

### Groundhog Day 2026

Join us on Sunday, February 1 for Night at the Museum with Jimmy the Groundhog! Jimmy will be in the building from 5-7pm for one of the liveliest events on the Museum's annual calendar. Stop in to learn about Sun Prairie's Groundhog Day tradition and say hello to Jimmy before his big day. Head to Cannery Square at 7am on Monday, February 2 for Sun Prairie's 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Groundhog Prognostication!



### City Operating Referendum and Collecting Moratorium

Sun Prairie voters will see a referendum question on April 7 ballots. Visit the [City of Sun Prairie April 2026 Referendum](#) site to learn more and find Town Hall events to share your voice.

Due to possible budget reductions if the referendum does not pass, the Museum has instituted a collecting moratorium. During this time, items will not be accepted into the Museum's collections. The moratorium will be reevaluated at the May 13 Museum Board meeting.

Adding to the Museum's collections is a commitment to care for those items *permanently*. We look forward to resuming this important work when the Museum's budgetary outlook is on solid ground.

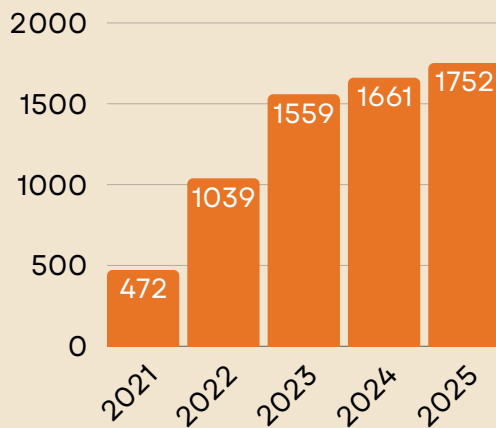
Image: SPHLM P9611 Hand-counting ballots in 1958.

### 2025 Key Metrics

The Museum continued to see increased patronage in 2025. Volunteer hours and total visits - key measures of community engagement - are on the rise!

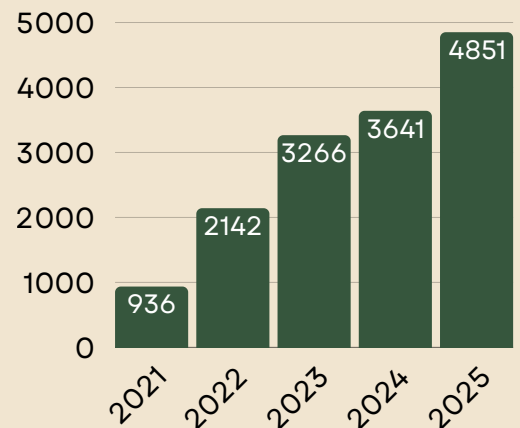
Museum staff send a very sincere thank you to all volunteers who have helped the Museum reach these numbers.

#### Volunteer Hours



**2025 = 1,752 Hours**

#### Total Visits



**2025 = 4,851 Visits**

# An Artifact's Journey

In September, a set of 55 historical photographs was offered to the Museum. Within 3 months and thanks to combined efforts of Museum volunteers, Board members, and staff, these photographs are now catalogued, securely stored, and viewable online. So what does that process look like?

1. **First interaction** with donor: Dylan (Staff)
2. Collections Team **analysis of offered donations**: Mackenzie, Ron, Dee, Sunshine, & Katie (Volunteers & Staff)
3. **Approval** of Collections Team recommendations: Museum Board
4. **Researching names** included in photo captions: Dee (Volunteer)
5. **Cataloging, labeling**, and creating **database records**: Ron
6. Creating **high quality scans** of all the photos: Greg (Volunteer)
7. **Attaching scans** to database records: Dylan
8. Assigning **permanent homes**: Lynn (Volunteer)

Thanks to all involved, these photographs are now viewable in the [SPHLM Collections Database](#). Enter a Keyword search of P2521\* or click [here](#) to see them all!



SPHLM P252126 - John and Mary Stier. Photo by Conrad's Studio, Sun Prairie, Wis. Ca. 1890s-1900s.

## 2025 By the Numbers

The Museum saw record-breaking numbers in most areas this year, showcasing the continued appreciation of Sun Prairie's history by residents and tourists alike. Check out the stats!

### Collections

- **89** research requests to use Museum collections
- **192** items from **29** donors added to the permanent collections
- **1,000+** pages of manuscripts viewable on Recollection Wisconsin
- **6,608** items inventoried
- **1,700+** photographs digitized
- **600+** objects photographed
- **7,000+** items made publicly searchable

### Volunteers

- **28** unique volunteers
- **1,752** volunteer hours
  - If paid \$15/hr, this equals \$29,000 in saved wages and benefits

### Visitors

- **4,851** visits
  - **1,044** for regular open hours
  - **3,807** for special events
- **806** schoolchildren engaged from **8** schools
- **6,400+** website views, **29,000+** Collections Database views, **141,000+** views on social media
- **21** community events hosted

Sun Prairie Historical Library & Museum  
115 E. Main St., Sun Prairie  
608-825-0837  
museum@cityofsunprairie.com  
www.cityofsunprairie.com/museum

Open Hours  
April-November: Wed-Sat 11am-4pm  
December-March: Wed 11am-4pm



@CityOfSunPrairieMuseum