INFO TO GO

- "Exclusive Report: Marathon County Supervisors Violated First Amendment Protections in Library Fight; Wausau Pilot; February 14, 2023 (**Exhibit 11c**)
- "A Love Letter to Libraries, Long Overdue;" New York Times; February 14, 2023 (**Exhibit 11d**)

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

- March 2 – **NICE (Northern Wisconsin ILS Consortium Exploration) Focus Group meeting**
- March 7 – **Clark County Libraries' Advocacy meeting**
- March 8 – **V-Cat Sierra Cataloging Training (Attaching Items)**
- March 9 – WLA Conference Planning Committee meeting; Madison
- March 9 – **WVLS V-Cat ILS Evaluation and Review Committee meeting**
- March 9 – WPLC Technology Backup Steering Committee meeting
- March 10 – COLAND (Council on Library and Network Development) meeting
- March 10 – **WVLS V-Cat Cooperative Circulation Committee meeting**
- March 14 – LSTA Collaborative Cataloging Grant meeting
- March 15 – **WVLS V-Cat Steering Committee meeting**
- March 18 – **WVLS Board of Trustees meeting**
- March 21 – **NICE (Northern Wisconsin ILS Consortium Exploration) Team meeting**
- March 22 – **V-Cat Sierra Cataloging Training (Z39.50)**
- March 28 – Library Workforce Connection meeting
- April 6 – **WVLS V-Cat Council meeting**
- April 7 – **WVLS OFFICE CLOSED**

- April 11 – **WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Office Hours**
- April 11 – Taylor County Library Board meeting; Gilman
- April 12 – **WVLS Library Advisory Committee meeting**
- April 13 – WPLC Digital Library Steering Committee meeting
- April 17-18 – WVLS Audit
- April 18 - **NICE (Northern Wisconsin ILS Consortium Exploration) Team meeting**
- April 18 – DPI-hosted meeting of System Youth Services Consultants
- April 20 – **WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Office Hours**
- **April 23-29 - NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK**
- April 25 – Library Workforce Connection meeting
- April 26 – Joint Finance Committee Hearing; Lakeland Union High School, Minocqua
- April 26 – DPI-hosted meeting of System Continuing Education Consultants
- April 26 – SRLAAW (System and Resource Library Administrators Association of WI) meeting
- April 26-28 – **WAPL Conference; Oshkosh**
- May 1-2 – **WVLS Children’s Book Fest**
- May 9 – **WVLS V-Cat Bibliographic Control / Interface Committee meeting**
- May 9 – **WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Office Hours**
- May 9 – WLA Conference Planning Committee meeting
- May 9 – WPLC Technology Steering Committee meeting
- May 11 – **WVLS V-Cat ILS Evaluation and Review Committee meeting**
- May 12 – COLAND (Council on Library and Network Development) meeting
- May 16 – **NICE (Northern Wisconsin ILS Consortium Exploration) Team meeting**
- May 18 – **WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Office Hours**
- May 20 – **WVLS Board of Trustees meeting**
- May 24 – DPI-hosted meeting of System Continuing Education Consultants
- May 29 – **WVLS OFFICE CLOSED**
- June 1 – **WVLS V-Cat Council meeting**
- June 8 – **WVLS V-Cat ILS Evaluation and Review Committee meeting**
- June 13 – **WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Office Hours**
- June 13 – WLA Conference Planning Committee meeting
- June 15 – **WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Office Hours**
- June 20 – **NICE (Northern Wisconsin ILS Consortium Exploration) Team meeting**
- June 20 – DPI-hosted meeting of System Youth Services Consultants
- June 22-27 – **ALA Conference, Chicago**
- June 27 – Library Workforce Connection meeting
- June 28 – DPI-hosted meeting of System Continuing Education Consultants
- July 4 – **WVLS OFFICE CLOSED**

Thank you for reading!

Marla

2022 Public Library Annual Report – System Effectiveness Statements

Comments shared by boards of member libraries in the “Statement Concerning Public Library System Effectiveness” in the 2022 Public Library Annual Report are provided below.

