

## Manager Highlights February 2026

### FACILITIES DEPARTMENT

#### STACEY BIALEK

#### MISSION MOMENT

On February 20, 1962, John Glenn became the first American to orbit the Earth, completing three orbits in 4 hours and 55 minutes aboard the *Friendship 7* spacecraft. Launched by an Atlas rocket from Cape Canaveral, he overcame a malfunctioning automatic control system and a potential heat shield failure to splash down safely in the Atlantic Ocean, marking a major U.S. success in the Space Race.

Check out



**The Wingmen.** Lazarus, Adam. 951.9042 LAZARUS, Adult NF. *\*Fun friendship formed between John Glenn and baseballer, Ted Williams.\**

#### PERSONNEL



Congratulations to Sam Lucas, the library's new Maintenance Specialist. Sam has a varied career in property maintenance and an educational background in botany. Sam is eager to get the maintenance department organized and learn all the details of facilities maintenance. Welcome aboard, Sam!

#### STAFF DEVELOPMENT



Our staff morale boosting committee FISH (Fellowship Inspiring Social Harmony) celebrated the 2026 Winter Olympics with trivia, puzzles and games for staff to enjoy. We are planning an anniversary get-together in March, celebrating Meredith Gadzinski (20 years) and Ann Reimer (40 years), as well as a FISH fund-raiser with "Jar-Wars", a fun competition between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor to see which staff can collect the most coins.

#### ASSET MANAGEMENT



Schaus Mechanical has reported that the rooftop cage HVAC unit is complete. They will also be looking at scheduling the installation of the interior coils inside the vent housing on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. The controls installer, EC&D, will be working everyday in or to get operations and mechanicals in-sync.

We are meeting with at least four area general contractors to offer plans & estimates on remodeling the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor men's and women's restrooms in to multiple family/non-gender restrooms that are self-contained.

## **CUSTODIAL MANAGEMENT**



Sam has been instrumental in getting many of the cleaning schedules streamlined and organized. From inventory, types of cleaners, and application.

## **EMERGENCY PREPAREDENESS/FIRE SAFETY**



We will be updating our early morning/late afternoon learning sessions, EML/LAL's, and heading back to the basics. Along with our new hire, we hope to present fresh and informational training on library policies, emergency procedures, and building/custodial guidelines while really focusing on the fundamentals every other month.

## **REPAIR/MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT**



Our contractor for the controls side of the HVAC project, EC&D has completed integrating the 40 or more VAV boxes housed around the building. They will be putting their final touches ahead of schedule and ready for the next heat season.

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!

We have completed the western side of the 1<sup>st</sup> floor vent housings and will be finishing east in early March.

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 library. This included soiled chairs, old lighting fixtures, and out of date office items.

## **IN THE FUTURE**



More lighting LED upgrades in A/V, Children's, and 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

Quotes for 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Family restrooms

New Rooftop Condensing Unit for the HVAC

**Materials Department**  
**Meredith Gadzinski**

**MISSION MOMENTS**

- Interlibrary Loan staff received a thank you note from the Osseo Public Library, with whom we shared a book discussion kit. The group went out of their way to acknowledge that they appreciated the many large print books included in the kit. One of the Osseo book group members just happens to be from Manitowoc.
- Laura assisted a patron who was forming a book group, though none of the members is avid readers. She was looking for a light, fun suggestion for them to begin with. We are hoping that we will “hook” them on reading.

**PERSONNEL**

- Nothing to Report

**STAFF DEVELOPMENT**

- Lisa P. attended a webinar on best management practices for eBook and eAudiobook titles. She also attended a webinar detailing our new material vendor’s website and services.
- Lisa P. attended the February meeting of the F.I.S.H. staff committee.
- Meredith trained Susie how to fast add multiple copy interlibrary library loan requests in order to streamline the process in interlibrary loan.

**OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**

- Lisa P. attended the February meeting of the Statewide Bibliographic Standards Committee.
- Laura discussed books with Tina Prigge on The Coolest Coast.
- Meredith attended LARS (Lakeshore Area Resource System) meeting on February 13.

**OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

- Judy trained Joan the new PS assistant in the staff catalog software, called Workflows.
- We provided multiple copies of 26 books to area book groups, as well as multiples of 35 titles to area elementary and high school teachers.
- Ann R. continues to order from Ingram manually. We are waiting for our number to be called to receive training on EDI (Electronic Data Interchange) ordering and invoicing.

