

LIBRARY DIRECTOR
TERI DUGAN
AUGUST 2026

I attended the Association of Library Professionals (ALP) Summit on August 7th. Libraries as Common Grounds was the central theme. The event was held online and focused on the concept of library neutrality and public trust in libraries. Attorney and Librarian, Katelyn Golsby, presented a session on current legal issues affecting libraries and reinforced the value of clear, transparent, and consistently applied collection development and material reconsideration policies.

To encourage participation in the Campaign Readiness Study survey, we are using a variety of outreach channels, including newsletters, social media, partner communications, in-library displays, local businesses, and the Northwest Montana Fair. Our goal is to gather at least 200 responses by October 9 and hear from a broad cross-section of the community as we assess the feasibility of a future capital campaign. As of today, we have 106 replies.

Our Smart Locker has been ordered, and a signed agreement is in place with Evergreen School District. We are planning a late fall opening celebration and will meet with our project manager this week to review timelines and next steps. Funded through a generous gift from the Library Foundation, the Smart Locker includes 18 pickup lockers, a return bin, and a checkout screen that fully integrates with our library system. We have also purchased three years of maintenance coverage. Patrons will be able to place holds, select the Evergreen Smart Locker as their pickup location, access materials by swiping their library card, and conveniently return items at the locker.

We are excited to announce that a new sign for the Bigfork Library is being installed this week. This long-awaited project will help visitors easily identify the library building and better recognize the Bigfork Branch as part of the Flathead County Library system. The sign will be mounted on the side of the building and will display the name "Flathead County Library, Bigfork Branch." While many residents already know where the library is located, the new signage will provide greater visibility for both community members and visitors.

I attended the GreatFish Challenge kickoff event at Range Riders Stadium last week and had a great time visiting with many of our longtime supporters. I was also able to spend time with the Library Foundation, talking about all the great services and resources our library offers and the positive impact they have on our community.

TRAFFIC COUNTS- JULY 2026

Kalispell- 12,067
Columbia Falls- 4,997
Bigfork- 2,437

TRAFFIC COUNTS- JULY 2025

Kalispell- 11,774
Columbia Falls- 5,671
Bigfork- 2,480

**HEAD LIBRARIAN
TONY EDMUNDSON
AUGUST 2026**

On July 31st, staff toured the new VA Clinic. We work with and refer many veterans at the library, and we were excited to meet the staff of the clinic and see what services they offer. The facility is simply impressive. More services are now available in this facility so that vets are not referred out as often as they would have been in the past. We feel better informed to help our vets and appreciate the clinic's time.

From August 12th through the 16th, Board Trustees, Foundation Board members, and library staff, had a booth at the Northwest Montana Fair. We marked 350 engagements specific to our Campaign Readiness Study Public Survey, though we also talked with many more about library services and spoke with visitors to our great county. Reception on the survey and conversation about a new Kalispell Library was terrific. I was personally pleased to see so many of our regulars coming by to say hello and talk library business. It may be worth having a booth at the fair in the future, where we could also create library cards (I was asked if I could more than once), and have some type of all-age programming.

Facilities

Replaced public restroom faucets at the Bigfork Library. Since opening two years ago, we have also replaced toilet seats, toilet paper dispensers, and soap dispensers. We have found that many of these items have not stood up to the daily traffic in Bigfork and determined that replacements with more consistent and sturdy materials were necessary. All dispensers now match those at the Kalispell Library, making orders more streamlined.

Work on the library's boiler and associated pumps continues. We have had seals on one pump replaced and are waiting on parts to replace seals and a coupler on another. As far as the technicians could determine, these have not been replaced in many years, since installation in the late 1970s.

Kalispell Electric replaced several light ballasts and one broken light that had begun to smoke when turned on. These were all in staff storage areas.

Restoration work from the March leak has ended with the completion of the 1st floor vault. The room is now cleaned, patched, and painted a bright white. It will now again be available as a most valuable storage space. We are all happy to move on from this restoration work and have all our restrooms and storage spaces back.

SYSTEMS ADMINSTRATOR
SAM CROMPTON
AUGUST 2026

With the secondary Windows Server 2019 now strictly acting as a redundant AD DS other non-essential roles and features were removed. Those include File and Storage Services, IIS and Print Services, improving security and efficiency on the hardware.

