**January 2025**

**The MPL Mission**

Spark curiosity. Make connections. Thrive together.

Missoula Public Library achieves its mission by fostering community engagement, providing core services, and promoting sustainability and wellness.

* **Circulation**

**Community Engagement**

**Core Services**

* MPL joined the County’s contract with Multilingual Technologies (MLT) which provides interpretation and translation services in a wide variety of languages and ASL. This is a fee for service contract and will help MPL better serve patrons with language barriers or hearing impairment.
* Following interviews, Kyle Hartse was selected as MPL’s new Passport Acceptance Agent. His presence will allow us to extend our passport and notary services again. Once he is certified, MPL will be able to offer more appointments throughout the week.
* MPL statistics processes were updated to reflect our annual reporting obligations and streamline our reporting methods for monthly Board review.
* The Swan Valley branch has a new courier for materials delivery from the main branch. Direct service to Condon will be provided once weekly.

**Sustainability & Wellness**

* **Community Engagement**

**Community Engagement**

* Louise Ogemahgeshig Fischer (Anishinaabe), a Humanities Montana speaker, visited for the Living with the Land program. Her program covered medicinal plants and their uses, Indian History, ways of life, hunting, fishing, foods, clothing, gatherings, stars, storytelling, Indian games using artifacts that are brought into the audience’s view. We had 40 in attendance.
* Concluded Books on Tap (literary trivia) program in partnership with Imagination. This program was an effort to bring library programs outside of the building to reach different parts of the community.
* Partnered with Empower MT to host the MLK Jr Writing contest which was displayed in the spectrUM Museum. We will hold a First Friday reception in February to celebrate the work.
* We are in major planning stages of Project Community Connect which will take place April 11th.
* Resource Access Day continues each month and attendance grew again in January.
* PR is working on more social media collaborations with AUOR partners and community partners.

**Core Services**

* Bookmobile began stops on some Sundays in January which is an attempt to offer service to people who cannot make it during the weekday.
* PR has been working on hard on a new form for staff and AUOR partners to submit their programs for the monthly program guide and online calendar. In January we finalized the form and will launch it for summer quarter.
* Graphics for the two new off site book drops are being printed and will be installed soon.

**Sustainability & Wellness**

* The Bookmobile made it a priority this month to hand out free books from our library donations that do not get added to the collection.
* We were a Point in Time count site in January.
* The social work practicum started and will be attending some Community Engagement meetings.
* PR created and posted signage in bathrooms asking patrons to help us keep the library clean by cleaning up after themselves and reporting any problems to staff.
* **Reference**

**Community Engagement**

* Utilizing Humanities MT grants to help with the cemetery bio sheet project and genealogy programming.
* Seeking sponsorship for MPL’s long-running writing contest (17th year).
* Montana EPA office interested in our physical collection of government documents about the Clark Fork River & Milltown Dam Superfund Site so they can refer public here to view them.

**Core Services**

* Weeding fiction and nonfiction (travel guides, WWI & WWII history).
* Cemetery bio sheet project is moving forward again.
* Staff collaboration on a power pod display for Black History month.
* Assessing digital subscriptions and cost per use.
* Hope to set new passport schedule soon and open more appointments.

**Sustainability and Wellness**

* MLK volunteer cleaning day was successful with many people enjoying the task.
* Building energy use data is now totally caught up and will require minimal, monthly upkeep.
* American Red Cross blood drives scheduled for rest of the year, except for December.
* Received multiple requests from patrons to have shredding services at MPL – referred to appropriate staff.
* “Patron Behavior” will become a standing item on Reference dept. meeting agenda.
* **Youth Services**

**Community Engagement**

* The first Sensory Story Time was hosted in the Imaginarium, presented by two professionals who work with children with ASD. This story time series will continue on the 4th Saturday of each month at 11:30am.
* Teddy Bear Sleepover was a success, with several dozen stuffies participating
* Regular programming (Story Time, Tiny Tales, Dream Bigger, writing groups) continue to have a steady attendance and good engagement.
* The Dream Bigger After School Teen Program is a huge hit, with participating teens making headway on their individual projects.
* Kayla hosted the early Childhood Literacy class from UM to demonstrate story time technique and give a tour of youth services.

