**September 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**

* The Cataloging Department assisted Humanities Montana with the creation of *Becoming Little Shell* book kits for One Book Montana. Kits were catalogued and distributed to interested libraries across the state of Montana.
* Circulation has partnered with J.O.B.S in a work experience placement for a Missoula high school student. Violet is onsite for 40 hours shadowing staff as she learns about shelving materials and basic item management.
* Staff from Lewis & Clark in Helena paid a site visit to MPL on September 11. They received an extensive tour of Circulation and the library building. They met with Cataloging staff to receive acquisition and EDI training. There is a possibility Helena will join the Partnership in 2026. Membership of another large library will relieve some of MPL’s hub pressure and expand Montana readers’ access to materials.

**Core Services**

* The Cataloging Department added an additional workstation for acquisition receipt. This will be a dedicated area for unpacking new materials for immediate receipt in the catalog, which will increase efficiency and productivity. Three Circulation Department staff have been trained as support to Cataloging
* Lockers were installed in the Marketplace for patron use while visiting the library. The Makerspace crafted wooden magnet numbers with the laser cutter to place on the lockers so that patrons can identify which locker they chose to use.
* The MSC created a new ItemCat3 LOT or “Library of Things.” Special collection items like binoculars, kitchen tools, and other non-traditional collection items will now be easier to discover and monitor in the catalog.

**Sustainability & Wellness**

* Alex Johnson in the Makerspace began offering continuing education to interested MPL staff who wish to learn about Makerspace equipment. Staff can receive 3 CE credits upon completion of training on sewing machines, the laser cutter, 3D printing, and the cricket cutter.
* **Community Engagement**

**Community Engagement**

* Library Card Sign Up Month - Visited 14 unique locations, and 18 stops, sign up 82 cards and had over 300 interactions
* Hosted Missoula Writing collab Words with wings First Friday and as an art installation during the month on the 4th floor, promoted teen poetry.
* Went to a Sci-Nation meeting
* We took the bookmobile to 6+ Special stops around the county for Library Card Sign-up month. (Dory took it to 6 stops, but knows it went out several other times with other folks).
* Kayla and Dory were invited to Russell Elementary to present on the History of Mobile Libraries in Montana for the third graders' unit on access to information, books, and learning around the world. We've now been invited to Hawthorne for a similar presentation in October.
* The Bookmobile celebrated its first birthday / its one-year anniversary of being on the road! In that year, we have:
  + Driven 5100 miles
  + Served just under 4000 patrons
  + Checked out 1800 items
  + Signed up more than 200 people for library cards
  + Given away more than 700 books
* To celebrate, we made a birthday hat for the Bookmobile with the help of the kids we serve at Council Groves and Travois Village.
* The Bookmobile was on the news twice:
  + Interview on KPAX about the bookmobile / promoting literacy around the county (9/2)
  + Quick spot on the Bookmobile's one year anniversary of being on the road (9/29)

**Core Services**

* Intern from Uni of Montana began their 15-week internship.
* School stops started up again; the Bookmobile visited Woodman Elementary and Seeley Elementary this month. We brought books for teachers, ESL teachers, and elementary schoolers who live far from the downtown branch.

**Sustainability & Wellness**

* Have started visiting Watershed Navigation Center with the Bookmobile and community court.
* Social Work Team went to the Critical Time Intervention Training, a Youth Mental Health First Aid Training

* **Reference**

**Community Engagement**

* Hosted breakfast for volunteers where we handed out the volunteer of the year award and updated volunteers on changes to the program like ID badges and new tasks.
* Met with member of Missoula League of Women Voters to find ways to make their non-partisan Voter Guide and the City’s candidate forum schedule available to the public for the upcoming local election.
* Showed our UM Intern how to file USGS maps which they will be tidying weekly during their time at MPL. Also shared how to create a book display for Nov. or Dec.

**Core Services**

* Reference Staff hosted a training by Keith Belcher from Missoula County Record Center during the Reference Meeting in September. Keith demonstrated the Missoula County Historic Digital Portal and showed staff how to more effectively search for historical and archival materials.
* Added “Remarkably Bright Creatures” book discussion kit.
* Processed two, large board game donations and added many Spiehl des Jahres winners.
* Christine completed the Montana State Library Administrator Renewal Certification Track. She has been continuously certified through the MSL since January 1999, when the Internet was young, before webinars existed, and doing CE was much different than today.