**Youth Services**  
**Sharon Verbeten**

**Literary Quote of the Month:**

**“It’s no use to go back to yesterday because I was a different person then.”**

**Lewis Carroll, *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland***



**Programming/Outreach/Dept. News**

- The retooled FISH (Fellowship Inspiring Social Harmony) committee returned after a short hiatus to celebrate MPL staff and achievements. It is focused on the philosophy of choosing one’s attitude, playing at work, making someone’s day and being present. The group will celebrate notable work anniversaries and create passive fun events to boost staff engagement and morale.
- Our second program in our parenting series focused on teen mental health with a local counselor; we had 11 attendees, who were very engaged with the conversation on this important timely topic. Our next event is a potty training panel with two health professionals in April.
- Sharon visited several 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes at Franklin Elementary and St. John’s Newtonburg to instruct students on using MPL’s free online databases and tools to conduct research.
- Mishicot Elementary brought their second grade classes for a field trip, expanding our services to schools outside the city. Students spent time in storytime, touring the library and checking out books—many with new library cards.
- Youth Services created several programs to coincide with the 2026 Winter Olympics. Our baby Olympics was a huge hit—and even NBC26 TV came to film a segment with littles competing in tiny versions of bobsledding, curling and more! Two parents even



created Baby Olympics onesies for their athletes! (We also hosted a teen minute-to-win-it event as well).

- Stories, treats and crafts highlighted a big-kids Valentine's party on Friday, Feb. 13, a school-off day.
- Craft programs continue to be popular events during our Family Activity Night Tuesdays. One evening, families were encouraged to create art with "anything but a paintbrush."
- Ascend Services continues to book events for their special needs adults groups—we've been setting them up with trivia and crafting programs, which have gone over well.
- Who doesn't love getting cozy with a treat and a good story? Families were encouraged to create their own blanket forts during a cold Feb. evening.



### What's Next?

- Stay tuned for summer! Our Summer Reading Program will run June 15-Aug. 9, and our summer calendar in Youth Services 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!
- We have eight Star Reader visits booked for April—these visits welcome area second graders (our emerging readers!) to learn about the library, take tours and browse for books.
- Kristin will represent MPL and do storytime Saturday, May 16 at the Manitowoc County Historical Society for Library Card Free Day.

## Public Services

Karen Hansen

### MISSION MOMENTS

- Emily greeted an older gentleman who entered the Library. As he walked past the desk, he backed up and said “Today is a great day.” He then said, “I came through these doors, and you gave me the biggest smile and warmly said good morning, and now today is great.” I thanked him for the kind words. He then shared some experiences at other establishments that did not acknowledge him and he said he did not feel welcome there, but he does here.
- Patti reported that a tutor recently reached out about her learner's desire to read more accessible English language fiction, so she could read again for leisure like she used to enjoy in Spanish. One-to-One was able to provide several titles of modified classics and return the joy of reading to one of our highly motivated adults.
- Tony helped a patron print off mortgage papers. The patron shook Tony's hand and said, “Could not thank you enough!” His partner had recently passed away and he was trying to learn how to take care of household paperwork.
- Homebound Services received a lovely handwritten note from one of the centers they serve. They expressed their gratitude for our services and the large print books.
- A regular patron reached out to Karen to express her gratitude for the Seed Swap event: “Thank you for putting on the Seed swap again this year. I always find something unique. Have a beautiful day!”

### PERSONNEL

- Joan Maternoski started as the Library Assistant position on February 3.

### STAFF DEVELOPMENT

- Patti attended the Wisconsin Literacy Winter Virtual Conference Week.

### OUTREACH

Nothing to report

### OPERATION ACTIVITIES

#### Programming Highlights

- **Great Decisions:** Tim rolled out the 2026 Great Decisions series, which started on February 2 and will run through March 23.
- **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Lakeshore Area Seed Swap:** The Lakeshore Seed Collective offered a no-cost seed exchange for anyone interested in gardening.
- **Card Smart Series:** Tony held a three-class series introducing patrons to library collections, services, and technology.
- Other adult programming included Tales from the Taproom 6, Tech Time with the ADRC, Soundbooth Badging, Cats on Mats, Life Skills Workshop: Heartwise, Glowforge Badging, 3D Printer Badging, Cricut Badging, and Drop-In Chess Club.

#### Other Operational Highlights

- **Winter Reading Program:** The Winter Reading Program continues.

- **Marketing:** Tim and Emily focused on promoting the Winter Reading Program, the Seed Swap, and the Card Smart series. Emily is working on the next Events Guide as well as the Summer Fun Guide. 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 has recently introduced another curriculum option that tutors are finding useful.
- **Homebound Services:** Margo is busy serving individual and institutional Homebound needs.
- **Volunteer Coordinator:** Lisa attended a Volunteer Managers Coffee & Chat meeting on 2/17.

#### **SIGNIFICANT STATISTICS**

- Tony and Lisa D provided 24 notaries.