Granton Community Library Board of Trustees

The library is pleased with the support from the system. They are always available for questions and willing to help us problem solve situations. They also are encouraging the library to move forward so we can support our patrons in a changing environment.

Owen Public Library Board of Trustees

WVLS kept up their usual high standard of support during 2022.

Crandon Public Library Board of Trustees

Rural libraries continue to struggle with reimbursement for circulations. Numbers crashed during the pandemic and show no signs of returning to previous levels. Small libraries often feel as if we are alone in our search for solutions, finding necessary resources, and meeting the varied needs of our patrons. We hope WVLS, Wisconsin Valley Library Service, will advocate for rural libraries and more supportive legislation, and creative ideas to improve library services.

T.B. Scott Free Library Board of Trustees, Merrill

This year 2022 was filled with numerous transitional phases at the library. During these times especially and throughout the remainder of the year, system staff provided effective leadership and guidance and met the needs of the library.

Edward U. Demmer Memorial Library Board of Trustees, Three Lakes

The Demmer Library Board of Trustees agrees that the Wisconsin Valley Library Service (WVLS) provided effective leadership and adequately met the needs of the library in 2022. The library board believes that the public library system fulfilled its statutory responsibilities and effectively utilized the funding available to meet those responsibilities. WVLS continues to provide routine support for catalog and systems for circulating materials among member libraries and libraries in the state, broadband and wireless internet, email and internal file sharing, support for statistics and the annual report, as well as providing administrative and policy support for the Demmer Library director and board as needed. In 2022 WVLS supported member libraries as they moved beyond the day-to-day thinking of the pandemic. The new Aspen discovery catalog successfully launched in early 2022 and user engagement with self-discovery has increased and the product has brought positive feedback. WVLS staff continue to work to improve the discovery results and to look into new integrations for that service. WVLS continues to be a solid backbone for all integrated services proved by the Demmer Memorial Library.

Jean M. Thomsen Memorial Library Board of Trustees, Stetsonville

Excellent support and service.

NICE (Northern Wisconsin ILS Consortium Exploration) Team Report

March 2023

Project Background/Review

Northern Waters Library Service (NWLS) and Wisconsin Valley Library Service (WVLS) are collaborating to engage in a comprehensive joint ILS consortium exploration project to determine value and feasibility of an ILS merger between our two systems and respective ILS consortia. NWLS and WVLS applied for and received LSTA funding for this project and are working with WILS consultants to guide the process.

Team members selected NICE (Northern Wisconsin ILS Consortium Exploration) as a project name, and a [website is available](#). The website includes meeting minutes, a listing of team members, documents, timelines, FAQs and more.

Project Goals/Outcomes

This is, in many ways, a feasibility study that will uncover and document potential advantages and disadvantages of an ILS merger and is not a decision-making process. [A full list of project goals and outcomes is available on the NICE project website.](#)

Project Update

The NICE team met monthly in January and February. During Phase I, Development of Foundational Principles, the team discussed [communications plan](#), [project goals & outcomes](#), ongoing ILS consortium research, and began work on an upcoming stakeholder survey. The Team also reviewed initial reports about past collaboration efforts in Project WIN and information on similar successful ILS mergers. More details will be shared when the reports are complete.

The NICE Team is actively working on Phase II: Information Gathering.

- Review of past efforts to merge ILS consortia including Project WIN
- Review of ILS budgets
- Research into other consortium and shared ILS mergers
- Stakeholder survey
- Focus group meetings
- Identify key themes from the data and information gathered

The team contributed to survey questions and design, continued to review information on similar successful ILS mergers, and began working on potential focus group questions. A draft report of past efforts to merge ILS consortia including Project WIN is in progress.

The NICE project survey was open from January 16-27 and 117 responses were received. Focus group meetings for member library directors and staff, and for library system staff took place the week of February 27. There was great representation from both systems. Survey and focus group results will be shared at NICE team meetings in March and April.

More details will be shared on the [NICE Libraries website](#) when the survey and focus group results are compiled and reports are complete.

