

**STOUGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD of TRUSTEES MEETING**

**DATE:** Wednesday, September 17, 2025

**TIME:** 6:30 P.M.



**LOCATION :** Stoughton Public Library – Carnegie Meeting Room, 304 S. Fourth St. in downtown Stoughton **\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\*** This is a hybrid meeting with a virtual option via Zoom. Access with a computer via Zoom Meetings - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6269031450?omn=89054846469> Members of the public may also attend using dial-in number (301) 715-8592, access code 626 903 1450.

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- I. Call to Order by President Lora Klitzke
- II. Review of Agenda & Certification of Compliance with Open Meetings Law
- III. Consent Agenda \*
  - A. Review/Approval of Minutes of August 20, 2025 (enclosure)
  - B. Review/Approval of Fund 215, Fund 217, and Stoughton Area Community Foundation account statements for August 2025 (enclosures)
  - C. Review/Approval of Fund 215 & Fund 217 Bills for September 2025 (enclosures)
- IV. Friends of the Library – No report this month
- V. Recognition Opportunities
- VI. Public Comment Period
- VII. Review/Discussion of Correspondence
- VIII. Education Updates
- IX. Board In-service: Update on current status of federal funding for libraries – article from the *Isthmus* (enclosure)
- X. Director's Report
  - A. Statistics for August 2025 (enclosure)
  - B. Administration report (enclosure)
- XI. Committee Reports
  - A. Finance: did not meet
  - B. Personnel: did not meet
  - C. Planning: met on 9/2/25 (enclosure)
  - D. Policies: did not meet
- XII. Old Business
  - A. NONE

XIII. New Business

- A. Recommendation to City Council of resolution regarding exemption from the county library tax \* (enclosures)
- B. Approval of 2026 closed dates \* (enclosure)

XIV. Pending Agenda Items

- A. Reminder for standing committees to review, and possibly report on, their progress towards the annual Board Goals throughout the year.
- B. Discussion of additional funding sources for library programming and operations
- C. Discussion of General Fund balance

XV. Adjournment \*

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: October 15, 2025

*An \* indicates an action item.*

If you are disabled and in need of assistance in order to attend, please call 873-6281 prior to this meeting.

STOUGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Phil Caravello, City Council Representative  
Lora Klitzke, President  
Jean Ligocki, Vice President  
Brandon Maly  
Sharon Meilahn Bartlett  
Christine Melland  
Libby Phillips, Student Representative  
Trista Richards  
Katie Roberts  
Mande Shecterle, SASD Representative

*Finance:* Ligocki, Meilahn Bartlett, Melland  
*Personnel:* Caravello, Klitzke, Richards, Shecterle  
*Planning:* Ligocki, Maly, Melland, Phillips  
*Policies:* Maly, Richards, Roberts, Shecterle

cc: Mayor Tim Swadley, City Attorney, City Council Members, Department Heads, City Hall Receptionist, Library Staff, Stoughton Newspaper

## Agenda Notes: Library Board meeting of September 17, 2025



### XIII. New Business

- A. Recommendation to City Council of resolution regarding exemption from the county library tax \* (enclosures)** - This resolution, approved annually by the City Council, pledges that the City of Stoughton will appropriate an amount from the General Fund to the library sufficient to exempt the City from the county library tax. The 2026 minimum appropriations for Dane county municipalities are included in the packet. The action needed here would be to recommend the resolution to the City Council. The City Council will consider the resolution at a future meeting.
- B. Approval of 2026 closed dates \* (enclosure)** – - The Board will review and approve the 2026 library calendar, including the dates of Board meetings and holiday closures. Note that the dates shaded in light pink are federal holidays on which the library will remain open; the dark red shading indicates a day the library will be closed. Because the 4<sup>th</sup> of July falls on a Saturday next year, the library will be closed on the City of Stoughton's observed holiday (July 3) as well as the holiday itself. The staff in-service is tentatively planned for Friday, October 23, 2026. Though it is not indicated on the calendar, the library will close at 6:00 PM the day before Thanksgiving, Wednesday, November 25, 2026.

### XIV. Pending Agenda Items

- A. Reminder for standing committees to review, and possibly report on, their progress towards the annual Board Goals throughout the year –**  
This item was added to pending agenda items at the request of President LeSage at the Board meeting on January 17, 2024, as a reminder to the standing committees throughout the year regarding their 2024 Board Goals.
- B. Discussion of additional funding sources for library programming and operations** – This item was added to pending agenda items at the request of Jean Ligocki at the Board meeting on May 15, 2024.
- C. Discussion of General Fund (215) balance** – This item was added to the pending agenda items at the Board meeting on February 19, 2025. The

Board would like to discuss the use of fund balance to purchase additional materials to fill in gaps in our collection identified by the diversity audit of our collection to be conducted later this year.

*\* indicates a potential action item*

STOUGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2025, @ 6:30 P.M.  
HYBRID MEETING IN CARNEGIE ROOM  
& VIA ZOOM



PRESENT: Phil Caravello, City Council Representative; Lora Klitzke, President; Jean Ligoeki, Vice President; Brandon Maly; Sharon Meilahn Bartlett (virtual); Christine Melland; Libby Phillips, Student Trustee (virtual); Trista Richards; Katie Roberts (virtual);  
ABSENT: Mande Shecterle, Stoughton Area School District Representative  
ALSO PRESENT: Jim Ramsey, Library Director; Sarah Monette, Administrative Assistant

- I. CALL TO ORDER. 6:31 P.M. by President Lora Klitzke.
- II. REVIEW OF AGENDA & CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN MEETINGS LAW.
- III. CONSENT AGENDA. **Roberts** moved to approve and was seconded by **Maly**. Vote: 7-0.
- IV. FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY REPORT. No report this month.
- V. RECOGNITION OPPORTUNITIES. None.
- VI. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD. None.
- VII. CORRESPONDENCE. None.
- VIII. EDUCATION UPDATES. Maly and Melland spoke about the Trustee Training Week webinars they had watched. Other Board members agreed that the webinars are full of helpful information.

*[Richards arrived at 6:36 P.M.]*

- IX. BOARD IN-SERVICE: SUSTAINABILITY IN LIBRARIES: A CALL TO ACTION: Ramsey presented.
- X. DIRECTOR'S REPORT.
  - A. Statistics for June 2025. Ramsey presented.
  - B. Administration report. In addition to his written report, Ramsey shared that the Library is hiring for a part-time Library Assistant for the Children's Services Department. Caravello reminded the Board that the City of Stoughton is soliciting citizens' input for their Comprehensive Plan (<https://planstoughton.com/>).
- XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS.
  - A. Finance: did not meet.
  - B. Personnel: did not meet.
  - C. Planning: did not meet.
  - D. Policies: Ramsey pointed to the three items in New Business below (XIII.D-F).
- XII. OLD BUSINESS. None.
- XIII. NEW BUSINESS.
  - A. Review of progress toward 2025 Library Board Goals. Planning is looking at Library programming, January through August 2025, to see what story it tells about diversity in Stoughton. Finance is looking at monetary support for IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility). Policies is assessing the policies it reviews this year for

- adherence to IDEA principles. Personnel is devoting itself to staff appreciation. All four committees are making good progress.
- B. Update on 2026 Library projects in the Capital Improvement Plan. Ramsey presented. Replacing the carpet in the basement has been moved to the operating budget. Installing solar panels (discussed more thoroughly in item C below) and upgrading the security cameras are both on track. The roof replacement may need to be moved up to 2025, depending on whether the City's Building Maintenance Specialist can keep up with the leaks. A space needs study is tentatively projected for 2027.
  - C. Discussion and possible action regarding financing of 2026 library solar panel project. **Ligocki** made a motion to earmark Special Gift Funds to pay up to half of the expenditure for the solar panels project, and was seconded by **Richards**. Vote: 8-0. Ramsey presented. The Director of Public Works has budgeted about \$80,000 for installing solar panels on the roof (after the current roof is replaced). He and Ramsey agreed that the Library would contribute about half. There was some discussion about the General Fund balance, but Ramsey's recommendation is to use Special Gift Funds, specifically a bequest from the estate of Janet Nelson and possibly a gift in memory of another patron, depending on the wishes of the family.
  - D. Discussion and possible action regarding proposed changes to Animals in the Library Policy.
  - E. Discussion and possible action regarding proposed changes to Bulletin Board Policy.
  - F. Discussion and possible action regarding proposed changes to Library Materials Use Policy.  
*A motion was made by **Ligocki** and seconded by **Richards** to consider items D, E, and F in a block. Vote: 8-0. Ramsey presented. A motion was made by **Richards** and seconded by **Melland** to accept the proposed changes for all three policies. Vote: 8-0.*
- XIV. PENDING AGENDA ITEMS.
- A. Reminder for standing committees to review, and possibly report on, their progress toward the annual Board Goals throughout the year.
  - B. Discussion of additional funding sources for library programming and operations.
  - C. Discussion of General Fund balance.
- XV. ADJOURNMENT. **Caravello** made the motion to adjourn at 7:19 P.M. He was seconded by **Maly**. Vote: 8-0.

