

Manager Highlights
March 2026

FACILITIES DEPARTMENT

STACEY BIALEK

MISSION MOMENT

On the night of March 13, 1997, thousands of people across Arizona and parts of Nevada reported seeing a series of strange, unidentified lights in the sky. The event was seen by people from all walks of life, including pilots, police officers, and even the Governor of Arizona at the time, Fife Symington, who later admitted he believed the object was "something from another world".



UFO Landing. Peterkin. P.A. 001.942, PETERKIN, Youth Book. *Each book starts with a brief introduction in a narrative style, followed by five short informational chapters. 4th grade reading level.*

STAFF DEVELOPMENT



The FISH fundraiser of "Jar-Wars", a fun competition between 1st and 2nd floor to see which staff can collect the most donations, netted a nice sum for future FISH activities and social events. We will be celebrating another anniversary next month when Betty Schwede, Youth Librarian, marks her 20th year at MPL.

MPL conducted another All-Staff training event sponsored this time by MCLS. We watched an informative film concerning book banning and the consequences for certain librarians and library staff around the nation. We broke into small groups for discussion and reflection on past experiences and steps to take to ensure intellectual freedom.

OUTREACH



Thanks to the City of Manitowoc and the People Committee for the appreciation gift of a city logo coffee mug to all city employees.

ASSET MANAGEMENT



Schaus Mechanical has reported that the interior coils have been installed and piping connections would continue through 4/18. Once connected, they will leak test and then recharge the A/c system for more performance tests in next few weeks

We have met with at least four area general contractors to offer plans & estimates for remodeling the 2nd-floor men's and women's restrooms into multiple self-contained family/non-gender restrooms.

We will be meeting the Lakeshore Master Gardeners next month for advice and layout ideas of our exterior beautification project.

CUSTODIAL MANAGEMENT



Cleaning schedules and applications continue to be fine-tuned as our newest Maintenance Specialist, Sam, continues to root out the old and ineffective.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS/FIRE SAFETY



We will be updating our early morning/late afternoon learning sessions, EML/LAL's, and planning for regular training sessions and for the All-Staff training in September.

REPAIR/MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT



Our contractor for the controls side of the HVAC project, EC&D has completed integrating the specialized VAV boxes and continues their work on the main controller interface and is nearly complete.

The new Business Center looks great and laid out for efficient customer service. Thanks to all who took part in this worthy endeavor from concept to finish!

Replaced the spring coupler for pump #5 which services Boiler #1. Flushed the unit and restarted without problems.

As the HVAC project progresses, we are servicing all of our mechanicals as contractors integrate the controls into a new format. Most of our pumps, bearings, and valves will now have their service schedules aligned and synchronized.

More ceiling fixtures upgraded to LED in Non-Fiction.

We were able to make nice dent into the excess as we spring-cleaned much of the

IN THE FUTURE



Meeting with Lakeshore Master Gardeners

Quotes for 2nd floor Family restrooms

HVAC controls and interior recharging of the A/C

Materials Department
Meredith Gadzinski

MISSION MOMENT:

- A book group member told Laura that she has lived in many places, and she is very impressed with MPL's excellent customer service.

PERSONNEL:

- Nothing to Report.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT:

- Staff attended the All Staff Meeting co-hosted with MCLS (Manitowoc Calumet Library System) 3/20.
- Lisa P. attended a webinar through LYRASIS on digital publishing and the digital library shelf. She also attended a webinar on the CCBC (Cooperative Children's Book Center) title picks for 2026.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES:

- Lisa P. attended the WPLC (Wisconsin Public Library Consortium) Selection Committee Meeting.
- Laura advised staff from two MCLS libraries about very specific points of borrowing special materials via WISCAT.

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- 25,709 items were sorted by the AMH (Automatic Material Handler) in March.
- We provided 47 multiple copies of titles to area teachers and book groups.

WHAT'S COMING UP?

- Lisa P. will be attending the WAPL (Wisconsin Association for Public Libraries) Conference April 28 and 29 at Elkhart Lake.
- Rory Doneff will be working part time as an intern in our department. Rory will be doing several projects and will fill in staffing gaps as needed.

Youth Services
Sharon Verbeten

Literary Quote of the Month:

“Sometimes the smallest things take up the most room in your heart.”

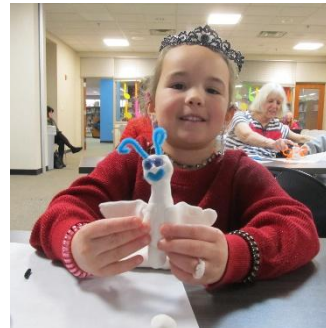
Winnie the Pooh, A.A. Milne

Mission Moment

- One of our storytime regulars celebrated her 3rd birthday and her mother brought cards for Youth Services staff noting, “Thank you for creating such a warm, welcoming and inspiring space at the library; I deeply appreciate the time and effort you put into engaging with [my daughter].”

Programming/Outreach/Dept. News

- Sharon did Storytime on the Road at the YMCA; about 60 attendees came to hear Dr. Seuss stories to celebrate the author’s birthday on March 2.
- Betty and Sharon visited Riverview Elementary to do four storytimes for their kindergarten classes.
- During Spring Break week, Kirsten conducted a Bug Lab program, where students could craft their own creative bugs out of clay, and the response was amazing; almost 60 were in attendance.