Questions are Welcome!

V-Cat and NWLN library staff are welcome to share their questions and concerns via an [online form](#). Answers will be shared on the [NICE Libraries FAQ page](#).

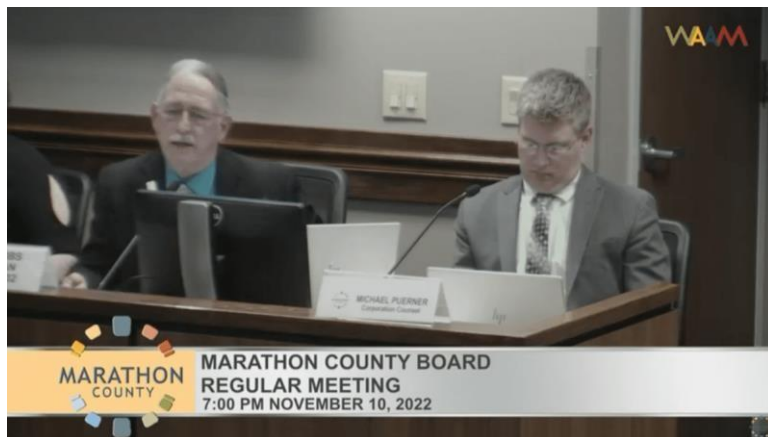
NICE Team Members

- Alexander Johnson, Marathon County Public Library Support Services Manager
- Gina Rae, NWLS Database and Support Specialist
- Jackee Johnson, NWLS ILS Administrator
- Katie Zimmermann, WVLS ILS Administrator
- Molly Lank-Jones, Hayward Library Director
- Peggy O'Connell, Minocqua Library Director
- Rachel Metzler, WVLS Database and Support Specialist
- Sue Heskin, Superior Library Director
- Tammie Blomberg, Rib Lake Library Director
- Teresa Schmidt, Mercer Library Director

Report prepared by K. Zimmermann and J. Johnson on 3/9/2023

Exclusive report: Marathon County supervisors violated First Amendment protections in library fight

Shereen Siewert | Wausau Pilot & Review | February 14, 2023



Attorneys reviewing Marathon County’s threats to reduce funding for the public library after demands to remove challenged books concluded that those actions violated First Amendment protections, placing the county at legal risk.

“Removing books—based solely upon content and viewpoint—violates the First Amendment,” a Jan. 23, 2023 report from von Briesen & Roper, S.C., declares.

“Similarly, deciding to reduce [Marathon

County Public Library] funding—based upon MCPL’s refusal to remove books challenged on the basis of content and viewpoint—violates the First Amendment,” which protects the right of both adults and children to receive information.

The Library Board of Trustees on Dec. 20, 2022 engaged the firm to complete a report regarding the recent wave of challenges to books contained within the MCPL’s collection, along with related funding discussions held last fall by Marathon County Supervisors. Attorneys were asked to assess the liability risks now faced by Marathon County as a result of the challenges. In their summary, the attorneys caution supervisors to “separate their personal and doctrinal views from their political actions, and consider their constitutional and ethical obligations to the people of Marathon County.”

Supervisor Chris Dickinson in 2022 spearheaded an attempt to slash the library budget by \$365,000, specifically citing the library’s unwillingness to remove or relocate books and their “slow response” to calls for removal. That effort was defeated, though a proposal by Vice-Chair Craig McEwen, who said he agreed with Dickinson’s remarks on the books review process, succeeded and removed \$69,000 from the library budget.

[In November, the Marathon County Board of Trustees reviewed public comments, legal definitions and state rules governing library books before endorsing a recommendation to keep challenged books in its juvenile nonfiction section. The decision was made in the wake of demands by a number of residents to remove books they said contain “pornographic materials” be removed from the public library system and that the composition of the library board “reflect both sides.”](#)

[Marathon County Public Library Director Leah Giordano acknowledged the controversy in a September email to Wausau Pilot & Review.](#)

[“We take the concerns of our community very seriously and address them through our long-standing Complaint Policy for Materials Collection and its associated procedure.”](#)

Giordano said this week that the library has received nine requests within the past two years to reconsider materials. All nine books remain on the shelves.