Minutes taken by Sarah Monette.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORT FOR STOUGHTON CITY  
 PERIOD ENDING 08/31/2025

GL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	2025 AMENDED BUDGET	YTD BALANCE 08/31/2025 NORMAL (ABNORMAL)	ACTIVITY FOR MONTH 08/31/2025 INCREASE (DECREASE)	AVAILABLE BALANCE NORMAL (ABNORMAL)	% BDGT USED
Fund 215 - LIBRARY FUND						
Revenues						
Dept 55100 - COMMUNITY COMMITMENT						
215-55100-43330	FED GRANT - COVID-19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Dept 55100 - COMMUNITY COMMITMENT		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dept 55110 - LIBRARY						
215-55110-41110	PROPERTY TAX - OPERATIONS	711,285.00	533,463.75	59,273.75	177,821.25	75.00
215-55110-43315	FEDERAL GRANTS	280.00	0.00	0.00	280.00	0.00
215-55110-43720	DANE COUNTY SERVICE FEES	315,017.00	315,017.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
215-55110-43725	OTHER COUNTIES SERVICE FEES	15,297.00	15,301.09	0.00	(4.09)	100.03
215-55110-46110	MISC. REVENUE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
215-55110-46710	LIBRARY FEES	4,000.00	2,954.73	559.15	1,045.27	73.87
215-55110-46712	COPY MACHINE	5,000.00	4,844.68	427.63	155.32	96.89
215-55110-47301	CHARGES TO DANE COUNTY	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
215-55110-47302	CHARGES TO MUNICIPALITIES	250.00	252.15	0.00	(2.15)	100.86
215-55110-48110	INTEREST INCOME	11,500.00	8,675.88	1,105.20	2,824.12	75.44
215-55110-48500	DONATIONS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
215-55110-49210	TRANSFER IN - GENERAL FUND	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
215-55110-49930	FUND BAL APPLIED - CARRYFORWARDS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Dept 55110 - LIBRARY		1,062,629.00	880,509.28	61,365.93	182,119.72	82.86
TOTAL REVENUES		1,062,629.00	880,509.28	61,365.93	182,119.72	82.86
Expenditures						
Dept 55110 - LIBRARY						
215-55110-50110	SALARIES	97,115.00	67,105.76	11,205.60	30,009.24	69.10
215-55110-50120	WAGES	248,851.00	171,944.98	28,713.65	76,906.02	69.10
215-55110-50126	OVERTIME	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
215-55110-50127	WAGES - PART TIME	283,182.00	197,767.18	34,076.88	85,414.82	69.84
215-55110-50128	SUNDAY HOURS	11,497.00	5,856.77	3.50	5,640.23	50.94
215-55110-50129	WAGES - LONGEVITY	6,404.00	0.00	0.00	6,404.00	0.00
215-55110-50153	SELF INSURED LOSSES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
215-55110-50160	FICA TAXES	48,974.00	32,572.67	5,535.97	16,401.33	66.51
215-55110-50161	WRS - GENERAL	30,571.00	22,277.25	3,752.24	8,293.75	72.87
215-55110-50163	HEALTH INSURANCE	123,613.00	74,047.36	7,941.94	49,565.64	59.90
215-55110-50164	DENTAL INSURANCE	4,883.00	4,190.02	498.34	692.98	85.81
215-55110-50165	LIFE INSURANCE	939.00	758.84	101.62	180.16	80.81
215-55110-50169	HSA RETIREMENT PAYOUT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
215-55110-50200	MISC OUTSIDE SERVICES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
215-55110-50210	TELEPHONE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
215-55110-50211	POSTAGE	900.00	706.80	74.16	193.20	78.53
215-55110-50212	TRAVEL/CONFERENCE	2,000.00	766.72	250.83	1,233.28	38.34
215-55110-50213	SALES TAX	275.00	208.35	31.08	66.65	75.76
215-55110-50216	OUTSIDE SERVICES/CONTRACTS-2	200.00	4,200.00	0.00	(4,000.00)	2,100.00
215-55110-50217	OUTSIDE SERVICES/CONTRACTS-3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
215-55110-50218	SHARED DELIVERY AND OUTREACH	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
215-55110-50220	UTILITIES-ELECTRIC	18,800.00	9,556.76	2,210.33	9,243.24	50.83
215-55110-50221	UTILITIES-GAS	5,100.00	3,230.18	202.50	1,869.82	63.34
215-55110-50240	EQUIPMENT MAINT & REPAIR	4,500.00	3,093.43	360.46	1,406.57	68.74
215-55110-50289	TECHNOLOGY COSTS	57,500.00	54,635.02	236.58	2,864.98	95.02
215-55110-50300	MISC EXPENSES	400.00	136.40	0.00	263.60	34.10
215-55110-50313	PROGRAMS/PUBLICITY	5,000.00	4,373.43	0.00	626.57	87.47

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REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORT FOR STOUGHTON CITY  
 PERIOD ENDING 08/31/2025

Page: 2/3

GL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	2025 AMENDED BUDGET	YTD BALANCE	ACTIVITY FOR	AVAILABLE	% BDGT USED
			08/31/2025	MONTH 08/31/2025	BALANCE	
Fund 215 - LIBRARY FUND						
Expenditures						
215-55110-50320	DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS (NOT SOFTWARE)	175.00	59.92	0.00	115.08	34.24
215-55110-50326	PERIODICALS	5,400.00	3,971.41	0.00	1,428.59	73.54
215-55110-50327	E-RESOURCES	22,000.00	18,072.85	0.00	3,927.15	82.15
215-55110-50328	AUDIO VISUAL	9,000.00	5,209.31	787.88	3,790.69	57.88
215-55110-50329	BOOKS	53,500.00	29,327.98	4,664.97	24,172.02	54.82
215-55110-50340	WORK SUPPLIES - OPER EXP	4,500.00	1,903.34	308.67	2,596.66	42.30
215-55110-50341	OPERATING EXPENSES-SPECIALIZED-1	50.00	18.18	0.00	31.82	36.36
215-55110-50342	OPERATING EXPENSES-SPECIALIZED-2	6,000.00	2,982.71	468.86	3,017.29	49.71
215-55110-50350	BLDG REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	10,000.00	3,864.67	952.57	6,135.33	38.65
215-55110-50408	EMPLOYMENT TESTING	0.00	483.00	0.00	(483.00)	100.00
215-55110-50409	COMPUTER EQUIPMENT (NONCAPITAL)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
215-55110-50437	FURNITURE (NON-CAPITAL)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
215-55110-50444	NON-COLLECTION DAMAGE CHARGES	1,300.00	595.04	127.43	704.96	45.77
215-55110-50810	CAPITAL-EQUIPMENT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
215-55110-50820	CAPITAL- COMPUTERS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
215-55110-50900	CONTINGENCY	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
215-55110-50930	TRANSFER TO OTHER FUND	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Dept 55110 - LIBRARY		1,062,629.00	723,916.33	102,506.06	338,712.67	68.13
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		1,062,629.00	723,916.33	102,506.06	338,712.67	68.13
Fund 215 - LIBRARY FUND:						
TOTAL REVENUES		1,062,629.00	880,509.28	61,365.93	182,119.72	82.86
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		1,062,629.00	723,916.33	102,506.06	338,712.67	68.13
NET OF REVENUES & EXPENDITURES		0.00	156,592.95	(41,140.13)	(156,592.95)	100.00

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BALANCE SHEET FOR STOUGHTON CITY  
Period Ending 08/31/2025

Page: 1/2

Fund 215 LIBRARY FUND

GL Number	Description	Balance
*** Assets ***		
215-00000-11100	PRIMARY CHECKING	457,228.79
215-00000-11102	US BANK - CC	13,315.41
215-00000-12550	PREPAID EXPENSES	1,547.09
215-00000-13012	RECEIVABLES-PRIOR YEAR	0.65
Total Assets		472,091.94
*** Liabilities ***		
215-00000-21700	ACCRUED PAYROLL	32,073.24
215-00000-26600	DEF INFLOW - PROPERTY TAXES	177,821.25
Total Liabilities		209,894.49
*** Fund Balance ***		
215-00000-39501	NONSPENDABLE - PREPAID ASSETS	1,438.39
215-00000-39600	FUND BALANCE RESTRICTED	104,166.11
Total Fund Balance		105,604.50
Beginning Fund Balance		105,604.50
Net of Revenues VS Expenditures		156,592.95
Ending Fund Balance		262,197.45
Total Liabilities And Fund Balance		472,091.94