**Core Services**

* Beginning a weeding project based on condition/age, starting with the JC (comics/graphic novels) collection. This allows for more space for new incoming titles, as well as a collection that is in good overall condition
* The Parenting Collection was also weeded for condition/age and is in the process of being moved to a larger shelving unit that allows for better visibility and browsability. It will remain in the northeast corner of the floor in the Tiny Town area.

**Sustainability & Wellness**

* The first Yoga Story Time was a huge success, with almost 40 people in attendance! Kids and their caregivers engaged in movement, mindfulness, and crafts
* 4 bean bag chairs were ordered, to be used during programming. These bean bag chairs were purchased with sustainability and eco-friendliness in mind. From the REPREVE website: “soft, durable, and innovative performance fabric made from recycled plastic bottles. We fill our medium-size Bean Bag with upcycled, CertiPUR-US®-certified memory foam
* **Branches**

**Community Engagement**

* **Big Sky**
  + About 200 of our patron Community Visits stats are from Big Sky High School’s yearly open house. Parents and incoming Freshman for the 2025-2026 school year toured the school, library included. Many of them were surprised and gratified to learn that we were also a branch of the public library. Signed a few up for library cards. The school librarians gave out a lot of free books.
  + Had a new patron come in for Thursday Tech Time to learn about managing her organization’s Facebook page after the previous page manager passed away.
* **Frenchtown**
  + Book Club met in early January and discussed Dinners with Ruth by Nina Totemberg. Lots of discussion surrounding the life of a Supreme Court judge or any judge and reporters.
  + Movie night was small this month – but the building is busy with wrestling and basketball. Speech and Debate is winding down.
* **Lolo**
  + Social media informational updates on library services and closures.
  + Open library available to students accompanying adults to open gym in the evenings.
* **Potomac**
  + Hosted monthly book club
* **Seeley Lake**
  + Exploring the possibility of the branch being a site to pick up gun/trigger locks for Mental Health Awareness Month in April.
  + Set out puzzle and coloring books/sheets for indoor communal activities during winter months.
  + Beginning planning for Summer Reading Program.
* **Swan Valley**
  + Our Story time was very well attended in January. The Swan Valley Elementary School is going to be offering preschool services starting in February that are going to be held on Mondays and Wednesdays so I’m guessing our attendance will decrease. We will be switching to having story time on Fridays in the middle of February. Hopefully some of the preschool kids will still come.

**Core Services**

* **Big Sky**
  + Added a few new books from the main branch cataloging department’s duplicates stash. Reviewed budget spreadsheet.
* **Frenchtown**
  + Continue to cover all types of books for MPL.
* **Lolo**
  + Collection development – compiling a list of items for purchase based on public demand and interests.
  + Assistance cataloging, preparing Lolo school items for discharge. Searching for lost items in both collections.
* **Potomac** 
  + Worked with the school library volunteer to purchase and catalog dozens of new books for the children’s collection
* **Seeley Lake**
  + Successful book club with lively discussions (adult).
  + Continuing the whole collection weeding (winter project).
  + After School Book Club going strong (added a new student).
  + Patrons love the free puzzles! Moved to a different area.
* **Swan Valley**
  + Our Book Chat book for January was *Boomers* by Rita Sommers-Flanagan. Rita is a local author from Montana and the book is set in Missoula so it was easy for us to relate to some of the landmarks that she describes in the book.

**Sustainability and Wellness**

* **Big Sky** 
  + Took time off for sickness. Elizabeth Lofts and Carolyn Kamrud were able to substitute without issue.
* **Lolo**
  + Assistance keeping the outside entrance cleared of ice and snow by placing gravel on the icy sidewalks.
* **Seeley Lake**
  + Exploring if passport services could be added to Bookmobile days in Seeley (on hold as potential passport person retired).
  + Compiled magazines in one rack and got rid of rack (belongs to school district, given to new SSHS music teacher for sheet music)
* **Swan Valley**
  + We have been partnering with a local group of citizens who are providing Friday afternoon activities for our local school children since they have gone to a 4 day a week schedule. The group plans on starting a children’s detective reading club for next month and we have been working on getting books for them to use in future clubs.