Last month, our remaining legacy routing equipment which had been replaced in Q1 2014 but remained in inventory, was factory reset and recycled. This month the process also included four older Cisco 3500 switches from the same era. The factory reset process requires connecting a console cable with proper settings and accessing the equipment via a terminal emulator, in this case PuTTY was used.

Collaborated with our credit card processing representative to review and clarify recent billing statements. We identified and removed an expensive minimum billing fee, which significantly lowers the per-transaction cost for the Bigfork location.

Quickly fixed public computer Station 5 in Kalispell 2nd floor that was exhibiting an unusual, browser distortion and sudden movement problem making it unusable by patrons. After a few minutes the device was back in service though, with a replaced keyboard.

Purchased and configured a new staff laptop applying standard library applications alongside the MiCollab softphone client. This integration provides full mobility, allowing the user to seamlessly place and receive their desk calls from anywhere. By simply adjusting the status dropdown in MiCollab, calls route automatically to the appropriate device, the desk phone when in the office or the laptop softphone when working remotely.

Managed the resolution of a cordless phone outage in Kalispell & CFalls. It ended up the County had to make a configuration change to their controller before they functioned properly again. Also reconfigured the cordless phone at the second front perch in Kalispell to ring simultaneously with the main perch phone allowing staff to now take incoming calls from both Kalispell 1st floor perches.

Patron Tech Support program continues to provide valuable individual assistance as needed. Recently a regular patron was helped with an unscheduled computer & headset set up for use in the meeting room. He has no laptop computer and no other way to conduct Zoom job interview calls or set up online banking. Also, met with a gentleman who needed help understanding Windows 11 navigation, Google Workspace and Microsoft 365 services. He's starting a business and had two hours worth of questions regarding those services as well as syncing them with his phone. We don't have a lot of people who take us up on tech support, but those who do are very appreciative of the service.

Adjusted print cost notifications on all public wired computer stations for B&W prints and changed Airprint notification for wireless printing to reflect the new price per page. I also reprogrammed the Kalispell Konica Minolta Bizhub copier JAMEX payment system to require \$0.15 per copy.

COMMUNICATION LIBRARIAN
LUNE AXELSEN
AUGUST 2026

Another successful Summer Reading Experience has wrapped up. Kids and teens all over Flathead County participated in hands-on, STEAM-based workshops that will prepare them for success in the new school year. The Communications Team did our best to reach families and let them know about the free, valuable resources that their public libraries offer. We updated multiple online calendars with library events, produced several social media campaigns advertising workshops, captured relevant photos and created weekly videos detailing the learning opportunities at the library, designed posters, flyers and handouts, and sent out press releases and email newsletters to make sure our messages were getting received. Our efforts paid off. Summer Reading Experience was well attended, which is great for Flathead County Library because more families discovered that libraries are important.

We applied the same marketing recipe to adult programming and made sure adults in our community learned that library is a place for lifelong learning and education for all ages. Adult events at all library locations were well attended over the summer. For example, we packed the house for the Cowboy Music and Storytelling event with Stuart Page at the Columbia Falls library. We did the full marketing treatment for this event, including a press release, and the community showed up. The Columbia Falls City Council Chambers were full of people eager to celebrate America's 250th and listen to the songs and stories that shaped Montana's legacy. Another standout moment at the Columbia Falls library was the highly attended watercolor painting workshop by Jane Emmert. We anticipated a small group for the event but had to bring out more tables and chairs to accommodate excited participants, most of which were older adult women, with the exception of one very eager school-aged girl.

The Communications Team has shifted our focus to new fall programming and has already created flyers and handouts announcing the new roster. We've also updated the FCL website and online calendars to reflect these new offerings. Next will be social media promotions and press releases.

Social Media Snap Shot

Reach and engagement are up significantly this period on Facebook, and have leveled off on Instagram compared to last month. History Friday and Montana Mondays continue to engage our audiences, as well as new reading related content and photos of summer activity. We have now reached over 10K followers on Facebook!

