

**LIBRARY DIRECTOR**  
**TERI DUGAN**  
**MAY 2025**

- Attended the Tamarack Federation Meeting in Polson last month. The training was very beneficial. I would say the biggest benefit that I receive from these meetings, is the chance to meet with other library directors. I appreciate the opportunity to share and learn in these situations. A big shout out to Abbi Dooley, the Tamarack Federation Coordinator, who organizes and hosts the event at the Polson library. Abbi does a great job!
- Recently submitted our annual Public Library Standards Report to the state library. Each year, we report our ability to meet the lists of standards. These standards are in the categories of Laws and Governance, Board education and recruitment, Revenue, Planning and Evaluation, Policy, Access to library services, Programming, Public Relations, Resource Sharing, Technology and Personnel. I am pleased that Flathead County Library achieves all of the targets laid out in the standards. I've also attached the standards to this report for viewing.
- Library Trustee board applications have been submitted. The library received 3 applications. The County Commission will appoint the trustee on Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at 9am. The appointment will take place in the Commissioner's chambers on the third floor of the county courthouse.
- I was invited to speak at the Flathead Democratic Women meeting in May. I am happy to attend and share about the library with our local groups and look forward participating in other community groups. Sharing all the great things about our public library to the community is what it is all about!
- Presented the FY26 budget to the county on May 6<sup>th</sup>. This wraps up the 6-month budget planning season for the library. The county will approve the preliminary budget in June and will finalize the budget in August. Sidebar requests will be reviewed and decided upon in June as well.
- Attended a number of public gatherings this month: Chamber Coffee Connects at Cushing Terrell and Montana Pediatrics, Bigfork Area Spring Luncheon, Kalispell Growth Summit, Land to Hand Facility tour and met with library directors, Mary Drew Powers and Morgan Ray.
- The library will host Kalispell Chamber Coffee Connect on Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Library leadership will be attending and available for chamber members to ask questions. Coffee and donuts will be served. A big thank you to the library foundation for sponsoring the event for the library.
- June 2<sup>nd</sup> will be our Staff in-service day. I've arranged for Cara Orban, State Library Consultant and Bobbi DeMontigny, State Library Lifelong Learning Librarian to come in person to the library and provide training. The Friends of the Library will be serving the staff lunch that day. We will also be participating in a fire safety training from the folks at Summit Fire and Security.

**TRAFFIC COUNTS- APRIL 2025**

**Kalispell-** 11,438

**Columbia Falls-** 4,747

**Bigfork-** 2,088

**TRAFFIC COUNTS- APRIL 2024**

**Kalispell-** 12,342

**Columbia Falls-** 4,856

**Bigfork-** 1,686

**SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR**  
**SAM CROMPTON**  
**MAY 2025**

Planned and implemented the transition of MS365 to the new flatheadcountylibrary.org domain. This entailed adding the previously registered but unused new domain into our Microsoft tenant as well as adding a new fallback onmicrosoft.com domain, changing defaults, adding aliases for all users/groups and accounting for propagation time. Then the existing Sharepoint domain needed to be updated via MS365's PowerShell management tool.

An important part of the domain change was edits to each staff email signature and for staff to begin utilizing the new login ID's, all of which went very smoothly. The transition overall went well with the only impact being existing shared OneDrive paths needed to be manually re-shared.

Moved the library website to a new hosting provider located in Kalispell, Auxi Solutions. Response times for all pages on the site have shown a marked improvement over what the old hosting provider Network Solutions was able to offer. Network Solutions tried to help improve the performance but their shared hosting model just wasn't working well enough for us. We will continue to use Network Solutions for domain registration/management in conjunction with the existing website developer in Whitefish.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH LIBRARIAN**  
**LUNE AXELSEN**  
**MAY 2025**

This past month I've been busy with layout of both teen's and kids' Summer Reading gameboards. I must say that both boards may be our best, loaded with creative activities and reading challenges to engage children and teens. These were a collaborative effort between Youth Services, Teen Team and myself. I'm very pleased with the final products. My next task is to promote Summer Reading programs on the website, social media, online calendars, radio and a press release.

We wrapped up this year's Teen Bookmark Contest on April 30th. We had 26 entries and crowned the winners in two age categories, ages 11-14 and ages 15-18, on April 30<sup>th</sup>. This is a fun and engaging program for teens. We plan to continue this annual program and expect higher numbers of entries next year due to increased speeds on our website.

Another teen program that I've been working on is promoting the upcoming Super Smash Bros Tournament for teens. I've created posters, sent out a press release, talked about it on the radio, and created a FB event and Instagram posts. We hope this event will attract area teens to the new Bigfork library.

Summer is the main focus for communications right now and that includes new adult programming. We are working on a number of great programs for adults under the banner "Summer of Art." Stay tuned for a roster of events and programs designed for adults at all library locations, including exciting new art exhibits, art talks and classes.