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REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORT FOR STOUGHTON CITY  
 PERIOD ENDING 08/31/2025

Page: 3/3

GL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	2025 AMENDED BUDGET	YTD BALANCE 08/31/2025 NORMAL (ABNORMAL)	ACTIVITY FOR MONTH 08/31/2025 INCREASE (DECREASE)	AVAILABLE BALANCE NORMAL (ABNORMAL)	% BDGT USED
Fund 217 - LIBRARY SPECIAL GIFT FUND						
Revenues						
Dept 55110 - LIBRARY						
217-55110-48110	INTEREST INCOME	15,000.00	9,631.06	154.22	5,368.94	64.21
217-55110-48500	DONATIONS	115,000.00	78,197.98	1,555.39	36,802.02	68.00
217-55110-48510	DONATIONS - UNDESIGNATED	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00
217-55110-48530	DONATIONS -FUNDRAISING ACCOUNT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
217-55110-49910	FUND BAL APPLIED - TAX LEVY	(40,000.00)	0.00	0.00	(40,000.00)	0.00
217-55110-49940	FUND BAL APPLIED - DEFICITS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Dept 55110 - LIBRARY		91,000.00	87,829.04	1,709.61	3,170.96	96.52
TOTAL REVENUES		91,000.00	87,829.04	1,709.61	3,170.96	96.52
Expenditures						
Dept 55100 - COMMUNITY COMMITMENT						
217-55100-50499	DEPT DEFICIT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Dept 55100 - COMMUNITY COMMITMENT		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dept 55110 - LIBRARY						
217-55110-50499	DEPT DEFICIT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
217-55110-50500	DESIGNATED	90,000.00	31,325.72	4,856.59	58,674.28	34.81
217-55110-50501	UNDESIGNATED	1,000.00	563.47	0.00	436.53	56.35
217-55110-50502	BUILDING FUND	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
217-55110-50503	DESIGNATED-FUNDRAISING ACCOUNT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
217-55110-50936	TR OUT - FUND 215	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Dept 55110 - LIBRARY		91,000.00	31,889.19	4,856.59	59,110.81	35.04
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		91,000.00	31,889.19	4,856.59	59,110.81	35.04
Fund 217 - LIBRARY SPECIAL GIFT FUND:						
TOTAL REVENUES		91,000.00	87,829.04	1,709.61	3,170.96	96.52
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		91,000.00	31,889.19	4,856.59	59,110.81	35.04
NET OF REVENUES & EXPENDITURES		0.00	55,939.85	(3,146.98)	(55,939.85)	100.00
TOTAL REVENUES - ALL FUNDS						
TOTAL REVENUES - ALL FUNDS		1,153,629.00	968,338.32	63,075.54	185,290.68	83.94
TOTAL EXPENDITURES - ALL FUNDS		1,153,629.00	755,805.52	107,362.65	397,823.48	65.52
NET OF REVENUES & EXPENDITURES		0.00	212,532.80	(44,287.11)	(212,532.80)	100.00

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Period Ending 08/31/2025

DB: Stoughton

## Fund 217 LIBRARY SPECIAL GIFT FUND

GL Number	Description	Balance
*** Assets ***		
217-00000-11100	PRIMARY CHECKING	67,323.55
217-00000-11102	US BANK - CC	1,538.27
217-00000-11302	WISC INVESTMENT FUND	360,144.45
Total Assets		429,006.27
*** Liabilities ***		
Total Liabilities		0.00
*** Fund Balance ***		
217-00000-39501	NONSPENDABLE - PREPAID ASSETS	2,703.34
217-00000-39600	FUND BALANCE RESTRICTED	370,363.08
Total Fund Balance		373,066.42
Beginning Fund Balance		373,066.42
Net of Revenues VS Expenditures		55,939.85
Ending Fund Balance		429,006.27
Total Liabilities And Fund Balance		429,006.27

AUGUST statement for SEPTEMBER LB mtg  
2025 SEP 17

Stoughton Area Comm Foundation

## Put your investment purchases on autopilot

Setting up a regular, automatic investment is a great way to work steadily toward your goals. While systematic investing can't guarantee a profit or protect against loss in a declining market, it lets you regularly invest a fixed dollar amount regardless of fluctuating stock prices. Ask your financial advisor about setting up systematic investing.

## Corporate - Select

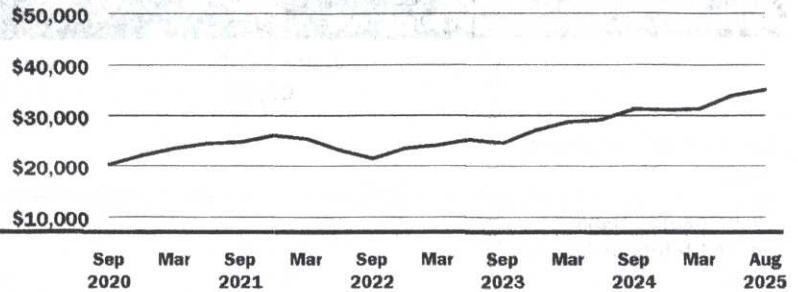
Portfolio Objective - Account: Balanced Toward Growth

### Account Value

**\$34,947.42**

1 Month Ago	\$34,641.38
1 Year Ago	\$30,686.41
3 Years Ago	\$23,490.09
5 Years Ago	\$20,947.08

### Value of Your Account



### Value Summary

	This Period	This Year
Beginning Value	\$34,641.38	\$31,096.62
Assets Added to Account	0.00	0.00
Assets Withdrawn from Account	0.00	0.00
Fees and Charges	0.00	0.00
Change In Value	306.04	3,850.80
<b>Ending Value</b>	<b>\$34,947.42</b>	

For more information regarding the Value Summary section, please visit [www.edwardjones.com/mystatementguide](http://www.edwardjones.com/mystatementguide).

### Rate of Return

Your Personal Rate of Return for Assets Held at Edward Jones	This Quarter	Year to Date	Last 12 Months	3 Years Annualized	5 Years Annualized
	2.83%	12.36%	14.56%	14.27%	10.73%

**2025 EXPENDITURES: FUND 215**  
**SEPTEMBER**

Inv. Date	Payment	Line Item	Vendor	Description	Amount
08/21/25	AB prepaid CC	50211	USPS	USPS 082125 211	\$ 4.96
08/31/25	09/17/25	50211	Baker & Taylor	fuel surcharge	\$ 23.53
08/31/25	09/17/25	50211	Baker & Taylor	fuel surcharge	\$ 4.23
09/01/25	09/17/25	50211	Ingram	shipping/handling	\$ 51.27
09/03/25	AB prepaid CC	50211	USPS	USPS 090325 211	\$ 9.21
09/09/25	09/17/25	50212	UW-Madison	UWM 090925 STAFF	\$ 150.00
09/05/25	09/17/25	50221	Alliant Energy	AE 090525 util	\$ 110.90
08/17/25	09/17/25	50240	Gordon Flesch	GF 081725 copier 2	\$ 191.27
09/03/25	09/17/25	50240	Gordon Flesch	GF 090325 copier 1	\$ 110.39
08/28/25	JR prepaid PC	50289	Donor Tools	DT 082825 TECH	\$ 39.00
08/21/25	SB prepaid CC	50313	Amazon	AZ 082025 CC	\$ 137.62
08/17/25	AB prepaid CC	50326	New York Times	NYT 081725 326	\$ 56.00
08/20/25	JR prepaid PC	50326	WI State Journal	WiSJ 082025 PER	\$ 1,040.00
08/18/25	09/17/25	50327	Kanopy	KAN 081825	\$ 3,000.00
08/10/25	SB prepaid CC	50328	Amazon	AZ 080525 JDVD	\$ 71.10
08/11/25	SB prepaid CC	50328	Amazon	AZ 080525 JDVD	\$ 19.95
08/31/25	09/17/25	50328	Baker & Taylor	AD/TE materials	\$ 55.41
09/01/25	09/17/25	50328	Ingram	AD/TE materials	\$ 94.55
09/02/25	SB prepaid CC	50328	Amazon	AZ 082825 ADVD	\$ 58.09
09/02/25	09/17/25	50328	Playaway	AD/TE materials	\$ 129.58
08/11/25	SB prepaid CC	50329	eBay	EB 081125 AN	\$ 18.16
08/20/25	09/17/25	50329	Maris Associates	MA 082025 AN	\$ 160.06
08/31/25	09/17/25	50329	Baker & Taylor	AD/TE materials	\$ 784.49
09/01/25	09/17/25	50329	Ingram	CH materials	\$ 1,994.76
09/01/25	09/17/25	50329	Ingram	AD/TE materials	\$ 2,275.31
09/06/25	09/17/25	50329	Cengage	AD/TE materials	\$ 226.42
08/18/25	SB prepaid CC	50340	Amazon	AZ 081825 OS	\$ 8.81
08/24/25	SB prepaid CC	50340	Amazon	AZ 081925 OS	\$ 13.85
08/24/25	SB prepaid CC	50340	Amazon	AZ 082125 OS	\$ 8.40
08/26/25	09/17/25	50340	Complete Office	CO 082525 OS	\$ 143.40
08/29/25	SB prepaid CC	50340	Amazon	AZ 082825 OS	\$ 78.84
08/29/25	09/17/25	50340	Demco	DM 081825 LS	\$ 55.88
08/29/25	09/17/25	50340	Inkworks	INK 082925 OS	\$ 178.25
09/01/25	SB prepaid CC	50340	Amazon	AZ 082725 OS	\$ 4.74
08/29/25	09/17/25	50342	Demco	DM 081825 LS	\$ 219.56
08/31/25	09/17/25	50342	Baker & Taylor	processing	\$ 38.85
08/31/25	09/17/25	50342	Baker & Taylor	processing	\$ 8.40
09/01/25	09/17/25	50342	Ingram	processing	\$ 181.17
08/07/25	CITY prepaid	50350	Greenix	GRE 080725 pest	\$ 45.00
08/08/25	CITY prepaid	50350	Amazon	AZ 080825 roof	\$ 37.52

