

**Bennington City Council Meeting**  
**December 9, 2024**  
**Library Report**

**Bennington Public Library**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**November 19, 2024**  
**Library Director 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**

The **Out and About Storytime** at the Bennington Fire Station is November 19.

**Take and Make** holiday craft projects are being prepared for distribution in early December (first come first served). Staff and volunteers are assembling 200 kits which include three craft projects each.

Johnna will conduct a **storytime at Westroads Mall** when the Giving Machines will be present on December 27 time TBD.

Johnna visited the **Legacy School** to conduct multiple storytimes during the month of October, reaching about 150 students.

We had great weather and a good turnout for our **Freaky Fun Friday** Halloween event. Community partners included Region 6 Behavioral Health, Badger Buddies 4H, Paws for Friendship, and Bennington Friends of the Library. And a new feature this year was a photo booth provided by Dunning Music & Entertainment, a local business run by library patrons Steve and Molly Dunning.

Johnna and Lisa represented the Library at the Bennington **Jaycees Trunk or Treat** on October 27. Treats sponsored by the Friends of the Library and drawing forms to win a squishy toy were handed out. Over 50 drawing entries were returned to the library. At least one of those entries resulted in a new library card signup.

The **Spooky Cinema** teen events were fun for teens, but the turnout wasn't what we were hoping for.

**Teensgiving** Potluck on November 12 was a success. The Teensgiving Back project this year will be a holiday gift wrapping event on Saturday, December 14.

The Bennington **Middle School Book Clubs** will celebrate Teensgiving at their gatherings this month

A **Puzzle Exchange** display is now in the library entry area. It has already received a lot of attention and use.

Johnna made sure to perform the fall clean for the **community garden**. She and Heather will be working on community garden plans for the spring and summer.

Our First **Second Saturday Crafting Circle** with Nicole from Third Space was attended by 16 adults and children. Participants learned to make a cactus pin cushion. Next December we will be making a snowflake ornament and learning a few more embroidery stitches.

Heather and I attended a zoom meeting to learn about opportunities for libraries to participate in **National Good Neighbor Day** next September 28, 2025.

In addition to the digital access for the Omaha World Herald via **Newsbank** we are currently receiving the benefits of the **Access World News Research Collection**. The free one-year trial includes 13,850 titles, 305 image edition newspapers, and 51 Nebraska newspapers that includes these Nebraska image editions newspapers: Kearney Hub, Lincoln

Journal Star, York News-Times, as well as Omaha World-Herald. Patrons have access to both online resources through the links provided on the library website.

The Nebraska Library Commission received an initial price quote for a **New York Times All Access group subscription** based on the number of interested libraries and their Legal Service Area Population (LSAP). Our library's portion is estimated to be: 4,707 (BPL LSAP) x \$0.025 = \$117.68.

### **Technology/Maintenance**

Andrew "Sherm" Sherman from the Nebraska Library Commission helped us install the software for our **new public desktop computers**.

The current lease for our **copier/printer** ends this month. We are looking forward to the installation of a new machine in the next couple weeks. The new 5-year contract with Allmakes will result in a better machine and close to the same average cost per month.

We are still working out a few issues with the **Bywater reports** but hope to get those resolved soon.

We will be getting our large south front **window retinted** and one glass entry door due to wear and tear and a few areas that are peeling.

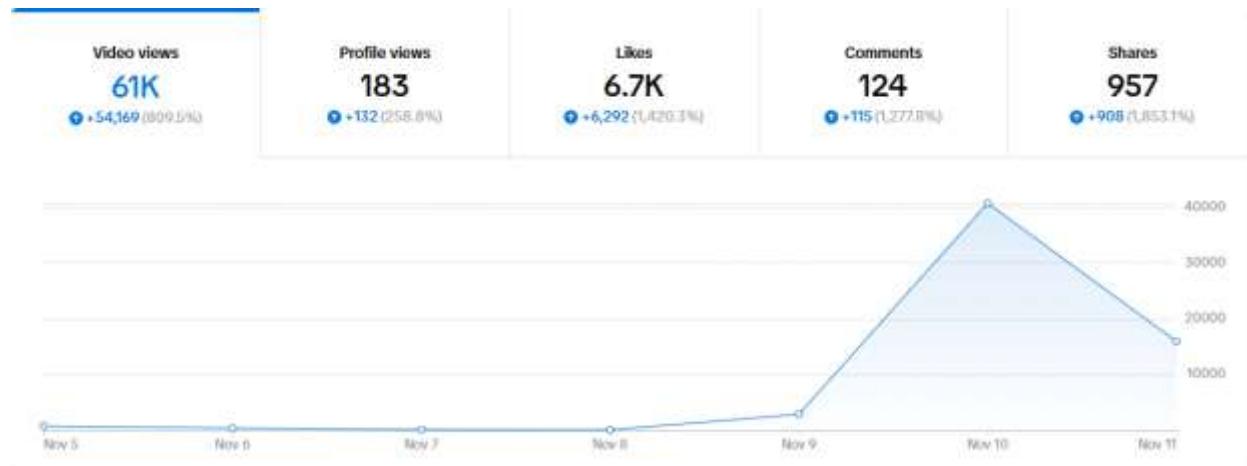
The Public Works Department will be replacing **ceiling tiles** which blew off the ceiling in the front entry area during the last strong wind and other random tiles in the building that have water stains.

