

Manager Highlights January 2026

FACILITIES DEPARTMENT

STACEY BIALEK

MISSION MOMENT

The Challenger shuttle crew, of seven astronauts—including the pilot, aerospace engineers, and scientists—died tragically in the explosion of their spacecraft during the launch from the Kennedy Space Center about 11:40 a.m., EST, on January 28, 1986. The explosion became one of the most significant events of the 1980s, as billions around the world saw the accident on television and empathized with any one of the several crewmembers killed.

Check out



Challenger. Higgenbotham, Adam. 363.124 HIGGINBO, Adult NF. **Reads like a Thriller-Whodunit even though you know the ending.*

PERSONNEL



After teaming up again with Meredith G for interviews, we are confident that this round of interviews has produced a quality candidate. We look forward to the next HR procedures and hope for positive results. Conceivably, the library may have a new maintenance specialist by late January or early February.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT



Our staff morale boosting committee FISH has once again convened and clarified its role and purpose. We will be starting some Olympic fun & games for staff in February, while a couple of fun “fun”draisers are slated for mid-February and early March.

OUTREACH



The Evergleams exhibit is in full swing and attracting a whole lot of admiration, curiosity, and enthusiasm. Thanks to all the volunteers, library staff, and tree-huggers that make this exhibit a fun success every year. Also, the solo, complimentary Trolley tour was also well attended and gave many new visitors a chance to see a wonderful display in a beautiful building.

ASSET MANAGEMENT



Schaus Mechanical has reported that the rooftop cage HVAC unit is complete. They will be looking at scheduling for a crane and crew.

CUSTODIAL MANAGEMENT



Our custodial aide from Ascend Services continues to do well. As she gets accustomed to a daily/weekly cleaning routine, we'll eventually be expanding into other needed duties, such as using the carpet extractor and tile cleaner.

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.

We completed the last of the retrofitted LED banks for the new Business Center. Furniture has arrived and is being assembled and placed by the manufacturer.

We have completed the last of the 2nd vent cleaning this month and will be moving onto the first floor in February.

Replaced the spring coupler for pump #3 which services Boiler #2. Flushed the unit and restarted without problems.

Bearing and housing replacement will be coming in February for Boiler #1.

IN THE FUTURE



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

Quotes for 2nd floor Family restrooms

What do you call a belt made of watches? A waist of time.

Interviewer: "So, tell me, what do you consider to be your greatest weakness?"

Interviewee: "Honesty."

Interviewer: "I believe honesty is NOT a weakness."

Interviewee: "I really don't care what you think."

Materials Department

Meredith Gadzinski

1. Mission Moment:
 - Meredith helped a patron find read-a-likes to a new Freida McFadden book that they are waiting for on the holds list. The patron left with six titles and reported back that they read and enjoyed them all. They discovered a new author that they love in the process as well.
2. Personnel:
 - Nothing to report.
3. Staff Development:
 - Lisa P. attended two collection development sessions as part of the Wild Wisconsin Winter Webinar Conference.
4. Outreach Activities:
 - Lisa P. attended the WPLC (Wisconsin Public Library Consortium) Selection Committee Meeting.
 - Laura participated in the voting of Lakeshore Holiday Parade floats.
 - Laura resumed the Book Banter feature on the Coolest Coast.
5. Operations Activities:
 - Lisa P. trained Olivia in collection maintenance duties for adult fiction.
 - Judy trained Carol on how to make labels for her goal.
 - Ann R. completed the 2025 rollover and everything went smoothly. Meredith was able to shadow her to learn this annual procedure.
 - We provided multiple copies of titles for 26 book groups and fulfilled 41 multiple copy requests for area elementary and high school teachers.
6. What's coming up?
 - Lakeshore Area Resource System (LARS) meeting on February 13, 2026.

Youth Services
Sharon Verbeten

Literary Quote of the Month:

“But then I realized, what do they really know? This is MY idea, I thought. No one knows it like I do. And it’s okay if it’s different, and weird, and maybe a little crazy.”

—What Do You Do With an Idea? by Kobi Yamada

Mission Moments

- Kirsten shared that a mom she hadn’t seen in years came to Baby Storytime with her now preschool son and toddler daughter. “It felt like a small but meaningful reminder of how these programs help families stay connected to the library over time. During playtime, I got down on the floor and played trucks with the little boy, and his mom thanked me several times. It was a simple interaction that underscored how play supports early learning and how creating space.”