**COLLECTION SERVICES LIBRARIAN**  
**KAT WILSON**  
**MAY 2025**

## April 2025 Circulation Statistics

|                                 | April 2025 | April 2024 | April 2023 | April 2022 |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| <b>Juvenile</b>                 | 17261      | 16533      | 15122      | 17010      |
| <b>Young Adult</b>              | 1351       | 1107       | 890        | 912        |
| <b>Adult</b>                    | 12740      | 12693      | 12105      | 13224      |
| <b>Overdrive ebooks</b>         | 4392       | 4535       | 4589       | 4505       |
| <b>Overdrive audiobooks</b>     | 7814       | 7498       | 6694       | 5962       |
| <b>Overdrive magazines</b>      | 1910       | 1059       | 507        | 399        |
| <b>Total</b>                    | 45468      | 43425      | 39907      | 42012      |
|                                 |            |            |            |            |
|                                 |            |            |            |            |
| <b>ILLs Borrowed</b>            | 79         | 55         | 46         | 52         |
| <b>ILLs Loaned</b>              | 38         | 43         | 32         | 36         |
|                                 |            |            |            |            |
|                                 |            |            |            |            |
| <b>Outgoing Partners Crates</b> | 302        | 333        | 291        | 280        |
| <b>Incoming Partners Crates</b> | 306        | 348        | 285        | 286        |

## Lakeside and Marion FY25 Circulation Statistics

|                 | July | Aug  | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June |
|-----------------|------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| <b>Lakeside</b> | 230  | 204  | 191  | 185 | 135 | 109 | 152 | 149 | 221 | 197 |     |      |
| <b>Marion</b>   | N/A* | N/A* | 7    | 6   | 5   | 12  | 12  | 4   | 7   | 6   |     |      |

\*Marion closed first week of June through August.

**TEEN LIBRARIAN**  
**STARR WHITE**  
 MAY 2025

Here is a recap of our attendance:

Scene (all locations): 86

Gem Wall (Bigfork; Kalispell): 262

Fandom (Kalispell): 4

LVL-UP (Kalispell): 8

Challenge Accepted (Kalispell): 3

Bigfork High School Class Visit (Kalispell): 3

Columbia Falls Junior High School Outreach: 10

2025 Spring Bookmark Contest (online): 250

Citizen Science Month: Painted Lady Butterflies (all locations): 1,013

### **CITIZEN SCIENCE MONTH: PAINTED LADY BUTTERFLIES**

Flathead County Library participated in the global One Million Acts of Science challenge during Citizen Science Month in April. Our featured project invited patrons to observe the transformation of Painted Lady caterpillars into butterflies, encouraging real-world scientific engagement through hands-on observation at the library. We also provided information and tools for patrons to observe butterflies in the Flathead and contribute to global butterfly data collection. Over the course of the month, 1,013 patrons engaged with our Citizen Science Observation Table, contributing to a worldwide effort that recorded 3,022,932 (and counting) individual Acts of Science.

### **TEEN BOOKMARK CONTEST:**

Congratulations to Alona and Nora, the winners of our 2025 Spring Bookmark Contest! Their winning bookmarks will be printed and available for free during Summer Experience 2025. In addition, they will receive commemorative posters of their bookmarks.

### **TEEN SUMMER WORKSHOPS:**

As part of our Summer Experience 2025 programming, the Teen Team is excited to offer three hands-on workshops. Each workshop is designed to encourage artistic expression, educational exploration and skill development in a welcoming, low-barrier format.

### **TEEN SUMMER READING:**

As part of the Summer Experience 2025 programming, we will be offering a Reading Challenge, where teens are invited to "level up" their dragons by collecting gems. Each milestone also earns the participant a raffle ticket, with a chance to win two movie passes.

**CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN**  
**BECCA JOHNSON**  
**MAY 2025**

## **CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

Summer Reading Experience is almost upon us! This month has been busy with finalizing program activities, picking out books and ordering supplies. We think kids are going to love their take home gameboards which will come with a clipboard, novelty pen and activity stickers. Our program themes for this summer are a mix of old favorites as well as some never before tried ideas!

## **EARLY LITERACY STORYTIMES (0-5 YEARS)**

Glacier Grins Pediatric Dentistry not only sponsored National Library Week but they also presented a super fun dental themed storytime at each location. Three large groups of mostly toddlers were enthusiastic about brushing Sparkles the monkey puppet's teeth and learning about their own dental health. Another highlight in April was hosting 5 groups of Early Literacy classes from Kalispell Public Schools.