Report calls out several supervisors

The von Briesen report, obtained by Wausau Pilot & Review as part of an open records request, details communications of concern involving several Marathon County Supervisors starting in September that illustrate a legally problematic connection between library materials and funding.



Vice Chair Craig McEwen

On Sept. 13, Dist. 13 Supervisor Michael Ritter wrote to a constituent regarding the book “Fun Home,” which he described as “disgusting, “filth,” and an effort to “normalize” pedophilia. “Until our libraries are purged of this garbage I will not be supporting any asks of our libraries that are brought to the County Board,” Ritter wrote.

Then on Sept. 19, Supervisor Tim Sondelski calls out books he says are “pornographic” and suggests they violate state law by exposing children to harmful material.

“I’ll just say the library is funded through the county board so that could have implications too if they don’t get things straightened up here.” Later, on his Facebook page, he called the fight against such content “exactly why God put many of us Christians [sic] the board, to fight the evil and protect the children. It is the time of reckoning, let’s see how Supervisors stand on the matter.”

Sondelski again on Sept. 25 posted on his Facebook page. “Put pressure on the library board and they will understand there will be real consequences if they don’t follow through,” his post read.

Dickinson, the Dist. 29 supervisor who called for \$365,000 in funding cuts for the library, commented publicly at an Oct. 17, 2022 MCPL Board meeting in a virtual appearance. In his comments, he said: “And just stating that our budget is coming up here and I know there are some that are looking for action to be taken within the budget if no action is taken by the Library Board about these books.”

Another supervisor, David Baker of Dist. 23, sent a request Oct. 18, 2022 to Marathon County Corporation Counsel Mike Puerner for a legal opinion as to whether supervisors could pass an ordinance prohibiting the library from lending certain item. Puerner’s response makes it clear that a county board is not authorized to restrict materials in such a way.

Puerner also addressed First Amendment implications and cautioned the board about the issue in a memo that pointed to a U.S. Supreme Court decision that concluded there are limits to the discretion of governing officials to remove library books. That decision also held that local officials removing books from library shelves to deny access to ideas with which they disagreed is unconstitutional.

But again on Oct. 31, 2022, another supervisor, Tony Sherfinski, outright suggested a 50 percent reduction in library funding in a response to a citizen's assertion that the board has "the influence and power to do something to apply pressure with the purse strings."

"...One option that we always have is that of funding. I suggest that we use it and apply a significant reduction in funding for the library," he wrote, in an email to 23 of the 38 county board supervisors.

Annual budget hearing prompts additional connections

On Nov. 2, the Marathon County Board held its annual meeting and budget hearing, during which several supervisors addressed the MCPL book challenges and funding – ignoring Puerner's caution and other warnings from Board Chair Kurt Gibbs of the potential legal peril ahead.

McEwen, whose proposal to cut the MCPL's funding by \$69,000 ultimately passed, spoke about the institution's "pornographic materials" and said he wished "the Marathon County Library Board would have taken this serious before we had to start talking about their budget."

Another supervisor, Jennifer Aarestad of Dist. 17, said the issue came down to "protecting our children" and said if only the library would "come to an agreeable compromise on this issue, it will make it easier for the County Board to vote in favor of the proposed library budget."

Sherfinski, who represents Dist. 16, also urged supervisors to "remember" that "we're a policy-setting board" and "act accordingly."



Supervisor Dickinson's comments stand out as those which perhaps best illustrate the lack of understanding supervisors had about the First Amendment issues at hand. When calling for the \$365,000 library budget reduction, Dickinson specifically pointed to the library's "slow response to the books controversy" and said the "County Board's main influence and control on the library is financial, it's on the budget. We do have the appointments of some members to that, but obviously, it's in the budget. . . . the controversy surrounding the books within the library exists and it needs a resolution."

