

Monthly Road Map Report

February, 2026

midlibrary.org/board

Prepared by Director, J. Sansing



MIDDLETON
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Month in Review & Highlights:

The month featured a strong Olympic Winter Games theme that resonated across all age groups, with standout events including the *Olympic Diorama Contest* and *Going for Gold*. Self-directed programs were particularly successful, representing just several programs but drawing 1,253 attendees total, allowing patrons to participate on their own time.

Children ages 0-5 remained the most served group with 38 programs and 1,213 attendees, while all-ages programming proved highly effective with 9 programs reaching 1,542 people.

The library continued its robust outreach efforts with 16 programs at schools and community locations serving 387 people, alongside regular storytimes, teen activities, and adult programming.

Total: 92 programs with 3,944 attendees

Top attended programs:

- *Olympic Diorama Contest* (Self-Directed) - 716
- *Going for Gold* (Self-Directed) - 463
- *Winter Reading Program* (Self-Directed) - 332
- *Olympic Extravaganza: All Ages Drop-In Crafts* - 200
- *Middleton High School Lunchtime Visits* - 143
- *Indoor Snow Day* – 136



Paradox Robotics, made up of kids from the Middleton area, presented to 56 attendees about STEM, robotics, and provided an interactive demonstration with their competition robot.

Keva @ the Library and *Little Gym* brought all the balls, while *Cooking with Huma* served up another delicious meal demonstration.



Current Christensen Family Art Gallery Artist, Meghan Rosing, shared an all-ages craft with 23 people to approximate her scapwork style on display.

The fourth informational session on the Community Campus had 63 people in attendance.

The library attended the MCPASD Future Cardinals Early Learning Birth to 4K informational event. Parents and caregivers were able to meet with educators, tour the Early Learning Center, attend short presentations and connect with various community partners.



By the Numbers:

- In Person: 65 programs (3,233 attendees) - 82% of total
- Self-Directed: 4 programs (1,253 attendees) - 32% of attendance!
- Outreach: 16 programs (387 attendees) - reaching schools and community
- Live-Streamed/Virtual: 3 programs (86 attendees) - author talks via *Library Speakers Consortium*
- Instructional: 4 *Techno Minute* sessions (15 attendees)
- The Annual *Winter Reading Program* 2025-2026 saw solid participation with a total of 332 readers: 147 Children 151 Adults 34 Teens
- 2026 visitor count is averaging 21,980 visitors/month



In the News:

Wisconsin Library Legislative Day Highlights Bipartisan Support and Recognizes Governor Tony Evers as a Library Champion

Governor Tony Evers honored as "Wisconsin Library Champion" as more than 200 advocates gather at State Capitol for annual Legislative Day



Left to right: Carla Anderson, Middleton Public Library; Katharine Clark, Middleton Public Library; Brian Cole, Mazomanie Free Library; Representative Alex Joers; Randall Crow, Middleton Public Library; Lindsay Mindlin, Middleton Public Library; Jocelyne Sansing, Middleton Public Library, meet in the Capitol rotunda during Wisconsin Library Legislative Day.



Left to right: Mark Jochem, South Central Library System; Randall Crow, Middleton Public Library; Lindsay Mindlin, Middleton Public Library; Carla Anderson, Middleton Public Library; Marc Gartler, Madison Public Library; Verona Public Library; Jocelyne Sansing, Middleton Public Library; Stacey Burkart, Mazomanie Free Library; and Brian Cole, Mazomanie Free Library, in the Wisconsin Senate Chamber during Wisconsin Library Legislative Day.

By Brian Cole

Mazomanie Free Library

organized by the Wisconsin Library Association (WLA). Governor Evers addressed attendees, stressing the essential role libraries play in fostering learning, connection, and opportunity. He underscored the importance of maintaining

diverse materials and reaffirmed his strong opposition to any legislation aimed at banning content from libraries. Gov. Evers has emphasized the importance of libraries as community an

intellectual freedom. This year's Legislative Day brought together 210 participants, including library staff, trustees, and advocates representing nearly 100 libraries and libran

to express appreciation for recent state investments and to advocate for continued support. Wisconsin Library Legislative Day continues to foster bipartisan support for libraries and library



February 7 at 1:27 PM

1.2K 37 1.6K 13 351

Overview ⓘ

Views	80,625
Instagram	78,353
Facebook	2,272
Interactions	3,274
Profile activity	322