## **APRIL ATTENDANCE STATS**

Kalispell: 467(14 programs)/ 106 (Early Literacy class visits)

Columbia Falls: 222(12 programs)

Bigfork: 166(9 programs)

## **WEDNESDAY WORKSHOPS (6-10 YEARS)**

### **APRIL ATTENDANCE STATS**

Kalispell: 103 (5 workshops)/ 18(1 class visit)

Columbia Falls: 124 (5 workshops)

Bigfork: 18 (5 workshops)

## **SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

### **FRIDAYS WITH THE RANGERS (BIGFORK)**

13 children (1 program)

### **SENSORY PLAY SATURDAY**

Kalispell: 32 children/25 adults

Bigfork: 10 children/6 adults

**PUBLIC SERVICES LIBRARIAN**  
**TONY EDMUNDSON**  
**MAY 2025**

Security incidents in the library have continued a downward trend. Proactive engagement, documentation, and when necessary, trespassing individuals have proven to be sound techniques for securing our facilities and managing repeat offenses. I continue to praise the alertness of our staff, Alert Security guards, and when it has been necessary, local law enforcement.

Incident reports numbers from Jan 2023 – May 15, 2025:

| 2023   |     | 2024   |     | 2025   |    |
|--------|-----|--------|-----|--------|----|
| Jan-23 | 54  | Jan-24 | 32  | Jan-25 | 10 |
| Feb-23 | 39  | Feb-24 | 29  | Feb-25 | 8  |
| Mar-23 | 28  | Mar-24 | 19  | Mar-25 | 13 |
| Apr-23 | 15  | Apr-24 | 16  | Apr-25 | 5  |
| May-23 | 8   | May-24 | 16  | May-25 | 4  |
| Jun-23 | 8   | Jun-24 | 25  | Jun-25 |    |
| Jul-23 | 16  | Jul-24 | 11  | Jul-25 |    |
| Aug-23 | 3   | Aug-24 | 20  | Aug-25 |    |
| Sep-23 | 5   | Sep-24 | 10  | Sep-25 |    |
| Oct-23 | 16  | Oct-24 | 9   | Oct-25 |    |
| Nov-23 | 40  | Nov-24 | 16  | Nov-25 |    |
| Dec-23 | 23  | Dec-24 | 18  | Dec-25 |    |
|        | 255 |        | 221 |        |    |

Our Kalispell facility continues to be an ongoing challenge, as many of the aging gaskets, fixtures, and valves wear out and give way. I continue to document the various issues, leaks, and broken parts, and work with the Director to prioritize and address the issues as we can. Our main focus, first and foremost, is safety, and then maintaining operations after that. Some elements that are more of an aesthetic feature are typically deferred pending the more serious issues.



**COLUMBIA FALLS BRANCH MANAGER**  
**LIZ CAMARILLO**  
**MAY 2025**

Butterflies Take Flight at the Library! The Citizen Science program, organized and set up by Starr, truly captivated the curiosity of our patrons, especially the children. A highlight of the program was the butterfly release during storytime. Children had the opportunity to hold the butterflies on their fingers and watch them take flight

Between April and May, we hosted two adult programming zones. The Community Watercolor Earth Mosaic Zone and the May Flower Bookmarks Zone. While the bookmarks activity was especially popular, the watercolor zone was fun enough for patrons to ask if we would host a watercolor workshop

I had the chance to take photos at the Columbia Falls Junior High Teen Outreach Program, and it was tons of fun! Starr and Maddy set up iPads to control robots, and the teens got to guide them across poster paper covered in paint. It turned into a fun and collaborative art project, and the teens loved it. I also had the pleasure of connecting with school librarian Kimberly Gange Reid and her assistant Mary, who gave me a tour of the library.





**BIGFORK BRANCH MANAGER  
ADULT PROGRAMMING LIBRARIAN  
DEIDRE MCMULLIN  
MAY 2025**

This month I've been working on finalizing some of our summer programming for adults. We are loosely focusing on a "Summer of Art" theme for June July and August, but we're starting off the season with a painting class at Flathead County Library Bigfork. This location is best suited for workshops and classes, and depending on weather, we will hold the class either in the community room or on the patio. Library Advisor Lauren is a trained oil painter, and she will be teaching the class for about 10 people. The class filled up within twenty-four hours after we opened it to sign ups, so clearly people are excited about these kinds of opportunities.

Kay Lyle will also come to all three locations this summer with her mobile printing press. Patrons will be able to create posters to take home using the printing press. I've also planned a few more artists to teach workshops, but the details of those are still in the works!

We will continue our Library bingo cards through the summer as well, this time with an art theme. Hopefully the Bingo cards inspire patrons to get creative this summer!

Butch Larcombe, author of *Historic Tales of Flathead Lake*, will give an author talk with stories about the history of Flathead Lake on June 25<sup>th</sup> in the Community Room in Bigfork. I think this subject will appeal to people all over the county!