**Sustainability and Wellness**

* Covered 66 hours of public desks to take customer service burdens off library assistants.
* **Youth Services**

**Community Engagement**

* Partnered with Montana PBS Kids to bring Arthur to the library! We gave out coloring books, stickers, pencils, and other PBS goodies. Kids (and adults!) got to meet Arthur and take photos with him. Arthur episodes played on the projector in the background.
* The Teen Library Community (TLC) and Teen Tuesday after school programs began this month. Teen Tuesdays offers teens in 7-12 grades the opportunity to drop in after school every week and do some kind of activity – crafts, cooking, etc. TLC meets on Thursdays after school and is a teen-led program to invest in and support the library (especially the Teen Space). These programs are led by Linette Green and Ava Sweet.
* Bradin Farnworth is doing outreach with local preschools to bring Tiny Tales to the kids. He is looking to expand to other local preschools, Montessori schools, and Soft Landings. Additionally, his Infant Playgroup program in partnership with Families First continues to be one of the most well-attended recurring programs!
* Dana McMurray offers Story Time for Diverse Abilities twice a month for a regular group of folks. He also runs weekly writing groups for middle school and high school writers, which are regularly attended by a core group of aspiring writers.
* With the purchase of a Switch 2, we have seen more excitement for our weekly Game On! Program, with requests to offer more gaming time...

**Core Services**

* Ava is wrapping up the Story Time/STEM/Toy kit project, which updated the catalog records, inventory lists, and binder descriptions.
* Lindy Parke has been diligently going through donations of YS materials to add to the catalog (or keep for summer reading giveaways)

**Sustainability & Wellness**

* Started another monthly series for the fall quarter of yoga for kids and families, led by certified instructor Bridget Feerick. She led a series of yoga poses and had mindfulness crafts to explore after
* **Branches**

**Community Engagement**

* **Big Sky**
  + Several patrons coming in for Tech Time programming and 3D printing. Helped an older patron access her MyChart portal online so she can view her medical records remotely. Writers’ Group has slowed down again. I’ve still been communicating with a few of the members but none have been writing much or had the time to show up. On the plus side, one of my short stories that they gave me feedback on last month was accepted to be published in Fairytale Magazine. After initial lull, more students are starting to hang out in the library after school.
* **Frenchtown**
  + Missing summer and all the activities. Back to the school schedule. Busy right after school and during games when the siblings are waiting for their older siblings to play or the game is just boring. They read, do homework, work on the jigsaw puzzle, play games but seldom spend their time on their phones.
  + Book Club met in September to discuss Nightingale by Kristin Hannah. Ten attended with a wonderful discussion about the strengths of women.
* **Lolo**
  + Clean Air Location
  + Yarns - Knitting Group
* **Potomac**
  + Sent out a survey via the library Facebook page to solicit feedback on book club ideas for next year
* **Seeley Lake** 
  + New Freshman—library tour
  + Posting library updates in local paper and Facebook
* **Swan Valley**
  + A local community organization called SMAART is once again collaborating with us to facilitate a “baby sitting club” that meets on Fridays for 6 weeks and leads a couple of our story times.
  + Story time attendance is down now that school is back in session and most of the students who were coming are now in preschool or kindergarten. It’s nice to see some of them still visiting the library on other days even though they are going to school.

**Core Services**

* **Big Sky**
  + Putting together a big fall book order for the branch on Baker & Taylor 360.
* **Frenchtown**
  + Completed one new library card this month.
  + Continue to cover all types of books for MPL.
* **Lolo**
  + Cataloging and processing new items for the Lolo school collection.
  + All items placed on hold requests by Lolo students and staff for partner libraries will need a MPL library card. In addition, I will continue checking out items that arrive via holds to student and staff users at Lolo school to ensure these items are indeed checked out and not distributed by Lolo teacher educators before being checked out.
* **Potomac**
  + Purchased book repair materials to do some simple mending
* **Seeley Lake**
  + Active book club with dynamic participants – We just finished discussing “This House of Sky” by Ivan Doig and the hour flew by (going to read a novel by this author in the near future)
  + Student reading group going strong (had returning graduates in the summer participate) – students this season are leaning into re-reading favorite children’s books and sharing with one another
* **Swan Valley**
  + Our Book Chat book for September was Faithful Place by Tana French. We had only a handful of participants because a few of our regulars were involved in a school tour of the local museum that was scheduled for the same time.
  + Notary services continue to bring community members who have never entered the library in for a visit. In the month of September, we had 12 notary visits.

**Sustainability and Wellness**

* **Lolo**
  + Clean air facility at the Lolo branch.
  + Repository of USDA Environmental Impact Statements.
* **Seeley Lake**
  + Wildfire Smoke season has come to a close (will maintain indoor clean air protocols throughout winter as many people heat with wood and air quality can sometimes be an issue locally)
  + Having a puzzle going in-house provides fun and connection for people working together (two puzzles completed communally in September)
* **Swan Valley**
  + Our new door has been manufactured by a local craftsman and should be in place within the next month.