

**Bennington City Council Meeting
November 12, 2024
Library Report**

**Bennington Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
October 22, 2024
Library Report: Lisa Flaxbeard**

The mission of the Bennington Public Library is to inspire lifelong learning, advance knowledge, and strengthen community. To deliver on this promise we rely on three great resources: our staff, our collection, and our physical space.

Library Programs & Services

Out and About Storytime at Nelson's Produce Farm on October 8 had 150 in attendance. The next Out and About Storytime will be held on Tuesday, November 19 at the Bennington Fire Station.

Johnna continues to conduct weekly outreach storytimes for Koala-T Daycare. On cold weather days she visits them at their facility. She is also conducting outreach storytimes/visits at Legacy School on occasion. Another outreach opportunity will be to conduct a storytime at Westroads Mall when the Giving Machines will be present in December. Lake Cunningham reached out to us about partnering on some future events there as well.

Addysen Oreskovich Preteen Miss Princess of America was our guest reader at our September 26 storytime.

We were pleased to be a part of the Stratford Elementary School's Third Grade Bennington history tour on Wednesday, October 16. Going forward we'd like to see this outreach event happen every fall; and with all five Bennington elementary schools participating.

Staff and volunteers are gearing up for our Freaky Fun Friday Halloween event on October 25, 4:00 - 5:00 PM in Centennial Park. The weather is looking promising. We have five outside groups participating by bringing games or other activities, plus activities planned by library staff. Last year we had over 350 people come. We are planning for another well-attended event.

The Bennington Jaycees invited us (Friends of the Library) to be a part of their Trunk or Treat in the Bennington Elementary School Gym on October 27, 1:00 - 3:00 PM. The Friends of the Library will sponsor the cost of the treats. In addition to a treat, trunk or treaters will receive an invitation to enter our Halloween drawing for a chance to win a squishy toy.

Taryn and Heather met with Region 6 Behavioral Health regarding outreach for mental health assistance post-tornado. They are working with Elkhorn Public Schools but haven't been able to make any headway with BPS. They will have a game and outreach materials set up at our Freaky Fun Friday event.

Taryn, with help from BLAB and overseen by Johnna, is planning some fall teen events—Spooky Cinema happening on three Wednesday evenings in October and Teensgiving Pot Luck in November.

Johnna is collaborating with the Bennington Middle Schools' librarian Konni in den Bosch for the continuation of the Middle School Book Club program. Each middle school has a book club that meets every other Monday at 7:30 AM in their respective school library.

Puzzle Exchange at Founders Day was a great opportunity to be present at this community-wide event. We are working out plans to add an ongoing puzzle exchange display in the library year-round.

Our First Second Saturday Crafting Circle will be Held on November 9 at 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. We are excited to be partnering with Nicole Daberkow/Third Space to provide space

to explore creativity, learn new skills, and socialize with other crafters. This event is open to all creative mediums: crochet, sewing, paper craft, fine art, etc. All ages are welcome, but we recommend children attending be at least 8 years old and accompanied by an adult (there will be scissors, needles and other items present that might not be safe for little hands). During the first hour an instructor will be present to lead crafters through a new group craft project or creative skill every month. The remaining time will be for social crafting–BYOP (bring your own project). We will have two sewing machines on-site for use as well. Participants are welcome to come and go as they please.

We have been receiving wonderful coverage of Library events and activities in the new Bennington Herald publication. Marisa Dawson has featured our Preschool STEAM program, the Mindi McGinnis Author visit, and the Summer Reading Finale event.

Technology

Jason delivered our six new public desktop computers on Saturday. Andrew “Sherm” Sherman from the Nebraska Library Commission will be here on November 1 to assist us with completing the setup process, the installation of the Microsoft Office, Deep Freeze/Anti-Virus, etc.

After the Koha Bywater upgrade earlier in the month we have experienced a few cliches/bugs. We think we have most of them worked out, but a few are still active support ticket items.

