

Monthly Activities Board Report for June 2025

Director's Message:

Let's take a moment and celebrate the big news. Beginning on July 1st, all items checked out from Milwaukie's Ledding Library no longer accrue daily overdue fines and all existing overdue fines have been removed from library accounts for Ledding patrons. This allows everyone a fresh start for their library access.

Overdue fines are different from other fees assessed by cities. Rather than the goal of recouping costs, these fees feel more and punitive in nature. Our community has already paid for these books with their property taxes, so why are we charging them a second time because of an arbitrary due date? An unintended consequence of this structure is that the folks who may need our services the most get unnecessarily blocked from library access. This is at the root of why libraries have eliminated these fees.

This move brings our library in line with libraries across Washington County, Multnomah County, and Fort Vancouver Library District, as well as major library systems across the country.

This is the direction that Libraries of Clackamas County (LINCC) are moving, but because individual jurisdictions set fees locally and administer individual libraries city-by-city, it is a very local process to implement a fine free process in our county. It takes time.

Thank you to our Library Board for supporting this outcome, as a part of our approved [Strategic Plan](#). Priority 1 is **improving Library Services at Point of Need** and our effort to reduce barriers to access specifically called for the elimination of fines by FY2026

From the City's Leadership team, I need to thank our City Manager, Emma Sagor, and Finance Director Michael Osborne. Without their support, we would not have been able to move this forward.

Milwaukie City Council ultimately sets the fee schedule for Milwaukie including overdue fines, so big thank you goes to our Mayor and Council members who all supported this initiative with their votes and approved the elimination of fines at our library.

Special thanks go to our partners at LINCC Library Support Services in the County. Without their behind-the-scenes work, we would not have been able to logistically implement this outcome. Thank you, Rick Peterson and David Lippert.

Damaged items, or library materials not returned, will still accrue a bill. So, in the case of a new book that is lost or eaten by a dog, we'll still send out a bill. We'll still work with folks who need assistance, and bills for lost items that are returned will be removed.

If you have questions, comments or concerns about any part of this, please reach out. I'm happy to talk with you.

-Brent

Kudos:

Comment from a patron about Judith Barrington's program: "Another wonderful event sponsored by our library!"

Someone who signed up for summer reading tagged us in their Instagram story, said it's their favorite time of year, and described the book bingo card as "the cutest summer reading bingo sheet I've ever seen."

Comment from an Oregon City patron about our SRP: "Of all the summer reading programs, Milwaukie has the best!"

Improving Library Services at the Point of Need:

Eileen coordinated library locker visits to Gladstone and West Linn Libraries. Kelly and Eileen learned how the lockers were utilized and set up at those libraries. West Linn sees daily usage and had useful information about the set-up of the lockers and exposure to heat and sun.

Supporting Staff:

Kelly Lamm and Melissa Perkins are attending ALA in Philadelphia at the end of June. They look forward to sharing what they learned. Melissa is especially excited about all the BOOKS!

Helping Milwaukians Most in Need:

Fida passed on this heartfelt compliment: While holding back tears, a patron said, "As a trafficking survivor this place and team has been such a support for me in my recovery." She thanked us for all we do in keeping a safe place and said our staff meant a lot to her.

Robert helped two patrons with their smartphones: one in deleting unwanted apps and turning off unwanted notifications and the other who needed help with new phone and SIM card setup.

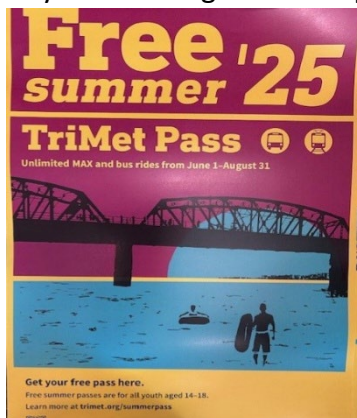
Sara attended the monthly Milwaukie Houseless Partners meeting with Kelly. The meeting is a great reminder of the number of partners we have in our community working together to help Milwaukians in need.

Community Partnerships, Collaborations and Connections:

The North Clackamas Schools Summer Meals Program is partnering with the library to offer a free sack lunch to kids ages 1-18 in Scott Park. The program runs for 7 weeks. 89 kids received a free lunch on the first day – June 30!



TriMet gave the library 50 summer youth passes to hand out to teens ages 14-18. We advertised them in the teen room and lobby. Brent shared word with community partners and City's marketing team. All passes were gone by the last week of June.



8 classes from St John the Baptist School came to the library on June 5 to sign up for the summer reading program. Thanks to Sara for meeting with each group and making sure all 126 students received a free book.

We are partnering with the N. Clackamas Schools 21st Century Learning Initiative to reach as many students as possible over the summer months. During June & July, the library will bring free books and summer reading signups to the two summer CARE sites and one summer school site in Milwaukie.