08/08/25	CITY prepaid	50350	Stoughton Lumber	SLC 080825 roof	\$ 13.99
08/17/25	CITY prepaid	50350	Schumacher Elev. Co.	SCH 081425 elev	\$ 160.62
08/16/25	09/17/25	50444	DeForest Area PL	DFT 081625 lost	\$ 18.00
08/16/25	09/17/25	50444	E. D. Locke PL	MCF 081625 lost	\$ 10.95
08/16/25	09/17/25	50444	Verona PL	VER 081625 lost	\$ 15.00

**2025 EXPENDITURES: FUND 217**  
**SEPTEMBER**

Inv. Date	Payment	Vendor	Description	Stream	Material	50500	50:50:503		
08/09/25	CS prepaid CC	Dollar Tree	DT 080925 B PT	Bryant	program	\$ 54.50			
08/09/25	CS prepaid CC	Walmart	WM 080925 B PT	Bryant	program	\$ 97.23			
08/10/25	SB prepaid CC	Amazon	AZ 0(8)0725 F CH	FoL	program	\$ 106.86			
08/12/25	AB prepaid CC	ALA	ALA 081225 SUN	Sunday	program	\$ 140.47			
08/12/25	MO prepaid CC	Soc. of St. V de P	SV 081225 B CH	Bryant	program	\$ 75.28			
08/12/25	MO prepaid CC	Walmart	WM 081225 F CH PR	FoL	program	\$ 31.29			
08/13/25	AB prepaid CC	Worden, Sage	SW 081325 F Ren	FoL	program	\$ 539.00			
08/14/25	MO prepaid CC	Walmart	WM 081425 F CH PR	FoL	program	\$ 10.97			
08/18/25	09/17/25	Stoughton Parks & Rec	STOPR 081825	FoL	program	\$ 250.00			
08/18/25	09/17/25	Stoughton Parks & Rec	STOPR 081825	FoL	SRK (prog)	\$ 750.00			
08/21/25	MO prepaid CC	Soc. of St. V de P	SV 082125 B CH	Bryant	program	\$ 39.87			
08/21/25	MO prepaid CC	Walmart	WM 082125 F CH PR	FoL	program	\$ 24.76			
08/24/25	09/17/25	Cobb, Jim	JC 082425 SUN	Sunday	program	\$ 365.00			
08/25/25	09/17/25	Rape Crisis Center	RCC 082525 B PR TE	Bryant	program	\$ 175.00			
08/26/25	SB prepaid CC	Amazon	AZ 082525 B PR TE	Bryant	program	\$ 35.01			
08/26/25	MO prepaid CC	Dollar Tree	DT 082925 F CH PR	FoL	program	\$ 26.50			
08/28/25	SB prepaid CC	Amazon	AZ 082825 RF25	Ren Faire	program	\$ 393.93			
08/28/25	SB prepaid CC	Amazon	AZ 082825 B PR TE	Bryant	program	\$ 163.28			
08/29/25	AB prepaid CC	Ink Cap Books	IC 082925 B PR TE	Bryant	program	\$ 225.00			
08/29/25	AB prepaid CC	Ink Cap Books	IC 082925 SS	Sunshine	program	\$ 75.00			
08/29/25	AB prepaid CC	Ink Cap Books	IC 082925 SUN	Sunday	program	\$ 39.33			
08/31/25	09/17/25	Baker & Taylor	AD/TE materials	Lucky Day	books	\$ 140.98			
08/31/25	09/17/25	Baker & Taylor	AD/TE materials	Bryant	AV	\$ 18.71			
09/01/25	09/17/25	Ingram	AD/TE materials	Lucky Day	books	\$ 44.39			
09/01/25	09/17/25	Ingram	AD/TE materials	FoL	books	\$ 191.51			
09/01/25	09/17/25	Ingram	AD/TE materials	Bryant	books	\$ 228.46			
09/01/25	09/17/25	Ingram	AD/TE materials	IMO Kuntz	books	\$ 38.49			
09/01/25	09/17/25	Kruschke, Laura	LK 090125 SUN	Sunday	program	\$ 250.00			

09/03/25	CS prepaid CC	Walmart	WM 090325 B PR TE	Bryant	program	\$ 82.53			
09/05/25	09/17/25	Cerar, Sara	SC 090525 F INC	FoL	program	\$ 400.00			

**NEWS** **OPINION** **FOOD & DRINK** **ARTS** **CALENDAR** **ABOUT** **STORE**  
**SUPPORT ISTHMUS**

# What's happening with federal funding for libraries?

What you need to know about the Institute of Museum and Library Services

BY **LINDA FALKENSTEIN** AUGUST 11, 2025 8:00 AM



**Madison Public Library's Tana Elias says a director bootcamp**

## was 'one incredible use of IMLS funding.'

If you have lost track of where things stand with federal library funding these days, that's understandable — there's a lot going on at the moment.

We need to start with the **Institute of Museum and Library Services** (IMLS). The federal agency made headlines in March when President Donald Trump signed **an executive order** eliminating it and six other “governmental entities.”

The Institute of Museum and Library Services supports libraries, archives and museums in all 50 states with funding that is applied to everything from basic operations to special programming.

IMLS staff were initially sent home and the agency's funding was frozen. Two lawsuits, *American Library Association v. Sonderling* and *Rhode Island v. Trump*, were subsequently filed.

Some staff returned to work and IMLS grants were reinstated, due to a preliminary injunction issued in the Rhode Island suit.

In the Rhode Island case, 21 states, including Wisconsin, argue that the executive order violates the Administrative Procedure Act, the Appropriations Clause, and separation of powers. A preliminary injunction issued in May has since directed the return of staff and reinstatement of IMLS grants.

Meanwhile, the federal budget is still in play until September since the House of Representatives adjourned early to avoid a vote on releasing the Epstein files.

This gives libraries another month to urge their patrons to contact their representatives to express their support for funding, says Tana Elias, director of Madison Public Library, although the Wisconsin Public Library Systems' official **postcard writing campaign** ended in July.

Madison is in a good position compared to some rural libraries, says Elias, because 68% to 79% of its funding comes from the city.

But IMLS monies do impact Madison in that the agency provides funding for the state Department of Public Instruction's **Division for Libraries and Technology**, which supports both public and school libraries across the state. DPI arranges for staff development workshops, database access through **BadgerLink**, and the software that runs the Outerlibrary Loan service, through which patrons can borrow books from all over the country. "For us, what is at stake is bigger-picture things, support for library systems," Elias says.

Elias cites a library director bootcamp, paid for by IMLS funds, that she attended when she took over the reins of Madison's library system in 2024. Many library directors "are in small communities with very little library funding. Sometimes they are a staff of one," and can't normally leave for professional development. But they have certification requirements, she explains, and need to understand what their legal and financial and statutory requirements are as library directors. "For me, that was one incredible use of IMLS funding, to make sure that I can be the best director that I can be, and for those smaller communities, where there may not be as much support as you find in Madison, that [IMLS] support is critical."