"The interesting thing about this controversy is that it helps me and helps us, in fact, look at the budget for the library, which probably would not have been done in the same way," Dickinson said. "I had hoped that my communication with the Library Board President would have taken more seriously in regards to this budget vote timeline."

Supervisor Chris Dickinson on Nov. 10, 2022

Dickinson repeats many of his comments on Nov. 10 and repeats his funding reduction demand, even after Corp. Counsel advises supervisors of the potential risks. And in a Nov. 14, 2022 email to then-MCPL Board President Sharon Hunter, the supervisor doubles down on his threat to consider funding issues if a book was not removed.

"It has come to my attention that you have denied a request to remove a book. If that is the case I look forward to engaging in further dialog next year during budget time, Have a good night," he wrote.

[Hunter, along with Dist. 1 Supervisor Michelle Van Krey, were since removed from their roles on the library board.](#) On Dec. 13, a majority of supervisors declined their reappointment, an apparent retaliation over their refusal to remove or relocate books from the facility. Supervisors opposed to their reappointment said they couldn't support either candidate since they failed to address concerns over books in the library. The vote was 20-12, even after Chair Kurt Gibbs again warned that taking action against library board members could expose the county to significant liability.

Legal precedent

The von Briesen report cited case law in multiple instances to validate their conclusion that such actions put the county at risk of a lawsuit that would be difficult to defend. Courts are firm that if the government's decision to censor public library materials is substantially connected to content or viewpoint discrimination, that conduct violates the First Amendment.

In San Antonio, Tex., a group of residents successfully sued Llano County commissioners individually for their role in "removing systematically removing award-winning books from library shelves because they disagree with the ideas within them." The right to publish and receive ideas – even politically unpopular ideas or those that some find offensive or distasteful – is enshrined in our Constitution, court documents state.

In another case, plaintiffs sought a declaration that the Library of Congress violated the First amendment by removing braille copies of Playboy from its shelves. "The government has no power to restrict expression because of its message, ideas, subject matter or content," court documents state. This case in particular, according to the von Briesen report, illustrates the "fragile position" that government leaders put public libraries in when they engage in the business of censorship.

"Additionally, if government actors dangle money in exchange for speech regulation or restriction, courts will not give public libraries a free pass; public libraries remain obligated to comply with the First Amendment even if politicians do not," the report states.

County officials have not said whether they will consider restoring the lost \$69,000 in funding to the Marathon County Public Library or reinstate the two board members who were denied reappointment and whose replacements have already been chosen. But the von Briesen report is clear.

"Removing MCPL books or reducing MCPL funding—based on objections to the content or viewpoints expressed in MCPL books—violates the First Amendment and would subject MCPL and Marathon County to litigation that would be difficult and costly to defend," the attorneys' conclusion reads.

"Removing MCPL books or reducing MCPL funding—based on the content or viewpoints expressed in MCPL books—could also be considered a violation of Marathon County's Core Values and Code of Conduct. Accordingly, current and future MCPL trustees and county supervisors should be advised and cautioned against removing MCPL books based on their content or viewpoint—or reducing funding if those books are not removed—to avoid liability."

To date, no legal action has been filed against the county or individual supervisors regarding these actions.

<https://wausaupilotandreview.com/2023/02/14/exclusive-report-marathon-county-supervisors-violated-first-amendment-protections-in-library-fight/>

A Love Letter to Libraries, Long Overdue

The New York Times sent photographers to seven states to document the thrum and buzz in buildings once known for silence.

By [Elisabeth Egan](#) and Erica Ackerberg; Feb. 14, 2023

Step into a public library and you know what to expect.

First, there's the smell: a paper bouquet of nothing and everything, including notes of vanilla, sawdust, wet coats, rubber soles and school. Then there are the spines lined up like soldiers, snug in plastic jackets. There are the shelves — metal, wood, sturdy as trees — stretching in every direction.



At the Northtown branch of the Chicago Public Library, a young reader curled up with a picture book. Credit Todd Heisler/The New York Times

There are the rolling step stools. The windowsill ferns. The free bookmarks. The bulletin board papered with fliers advertising firewood, a 10-speed bike, free kittens, CPR class.