Kirsten represented the library at Milwaukie's Juneteenth celebration on Saturday, June 14. With the help of Christine, Tara, Sara & Jessalynn, she pulled together an impressive list of Juneteenth resources to share with the community and an array of themed buttons.



Christine is partnering with Goodwill to offer free English as a Second Language (ESL) classes at the library. After a couple of months on the waitlist, we have been paired with an instructor who will teach English once a week at the library beginning on July 17.

Robert met with Abi Sanchez from Northwest Family Services who runs their Career Goals program. They discussed regular hours at the library to support patrons with writing resumes, cover letters, finding employment, etc... The goal is to have one session in the afternoon and one in the evening; one in English and one in Spanish. Robert let Abi know that we have laptops available for attendees to use.

[NWFS Career Goals](#)

Robert attended the Disability and Workforce Services Symposium held at the Oregon City DHS office. Robert heard brief descriptions of available services to disabled members of the community: Oregon Commission for the Blind, Abilit Program (tech training for disabled citizens), Vocational Rehab, and several others. Robert talked with the director of Assist who

helps clients sign up for SSI and SSD benefits and expressed interest in a training for our staff because of Social Security prompting people to do more online.

Robert contacted the American Financial Education Alliance and has scheduled two workshops for August 12th (Tuesday) and August 20th (Wednesday) from 6:00 to 8:00. The workshops are: Understanding Your Social Security Benefits Options.

Programs and Outreach

Summer means storytime in the park! We're thrilled to be back in the amphitheater with crowds of 120 or more every Monday & Tuesday morning.



June 1 marked the start of the summer reading program for all ages. We've already given away 1847 free books to kids & teens and started our weekly prize drawings for adults & teens this first month. Thanks to the Friends of Ledding Library for their generous sponsorship!

On Sunday, June 15, we welcomed poet and author Judith Barrington for a lively and engaging presentation in celebration of Pride month, reading from her memoir *Virginia's Apple*. Judith contacted us later to say, "It was a lovely event and thank you for hosting us. Everyone seemed engaged and the questions were good ones."



On June 7, Ida May West from the Association of Financial Educators gave a presentation on "Women and Money" addressing the issues that many women have with income and retirement that men generally don't. Attendance was sparse but those who were there seemed appreciative and had many questions.

On Saturday June 28, we hosted author, historian and avid gardener Linda Ziedrich for a



fascinating lecture about the Lewelling brothers (Henderson, Jonathan & Seth) and the history of fruit cultivation in the Pacific Northwest.

Thank you to our co-sponsors, the Milwaukie Historical Society & Museum and Spoke & Word Books, and the Office of the City Recorder. Linda lectured for an hour and then made herself available for questions & discussion afterward. Many patrons commented on how fantastic they thought the program was.

Free Love experiment not going well

Henderson Luelling

Save to Ancestry

Share



Intriguing headline about Henderson Lewelling (Luelling) from the front page of the May 18, 1860 Sacramento Bee:

Willamette Falls Media recorded the program and will broadcast it later, making it available to a wider audience.

Delivering Library Services outside of the Physical Library:

Kirsten, Jessalynn, Eileen, and on-call librarian Dre were the library's outreach ambassadors in June. In a single month, they took summer reading signups and free books to Rowe Middle School, Seth Lewelling Elementary School's End-of-Year Celebration and the N. Clackamas Schools summer CARE program at Ardenwald Elementary School.

Book Club Updates: The Daylight Book Club discussed Patrick deWitt's novel *The Librarianist*. SF&F Book Club members talked about *Children of Time* by Adrian Tchaikovsky. The evening Ledding Book Club discussed *We Have Always Lived in the Castle* by Shirley Jackson. Beginning in July, Tara will be passing the Ledding Book Club on to Christine and the group will move their regular meetings to Tuesdays.

Book Displays: Library book displays for the month of June included Pride, Juneteenth, Father's Day, and Gardening.

Other Highlights:

Kelly & Jana started training the Library Assistant IIs to complete the daily deposit. This will help us work smarter by having additional staff able to complete this task. (MM Smarter)

Teens found the Community Room reserved for them as a study hall during Finals Week. Jessalynn stocked the room with snacks.

Statistics:

June marks the last month of our fiscal year. In nearly every category, we are busier than our previous year. As you look at the categories below, each item in the left side column in green increases from the previous year and in orange/red lowered slightly.

			Ledding June	Library 2025	Statistics		
Circulation	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
	60132	58075	53036	48349	36310	11064	44282
Patron visits	24598	19508					
New Cards	479	358					
Computer use	1081	1161					
WiFi sessions	1419	1255					
Questions (all desks)	3242	3045					
Programs							
Adult	10	14					
Attendance	149	78					
Juvenile	16	21					
Attendance	1736	1578					
Teen	3	6					
Attendance	87	11					
Total Programs	29	41					
Total Attendance	1972	1667					
Volunteers							
Number	60	57					
Hours worked	459	354					