**Ben Miller, Bureau of Libraries director** at DPI and state librarian, says he is grateful that the state added funding to its 2026 budget that will offset some of the potential losses of defunding IMLS.

That includes the state picking up \$400,000 for the software behind Outerlibrary Loan and BadgerLink, says Miller, but not the money for the staff that make it work. Wisconsin has “above a 90% fill rate” for Outerlibrary Loan requests, thanks to staffers who use the software, while nationally most states are closer to 75%. That gap comes when states rely solely on computers to make the matches between requests and the material. This can include filling in incomplete information from requesters, correcting typos that would make a computer search go astray, or tracking down titles that fulfill a more general subject request. “Having that human element is what allows us to fulfill almost every request that comes through.”

That software also runs the BadgerLink database. “Without the human beings behind it that come from our IMLS funding, we would just have a piece of software that would kind of work for a while and then probably stop working, and then be just a bad investment because it wouldn’t do the things it’s supposed to do. They’re pretty complex pieces of software, they really need people.”

Miller figures that he would have to reduce his 19 staff members to less than three full-time employees if federal funding is pulled. “That’s just not feasible.” The funds coming from the state just lower “how much we would need to recoup if federal funds go away.”

Miller is watching the appropriations process in Congress.

In late July, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved funding that could keep IMLS going for another year. The House won't act until September.

Miller is also watching for the potential renewal of the Museum and Library Services Act of 2018, which expires Oct. 1, 2025. "We would be incredibly hopeful that Congress would introduce and pass a Museum and Library Services Act of 2025 to extend that for another seven years." That would offer a measure of security that the year-to-year funding doesn't. "Both don't need to happen," says Miller, but continual funding uncertainty makes planning difficult, and Miller says he is being "incredibly cautious" right now.

"Our strategy at the state level is to keep doing our jobs as well as we can to provide that value, because that's the most important thing this all rests on," says Miller. "This is really good stuff and it doesn't cost very much."

# STOUGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY STATISTICS, AUGUST 2025

page 1



STOUGHTON  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

## CHECKOUTS

MO.					2025			2024-25	
	2021	2022	2023	2024	PRINT	AV	e-RES	TOTAL	%CHANGE
JAN	11,232	17,665	18,072	19,182	12,628	2,585	5,989	21,202	10.53%
FEB	11,241	16,644	16,384	18,070	10,962	2,413	5,529	18,904	4.62%
MAR	14,070	18,440	19,521	19,906	12,844	2,907	6,080	21,831	9.67%
APR	11,899	17,721	17,196	19,078	10,819	2,353	5,309	18,481	-3.13%
MAY	12,363	16,012	16,985	17,873	10,822	2,240	5,399	18,461	3.29%
JUN	16,371	18,553	18,928	20,829	12,234	2,384	5,790	20,408	-2.02%
JUL	17,776	18,278	19,932	21,174	13,614	2,559	5,587	21,760	2.77%
AUG	17,389	19,112	18,944	19,194	11,900	2,644	4,132	18,676	-2.70%
SEP	15,337	16,010	17,304	16,869				0	-100.00%
OCT	16,052	16,050	18,318	17,050				0	-100.00%
NOV	14,952	15,972	17,970	18,667				0	-100.00%
DEC	14,282	15,445	18,279	17,655				0	-100.00%
TOTAL	172,964	205,902	217,833	225,547				0	-100.00%
AVG	14,414	17,159	18,153	18,796				0	-100.00%

## COMPUTER USE

### COMPUTER USAGE 2025

MO.	2021	2022	2023	2024	AD	CH	TOTAL
JAN	440	882	1,082	441	332	57	389
FEB	800	764	771	377	375	45	420
MAR	838	893	825	967	386	65	451
APR	1,687	1,104	611	1,047	360	38	398
MAY	1,328	596	761	571	297	47	344
JUN	1,336	756	881	817	257	60	317
JUL	1,086	721	784	795	306	108	414
AUG	1,177	956	1,116	840	285	80	365
SEP	749	669	635	868			0
OCT	1,215	731	903	745			0
NOV	1,277	957	1,240	992			0
DEC	948	768	893	3,340			0
TOTAL	12,881	9,797	10,502	11,800	2,598	500	3,098
AVG	1,073	816	875	983	325	63	387

In 2025, we are changing the way we collect computer usage data to better reflect the actual in-library use of computers by our patrons.

Programming Statistics  
for August 2025

LOANED THROUGH DELIVERY 2024-25						
MO.	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	%CHANGE
JAN	8,985	8,763	8,484	8,569	9,380	9.46%
FEB	8,737	8,082	8,030	8,336	8,161	-2.10%
MAR	11,069	8,866	9,137	8,530	8,726	2.30%
APR	8,709	7,975	7,896	8,141	7,736	-4.97%
MAY	8,359	7,468	7,501	7,587	7,250	-4.44%
JUN	8,151	7,563	8,038	7,808	7,701	-1.37%
JUL	8,076	7,647	7,858	8,338	8,278	-0.72%
AUG	8,012	8,267	8,272	7,734	7,982	3.21%
SEP	8,080	7,695	7,802	7,894		-100.00%
OCT	7,885	8,003	8,374	8,405		-100.00%
NOV	7,804	7,992	7,976	7,908		-100.00%
DEC	8,033	7,298	7,481	7,694		-100.00%
TOTAL	101,900	95,619	96,849	96,944		-100.00%
AVG	8,492	7,968	8,071	8,079		-100.00%

BORROWED THROUGH DELIVERY 2024-25						
MO.	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	%CHANGE
JAN	5,543	5,756	5,632	5,257	6,169	17.35%
FEB	5,741	5,121	4,964	4,907	5,298	7.97%
MAR	6,887	5,701	5,454	5,384	5,682	5.53%
APR	5,953	5,452	4,972	5,439	5,441	0.04%
MAY	5,048	5,031	4,826	4,785	5,090	6.37%
JUN	5,153	5,290	4,607	5,054	5,095	0.81%
JUL	4,963	4,819	5,039	4,895	5,304	8.36%
AUG	5,148	4,897	5,155	4,867	5,081	4.40%
SEP	5,440	4,569	4,899	4,798		-100.00%
OCT	5,254	4,519	5,161	5,215		-100.00%
NOV	4,925	4,541	4,930	5,032		-100.00%
DEC	5,104	4,469	4,980	4,834		-100.00%
TOTAL	65,159	60,165	60,619	60,467		-100.00%
AVG	5,430	5,014	5,052	5,039		-100.00%

WIRELESS USE 2024-25						
MO.	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	%CHANGE
JAN	920	1,341	1,830	1,677	1,464	-12.70%
FEB	875	1,269	1,801	1,806	1,499	-17.00%
MAR	1,003	1,643	2,152	1,895	1,749	-7.70%
APR	1,033	1,711	2,187	2,068	1,725	-16.59%
MAY	1,378	2,170	3,041	2,187	2,090	-4.44%
JUN	1,286	1,775	2,161	1,763	1,995	13.16%
JUL	1,412	1,917	2,623	2,467	2,036	-17.47%
AUG	1,253	2,138	2,155	2,099	1,677	-20.10%
SEP	1,312	2,243	2,184	2,071		-100.00%
OCT	1,677	2,231	2,310	2,118		-100.00%
NOV	1,499	1,961	2,213	1,806		-100.00%
DEC	1,545	1,801	2,147	1,615		-100.00%
TOTAL	15,193	22,200	26,804	23,572		-100.00%
AVG	1,266	1,850	2,234	1,964		-100.00%

DOOR COUNT 2024-25						
MO.	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	%CHANGE
JAN	0	5,425	7,504	6,975	7,687	10.21%
FEB	0	5,826	7,000	7,545	7,171	-4.96%
MAR	0	6,385	8,810	8,212	8,791	7.05%
APR	0	6,482	7,634	8,282	8,025	-3.10%
MAY	1,462	8,119	10,109	9,943	10,690	7.51%
JUN	4,155	7,296	8,237	8,109	7,758	-4.33%
JUL	5,158	7,301	7,810	8,730	8,925	2.23%
AUG	4,809	7,900	8,125	8,364	8,087	-3.31%
SEP	4,915	7,135	6,832	7,653		-100.00%
OCT	6,061	7,696	7,776	8,208		-100.00%
NOV	5,620	7,126	7,525	7,381		-100.00%
DEC	5,280	6,188	7,308	6,627		-100.00%
TOTAL	37,460	82,879	94,670	96,029		-100.00%
AVG	3,122	6,907	7,889	8,002		-100.00%