There are the sturdy armchairs, the picked-over magazine racks, the award-winning dioramas on loan from adolescent creators, the study carrels etched with decade-old graffiti. There's the water fountain spouting the coldest beverage in town, a different vintage from the lukewarm dribble in the school gym or the violent torrent at the Y.M.C.A.



Siblings explored the children's room at the Bemidji Public Library in Bemidji, Minnesota. Credit Jaida Grey Eagle for the New York Times



Leon Sykes read "My Papi Has a Motorcycle" to his son and a friend at the 81st Avenue Branch of the Oakland Public Library. Credit Jim Wilson/The New York Times



Pint-size bookworms made themselves at home in the Hialeah Gardens Branch Library in Hialeah Gardens, Fla. Credit...Rose Marie Cromwell for The New York Times



A young patron focused intently on a writing exercise during homework help time at the Hialeah Gardens Branch Library. Credit...Rose Marie Cromwell for The New York Times



At the Hialeah Gardens Branch Library, a pair of budding musicians strummed guitars in the YOUmedia space, where teenagers can make podcasts, design video games and explore technology. Credit Rose Marie Cromwell for The New York Times

There are the overhead lights casting their fluorescent glow, occasionally flickering, flattering no one except people who live on the page. Still, they get the job done.

And above it all — hovering over the murmurs and coughs and scraping of chair legs and gurgle of fish tanks and crackle of plastic covers — there is a weighted blanket of quiet, that reassuring hush we're hard-wired to expect from our inaugural visit to the children's room. Whether you first crossed that threshold in the scrum of a class trip or clutching your mom's hand; whether your hometown library was on a country road or at a busy intersection; whether you put your library card to good use or used it to pick locks; odds are good that, at some point, someone touched an index finger to their lips and shared the universal password for the kingdom of words: "Shhhh."



In Littleton, Colo., bookworms of all ages gathered outside the Edwin A. Bemis Public Library to hear a story read by Donna Stephenson, a children's librarian, as part of the weekly Books & Blankets program. Credit David Williams for The New York Times



Figure 1 Linda Velarde, an associate librarian, loaded a van with books and movies bound for patrons enrolled in the Bemis Library's Doorstep Delivery program. Credit...David Williams for The New York Times



In Littleton, Colo., Sandra Weeder marveled at her monthly installment of new entertainment. Credit...David Williams for The New York Times

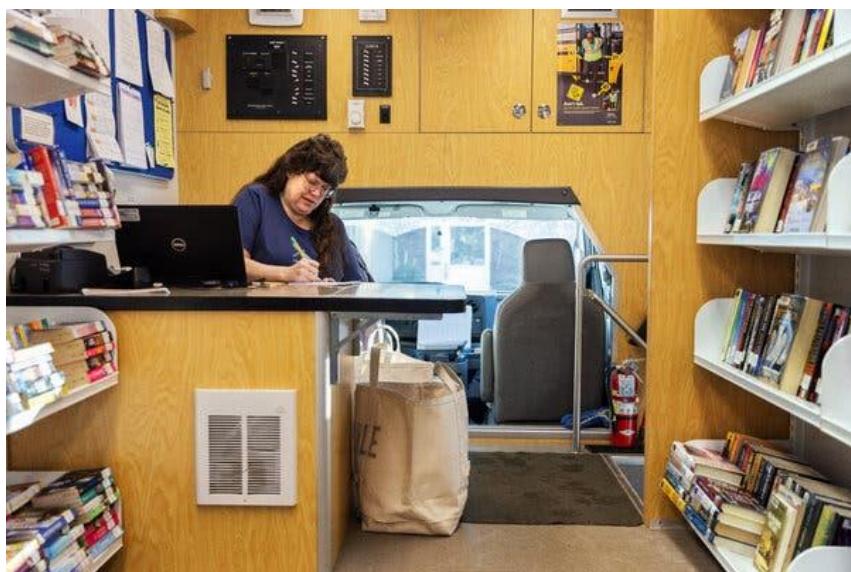


Phillip Pollreis played patriotic songs during a meeting of the Senior Social Club at the Bemis Library. Credit David Williams for The New York Times

But this sentiment doesn't really apply anymore. It hasn't for a long time.

