

Wellman

PUBLIC LIBRARY

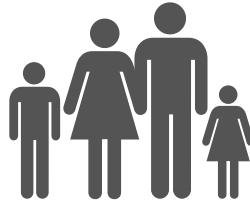


ANNUAL REVIEW FY25



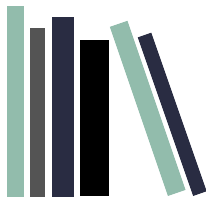
Library Visitors

9,697



Library Card Holders

1,883



17,622

Materials Checked Out

274

Programs



Program Attendance

3,965

It cost

\$119,309

to operate the library

City of
Wellman
82.3%



Washington
County
13.6%



State
2.3%



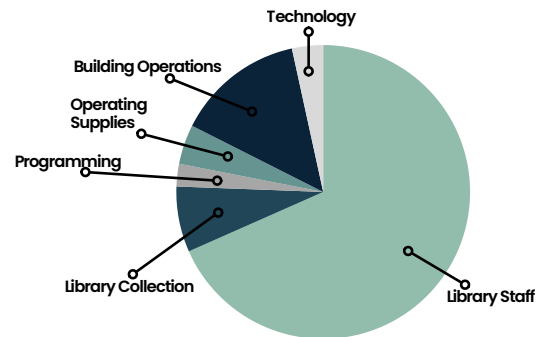
Fees/Fines
1.1%



Donations
0.7%



Budget Breakdown



Library
Patrons
Saved



Physical Checkouts

\$207,610

Digital Checkouts

\$48,272



Items Added to
Our Collection

897

154
New Library
Accounts



HIGHLIGHTS & SUCCESSES

Expanding Hours and Programming: We were fortunate to have enough community interest and engagement to allow us to expand our operating hours. We extended our Tuesday evening hours from 6pm to 8pm, allowing us to offer adult programming each week. These programs range from educational presentations, arts and craft events, community meals with our Cook Around the World and High Tea programs, puzzle competitions and more. We have seen an increase in library usage since extending our hours. Our patron count on Tuesdays typically run double our standard daily counts. We have received so much positive feedback about our new programming and have people from Iowa City and other surrounding communities join us for our events.

Summer Reading Program: As with previous years, we have continued to grow our summer reading program, with a great response from our community. In the past, we have offered for all of our summer reading age groups: Children, Teens, and Adults. This year, we launched our first Tots Summer Reading Program for ages birth through 5. Every weekday, we had at least one program happening at the library. These programs provided our 176 registered participants with quality, free entertainment and education throughout the months of June and July. Children enjoyed programs such as Touch-a-Truck, Fonzi African Drums, the Cold-Blooded Redhead, story time, and so much more. Teens participated in a Mario Kart tournament, bingo, movie day, tie dye, cat cafe and other fun events. Adults were able to try their hand at painting landscapes, create granny squares for blankets for our friends at Parkview Nursing Home, learn to decorate sugar cookies, and more. All registered were able to participate in our reading logs, earning them entries for a chance to win one of our many great prizes, many of which were donated by local businesses.

Growing our Large Print Collection: Over the past several years, we have been working to update our Large Print Collection, a section of our library that has been overlooked in the past. This year we were able to add over 50 new Large Print titles. Readership of our Large Print collection has increased over 800% from the previous year, a clear reflection on the community's desire for more Large Print titles. This is something we will continue to grow.

Seed Library: We are always looking for new ways to serve our community. This year we launched our Seed Library, offering nearly 750 packets of seeds ranging from arugula to zinnias and a wide variety in between. Over 400 packets have been checked out to date.

EXTENDED HOURS

PUZZLE COMPETITION



BUILD YOUR OWN TERRARIUM



COOK AROUND THE WORLD



We asked the community how we could better serve the adults and families in our area. From their responses, the library board made the decision to extend our Tuesday hours. This opened up a time window that allowed working adults a chance to participate in library events that would have otherwise been scheduled at times that conflicted with work or commuting.

Our Tuesday night events have been well received and we enjoy dreaming up new, engaging programming for adults and families. Our top events include our Cook Around the World program. Each month we feature a different country and encourage community members to try their hand at cooking a dish from that country to bring to a potluck style community meal.

COOK AROUND THE WORLD



PUZZLE COMPETITION



PAINTING WITH THE PROS



MURDER ON THE MENU



CROCHET GRANNY SQUARES



EXTENDED HOURS

MUSHROOM INOCULATION



MUSHROOM INOCULATION



SUGAR COOKIE DECORATING



STRING ART



HIGH TEA



PANIC WITH THE PROS



Patrons have also enjoyed Painting with the Pros, where they are challenged to paint along with an artist. One of the most fun painting nights happened in June with our Panic with the Pros night, where the video was never paused and people were rushing to keep up. So much laughter was heard in the library that evening!

Our High Tea events have received much fanfare. Participants bring in tasty tea-sized treats and enjoy dressing up as they sip tea together and socialize.

In the spring, we had a great group of people from throughout the area, including Iowa City, join us for our two mushroom inoculation events.

