

**Bennington City Council Meeting
May 12, 2025
Library Report**

**Bennington Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
April 22, 2025
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 and Services

Last month's program attendance and circulation statistics are included in the March statistical report.

We are proud to report that eight of the nine students whose art made it to the **Nebraska Federation of Women's Clubs State Art Contest** won ribbons, which ranged from 4th place to best in show!

Attendance at the April 9th **Out and About Storytime** at Cup and Cone was 65.

Much of our attention is focused on prepping for **summer reading** and programming. The brochures arrived from the printer and bookmarks are in the process of being printed, both for distribution to local schools early next month. The Friends of the library approved funding to sponsor the purchase of reading rewards including a free book for kids and teens who reach their reading goal and drawing prizes for all age groups. Donation request letters have been sent to local businesses and organizations. Donations totaling \$300 have been received thus far.

In addition to their \$200 donation for the summer reading program, volunteers from the Bennington Woman's Club will be helping with the watering of our **community garden** this summer. A signup genius will be created. Heather will be planting the first round of herbs and vegetables in the coming weeks.

It has been determined that our teen volunteer will be able to help facilitate the **Teen Crochet Corner this summer**. The program will be offered during the months of June and July on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 4:30 PM.

Our **Teen Library Advisory Board (BLAB)** will be reviewing the final draft of their bylaws at this month's meeting.

Partnership passes are limited to patrons who are 18 years of age or older. Lauritzen Gardens began providing their library passes free of charge in 2025. They have asked that we limit pass use to once per year per patron. Due to the limited availability of our partnership passes (with the exception of Fontenelle Forest of which we have 14 passes in our collection--two passes per day of the week), we will be limiting the checkout of each pass to one use per calendar year per patron (adult patron, not family/household). Circ staff is to type a message in the patron's record at checkout. Patrons cannot check out passes at the self-check as the passes are stored behind the circ desk. In addition, we are at a point where more patrons would benefit if we were to change the checkout period from 7 to 3 days. Distribution of Zoo passes is a different animal (pun intended). We will still do our best to limit checkouts to one per household per calendar year. (The library receives a quantity of 10 passes each 2-month distribution period August through May.)

Technology/Administrative/Facilities Maintenance

Even with the 2-week grace period, Cox Communications was not able to submit a proposal in time for the fiber optic special construction **E-rate** funding project. We did however submit our E-

rate form 471 for that will allow us a 40% discount on our internet service for funding for the year 2025-26.

Todd from Strategic Electric came out to evaluate the **lighting controls** issue. We are waiting on a proposal from them for the replacement of the lighting controls system. From what he has been able to tell me so far, we are looking at upwards of \$10,000.

Todd provided me with the names of AV companies Strategic Electric has worked with to evaluate our current **conference room sound system** issue. One proposal has been received for a solution to our immediate AV needs as well as recommendations/options for improvements to the system. I am hoping to receive another bid for comparison.

Three bids for our **landscape spring cleanup** as well as estimates for improving the east landscape design (second walkway of steppingstones/steps to the park) were received.

The **toilet in the men's restroom** had been running for several months. PWD had attempted to fix it several times, but ultimately, we needed to call a professional plumber. Big Birge Plumbing Company came out on April 17 and performed a toilet tank rebuild replacing the fluid control valve and flapper.

There are numerous **stains on the conference room carpet**. The PWD indicated they are not comfortable with the task of replacing the carpet tiles and to contact Midwest Floor Covering, as they had the prior year. After discovering the only replacement tiles we have remaining are for the walkout carpet, I obtained an estimate for purchasing the tiles we need. The price of four boxes of matching carpet tiles is \$935. This price includes a pail of adhesive and installation instructions to be shared with our maintenance team. I also requested estimates for a complete carpet replacement for future maintenance budgeting.

I have alerted the PWD of what appears to be **cosmetic water damage on a ceiling corner in the library entry** from a prior roof leak (roof repaired fall 2023).

Jake and I discussed the need for clarification about PWD **facilities maintenance responsibilities**.

