



Dakota County Library Advisory Committee

Date: September 10, 2026 Kaposia Library

Call to Order

Public Comments

- a. All meetings of the Library Advisory Committee are open to anyone who may wish to observe the proceedings. Individuals who wish to address the Committee on an issue pertaining to the library will be given the opportunity during the public comment period.

Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of the July meeting minutes
- b. Statistical Report

Kaposia Library Report

- a. Honora Rodriguez, Kaposia Library Branch Manager

Library Data for Advisory Committee

- a. Hayley Tompkins, Library Deputy Director

Director Report

- a. Jennifer Reichert Simpson, Library Director

Update from Committee Members

Adjourn



Meeting Minutes: Dakota County Library Advisory Committee

Date: 07/09/2026
Time: 5:30p.m.
Minutes prepared by: Chrissy Harrington
Location: Farmington Library

Attendance:

- Ann Matthew-Baussion, District 2
- Kari Cahn, District 4
- Lee Knutson, District 5
- Lynette Cargill, District 6
- Mary Ellen Gallaher, District 7
- Oliva Tri, At-Large Youth
- Jennifer Reichert Simpson, Library Director
- Hayley Tompkins, Deputy Director
- Heather Stephenson, Assistant Library Director
- Barb Svobada, Farmington Branch Manager

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order by Kari Cahn at 5:38p.m.

Public Comment:

- No public comment was made.

Consent Agenda:

- Kari Cahn asked the committee to approve the May Meeting Minutes and Statistical Report.

- Lee Knutson moved to approve the May 14, 2026, Consent Agenda and Ann Matthews-Baussion seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Farmington Library: Barb Svobada

- The multi-day Top the Tater Days in Farmington was as huge success this year. The library saw increase of visitors due to the citywide festival.
- Installation of solar panels on the library rooftop is expected to be completed by the end of the year.
- The Dakota County Parks and Recreation Department and the Farmington Library are team up again this year to host the Geocaching Adventures. The goal is to find geocaches hidden throughout 27 different city parks and earn prizes.
- The library gardens are maintained by a resident of Farmington that oversees its upkeep.
- The Children, Teen and Adult programs remain strong, with consistent attendance and positive participant feedback.
- The Seed Library remains a successful initiative, with usage and engagement, possibly expanding to other libraries in the county.
- 95 percent of the seeds went out at the Farmington Library, while 81% of the seeds went out at the Kaposia Library.
- The Annual Book sale is going to be held on August 10-15 during regular library hours.
- The next Dakota County Public Health mobile vaccine clinic is going to be held on September 30, 2026, from 2:00p.m. to 6:30p.m. at the Farmington Library.

Strategic Plan Goal to Raise Awareness and Strategy of Library

Ambassadors: Hayley Tompkins

- Hayley talked about the Dakota County Library strategic plan that includes the goal to increase awareness about the library's many offerings.
- The committee discussed the role of library ambassadors in supporting library programs, promoting services, and strengthening community partnerships.
- Hayley also discussed the importance of how library ambassadors can make Dakota County better by the following actions:
 - Supporting residents across the lifespan.
 - Building trust and value for residents
 - Strengthening communities and local economies.

Self-Service Hours Update: Jennifer Reichert Simpson

- Self-Service Hours remain a successful additional library service.
- 598 Self-Service hours a week and 592 staffed hours a week

- Self-Service hours account for 2.3 percent of checkouts and 7.7 percent of visits in 2025
- Reviewed promotional efforts for the library self-service hours by the following actions: Launch campaign, ongoing promotion such as library podcast, social media and digital signs.
- Review the registered customers metrics from when the program first started in 2023 there was 833 patrons that signed up. As of April 2026, we now have 8,738 patron's that have signed up for the self-service hours.
- Use shows that Self-Service Hours customer are primarily using the space of the library for meetings, to study and work, and to use the children's play features. The feedback from residents using the service indicates high satisfaction and strong utilization of self-service hours.

Directors Report: Jennifer Reichert Simpson

- Dakota County won a 2026 NACo award, for the library and Public Health partnership to transform library locations into community health hubs that connect residents with critical health resources in familiar, trusted spaces.
- The library will offer 30 All Abilities events countywide this year. All Abilities programs are art, music and writing events for adults with cognitive and development disabilities. Some of the organizations to connect adults with these events are Midwest Special Services, ProAct, Living Well, MRCI Disability Services, Lifework, IDS 200 Community Ed, and Tipping Cow Press.
- Wescott Library hosted a Flay Day Celebration with partners from Dakota County Veteran's Services, Eagan Beyond the Yellow Ribbon, American Legion Dan R. Olsen Post 594 and the MN Department of Veteran's Affairs. The event drew 82 people to celebrate our nation's flag and honor active military, veterans, family members and supporters.
- The new Dakota County webpage launches on July 9, 2026.
- The Dakota County Board will pass the maximum levy in September and adopt the 2027 Budget in December.

Update from Committee Members:

- Lynette Cargill shared that Reading in the Park for Pan-o- Prog days was successful with 85 participants attending the event.
- The ice cream social that was held at the Heritage Library was successful with over 400 people attending the event.
- The Annual Heritage Library Booksale will take place September 17-20, 2026, during regular library hours.
- Author Denise Williams will be at the Heritage Library in September.

Adjournment:

- Meeting ended at 6:38p.m.