Personnel/Staff Happenings/Other News

Callee’s last day is scheduled to be November 23.

Heather broke her ankle (outside of work hours) on October 15 and had to have surgery. She will be out for about two weeks. She may be able to put in a few hours remotely, when she feels up to it.

Lydia and Heather have been working together on book orders, training on cataloging, etc. Heather started her Basic Skills training with the Nebraska Library Commission. Natalie recently finished her Basic Skills course training.

The Nebraska Library Commission accepted our Community Needs Response Plan, and our accreditation for the next five years is complete. We have met the requirements for a GOLD level library!

Johnna is doing a fantastic job coordinating our volunteers. She is overseeing all teen related programming, with Taryn taking the lead on the majority of teen activities. Johnna will soon be handing over book repair responsibilities to Heather. She will train Heather and Lydia on book repair when our new book binding/repair machine arrives.

Natalie submitted an application for the NLC Internship Grant. We should hear back by the end of December if chosen.

The Library Conference Center is serving as a polling place for the November election. This will be the first time the library will provide its facility for a presidential election.

We have completed all the necessary administrative steps for year 2024 federal e-rate funding (40% discount on internet service). Our first steps for the 2025 funding year are nearing soon.

Bennington Public Library
September 2024 Statistics

	2024	2023	collectioncode	checkouts	renewals	total
Circulation-physical items	8935	9660	Adult Books on CD	0	1	1
OVERDRIVE	2520	1563	Adult DVDs	21	90	111
*OD Audio	*1030	*787	Adult Fiction	503	596	1099
*OD eBook	*804	*570	Adult Large Print Fiction	2	3	5
*OD Magazine	*82	*35	Adult Magazines	29	0	29
*OD BPS	*604	*171	Adult Nonfiction	108	170	278
Book Club Kits	29	26	Cake Pans	6	0	6
Total Circulation	11484	11249	Equipment	4	4	8
Newsbank Use-OWH+	2875	351	Interlibrary Loan	21	8	29
Computer Use	95	79	Childrens Boardbooks	144	192	336
Study Room Use	43	38	Childrens Chapter Books	384	543	927
Conference Room Use	20	18	Childrens Comic Books	7	15	22
Cards issued			Childrens Books on CD	4	9	13
City	9	14	Childrens DVDs	64	130	194
Douglas County	59	51	Childrens Easy Readers	721	878	1599
Omaha	16	10	Childrens Graphic Novels	197	249	446
Washington County/other		2	Childrens Magazines	13	0	13
Total cards	84	77	Childrens Nonfiction	392	558	950
Presch STEAM (4)	140	81	Childrens Picture Books	969	1231	2200
Storytime (4)	158	115	Childrens Playaways	90	125	215
Storytime-Koala-T (3)	57	60	Childrens Readalongs	51	82	133
Storytime Saturday (2)	57	n/a	Kits	27	0	27
Read to a Dog	45	36	Special Collections	11	0	11
Out & About Storytime-Cup & Cone	38	n/a	Young Adult Fiction	72	167	239
Open Art Studio (4)	66	54	Young Adult Graphic Novel	10	28	38
LEGO @ your Library (4)	74	94	Young Adult Nonfiction	2	3	5
Summer Reading Finale	289	n/a	Young Adult Playaways	1	0	1
Total Children's Programs (24)	924	440	TOTAL Physical items	3853	5082	8935
Teen Time (4)	26	31				
Teen Book Club	4	5	Self-directed/Passive Programming			
BLAB-Teen Advisory Board	4	14	Scavenger hunt	200		
BMS/BSMS Book Club (4)	28	n/a				
Mindy McGinnis Author Visit	24					
Total Teen programs (11)	86	50				
Book Club-1st Wed	8	8				
Book Clubs-3rd Tues	7	8				
Book Club-Ridgewood	5	4				
Total Adult programs (3)	20	20				
Library Visits	3251	2983				
Volunteer/Hours	11/80	9/47				
Kyocera use 8/18-9/17	1935	1516				