The city **budget meeting schedule** is attached. The first budget submission deadline is July 9 for 2024/25 end-of-the-year estimates and 2025-26 budget for meeting with Mayor and City Clerks (city office will distribute 2024/25 budget worksheets to department heads on July 7).

Kevin Hand has been hired as **city administrator** and will begin his new position on June 9.

Personnel/Continuing Education

Natalie received her official Librarian III certification from the Nebraska Library Commission. I will be attending the **TRLS Annual meeting** in Fremont (Keene Memorial Library) on May 30. I am also registered to attend the Joint SELS (Southeast Library System) Training Extravaganza and **NLA** (Nebraska Library Association) PLTS (Public Library and Trustees Section) **Spring Meeting** on May 9 in Seward.

Summer Library Internship Grant

We received 16 summer intern applications. Eight of the applicants were selected for interviews. The list of candidates has been narrowed to three. A decision will be made this week.

Bennington Public Library						
March 2025 Statistics						
	2025	2024	collectioncode	check	renew	total
Circulation-Physical items	9201	9487	Adult DVDs	25	44	69
Overdrive	2639	2095	Adult Fiction	616	689	1305
*OD Audio	*1214	*894	Adult Large Print Fiction	1	0	1
*OD eBook	*1007	*777	Adult Magazines	15	0	15
*OD Digital Magazines	*140	*115	Adult Nonfiction	110	214	324
*OD BPS	*278	*309	Cake Pans	5	0	5
Book Club Kits	30	26	Equipment	4	4	8
Total Circulation	11870	11608	Interlibrary Loan	27	3	30
Newsbank search/view/session	682/4325/208	490/3170/146	Childrens Boardbooks	84	119	203
Computer Use	173	115	Childrens Chapter Books	371	527	898
Study Room Use	27	22	Childrens Comic Books	19	27	46
Conference Room Use	23	27	Childrens Books on CD	3	2	5
Cards issued			Childrens DVDs	69	114	183
City	4	18	Childrens Easy Readers	687	937	1624
Douglas County	60	55	Childrens Graphic Novels	317	366	683
Omaha	19	12	Childrens Magazines	6	0	6
Washington County/Other			Childrens Nonfiction	419	494	913
Total cards	83	85	Childrens Picture Books	960	1222	2182
Presch STEAM (5)	224	131	Childrens Playaways	110	114	224
Storytime (4)	155	179	Childrens Readalongs	53	114	167
Koala-T Storytime-offsite (4)	102	94	Kits	19	0	19
Saturday Storytime (2)	61	59	Special Collections	23	0	23
Open Art Studio (4)	60	121	Young Adult Fiction	95	143	238
LEGO (2) *weather closure	35	102	Young Adult Graphic Novels	3	14	17
Read to a dog	38	25	Young Adult Nonfiction	4	6	10
Prince/Princess Tea #2	n/a	49	Young Adult Playaways	1	2	3
Outreach @ Legacy	43	110	Total Physical Items Circ	4046	5155	9201
Total Children's (23)	718	870				
Teen Time (4)	7	21				
Teen BLAB	3	0				
BMS/BMSSS-offsite (4)	27	n/a				
Crochet Corner (2)	13	42	Self-directed/Passive Programming			
GFWC District II Art Show-offsite	43	30	Scavenger hunt	325		
Total YA/Teen Programs (12)	93	93	Book Madness (general inter	152		
Book Club-1st Wed	14	8				
Book Club-3rd Tues	7	10				
Book Club-RW	7	8	Social Media Stats 4/22/2025			
Craft Circle	17	n/a	TikTok: 1378 followers; 46K likes			
Cat Café	81	n/a	Instagram: 611 followers; 3352 views in the last 28 days;			
Total Adult (3)	126	26	886 accounts reached			
Library Visits	3204	3153	Facebook: 2038 followers; 5658 views in the last 28 days;			
Volunteer Hours	17/81	16/90	1376 accounts reached			
Copier/Printer (2/13-3/12)	1943	1609	Website: 2776 views in last 30 days			