Just as reading has changed (from paper to pixel to audio) and tools for research have streamlined (sorry, World Book), so have the places that house the goods. Silence is no longer a requirement; versatility is.

It's easy to romanticize libraries. But, the fact is, they're not "just" about the written word. Were they ever? As local safety nets shriveled, the library roof magically expanded from umbrella to tarp to circus tent to airplane hangar. The modern library keeps its citizens warm, safe, healthy, entertained, educated, hydrated and, above all, connected.



Valerie McCormick, an outreach librarian in Minnesota's Kitchigami regional library system, completed paperwork during a bookmobile stop at Foothills Christian Academy in Backus, Minn. Credit Jaida Grey Eagle for The New York Times



The bookmobile has been a fixture of the library system in Cass County, Minn., since 1966. Here, a kindergarten class took stock of the offerings. Credit Jaida Grey Eagle for The New York Times



Reagan Morgan, a library assistant, made sure the books were neat and orderly in Bemidji. Credit Jaida Grey Eagle for The New York Times

Imagine a teacher who's responsible for a mixed-age classroom where students are free to wander in and out as they please, all opinions are welcome and detention is not an option. This person is also the principal, the guidance counselor, the school nurse and, occasionally, the janitor. This person is your local librarian.

Yet somehow librarians still find time to match people with the books they need. These selections may be second-guessed by irate taxpayers who don't know the difference between F. Scott Fitzgerald and L. Ron Hubbard or don't understand that ideas and stories aren't contagious; the only disease they'll infect you with is empathy. Nevertheless, librarians persist. One could argue that they distribute more wings than an airline pilot. Put yours to good use and you can fly anywhere.

Libraries have always been a place of worship for a certain type of person, but they're also community centers, meeting houses and pop-up medical clinics, offering vaccines, homework help, computer classes, craft sessions and tax advice. Perhaps you need fresh needles, marigold seeds, a loaner guitar, a hammer, a venue for your knitting club or a donation box for your old eyeglasses? Head to your local library. It might have you covered and, if it doesn't, someone there will know where to send you.



The Oakland Tool Lending Library has over 5,000 tools for patrons to borrow, including shovels, hedge shears, staple guns and cordless drills. Credit Jim Wilson/The New York Times



D.I.Y.-minded patrons of the Tool Lending Library have access to home improvement books, DVDs and a variety of workshops on projects such as plumbing and tiling. Credit Jim Wilson/The New York Times

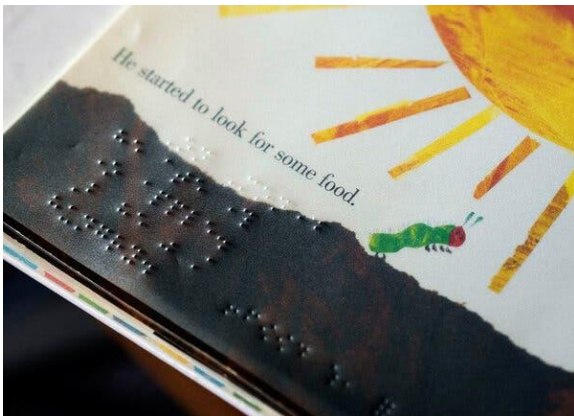


Here are a few future vegetables at Oakland's African American Museum and Library. Credit Jim Wilson/The New York Times

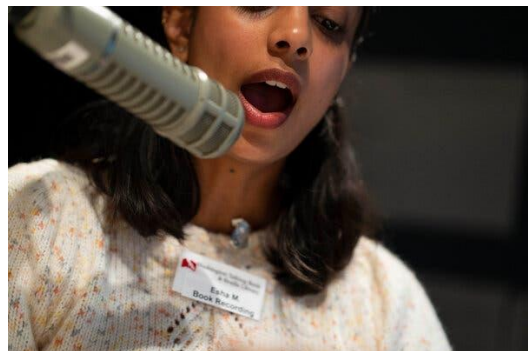


At Oakland's 81st Avenue Branch Library bike repair clinic, a child worked on a scooter. Credit Jim Wilson/The New York Times