Social Media Stats:

- **Facebook:**
 - 188 New Followers this period (2% increase in the last 28 days)
- **Facebook Engagement:**
 - 18.5K accounts engaged this period (45% increase in the last 28 days)
- **Facebook Views:**
 - 340K views this period (21% increase in the last 28 days)
- **Instagram Followers:**
 - 55 new followers this period (2% increase in the last 28 days)

- **Instagram Reels Reach:**
 - 2857 accounts reached this period (4% increase in the last 28 days)
- **Website top 5 viewed pages in the last 28 days:**
 - Kids, Teens, Events for Aug, Locations and hours, Events for July

**COLLECTION SERVICES LIBRARIAN
KAT WILSON
AUGUST 2026**

July 2026 Circulation Statistics

	July 2026	July 2025	July 2024	July 2023
Juvenile	18735	19904	18059	17168
Young Adult	1364	1474	1524	1303
Adult	11868	12906	12439	12606
Overdrive ebooks	4230	4141	4615	4589
Overdrive audiobooks	9380	8232	7398	6829
Overdrive magazines	2362	1878	1098	500
Total	47939	48535	45133	42995
ILLs Borrowed	48	48	55	29
ILLs Loaned	50	34	28	43
Outgoing Partners Crates	291	307	327	303
Incoming Partners Crates	293	320	336	301

Lakeside and Marion FY27 Circulation Statistics

	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Lakeside	149											
Marion	N/A*	N/A*										N/A*

*Marion closed first week of June through August.

**CHILDRENS LIBRARIAN
BECCA JOHNSON
AUGUST 2026**

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Another busy and successful summer is in the books. We have wrapped up our programs for this summer and are preparing to spend the next few weeks reflecting and resetting! It takes some time to organize and clean all our interactive toys and supplies after weeks of busy programs. We will also make reviewing the Summer Reading Experience while it is still fresh in our minds a priority this next month. The school year is just around the corner, so our team will also be planning storytime programs for babies, toddlers and preschoolers and Wednesday Workshops for school age children.

OUTREACH

BACK TO SCHOOL KIDS JAM

It was fun to be a part of this event sponsored by Kalispell Parks and Recreation. Kids and families enjoyed free food, dancing, activities from local organizations, and a very energetic foaming bubble pit. We were happy to observe the foaming fun from a distance! It was a great time to talk to kids about all the library has to offer, while building LEGO mazes for tiny robot Hexbugs.

TEEN SERVICES LIBRARIAN
JACKIE CARLL
AUGUST 2026

JUNE STATS:

Here is a recap of our programming:

Fandom- *Summer Break*

LVL-UP- *Summer Break*

LVL-UP Bigfork- *Summer Break*

Challenge Accepted- *Summer Break*

CFJH Outreach: *Summer Break*

School Visits: *Summer Break*

LEGO MASTERS Workshop: *35 kiddos*

Scene- *Pipe Cleaner Sea Bugs (All locations)*

Gem Wall Theme: *Which book genres should we beef up?*

TEEN UPDATES

SUMMER READING EXPERIENCE INTRO

We kicked off Summer Experience 2026 with our *Underwater Theme Gameboard*. It includes outdoor challenges, a fun bingo reading challenge, as well as a lineup of our summer workshops. Teens can bring their finished Gameboard into any Flathead County Library location & receive a ticket to attend our **End of Summer After-Hours Glow Party** event in August. Teens picking up a Gameboard will also receive a free bookmark from our two Spring Teen Contest winners. It provides an opportunity to showcase the remarkable art from local teens as well as exposure for next year's bookmark contest!

This year, we introduced a Life-Sized Coral Reef Zone in the teen department. Teens helped design and decorate a human-sized coral reef made entirely from craft materials. This drop-in, self-led program was a unique opportunity to launch a soft opening to our underwater theme taking place all summer.

LEGO MASTER WORKSHOP

Becca and I introduced a *NEW* workshop aimed at middle-grade kiddos entering 5th-8th grade called: **LEGO MASTERS Workshop**. This workshop provides creative challenges and opportunities to imagine, build, and engineer with LEGOS. It is geared towards kids who are confident and ready to master their LEGO skills. This weekly program will run from June through August.