Ryan Witt's Lawn & Landscaping was hired to do the **fall cleanup** for the Library's landscape.

The **speaker system** in the conference room is not working. We are researching who can help us with this issue and evaluate the current AV setup and possibly suggest some improvements for ease of use for staff and the public.

The **book binding/repair machine**, a purchase made possible by the Friends of the Library, arrived. Johnna has already made good use of it and will show Heather and Lydia how to use it as part of their book repair training.

A **TikTok** from last week blew up randomly over last week or so. Here are some interesting analytics, including an 809.5% increase in views.



### **Personnel/Staff Happenings/Other News**

Callee's (**practicum student/part-time temp**) last day is November 21. Heather is back after her ankle surgery.

Library staff with some help from Friends member Konni in den Bosch made some headway in recruiting potential **library board candidates**. The City Clerk (Mindi Laaker) received three emails/letters of interest, and we are expecting at least one more by mail.

The fourth quarter meeting of the **Friends** of the Library was rescheduled to Friday, December 6 at 6:00 PM. Election of officers will be on the agenda.

Bennington Public Library			
October 2024 Statistics			
	2024	2023	
<b>Circulation:</b>			
Physical items	9364	9475	
OVERDRIVE	2448	1843	
*OD Audio	*1050	*807	
*OD eBook	*749	*597	
*OD Digital Magazines	*70	*106	
*OD BPS	*579	*333	
Book Club Kits	28	25	
<b>Total Circulation</b>	<b>11840</b>	<b>11343</b>	
Newsbank searches/views/sessions	511/3325/152	397/2614/99	
Computer Use	169	99	
Study Room Use	27	44	
Conference Room Use	24	20	
Cards issued:			
City	8	4	
Douglas County	40	53	
Omaha	15	25	
Washington County/other		1	
<b>Total cards</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>83</b>	
<b>Program Attendance:</b>			
Presch STEAM (3)	79	127	
Storytime (5)	200	132	
Storytime-Koala-T (5)	105	64	
Saturday Storytime (2)	46		
Out&About @Nelson's Farm	168	92	
Outreach Legacy School (2)	150		
Open Art Studio (5)	93	88	
LEGO (5)	107	81	
Read to a Dog (1)	38	24	
Special event-FFF Halloween Party	325	320	
Stratford 3rd grade Benn History	84		
Outreach-Trunk or Treat	453	821	
<b>Total Children's Programs (25)</b>	<b>1848</b>	<b>1749</b>	
Teen Time (4)	15	25	
Teen Book Club	0	11	
Teen BLAB (2)	11	6	
Spooky Cinema (3)	14		
Outreach-Book Club@BMS/BMSS (2)	20	22	
<b>YA/Teen Programs (12)</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>64</b>	
Book Club-1st Wed	12	9	
Book Club-3rd Tues	10	10	
Outreach-RW Book Club-3rd Fri	6	n/a	
<b>Total Adult Programs (3)</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>19</b>	
Library Visits	3251	3340	
Volunteers/Hours	25/101	16/85	
Allmakes Copier-Printer (9/18-10/17)	1803	1568	
<b>collection code</b>			
Adult Books on CD	1	2	3
Adult DVDs	7	17	24
Adult Fiction	487	645	1132
Adult Large Print Fiction	1	2	3
Adult Magazines	20	0	20
Adult Nonfiction	84	180	264
Cake Pans	5	0	5
Interlibrary Loan	11	4	15
Childrens Boardbooks	104	207	311
Childrens Chapter Books	399	672	1071
Childrens Comic Books	7	17	24
Childrens Books on CD	4	6	10
Childrens DVDs	118	157	275
Childrens Easy Readers	609	967	1576
Childrens Graphic Novels	235	382	617
Childrens Magazines	18	0	18
Childrens Nonfiction	378	589	967
Childrens Picture Books	1008	1356	2364
Childrens Playaways	63	154	217
Childrens Readalongs	56	71	127
Kits	21	0	21
Special Collections	20	0	20
Young Adult Fiction	94	130	224
Young Adult Graphic GN	22	22	44
Young Adult Nonfiction	4	8	12
<b>Total Physical Item Circs</b>	<b>3776</b>	<b>5588</b>	<b>9364</b>
<b>Self-directed/Passive Programming</b>			
Scavenger hunt	198		
Halloween prize drawing	159		