Adjournment/Next Meeting

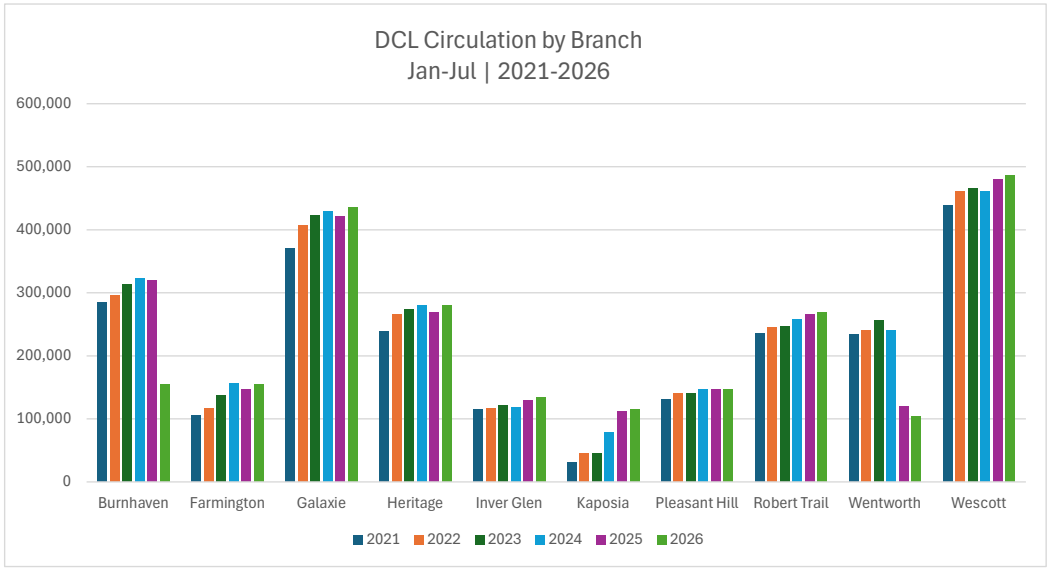
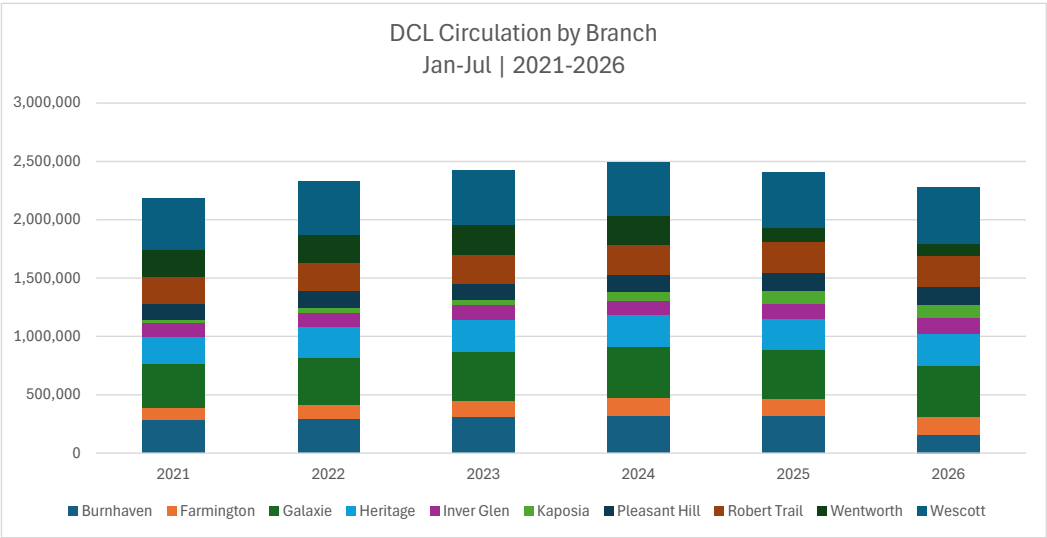
Date: September 10, 2026

Time: 5:30p.m.

Location: Kaposia Library

Circulation (January - July)

	Burnhaven	Farmington	Galaxie	Heritage	Inver Glen	Kaposia	Pleasant Hill	Robert Trail	Wentworth	Wescott	Total
2021	285,230	105,692	369,726	238,981	114,938	31,472	131,742	236,484	233,904	439,033	2,187,202
2022	296,570	116,316	406,366	264,981	116,781	45,702	140,666	244,681	240,745	461,440	2,334,248
2023	313,277	137,216	423,504	273,828	120,779	44,765	140,820	246,969	257,136	466,118	2,424,412
2024	322,527	156,197	428,491	279,736	118,609	78,317	146,527	258,229	240,878	461,660	2,491,171
2025	319,354	146,143	420,723	269,516	129,656	111,363	147,326	265,501	120,135	479,867	2,409,584
2026	154,778	154,773	436,134	280,372	134,324	114,967	147,389	268,985	103,627	485,608	2,280,957



Visits (January - July)

	Burnhaven	Farmington	Galaxie	Heritage	Inver Glen	Kaposia	Pleasant Hill	Robert Trail	Wentworth	Wescott	Total
2021	69,792	27,308	85,539	58,590	29,660	n/a	34,777	50,405	58,159	86,395	500,625
2022	96,359	34,305	120,012	64,419	42,646	n/a	42,558	67,861	80,248	113,885	662,293
2023	113,495	49,076	131,616	77,183	51,817	n/a	48,557	80,073	88,350	126,119	766,286
2024	132,775	54,875	162,096	85,737	63,889	50,190	53,302	88,364	96,475	136,257	923,960
2025	141,708	55,260	168,916	90,344	71,579	69,475	55,345	91,222	44,743	148,526	937,118
2026	63,768	57,624	186,823	99,869	75,879	62,826	60,318	94,010	44,055	151,687	896,859