June 2020: SCLS has changed the way they collect this stat

SELF-CHECKOUTS						
MO.	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	%TOTAL
JAN	0	8,190	9,342	8,942	10,445	68.66%
FEB	0	8,181	8,344	9,063	8,685	64.93%
MAR	0	9,086	10,361	10,155	10,373	65.86%
APR	0	8,378	7,993	n/a	9,393	66.28%
MAY	1,146	7,100	7,931	8,433	8,473	64.87%
JUN	6,690	9,544	8,729	11,021	10,213	69.87%
JUL	7,053	9,276	9,658	10,724	11,133	68.84%
AUG	6,585	9,707	9,193	10,323	9,916	68.20%
SEP	7,210	7,646	8,252	8,474		
OCT	7,254	7,424	8,826	8,742		
NOV	7,417	7,912	n/a	9,355		
DEC	7,176	6,908	6,776	7,832		
TOTAL	50,531	99,352	95,405	103,064		
AVG	4,211	8,279	8,673	9,369		

WEBSITE PAGEVIEWS 2024-25						
MO.	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	%CHANGE
JAN	3,984	4,695	4,486	5,363	5,649	5.33%
FEB	3,952	3,751	3,912	4,815	5,258	9.20%
MAR	4,998	3,968	5,152	5,727	5,142	-10.21%
APR	4,701	4,268	4,816	5,767	4,985	-13.56%
MAY	4,092	4,008	4,528	4,963	5,182	4.41%
JUN	4,818	3,954	5,323	5,788	4,752	-17.90%
JUL	4,206	4,768	4,991	5,935	5,004	-15.69%
AUG	3,936	3,915	4,874	5,247	5,047	-3.81%
SEP	3,448	3,501	4,173	4,891		-100.00%
OCT	3,471	3,342	4,178	5,050		-100.00%
NOV	3,457	3,609	4,312	4,218		-100.00%
DEC	3,519	3,352	4,337	4,426		-100.00%
TOTAL	48,582	47,131	55,082	62,190		-100.00%
AVG	4,049	3,928	4,590	5,183		-100.00%

# Director's Report

September 17, 2025



## Library news:

- On August 21, I presented the library's 2026 Capital Improvement Project (CIP) budget items to the City Council's ad hoc CIP Committee. I reviewed the library's CIP items at the last meeting, but to recap, the library has three projects in the CIP budget for 2026:

- Security camera replacement (\$20,000)
- Roof membrane replacement (\$267,000)
- Solar panel installation (\$80,000, of which the library will contribute up to \$40,000 from the special gift fund)

Additionally, three smaller items have been moved from the CIP budget to the 2026 operating budget:

- Replacement of computers & peripherals (\$7,000)
- Replacement of furniture & fixtures (\$3,000)
- Replacement of lower-level carpet (\$4,000)

The ad hoc committee unanimously recommended the CIP budget to the Finance Department at the end of the meeting, and the Council will consider the CIP budget, along with the city's operating budget, on November 11.

- We held our final Movie in the Park of the season on Friday, September 12, at Nordic Ridge Park. (The event was originally scheduled for September 5, but had to be postponed owing to chilly weather.)
- On September 3, I recorded a short segment for WSTO for a new program they're introducing as a video companion to the quarterly "Around the Clock" electronic newsletter. I discussed Sunday hours (Starting September 7!) as well as National Library Card Sign-up Month and some of the free electronic resources available through the library as kids head back to school.
- Amanda Bosky, Mary Ostrander and I interviewed candidates for the Children's Services Library Assistant position on September 4. We received 45 applications for the position, and many were well-qualified, so we had many difficult decisions to make just to narrow the field for interviews. I will provide further updates on the hiring process at the Library Board meeting on September 17.
- I met with City Finance Director Lisa Trebatoski and Mayor Tim Swadley on September 9 to discuss the library's 2026 operating budget. I will present

the budget to the Board's Finance Committee in early October and they will make a recommendation to the full Board at the regular meeting on Wednesday, October 15.

- This month I registered to attend the 2025 Wisconsin Library Association Annual Conference, which is taking place in Middleton at the Madison-Marriot West October 28-31. The theme of this year's conference is "Be the Change." There is a special rate for library trustees if anyone is interested in attending. More information is at <https://www.wisconsinlibraries.org/2025-wla-conference>

A graphic for the 2025 WLA Conference Keynote Speakers. It features a green background with white and orange geometric patterns. At the top, the text "2025 WLA Conference Keynote Speakers" is written in large white font. Below this, five circular portraits of the speakers are arranged horizontally. Under each portrait is the speaker's name in white text. At the bottom left is the "Be The CHANGE" logo with the text "2025 WLA Annual Conference" below it. At the bottom right, the conference location and dates are listed in white text.

## 2025 WLA Conference Keynote Speakers

Dr. Sandra Hirsh   Michael Hall   Jane Hamilton   Rachel D Williams   Cassy Leeport

**Be The CHANGE**  
2025 WLA Annual Conference

Marriott Madison West  
Middleton, WI  
October 28 - 31

- On September 11, I attended the bi-monthly meeting of Dane County library directors at the Monona Public Library. Topics of discussion included: a potential county-wide, grant-funded "Welcome back to the library!" campaign for those with excessive lost/damaged charges on their accounts; the impending migration to a new Integrated Library System (ILS) for all South Central Library System libraries that is scheduled for May of 2026; and supporting our staff in dealing with difficult patrons and situations.

## Stoughton Area Community Foundation Fund Report

The report for the period Jul 26 – Aug 29 shows an increase in value of \$306.04 to the account because of market conditions. The overall value of the account as of Aug 29 is \$34,947.42.

### Youth Services (from Mary Ostrander)

Summer Reading Stats:

#### Registration

- Total: 474
- Ages 0-5: 187
- Ages 6-11: 278

#### Half-Way (20 Days)

- Total: 362      76%
- Ages 0-5: 139    74%
- Ages 6-11: 223   80%

#### Final (40 Days)

- Total: 311      66%
- Ages 0-5: 123   65%
- Ages 6-11: 188   68%

#### Activities (8 activities)

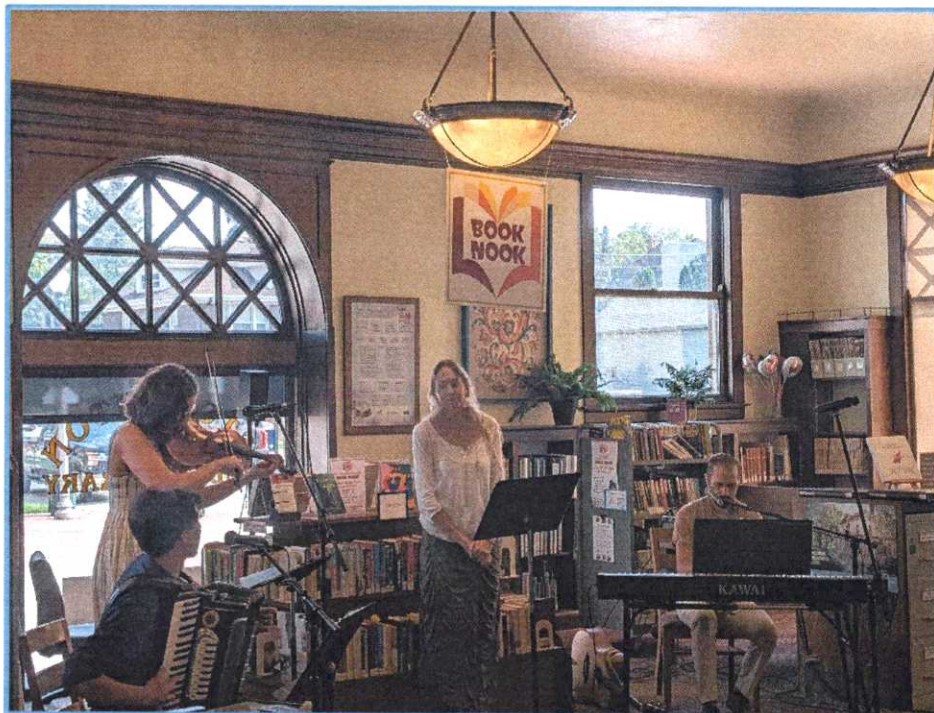
- Total: 342      72%
- Age 0-5: 131    70%
- Ages 6-11: 211   76%

- 2,746 Activities Completed
- 673 Books Given Away
- 13,460 Days Read

#### Volunteers

- 316 Volunteer Hours
- 18 Teen Volunteers

- The “**Samtalä: Music in Dialogue**” group presented a show for all ages on August 9 on the Mezzanine level. They performed the book *The Cloud Spinner* by Michael Catchpool with original music the group composed. They are hoping to perform more of their stories at the library in the future.