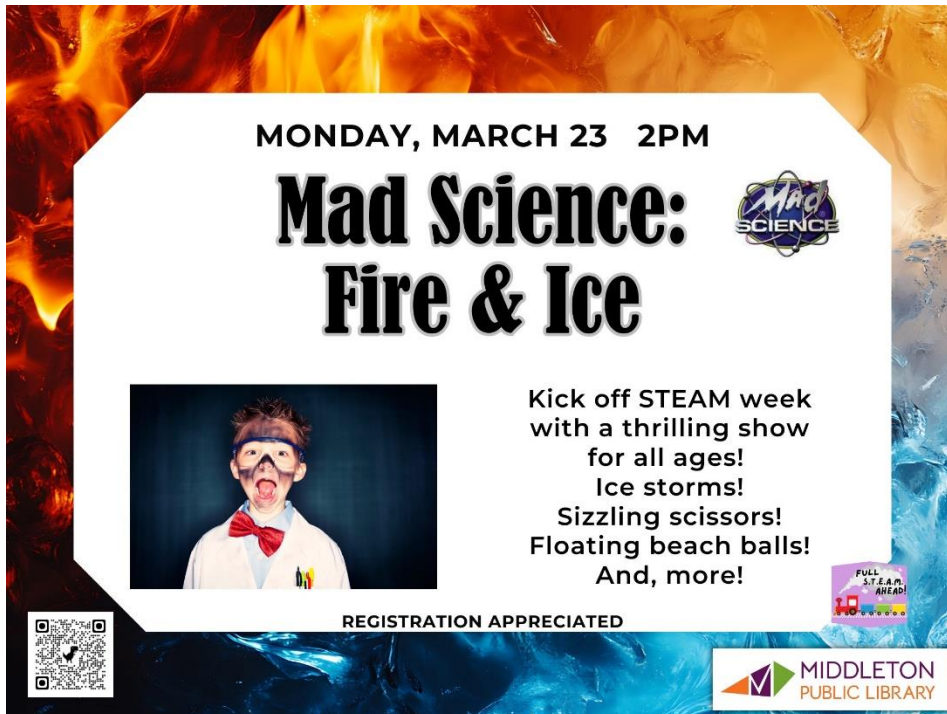


The library had fantastic representation at the Annual State Legislative Day – both directors and three trustees met with Representative Alex Joers and Senator, Diane Hesselein.

Oops! The library did it again – another viral post on the Indoor Snow Day resulted in over 80k views, comments in multiple languages, and over 100 new followers!



Looking Ahead:

Spring break 2026 theme, STEAM WEEK!





MONDAY, MARCH 23 2PM

Mad Science: Fire & Ice



Kick off STEAM week
with a thrilling show
for all ages!
Ice storms!
Sizzling scissors!
Floating beach balls!
And, more!

REGISTRATION APPRECIATED



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National Library Week April 19-25 is all about Library Joy!

The bookmobile will return for the 2026 season at the April 25 [Sustainability Fair!](#)

“That was such a fun program! We even made some new friends!”
– Indoor Snow Day attendee

“I came in here and found what I needed because the staff here is so helpful. It’s intimidating to try and understand how to find things, but I never need to worry because they will help me.” – Shelly

Strategic Focus:

The current Automated Materials Handling System (AMH) was installed in 2012 and is the oldest sorter in the state still operating through the vendor Bibliotheca. **In 2025 the AMH handled 889,664 items, had 10 service calls, and was down or only partially operating for a total of 23 days.**

There are currently two vendors that are vetted through the South Central Library System: [Bibliotheca](#) and [Lyngsoe](#). Directors Sansing and Clark are in communication and meeting with both to determine if an RFP is necessary, and preliminary costs are coming in at or under budget. The AMH accounts for 2.5 FTE and this metric is included in the Dane County Reimbursement formula.

SCLS is migrating to a new catalog system the week of April 12! The library will remain open, but Linkcat will be down during this time. There will be no items due and holds will not expire. More information forthcoming from SCLS.

Staff Spotlight:



Deputy Director Clark, traveled to Washington DC, along with several other library leaders from around the state, to represent Wisconsin at the American Library Association advocacy event. The group met with office staff of Representatives Mark Pocan and Gwen Moore, Senators Ron Johnson and Tammy Baldwin.

Executive Director Sansing participated in a national webinar organized by [PLA on the topic of *Responding to ICE at the Library: Real World Approaches*](#). PLA reported this was the highest registered and attended program in PLA's history, with 1,789 live attendees and over 5,000 registered to watch the recording. The team including Director Sansing, Director Knight from Virginia Beach and Director Duimstra from Hennepin County Minnesota, have been asked to present this program live at the bi-annual, national [Public Library Association conference in Minneapolis](#) the first week in April. Additionally, Sansing will present at the [WLA WAPL conference in Elkhart Lake](#) in late April.



Advocacy is more important than ever.

The [2025 Intellectual Freedom Survey Report](#), sponsored by WLA and WEMTA (Wisconsin Educational Media and Technology Association) gathered data from around the state to assess the climate of intellectual freedom as reported by library staff. In addition to data collected on materials challenges, the survey also assessed the mental and emotional burden library staff carry due to the rise and inflammatory nature of current censorship challenges.

Results varied widely throughout the state.