

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 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Circulation-Physical items | 9201 | 9487 |
| Overdrive | 2639 | 2095 |
| *OD Audio | *1214 | *894 |
| *OD eBook | *1007 | *777 |
| *OD Digital Magazines | *140 | *115 |
| *OD BPS | *278 | *309 |
| Book Club Kits | 30 | 26 |
| Total Circulation | 11870 | 11608 |
| Newsbank search/view/session | 682/4325/208 | 490/3170/146 |
| Computer Use | 173 | 115 |
| Study Room Use | 27 | 22 |
| Conference Room Use | 23 | 27 |
| Cards issued | | |
| City | 4 | 18 |
| Douglas County | 60 | 55 |
| Omaha | 19 | 12 |
| Washington County/Other | | |
| Total cards | 83 | 85 |
| Presch STEAM (5) | 224 | 131 |
| Storytime (4) | 155 | 179 |
| Koala-T Storytime-offsite (4) | 102 | 94 |
| Saturday Storytime (2) | 61 | 59 |
| Open Art Studio (4) | 60 | 121 |
| LEGO (2) *weather closure | 35 | 102 |
| Read to a dog | 38 | 25 |
| Prince/Princess Tea #2 | n/a | 49 |
| Outreach @ Legacy | 43 | 110 |
| 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 |
| GFWC District II Art Show-offsite | 43 | 30 |
| Total YA/Teen Programs (12) | 93 | 93 |
| Book Club-1st Wed | 14 | 8 |
| Book Club-3rd Tues | 7 | 10 |
| Book Club-RW | 7 | 8 |
| Craft Circle | 17 | n/a |
| Cat Café | 81 | n/a |
| Total Adult (3) | 126 | 26 |
| Library Visits | 3204 | 3153 |
| Volunteer Hours | 17/81 | 16/90 |
| Copier/Printer (2/13-3/12) | 1943 | 1609 |

| collectioncode | check | renew | total |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Adult DVDs | 25 | 44 | 69 |
| Adult Fiction | 616 | 689 | 1305 |
| Adult Large Print Fiction | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Adult Magazines | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| Adult Nonfiction | 110 | 214 | 324 |
| Cake Pans | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| Equipment | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| Interlibrary Loan | 27 | 3 | 30 |
| Childrens Boardbooks | 84 | 119 | 203 |
| Childrens Chapter Books | 371 | 527 | 898 |
| Childrens Comic Books | 19 | 27 | 46 |
| Childrens Books on CD | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Childrens DVDs | 69 | 114 | 183 |
| Childrens Easy Readers | 687 | 937 | 1624 |
| Childrens Graphic Novels | 317 | 366 | 683 |
| Childrens Magazines | 6 | 0 | 6 |
| Childrens Nonfiction | 419 | 494 | 913 |
| Childrens Picture Books | 960 | 1222 | 2182 |
| Childrens Playaways | 110 | 114 | 224 |
| Childrens Readalongs | 53 | 114 | 167 |
| Kits | 19 | 0 | 19 |
| Special Collections | 23 | 0 | 23 |
| Young Adult Fiction | 95 | 143 | 238 |
| Young Adult Graphic Novels | 3 | 14 | 17 |
| Young Adult Nonfiction | 4 | 6 | 10 |
| Young Adult Playaways | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Total Physical Items Circ | 4046 | 5155 | 9201 |

Self-directed/Passive Programming

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Scavenger hunt | 325 |
| Book Madness (general inter) | 152 |

Social Media Stats 4/22/2025

TikTok: 1378 followers; 46K likes

Instagram: 611 followers; 3352 views in the last 28 days;

886 accounts reached

Facebook: 2038 followers; 5658 views in the last 28 days;

1376 accounts reached

Website: 2776 views in last 30 days