**ADULT SERVICES LIBRARIAN
BIGFORK BRANCH MANAGER
DEIDRE MCMULLIN
AUGUST 2026**

We wrapped up the final movie in the outdoor movie series we did with Lone Pine. Weather and smoke proved to be a challenge, and if we do more events like this, we would likely move to a later start time. However, the families who attended seemed to enjoy the experience. Partnering with other organizations, like Montana State Parks, is also great outreach for the library.

We started promoting our most recent reading challenge, Reading Road Trip. We are challenging people to read books set in different U.S. states and territories, or by authors who are from those places. If someone reads a book from every state in a single region, or at least one book from every region, they receive a tote bag as a prize. If they read a book from every U.S. state, they win a T-shirt. The swag features the library logo and the phrase "Read More Books."

August 22 is the first of a series called Craft Café, hosted at the Bigfork Library. Library staff will lead patrons in a craft activity, or people can bring their own projects and come for the company. This program is for anyone 16 or older. I set the age this way because older teens are often interested in and mature enough for adult programs, and many family members enjoy attending with their older teens. This program will be offered monthly and will also highlight our supplies and spaces that encourage skill building and crafting.

We will wrap up our America250 Bingo this month and start planning our next set of readers' advisory bookmarks. The America250 bookmarks have led to many holds being placed, particularly for the books on veterans' experiences and U.S. history. It is fun to help guide people's reading and helps draw them into certain collections. We will restart with another bingo card for October through December.

This month, a library advisor and I visited Brendan House to sign residents up for library cards. They need a library card in order to utilize the Friends of the Library Homebound Delivery Service, but it can be challenging to get folks into the library. Now that they have their cards, the volunteer can start helping them place holds and receive materials. I heard from several residents that they are especially interested in borrowing DVDs of older films and documentaries. Outreach of any kind leads to wonderful conversations with the public and new ideas about how to support different members of our community

COLUMBIA FALL BRANCH LIBRARIAN
LIZ CAMARILLO
AUGUST 2026

Summer Experience has come to an end, and what a season it has been! Becca expanding our hours created so much more opportunity for families to engage with our programs, which was wonderful to see throughout the summer. Liza especially had to adapt to the new schedule, and she deserves a lot of credit for how well she managed that. We also received support from Becca and Ashley at various points, and we were very grateful for that. Almost since the beginning of the year, Liza has been leading most of our programs, and her dedication has been invaluable. Since hiring Lisa M., it has been great to see Liza planning and creating with much less stress. Lisa M. has stepped into her role with diligence and a positive attitude, and we are excited to see her carve out her place on the YS team. We are currently on a two-week break, but fall programs will be here before we know it. Liza and Lisa M. are already becoming a great team, and I think our Story Time families are noticing and appreciating that as well. We're looking forward to another great season ahead.

Lisa M. had the opportunity to host a booth at the Land to Hand Back-to-School Bash. She was able to actively promote our fall programs and connect with teachers. The event had a great group of local nonprofits, banks, and businesses that support and benefit families throughout the school year.

The Paint Along event, hosted by local artist Jane Latus Emmert, who is currently exhibiting her artwork in Columbia Falls, received lots of praise. Approximately 15 adults participated, including one attendee who commented that she appreciated the programs being offered at the library and hoped to see more in the future.

On September 1, we will welcome Julie Liang of Twice as Tasty to lead a pickling workshop. Our community has shown a strong interest in food preservation, and we thought this would be a great way to launch our quarterly workshop series. Lisa B. plans to offer two additional workshops in the winter and spring. We are hoping for a great turnout. The same is true for our Adult Programming Zones, which are ready to go and designed to inspire patrons to get creative, explore new ideas and check out more books.

Tony and I attended a presentation through the Columbia Falls Chamber featuring Dan Rieves, a leadership speaker and author of *Stay Wild: Guidance for the Undomesticated Leader*. His presentation, *Honing Personal Resilience*, was both engaging and relevant. The presentation helped me identify a few areas where I can continue to grow personally. I also appreciated that much of what Dan shared reinforced some of the training our staff has received in the past. It was a great refresher, and I'm glad Teri suggested we attend.