**October 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**

* Kyle Hartse, Passport Acceptance Agent, joined the Bookmobile for a trip to Seeley Lake where he provided passport services to members of the public. Additional site visits may be organized after the holidays.

**Core Services**

* With the imminent bankruptcy of Baker & Taylor, the national library acquisitions vendor, Caroline Campbell, Cataloging, began negotiations to secure replacement services through Ingram. Ingram has been able to provide express delivery of new materials while MPL negotiates a contract to configure acquisition modules and pre-processing services similar to what Baker & Taylor previously provided.
* Will Klaczynski, Jon Tweeten, and Elizabeth Jonkel attended the quarterly Partners Sharing Group meeting. Items for discussion included damaged and claims return materials management, shared patron account procedures, and an update on the Peaks courier service.
* Elizabeth Jonkel represented MPL at the MSC fall Meeting. Updated included:
  + Patron record privatization and anonymization protocols will begin. Transactional data will be archived after 3 years.
  + System cleanup and configuration has been completed, including deletion of claims return records after 180 days and use of LOSTITEM as the default item status for long overdue items.
* **Community Engagement**

**Community Engagement**

* AUOR Halloween event invited Missoula families to the library for activities and programs. The library saw over 1,700 people in the building that day.
* Programs advanced community partnerships with several individuals and organizations, including the Mansfield Library, Basal Cooking, historian Peter Stark, and the Missoula Symphony.
* Grit to Grind program featured local Missoula authors and had over 120 attendees. Fact and fiction sold out. Posts from this program helped us gain 63 new followers.
* PBS sponsored youth programs bring in high social media numbers. Author, Slaven and Kayla image has over 10,000 views.
* October's Instagram numbers:
  + 45,000 views +21% Rise from September
  + +37% increase in non-follower views
  + Added a total of 92 followers in October
* While Facebook numbers are still high and followers are up by 300+ people, the numbers suggest that people are making a transition to Instagram. PR will keep an eye on the trend.
* October had 27 new programs. Many programs were collaborative and partnered with community organizations (Genealogical Society, Climate Smart, skatepark association, and popular Authors) which helped extend reach and leverage shared audiences. The variety of events aligns closely with the library’s strategic pillars of community engagement, access for all, and lifelong learning.
* We formalized a neighborhood stop in Bonner at the Lutheran Church in concert with Missoula Aging Services Community Lunch. We will bring puzzles, crossword books, and large text items specifically for this group.
* We experimented with new kinds of collaborative bookmobile x afterschool programming for kids for International Bat Week.

**Core Services**

* Promoted intellectual freedom, partnering with a class from the UM's Global Leadership Institute about the freedom to read, censorship, and book banning. MPL and the class hosted a public program in Clyde Coffee discussing banned books.
* Engaged teens through a college planning seminar on 10/7.
* Kayla and Dory were invited to Hawthorne 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 signed 15 students up for library cards.
* The Bookmobile again 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. In Seeley Lake, we signed 23 students up for library cards.

**Sustainability & Wellness**

* Participated in Climate Smart Missoula's Climate Solutions Week with a self-guided green tour of the library and other sustainability-oriented activities. \
* Finished a series in the demonstration kitchen, the Garden Meal, on 10/15. Participants helped make a meal and then shared it, talking about the importance of food to community and well-being. The series had over 70 participants over 5 months.
* Dory, along with Virginia (Social Work) and Ronnie (Safety) brought the bookmobile to Watershed Navigation Center for the second time. This time, we anchored this stop to ComMUNIty Court and determined that this is a great event to anchor to. This is a great way for people who, for any number of reasons, aren't able to use the downtown branch (for example, those with dogs) to access library resources.

* **Reference**

**Community Engagement**

* Met with a 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 encouraged them to create a book display for Dec.
* Met and gave a building tour to another new Red Cross Accounts Manager who helps coordinate MPL blood drives.
* Began accepting volunteer applications and should have volunteer book shelvers on the weekends onboarded next month.
* LGBTQ Center books have one batch of ISBN scans left before they will all be in the catalog and we can move on to labelling and checking accuracy.
* Created ID badges for volunteers with their names and photos to make them feel more official and for staff to more easily recognize them.

