

Weston Public Library

Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Annual Service Plan Report

Heather Culley, Director

What were Weston Public Library's Service Plan goals for Fiscal Year 2024-2025?

Goal 1: To increase Library use and promote literacy in our youth

The community need for which this goal was written was the need to nurture and grow library users in the community, and enhancing literacy in our community, starting with youth.

Actions to achieve Goal 1:

- Offer at least 25 preschool story time sessions
- Offer 6 weeks of Summer Reading Program activities
- Continue partnership with Athena-Weston Early Learning to bring weekly preschool story time to the Weston Middle School site
- Provide readers' advisory services
- Manage the library collection, including acquisition, weeding and materials preservation
- Offer special library events for kids, i.e. Santa visits, Trick or Treating, art kit handouts, book bag handouts
- Initiate a plan for student Library volunteers

How did we do?

- We offered 60 preschool story time sessions, 28 of them had attendees
- We offered 10 weeks of Summer Reading Program activities, including weekly craftnoots, spontaneous LEGO build activities, 2 performers, and an ice cream party.
- We provided readers' advisory services especially where to find Dog Man books.
- We managed the library collection. We weeded the library books on CD collection, cutting it by 1/2, rather than the full collection as we had intended. Acquisition was challenging, with the city recorder issues, but we managed to get some new things. We mend every worn and damaged book.
- We offered a Santa visit, Trick or Treating for candy and stickers, art kit handouts, book bag handouts, sticker rewards for LEGO creations.
- We have begun to host Library Club, an after-school club with a snack and a craft from 3:30-4pm everyday after school

What didn't work?

- We curtailed storytime at the Athena-Weston preschool class. The teacher found herself faced with the most challenging class of her career, and decided to severely limit departures from routine. By the end of the school year, she was comfortable taking the children on a field trip to the library for a story, so we did that. Not a complete failure of the system, but a notable change.
- Art Kit handouts did not fly.
- We were not able to discard all of the books on CD. This year we will.
- We have no Youth Volunteers at the Library, nor any way planned to acquire them.

Goal 2: To promote the Library as a friendly, active center of rural community life

The community need for which this goal was written was to get community members back into the habit of using the library for recreation, research, and public computer use after two years of limited access to the facility due to the pandemic.

Actions to achieve Goal 2:

- Offer 12 monthly adult book group sessions
- Host Friends of Weston Library annual meeting, featuring a guest speaker
- Host Friends of Weston Library annual used book sale
- Host at least 2 continuing education opportunities for adults, i.e. history speakers, genealogy, and/or local geology speakers.
- Continue book delivery and curbside
- Hold regular monthly meetings in the library building
- Acquire and stock an aquarium
- Repair back deck
- Install a window seat

How did we do?

- We offered 12 monthly adult book group sessions. Titles included: *The Woman in the Library* by Sulari Gentill, *A Year in Provence* by Peter Mayle, *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson, *The Librarianist* by Patrick deWitt, *A Christmas Memory* by Richard Paul Evans, *The Descendants* by Kauai Hart Hemmings, a travel book of the reader's choice, *The Summer Book* by Tove Jansson, *The Osage Orange Tree* by William Stafford, The

Blue Castle by L. M. Montgomery & *The Ladies of Missalonghi* by Colleen McCullough, and *Quite a Year For Plums* by Bailey White,

- The Friends of Weston Library annual meeting 2025, featured guest speaker Dr Andrea Dobson, chair of the Whitman College astronomy department. She spoke on relative size of the universe.
- The Friends of Weston Library annual used book sale brought in \$177.
- We hosted 3 continuing education programs for adults. We had two different cemetery tours, with local historical information and genealogical points of interest, and Dr. Dobson's astronomy talk.
- We continue to hold regular monthly meetings in the library building, such as Library Club, Library Board, and Friends Of Weston Library.
- We helped a panicking person write a report on area flooding to present to the Saturday Study Club, and in fact made the slide show and handouts that went with it.
- We began a podcast to interview the residents of Weston. It has begun its second season. It has 5 followers and 98 downloads. It's OutWeston, please like and subscribe and recommend us to your friends and family.

What didn't work?

- We haven't done any curbside or delivery this year, although it will always remain an option.
- We have not yet started our aquarium.
- Deck resurfacing was not achieved. We didn't get the deck resurfacing okayed with the Friends Of Weston Library until late in the year, and the city men had other priorities within the city until late this summer.
- We didn't find a suitable window seat, nor did we manage to have one built.

Goal 3: To promote the Library as an integral part of City government

The community need for which this goal was written was the need for members of the community to recognize the library as another valuable resource for city government and citizen needs.

Actions to achieve Goal 3:

- Take on the clerical responsibilities of the Weston Cemetery
- Provide support for in-town senior meal once a week
- Implement Medical Telehealth meetings

How did we do?

- The director did take on the clerical responsibilities of the Weston Cemetery, and has not only joined the Weston Cemetery Board, has taken the reins as Board Chairman. There are still problems getting the cards and forms to the Library.
- The implementation of a once-a-week, in-town senior meal will not go forward unless and until there are significant changes to the policies of the managing body of the charitable organization providing the major portion of support. We do help out with the twice monthly food distribution days, however. We write and compile simply prepared recipes for distribution at those events, using ingredients commonly available from the Food Pantry. We were in the paper about it.
- We are a step closer to the implementation of Medical Telehealth meetings. The city government is fully behind us in this endeavor, and will provide the labor to make over the workroom to be soundproof.

Our Many Successful Partnerships

- Friends of Weston Library (FOWL) has been helping with Library needs both physical and financial for 25 years, and we are grateful for every single one.
- City of Weston and the Library hold and maintain a close partnership in providing good service for the Weston community. They do our maintenance and repairs, and are available at all times for our emergencies.
- Athena-Weston School District allows us to dispense our information through them, and welcomes us to their preschool classroom for a weekly storytime we share with the Athena Library.
- Weston Memorial Hall provides a large, commodious, historical setting for Library programs of all descriptions.
- Umatilla County Special Library District is always ready to help in times of discord, but also by attending events, and providing helpful advice for a new Director. It is endlessly reassuring to have the UCSLD in case of political trouble.

How did we increase awareness of UCSLD support?

- We reminded City Council, Library Board, and Fowl how the community as a whole benefits from our membership in the Special Library District. Specifically, we pointed out the wisdom and civility implicit in that membership, lacking in some neighboring communities.
- We shared information about the Sage libraries and the robustness of the interlibrary loan system.
- We submitted events to the UCSLD calendar.
- We applied the UCSLD logo where appropriate.

How can the UCSLD continue to support district libraries?

- By continuing to provide a politically savvy ally in times of duress.
- By providing local training opportunities.
- By continuing to provide technical support
- By continuing to provide funding for Sage system and databases.
- By continuing to support District staff's attendance at Library events.
- By providing equitably distributed funding to all District libraries.