Programming/Outreach/Dept. News

- Dino Week wrapped up with a wildly popular Dino Dimensions Live show on MLK Day, drawing 290 attendees on a school-off day. Families enjoyed a full week of dinosaur themed passive activities (scavenger hunt, trivia, games, etc.) culminating in an energetic, lifelike animatronic performance.
- Storytime and Stuffie Clinic drew 68 participants; thanks to Dr. Cappelle for making the event so memorable and easing kids’ fears of visiting the doctor.
- Despite the bitter cold, 26 dedicated attendees came out for Cobia’s Dry Dock story with staff from the Wisconsin Maritime Museum.
- As of early February, 602 people were signed up for the Winter Reading Program.
- Betty badged a record number (nine) of patrons on the sewing machines in January.



- Jade decked out our mezzanine and Youth Services department with Winter Olympics decor and prepared a PowerPoint trivia presentation on the topic for our special needs adults groups.

Staff Development

- Sharon attended a workshop on summer reading practices with librarians from around Northeast Wisconsin.



What's Next?

- Summer Reading Program will run June 15-Aug. 9
- Youth Services is actively planning its summer programming, including several off-site Storytimes on the Road and local venues, including the Zoo, Farm Wisconsin and Rahr-West Museum.
- Betty is scheduling Star Reader visits in April, which offer tours and booktalks to local second graders and invite them to return with their families.
- MPL will welcome second-grade students from Mishicot Schools—one of the first visits we've received from that area.
- Jefferson Elementary will host its Family Literacy Night at MPL this April.
- MPL has been selected to receive a 40-hour/week Youth Services intern from the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU); they will pay the students' stipend for a 10-week session.

Public Services

Karen Hansen

MISSION MOMENTS

- Patrons and staff alike have been very excited about the new Business Center. Many patrons have complimented staff about the changes and have expressed their appreciation of the close proximity to help from staff and the new design.
- A goal of the One-to-One program is to improve overall family literacy by helping English language learner parents communicate better in English. One of our previously resistant learners started working on specific vocabulary 15-20 minutes a night with her 12-year-old son to improve her understanding. While she learned the English, he learned the Spanish. It was a win-win for both of them as they navigate the delicate balance of being a bilingual household.
- Margo received the following sentiments from a homebound patron: "Thank you for introducing me to new authors. It really makes my day when a book bin arrives!"
- A patron shared with Olivia how easy it was to place holds online by herself. She mentioned that she finds technology challenging, so she was very excited she was able to figure out the online holds system first try!

PERSONNEL

- Joan Maternoski accepted the Library Assistant position and starts on February 3.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

- Patti completed a virtual training session: Intercambio Confidence and Connections Resource Training

OUTREACH

Patti attended the Manitowoc County Immigrant Outreach meeting on January 13.

OPERATION ACTIVITIES

Programming Highlights

- **Getting Published:** Our very own Sharon Verbeten led this well-attended program discussing traditional publishing and self-publishing.
- **Winter Jewelry Making:** Olivia and Lisa coordinated a jewelry-making program using the Glowforge. These project-based classes have been very popular.
- **Great Decisions:** Tim, Emily, and Karen have been working on preparing for the upcoming Great Decisions series.
- Other adult programming included a blood pressure screening, a book discussion of *Real Americans*, Life Skills Workshop, Open Sew and Badging with Betty, Glowforge Badging, 3D Printer Badging, Cricut Badging, and Drop-In Chess Club.

Other Operational Highlights

- **First Floor Renovation Project:** The first phase of the Business Center renovation is nearly complete, with a few small details left to finish. The space opened to patrons on January 14. Since that time, staff have observed a large uptick in engagement at that service point, compared to last year when

it was located elsewhere. Under Karin's leadership, Stacey, Karen, and Max worked to complete main components, while Tony, Olivia, and Tanya assisted with practical transitions to the new space.

- **Fine Free:** Staff implemented the Fine Free rollout with communications and promotional materials.
- **Winter Reading Program:** The Winter Reading Program started on January 11. Olivia, Betty, and Emily worked together to coordinate all details.
- **Tax Forms:** 2025 income tax forms arrived. Matt organizes this small but important amenity each year.
- **Marketing:** Tim and Emily focused on promoting Fine Free, renovation updates, and the Winter Reading Program. Emily is working on the next Events 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. At the January tutor meeting, she hosted the new Lakeshore College liaison, Claire Caldwell. They were able to share information about both program's resources and better understand how the partnership can benefit students.
- **Homebound Services:** Margo is busy serving individual and institutional Homebound needs. She has been streamlining processes to increase efficiency this January.

SIGNIFICANT STATISTICS

Tony and Lisa D provided 25 notaries.