

**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.

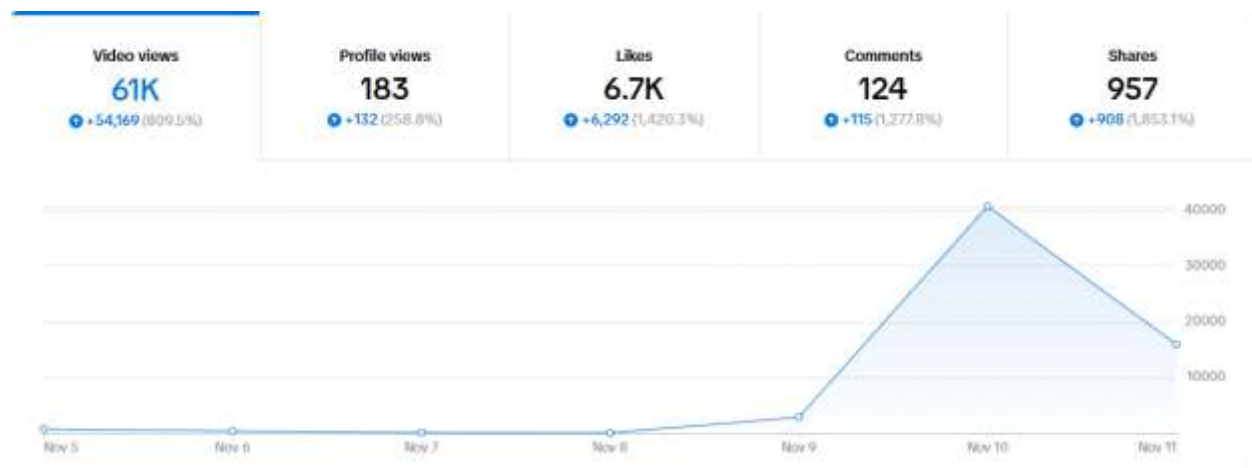
The Public Works Department will be replacing **ceiling tiles** which blew off the ceiling in the front entry area during the last strong wind and other random tiles in the building that have water stains.

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	collection code	check	renew	total
<b>Circulation:</b>			Adult Books on CD	1	2	3
Physical items	9364	9475	Adult DVDs	7	17	24
OVERDRIVE	2448	1843	Adult Fiction	487	645	1132
*OD Audio	*1050	*807	Adult Large Print Fiction	1	2	3
*OD eBook	*749	*597	Adult Magazines	20	0	20
*OD Digital Magazines	*70	*106	Adult Nonfiction	84	180	264
*OD BPS	*579	*333	Cake Pans	5	0	5
Book Club Kits	28	25	Interlibrary Loan	11	4	15
<b>Total Circulation</b>	<b>11840</b>	<b>11343</b>	Childrens Boardbooks	104	207	311
<b>Newsbank searches/views/sessions</b>	<b>511/3325/152</b>	<b>397/2614/99</b>	Childrens Chapter Books	399	672	1071
<b>Computer Use</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>99</b>	Childrens Comic Books	7	17	24
<b>Study Room Use</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>44</b>	Childrens Books on CD	4	6	10
<b>Conference Room Use</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>20</b>	Childrens DVDs	118	157	275
Cards issued:			Childrens Easy Readers	609	967	1576
City	8	4	Childrens Graphic Novels	235	382	617
Douglas County	40	53	Childrens Magazines	18	0	18
Omaha	15	25	Childrens Nonfiction	378	589	967
Washington County/other		1	Childrens Picture Books	1008	1356	2364
<b>Total cards</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>83</b>	Childrens Playaways	63	154	217
<b>Program Attendance:</b>			Childrens Readalongs	56	71	127
Presch STEAM (3)	79	127	Kits	21	0	21
Storytime (5)	200	132	Special Collections	20	0	20
Storytime-Koala-T (5)	105	64	Young Adult Fiction	94	130	224
Saturday Storytime (2)	46		Young Adult Graphic GN	22	22	44
Out&About @Nelson's Farm	168	92	Young Adult Nonfiction	4	8	12
Outreach Legacy School (2)	150		<b>Total Physical Item Circs</b>	<b>3776</b>	<b>5588</b>	<b>9364</b>
Open Art Studio (5)	93	88				
LEGO (5)	107	81	<b>Self-directed/Passive Programming</b>			
Read to a Dog (1)	38	24	Scavenger hunt	198		
Special event-FFF Halloween Party	325	320	Halloween prize drawing	159		
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				