Washington County Conservation provided us with logs so we could add shitake mushroom spores, allowing participants to grow their own mushrooms.

Perhaps the most lively events we have are our Puzzle Competitions. Groups of up to four have 90 minutes to complete a 500 piece puzzle. They have been a big hit!

HIGH TEA





SUMMER READING PROGRAM

We kicked off Summer Reading with skating party at the Wellman Skating Rink, where we provided each teen and child with a free shirt, thanks to Hills Bank. The Summer Reading Program theme, “Level Up at Your Library”, encouraged our participants to play games and have fun with reading. Our children’s programming this summer taught about the rhythms of Africa; allowed them to engage with fire engines, an ambulance, crane, and more; get to know more about and interact with reptiles; and so much more. Tots enjoyed our weekly story times, with themes including dinosaurs, trucks, farms. Our teens enjoyed a Mario Kart tournament, bingo, and creative challenges, while adults joined us for a wide variety of programming including the tastes of Turkey and Senegal, dainty delicacies at our High Tea, and getting creative. We had over 211 reading logs turned in!



FONZIBA DRUMS



TOUCH A TRUCK



TOUCH A TRUCK



TOUCH A TRUCK



COLD-BLOODED REDHEAD



COLD-BLOODED REDHEAD



COLD-BLOODED REDHEAD



READ TO THE ANIMALS AT PAWS & MORE



TWEEN PAINT ALONG



NATURE CRAFTS



KAWAII DRAWING
RIVERBOA



FOAM ZONE



FOAM ZONE



MARIO KART TOURNAMENT

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

THIS YEAR

808

participants came to our
children's events

85

participants came to our
teen events

120

participants came to our
highest attended event of
the summer:
Foam Zone

180

participants registered for
our summer reading
programs: tots, children's,
teen, & adult

8

NEW: story times for our tots
program

9

adult events for our summer
reading program

LIBRARY PROGRAMS

We strive to entertain, engage, and build community throughout the year.
We provided programming for all ages including:

- Weekly Book Gatherings at Parkview Nursing Home on Mondays
- Weekly Story Times on Wednesdays
- Family Fun Days
- Weekly Adult Programming on Tuesdays
- Story Times at Sunrise Daycare
- Story Times at MP Preschool
- Spring Break Scavenger Hunt
- Trunk or Treat
- Santa and Story Time @ Light the Night in Wellman
- 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten
- Library Scavenger Hunts
- Bi-Monthly Early Out Programming
- National Library Week Class Visits





FAMILY GAME DAY



LEGO DAY



LIGHT THE NIGHT STORY TIME



SANTA



TEEN VOLUNTEERS

SEED LIBRARY

This year we launched our new seed library with the help of Seed Savers Exchange and Nine Square Feet. We processed over 700 packets of seeds in a range of fruits, vegetables, herbs, and flowers. The seed library officially opened in February of 2025, just in time for avid gardeners to begin their spring seedlings. Since opening, 462 seed packets have been checked out by patrons.



SPECIAL RECOGNITION



In November of 2024, the libraries of Washington County were honored to be recognized by the Community Foundation of Washington County. The library directors presented about the big changes that have occurred in the libraries recently. Wellman shared about the completion of their expansion, their extended hours, and increased program offerings.



In March of 2025, the libraries within the county were honored to be selected to receive Harvey Holden Awards for their service to Washington County by the Washington Economic Development Group.





FY25 STATISTICS

Patrons

- 1883 registered cardholders
 - 867 Wellman residents
 - 474 rural Washington County residents
 - 542 Open Access patrons
- 860 county FlexShare patrons
- 140 new card issued

Library Use

- 9697 visitors (+28%)
- 11,743 website visits (-56%)
- 13,353 physical materials circulated (+32%)
- 4,269 digital materials circulated (-6%)

Interlibrary Loan

- 361 materials received from other Iowa libraries for our patrons (+284%)
- 458 materials loaned to other Iowa libraries for their patrons (+369%)

Library Programming

- Children
 - 143 programs
 - 2,026 attendees
- Young Adult
 - 9 programs
 - 61 attendees
- Adult
 - 95 programs
 - 873 attendees
- General Interest
 - 27 programs
 - 1,005 attendees
- Total
 - 274 programs
 - 3,965 attendees

Passive Programming

- Scavenger Hunts: 1368
- Make & Take Kits: 383
- Use of STEM Resources: 41
- Reading Log Participants: 621
- Coloring Sheets: 1007
- Puzzles, Polls, Contests & More: 937

CIRCULATION & COLLECTION STATISTICS

Physical Circulation

- 4,266 adult books
- 425 young adult books
- 7,005 children's books
- 595 video recordings
- 164 audio recordings
- 898 other physical items

Digital Circulation

- 1,384 eBooks
- 2,767 audiobooks
- 118 periodicals

Total Circulation

- 17,622 materials

Physical Collection

- 13,359 books
- 264 audiobooks
- 1,437 videos
- 274 other items

- 15,334 total physical collection

Collection Management

- 832 items weeded
- 897 items added