**Core Services**

* In September, 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. When this renewal ends, Christine will be certified for 30 years – a proud accomplishment!
* In the Montana Room, separated out 3 series of Western History so volumes of each set could be shelved together for ease of use.
* Added donated Bookchat kit “A Fever in the Heartland” by Timothy Egan. Kit was donated by a book group from the North Valley Public Library in Stevensville.

**Sustainability and Wellness**

* Attended sexual harassment training provided by Missoula Public Health
* Relaunched a music playlist sharing group for staff
* Completed a year of usage tracking of period product distribution in free Aunt Flow vending machines. A total of 2,535 pads and 2,060 tampons were distributed from the program’s start in November 2024 through October 2025.
* **Youth Services**

**Community Engagement**

* Regular programming (Story Time, Tiny Tales, Read with Dogs, Infant Playgroup, writing groups, teen groups) continuing with steady (sometimes increased) attendance
* Hosted a kids/teens Banned Books Silent Reading Hour with bookmark decorating and snacks
* Hosted picture book author Rae Rose, who read her new book The Sacred Stone Camp. Partnered with Fact & Fiction to sell books
* Teen programming is continuing to grow: teen car maintenance workshop presented by M.U.D., a few cooking programs on the 3rd floor, and plans to get the teens more involved by putting on their own programs for younger kids
* 5th Grade Tours started up again this month – almost every weekday a 5th grade class visits the Art Museum and the Library. Special connection this year: Stella Nall!
* Had hundreds of kids visit the 2nd floor for AUOR Halloween – we did 2 spooky story times and a spooky craft. Face painting was also offered on the floor by a local artist

**Core Services**

* Kayla went with Dory on the Bookmobile to visit Hawthorne Elementary 3rd graders to talk about the history of bookmobiles in Montana, get library cards, and check out the Bookmobile collection

**Sustainability & Wellness**

* Halloween-themed Yoga for Kids, hosted by local instructor
* **Branches**

**Community Engagement**

* **Big Sky**
  + Large uptick in number of patrons, partially due to a school potluck using the meeting space in the back of the library on 10/28/25, but generally more students using the space after school too. A few new faces showing up to Writers’ Group, as well as regulars coming to Tech Time. No new 3D print jobs this month.
* **Frenchtown**
* Family Movie night returned with How to Train Your Dragon. Only nine attended but it was a very busy night in the school with other programs and games.
* Book Club met in October to discuss The Lost Journals of Sacajewea by Debra Magpie Earling. Five attended.
* **Lolo**
  + Our yarns knitting group met
* **Potomac**
  + Held monthly book club – had one new member attend
  + Halloween craft and treats program for kids. Several families attended, with adults participating in the craft (handprint witches)
  + Continuing to stock the local Little Free Library, with help from enthusiastic kids
* **Seeley Lake** 
  + Passport Services coordinated to come up to Seeley on 10/22 – good participation and feedback (Hoping to plan this again – perhaps quarterly?)
  + Posting library updates in local paper
* **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. This seemed to be a nice collaboration, and both the younger and older kids benefited.

**Core Services**

* **Frenchtown**
  + Completed two 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.
  + Discussion with school librarians and Amanda A regarding the possibility of coming in earlier on Wednesdays to work crates as the workload demands.
* **Potomac**
  + Continuing to replace books that are lost or damaged
  + Advertising new, regular Saturday hours that will start in December – planning simple crafts/activities and story times for kids
* **Seeley Lake**
  + Active book club with dynamic participants
  + Student reading group going strong – students this season are leaning into re-reading favorite children’s books and sharing with one another (Bunnicula right now)
* **Swan Valley**
  + Our Book Chat book for October was The Lioness by Chris Bohjalain. We all thought that the writing was very good however having most of the characters killed off by the end, did not appeal to our group.
  + Notary services will probably be a bit less now that Montana does not require vehicle titles to be notarized.

**Sustainability and Wellness**

* **Lolo**
  + Clean air facility at the Lolo branch.
  + Repository of USDA Environmental Impact Statements.
* **Seeley Lake**
  + Maintaining clean air protocols during winter (continuing partnership with Amy of Climate Smart Missoula)
  + Dealing with a deluge of Western Conifer Seed bugs this fall!
* **Swan Valley**
  + We are still waiting for our new door to be installed. We have some local builders working on getting it stained and ready for installation.
  + Our biannual Swan Valley Library Board meeting was held in October 24. We didn’t have much new business but have decided that we will once again gift all the valley kids with a book for Christmas.