- The Star Wars Party on August 14 went full force. Kids did a scavenger hunt, made droids, decorated light sabers and fought off dark side balloons.
- **Bus Story Time** on August 21st with Mr. Dave was successful again this year. Mr. Dave said that the school district sees this as a great opportunity to teach kids about bus safety early.
- Amanda, Jim, and Mary interviewed candidates for the Children's Library Assistant position on September 4th.
- Story Times will resume the week of September 15. Mary will conduct everybody story times on Mondays and Thursdays and Anna will present baby story times on Wednesdays.
- Mary visited St. Ann 4th graders on September 8. She also had students fill out library card applications the week before and brought students their brand-new library cards.
- Library Substitutes and Children's staff are working on a non-fiction weeding project in the Children's Department. We are looking specifically at books older than 15 years in subject areas that tend to get outdated quickly and removing them from the collection if their information is old.
- The 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten and 500 Books Before Middle School programs are getting a revamp. Hopefully, the rebrand will start in late September.



### **Tech Services & Technology News** (from Sarah Bukrey)

- Sarah worked with Emmons Business Interiors to order new tables and chairs for the staff breakroom. The existing furniture is from the 1990s and has exceeded its useful life.
- Sarah created a tax-free account with Ebay so we could acquire an out-of-print book for the Kvamme collection, our local history collection. Now that we have an account, we can use it for other items such as programming supplies or specialty books.
- Federal tax forms have been ordered. The quantity and variety has greatly diminished over the years, so in 2026 we will have only the 1040 and 1040-SR in English and Spanish. The IRS has been gradually decreasing the

number of paper forms they send out, with the ultimate goal of convincing more taxpayers to file online. Still no word on when we can place our order for Wisconsin state tax forms.

- Sarah completed a cataloging project on the Vox and Wonderbooks (picture books with built-in audio players), so all of them are now on a juvenile fiction or juvenile non-fiction audio-enabled book record. She also reviewed the cataloging for all existing children's bilingual and Spanish books to correct some inconsistencies and make these items easier to find.
- Jen Holman-Dodds is doing great in her new role as Technical Services Library Assistant. She is filing, processing, relabeling, and even linking some items in the catalog.
- Both Sarah and Jen are helping fill staffing gaps at both the Children's Services desk and the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Information desk this month.
- Amy and Sarah hosted the first of the fall Craft Club sessions on September 4. 21 people attended Neurographic Art to do some meditative drawing with intention.
- 584 items were added in the month of August.

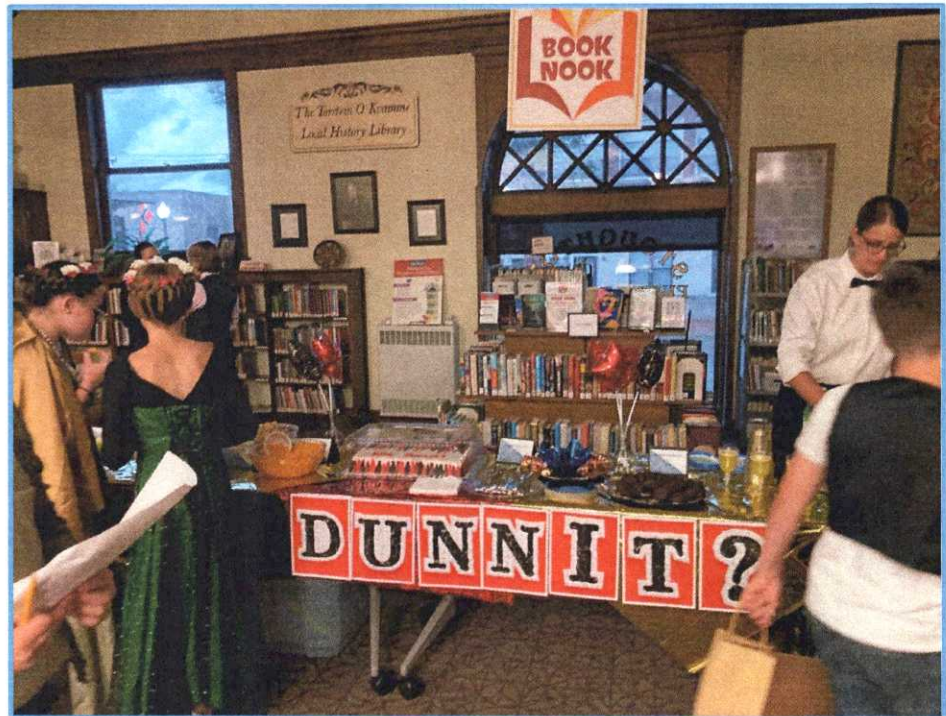
### **Circulation Services** (from Robin Behringer)

- The Circulation Team met on August 26. The Shelver Team met on September 3. Both teams discussed changes to the schedule, possible projects, and refreshers regarding patron behavior guidelines.
- Robin attended the virtual Circulation Services Subcommittee meeting on September 9. Topics discussed included an ongoing project regarding condition issue guidelines and Integrated Library System (ILS) migration updates.
- The Circulation department has gone into new-school-year mode after Labor Day. The holiday, along with the end of summer, brought a very large volume of work through the department. But thanks to our hardworking shelvees and desk staff, the back log of work was gone within a week.

### **Adult & Teen Services** (from Amanda Bosky)

- Teen Services Assistant Cynthia Schlegel hosted another fun-filled Teen Murder Mystery night in early August. 28 attended to dress up in costume, eat fancy snacks, and explore the library for clues to discover who murdered Archibald Grim. Adult Services Librarian Amanda Bosky assisted, as well as Library Substitute Erin Mears and her daughter, Evie.

- We had another successful Summer Library Program for teens and adults! We are nearly back to pre-pandemic participation levels. This year, 125 Adults registered



for our program, a big increase from 89 in 2024. And we had 150 teens register, compared to 133 last year.

- Huge kudos to Cynthia for creating yet another engaging Summer Library Program for teens. She decorated the department with flowers and color everywhere, and created an engaging, fun reading log for the teens to track their reading over the summer. We get constant compliments on how welcoming and fun the top floor is thanks to Cynthia's sense of flair. Be sure to stop upstairs to check out the new decorations promoting our upcoming Renaissance Faire!
- Amanda watched a webinar on Teens with Adverse Childhood Experiences, and learned a lot about working with this vulnerable population in the library.
- Training went great, and our new Technical Services Assistant Jen Holman-Dodds completed her first few solo evening shifts on the Adult Services desk.
- Our second Music on the Mezz concert with the Avanti Piano Trio had a slightly better attendance than our first—42 people enjoyed the sounds of piano, violin, and cello on the Mezzanine level. We're hoping to grow to a manageable 50-60 attendees per concert as our patrons re-acclimate to this former, pre-pandemic staple program series.
- Amanda and Children's Librarian Mary Ostrander worked with Parks & Recreation staff to host our second session of Movies in the Park on August 15, showing *A Minecraft Movie*. 140 people attended.

- Amanda worked with Mary, Jim, and City Human Resources to evaluate and interview our Children's Services Assistant candidates in early September.
- Cynthia's other teen programs over the past month included: Tie Dye (with Mary) and Oreo Tasting (with Erin).

**Looking Back** from *The Stoughton Hub*  
June 28, 1943

### **Children Prefer War Stories Now**

#### **Non-fiction Is Having Its Day with Children Due to Interest They Take in Current War Problems**

Best-selling current war stories are having their day among Stoughton boys and girls, according to Mrs. W.A. Sumner, head librarian of the Stoughton Public Library. Youths, who a few years ago would be reading the perennial favorites of "Tom Swift" or "Nancy Drew," are now inquiring for "Guadalcanal Diary."

"The trend among juveniles is definitely toward more serious reading and the traditional division between 'adult' and 'juvenile' books has been broken down," Mrs. Sumner stated.

"Children aren't afraid of non-fiction anymore," she said. Personal narratives by war heroes, all aspects of aviation, stories of the navy, and technical books are having great popularity.

The two volume series of "Win Your Wings" is much in demand at the library.

"Of course, fiction is and always will be read," Mrs. Sumner said, "but it isn't uppermost in their minds today." She stated that she was particularly well pleased with the choice of literature that Stoughton children make. "They seem to be anxious to know about today's events."