- Spring was definitely in the air when a local 4-H group presented a program on baby chicks; kids could create their own tiny peeps to take home, and the live baby chicks stayed in our department (in their cozy warming box) for a few days, much to the delight of visitors.
- Another spring program taught school-age youth about bats and the science of sound.
- Interest in Teen Shelf Care boxes remains steady, with about 7 being requested each month.
- Once again this summer, Youth Services will work with MPSD's two summer school venues, Boys & Girls Club and YMCA summer groups to bring the Summer Reading Program to their students.

Staff Development

- All-staff day featured a screening of the PBS documentary *The Librarians*.

What's Next?

- Youth Services staff will visit grades K-5 at local elementary schools the last two weeks in May conducting fun and interactive Summer Reading Program promotion visits.
- Nhi Hoang Quach, a student from Lawrence University, will start in June as our full-time Youth Services intern; she will assist our department for 10 weeks this summer, and her salary will be paid for by the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU).
- Stay tuned for summer! Our Summer Reading Program will run June 15-Aug. 8, and our Youth Services summer calendar promises many exciting programs—including Mammoth Hunters, Dragon Masters, Birds of Prey, America 250 celebrations, a bus tour, an outdoor foam/bubble event, bingo and seven Storytimes on the Road to local venues. Sign-up kick-off will be held at Cedar Crest on Wednesday, June 9 at noon; this year again, all who sign up for the Summer Reading Program will receive a 10% off coupon from Cedar Crest.

Public Services

Karen Hansen

MISSION MOMENTS

- Emily assisted a patron who came in to checkout seeds. The patron thanked her and said, “You know, I’ve been to libraries all over the state, and you guys are the best library of the bunch.”
- Lisa D assisted a patron in the Business Center with printing and sending a resume. He came by a few days later to thank her for her help and patience. He was very excited because he landed an interview!
- Patron Gail Terry wrote: “I love the puzzle exchange area near the entrance. I have placed several of mine there [...] Occasionally, I find one like that on your shelves. So, special thanks to June for her love of puzzles & for submitting this idea to MPL, and thanks to the library for making it available to all of us who share June’s love for puzzles.”
- A workforce partner wrote to Karen: “Just wanted to say – wonderful to be here working with your staff and seeing people that I know in the community waving when they see me. It's great to see these people and have a little time to chat. It's always important to me to take these opportunities to reconnect. Thanks!”
- One of our homebound patrons requested recommended titles for visits with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren this summer. Margo reached out to the Youth Department and received excellent suggestions.

PERSONNEL

- Nothing to report.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

- Staff attended the April 20 staff development training.
- Patti attended two Wisconsin Literacy virtual training sessions.

OUTREACH

- Karen attended meetings through Froedtert/Holy Family Hospital on Housing & Community Health and Expanding Our Mental Health Access.

OPERATION ACTIVITIES

Programming Highlights

- **Great Decisions:** Tim continued running the 2026 Great Decisions series – our most popular adult program series of the year. One session had to be rescheduled to April 6 due to the March blizzard.
- **Branching Out:** Tim coordinated this popular program on pruning trees and shrubs.
- **Make It at MPL – Digitize and Design:** Lisa D and Olivia taught a class on how to digitize pictures and engrave them onto wood using the Glowforge.
- **Mini Job Fair:** Karen coordinated a March 11 Mini Job Fair with the Department of Workforce Development to address a recent local layoff.
- Other adult programming included a book discussion of *The Measure*, Watcha Watchin,’ 3D Printer Badging, Glowforge Badging, Cricut Badging, Open Sew with Betty, Life Skills Workshop, and Drop-In Chess Club.

Other Operational Highlights

- **Winter Reading Program:** The Winter Reading Program wrapped up this month. In total, 745 people participated in the program.
- **Marketing:** Tim and Emily focused on promoting Great Decisions and a range of other programming. Emily completed the Library's contribution to the City's Summer Fun Guide. She also designed an "MPL By the Numbers" infographic for social media/handouts at desk. Staff continue to submit articles for Seehafer News, as well as appear on Coffee on the Coast and Be Our Guest.
- **One-to-One Literacy:** Patti continues to coordinate individual and group tutoring opportunities. She recently met with the Assistant Dean of Education at Lakeshore College to discuss changes with English Language Learning.
- **Homebound Services:** Margo is busy serving individual and institutional Homebound needs.
- **Volunteer Coordinator:** Lisa is working with the Friends to plan the big book sale – May 28-30.
- **IT:** Max and the Management Team have been working on migrating the Library over to Microsoft 365.
- **Friends:** Sharon presented to the Friends about the Summer Reading Program, and they approved the funding request. Karen worked with the Friends to plan for a May 1 Brat Fry fundraiser at Festival Foods.

SIGNIFICANT STATISTICS

- Tony and Lisa D provided 27 notaries.

COMING UP

- WOMT 100: A Century of Live Local Radio in Manitowoc Exhibit (4/20-5/30)
- Comic Book Day (5/2)