Best of all, you never need a reason or an invitation to go to the library. You aren't required to make a reservation ahead of time or purchase a cup of coffee while you're there. You can pop in when your Wi-Fi is on the fritz or you need a break from your roommates. You might go there to dry off or to cool down. To study for algebra or to read a romance novel. To stock up on thrillers or to take stock of your less-than-thrilling life. To meet a friend or to be alone. For a bit of excitement or for a moment of calm.



In Seattle, the Washington Talking Book & Braille Library provides services to people who are unable to read standard print material. Eric Carle's "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" is part of the collection. Credit Ruth Fremson/The New York Times



Esha More, a volunteer audiobook narrator, spoke into a microphone in Seattle. Credit Ruth Fremson/The New York Times



Another volunteer, Rick Sipe, recorded a novel. Credit Ruth Fremson/The New York Times



This 14-year-old patron, who is visually impaired, moved with her family from India to Seattle after her father discovered the Washington Talking Book & Braille Library while he was on a business trip. He felt that there would be more opportunities for her in the United States. Credit Ruth Fremson/The New York Times

Last fall, The New York Times sent photographers to cities, suburbs and rural areas in seven states to document how different libraries respond to the needs of their communities, and the many ways in which patrons find a haven in each one.

At the time, the news was full of grim dispatches from the land of letters. In Colorado, two branches [closed because of meth contamination](#). In McFarland, Calif., city leaders debated whether to [convert a library into a police station](#). In New York City, Mayor Eric Adams proposed massive budget cuts that would [slash library hours and programming](#). The American Library Association announced that attempts to [ban books were accelerating across the country](#) at a rate never seen since tracking began more than 20 years ago.



At the Carver Branch Library in Austin, Texas, a mural on an exterior wall hinted at the vibrancy of the community inside. Credit Miranda Barnes for The New York Times



Wanda Johnson attended a meeting of Top Ladies of Distinction, a nonprofit educational and humanitarian organization that started meeting at the Carver Branch Library more than 30 years ago. Credit Miranda Barnes for The New York Times

It was enough to make you wonder if the ancient tradition of book lending was going the way of card catalogs. Then the photos started to roll in, and they told a different story. In this version, toddlers tried to catch bubbles on the loose in the library. Grateful seniors welcomed monthly deliveries of movies and crime novels. Teenagers strummed guitars together. Children and caregivers gathered beneath technicolor trees to listen to a picture book read by a beaming librarian. In a different time zone, another librarian worked contentedly in the cozy oasis of a bookmobile.



Toddlers chased bubbles in Chicago's Northtown Branch Library. Credit Todd Heisler/The New York Times



A cubby of your own? It's available at the Northtown Branch Library. Credit Todd Heisler/The New York Times

It was impossible to look at these pictures and not feel hopeful about the state of humanity, especially with several seasons of isolation still fresh in our minds. Remember when you were craving the casual comfort of strangers? Remember when the simple act of checking out a book felt like a small miracle?

to library, state to state, we were unexpectedly moved by the color, light and joy at our fingertips. These glimpses into lives of strangers were a reminder that copies of the books piled on our desks at the Book Review will soon land on shelves in libraries across the country and, eventually, in the hands of readers. You'll pass them to other people, and on and on.

We all know that books connect us, that language has quiet power. To see the concentration, curiosity and peace on faces lit by words is to know — beyond a shadow of a doubt, in a time rife with shadows — that libraries are the beating hearts of our communities. What we borrow from them pales in comparison to what we keep. How often we pause to appreciate their bounty is up to us.



A small reader returned "Choo Choo Clickety-Clack!" at Colorado's Bemis Library. Luckily, there's more where this picture book came from. Credit David Williams for The New York Times