**Stoughton Public Library**  
**Board of Trustees Planning Committee Meeting**  
**Tuesday, September 2, at 6:30 PM**

**\*\*Please Note:** This was a virtual meeting held remotely via Zoom.

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Jean Ligocki, Brandon Maly, Christine Melland, Libby Phillips  
**Also present:** Library Director Jim Ramsey

1. Meeting called to order by consensus at 6:33 PM
2. **Review of Agenda** – Agenda reviewed and accepted by consensus.
3. **Review/Approve Minutes of January 8, 2025 \*** - MOTION by Melland to approve the minutes of January 8, 2025. SECOND by Maly. VOTE: 3-0.
4. **Election of Committee Chair for 2025-2026 \*** - Ramsey asked for volunteers. Melland volunteered. Ramsey called thrice for additional nominations; none were offered. Ramsey briefly reviewed the duties of the committee chair, including running the meetings and reporting out to the Library Board at the monthly meetings. MOTION by Ligocki to nominate Melland for committee chair. SECOND by Phillips. VOTE: 3-0.
5. **Discussion of Planning Committee's 2025 Library Board Goal** – Ramsey presented and reviewed the 2025 Planning Committee Goal: "By September 2025, the Planning Committee will compile data about the library programs that have been offered throughout the year. We will highlight ways the programs tell a story about diversity in Stoughton and our connections to each other." He referred to a representative sample of library programs from Oct 2024 – Jul 2025 in which programs featuring themes related to diversity, equity, access, and inclusion were highlighted.

Ramsey asked Ligocki, who was on the Planning Committee earlier this year, to speak on what the committee had in mind when it formulated this goal. Ligocki replied that the committee wanted to recognize the great programming work that library staff were doing and discuss what that programming brings to the community in terms of diversity. Ramsey

asked the committee to think about what kind of story the data on programming tells.

Melland asked about the various age ranges in the data and if any one age group was better represented than others. She stated that the list of programs embodies the theme “All are welcome here,” which appears in the library’s 2023-2026 Strategic Plan.

Ligocki praised the restorative justice program in particular and said she wanted to delve deeper into the content of some of the programs listed. Melland described using content from the talk by Sergio Gonzales on March 18 to further work that she was doing with her church congregation. Ramsey volunteered to tally up the offerings for the various age groups and send this to the committee.

Melland spoke about the Trustee Training Week webinar on library advocacy and storymaking and highly recommended that the committee watch the recording. Maly spoke about wanting to dive in and learn more about the programs, as some of the program titles weren’t fully descriptive.

Melland pointed out that there are multiple ways for patrons to access the library’s programs—not all of them are at the library; some are online and others are held at different locations around the city. She spoke about attending many of the programs on the list and suggested that another story these programs could tell would be how they enrich lives through offering diverse perspectives.

Ligocki reiterated that two of the themes were “All are welcome” and the impact of programs on individuals. She offered to watch the above-mentioned webinar on advocacy and storymaking. Melland suggested involving patrons and their stories in any future library storytelling projects. Ligocki suggested that storytelling for library advocacy should be a continuing agenda item for this committee. Maly offered that the advocacy and storymaking webinar included a storytelling worksheet that might be helpful.

Phillips discussed wanting to report on library stories in her role as an editor for the *Norse Star*, Stoughton High School’s student newspaper, and that this would be a good opportunity to tell the kinds of stories the committee has been discussing. Melland emphasized that the goal should be to tell the stories behind the numbers.

- 6. Future agenda item: Review of the Library Board’s 2026 Calendar of Work** – Ramsey explained that the committee should plan to review the

2026 Calendar of Work in early-November, as the Library Board will consider approval of the Calendar at their meeting on November 19.

7. **Future agenda item: Strategic planning beyond 2026** – Ramsey explained that the library's current strategic plan runs through 2026, so this committee should be planning to update the plan in the coming year. He described some options for formulating the next strategic plan, including utilizing consultants from South Central Library System or hiring outside consultants as the library did in 2018 and 2019.
8. **Schedule next meeting** – Ramsey reiterated that the committee should meet in early November and offered to send out a Doodle poll. Ligocki suggested that the committee schedule a meeting now since the entire committee was present. Melland suggested the first Tuesday of the month, Tuesday, November 4. Consensus was in favor of scheduling the next meeting for Tuesday, November 4, at 6:30 PM via Zoom.
9. Meeting adjourned by consensus at 7:25 PM

\*Indicates a potential action item

Sent to Planning Committee:

Jean Ligocki  
Brandon Maly  
Christine Melland  
Libby Phillips

Cc:

Phil Caravello  
Lora Klitzke  
Sharon Meilahn Bartlett  
Trista Richards  
Katie Roberts  
Mande Shecterle

**If you are disabled & in need of assistance, please call 873-6281 prior to this meeting.** Note: An expanded meeting may constitute a quorum of the Board.

## **Resolution Requesting Exemption from Dane County Library Tax**

WHEREAS the Dane County Board has established a county library and levies a county library tax as authorized under Section 43.57 (3) of the Wisconsin Statutes, and

WHEREAS the Dane County Library Board has determined that the library serving the city of Stoughton meets the minimum standards of operation established by the County Board (RES 185, 2011-2012; RES 98, 2013-2014; RES 233, 2016-2017; RES 149 2023-2024) in compliance with Section 43.11 (3) (d) of the Wisconsin Statutes, and

WHEREAS Section 43.64 (2) (b) of the Wisconsin Statutes provides that a village or city which levies a tax for public library service and appropriates and expends for a library fund as defined by s.43.52 (1) during the year for which the county tax levy is made a sum at least equal to the county tax rate in the prior year multiplied by the equalized valuation of property in the city or village for the current year, and

WHEREAS the city of Stoughton will appropriate in 2025 and expend in 2026 an amount in excess of that calculated above in support of its library,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the city of Stoughton hereby requests of the Dane County Board of Supervisors that the city of Stoughton be exempted from the payment of any tax for the support of the County Library Service as provided in Section 43.64 (2).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that confirmed copies of this resolution will be forwarded by the City clerk to the following party:

Tracy Herold, Director  
Dane County Library Service  
[herold@dcls.info](mailto:herold@dcls.info)

Date Passed: \_\_\_\_\_

Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title of Person signing

**Per 2025 DOR DaneCo EqVal**

	<b>EXEMPT LIBS</b>	<b>2025 Eq Val</b>	<b>2026 Min App</b>	<b>2025 App</b>	<b>Diff</b>
<b>Villages</b>					
	Belleville	335,260,000	\$109,341	\$283,800	\$174,459
	Black Earth	211,972,300	\$69,132	\$163,556	\$94,424
	Cambridge	294,400,500	\$96,015	\$95,000	-\$1,015
	Cross Plains	639,262,100	\$208,487	\$307,800	\$99,313
	Deerfield	336,381,500	\$109,706	\$181,650	\$71,944
	DeForest	1,930,701,500	\$629,673	\$768,273	\$138,600
	Marshall	401,502,000	\$130,945	\$189,000	\$58,055
	Mazomanie	248,730,300	\$81,120	\$101,275	\$20,155
	McFarland	1,698,520,200	\$553,950	\$800,750	\$246,800
	Mount Horeb	1,226,401,700	\$399,975	\$530,057	\$130,082
	Oregon	2,031,867,500	\$662,666	\$1,136,777	\$474,111
	Waunakee	3,404,605,600	\$1,110,367	\$1,296,331	\$185,964
<b>Cities</b>					
	Fitchburg	6,285,547,800	\$2,049,948	\$2,403,472	\$353,524
	Madison	47,882,294,800	\$15,616,171	\$21,563,477	\$5,947,306
	Middleton	4,846,722,400	\$1,580,694	\$1,662,061	\$81,367
	Monona	2,027,116,700	\$661,117	\$944,229	\$283,112
	Stoughton	1,947,811,000	\$635,253	\$711,285	\$76,032
	Sun Prairie	5,899,027,200	\$1,923,889	\$2,096,300	\$172,411
	Verona	4,367,658,000	\$1,424,453	\$1,372,581	-\$51,872

# 2026 DRAFT Library Calendar

Calendar

*pedia*

Your source for calendars

Green = Open Sundays

Red = Holiday - CLOSED

Gold = Probable Staff In-service

Blue=Library Board meetings

Pink = Other fed. Holiday - OPEN

January						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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31						

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July						
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November						
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## Federal Holidays 2026

Jan 1	New Year's Day	Jun 19	Juneteenth	Oct 12	Columbus Day
Jan 19	Martin Luther King Day	Jul 3	Independence Day (observed)	Nov 11	Veterans Day
Feb 16	Presidents' Day	Jul 4	Independence Day	Nov 26	Thanksgiving Day
May 25	Memorial Day	Sep 7	Labor Day	Dec 25	Christmas Day