

**Bennington City Council Meeting  
February 9, 2026  
Library Report**

**Bennington Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting  
January 27, 2026  
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**

Please see the November and December statistical reports for detailed program attendance and circulation data from the last two months as well as the *2025 by the Numbers* graphic.

**General Interest/All Ages**

- In the month of December library staff and volunteers designed and assembled 200 fun and festive **Take & Make Holiday Craft Kits** for at-home enjoyment for all ages.
- Our **Winter Reading Challenge** has provided a fun, low-pressure way to keep reading during this cold January. BINGO sheets with age-appropriate (birth-5, k-5, teen, adult). reading-related activities were designed for participants to win entries into a drawing for each Bingo achieved.
- **Blind Date with a Book** starts February 2. Wrapped books for three age groups- children, teens, and adults, will include a hint about the book and a *Rate Your Date* form for entry into a prize drawing.
- **Cat Café** with Felius for ages 7 and up, Saturday, February 28, 9:30 – 1:30 AM

**Early literacy**

- We hosted two special **Pajama Storytimes** in December, perfect for the little ones who love starting the day with stories, songs, and fun. Children were invited to wear their comfiest pajamas and bring a favorite stuffed friend and/or blankie.
- A **Pajama Tea Party** was held last Saturday. But instead of our usual royalty theme, everyone arrived in their coziest pajamas and brought their favorite stuffed animal. Advanced registrations were required with several families having to be placed on a waiting list. As it turned out, we had a very cold weather day, so crowd control was not an issue. Caregivers and children totaled 45.

**Teen/Young Adult**

- Teens celebrated the holidays with a **Teen Movie Watch Party** with the showing of the movie "Elf. This fun-filled event featured Elf's four major food groups: spaghetti, syrup, candy corn, and candy canes.
- A **Teen Study Night** was offered on December 16 for students to get ready for final exams. Small group study rooms, individual seating, computers, printing, other study supplies, and snacks were available.
- In January we held a **Teen Video Game Night**. Johnna scrounged a PS4, a Nintendo Switch, and the library's Wii. Participants could also bring their own gaming system.
- **Love Stinks! Anti-Valentine's Day for Teens**, Friday, February 13 at 6:00 PM: no valentines, but crafts, games, and snacks.

## Adult

- **Second Saturday Craft Circle** with Third Space Omaha featured a **cross-stitch** holiday card project in December. **Sewing Machine 101** was offered in January. Nicole provided a relaxed, supportive environment while she covered the basics of using a sewing machine. Sewing machines were provided for those who did not bring their own.
- It's not too early to plan your Spring Garden! A **Spring Gardening Seminar** featuring our friends from The Big Garden will present two sessions: "Planning Your Garden for Seed Saving" and "Composting 101." Registration spots are filling up fast.

**Summer Reading 2026** plans are underway. Promotional materials from CSLP have arrived, several presenters have already been booked, and the entire library staff gave up a recent Saturday afternoon to begin ironing out the details—which there are many, by the way!

**Anticipated spring activities** include our role of collecting and displaying art for the Woman's Club District II Art Show, Out and About Storytimes, and National Library Week, to name a few. On Tuesday, March 10 (at 6:00 PM) we will hold another popular all-ages special event. **Finding Gobi** is touring internationally and is coming to Bennington, Nebraska! It is an event which features a heartwarming, true tale of a stray dog who joined Dion Leonard during a 155-mile ultramarathon across the Gobi Desert. They are visiting two Bennington elementary schools and have offered to reduce their fee to \$300.

We are excited to be partnering with **Opera Omaha** again. Opera Omaha has offered a limited number of vouchers for tickets to *Susannah*.

The library's wide range of offerings were featured in our December 2 and January 8 **digital newsletters**.

## Collection Development

Patron holds are now located on a book cart adjacent to the circulation desk.

Weeding numbers in the current fiscal year: 348 Adult Books, 264 Children's Books, 3 YA Books, and 3 DVDs.

Number of items added since 10/1/2025: 185 Adult Books, 329 Children's Books, 7 DVDs, & 2 Audiobooks (46 Yoto sets, 26 Playaways), 16 YA Books, 4 Kits, and 41 Magazines.

**Washington County Community Foundation Grant** request for 2026 was submitted this month. Our grant proposal included Expansion of the Yoto Audiobook Collection, Penworthy Early Learning Kits, Gaming Equipment for Teen Programming, and Cooking Equipment for Adult and Intergenerational Library Programs.

## Technology/Building Maintenance

Natalie and I will be joining City department leaders tomorrow morning for a Zoom meeting with a CivicPlus representative who will demonstrate what they have to offer in the way websites for municipalities (and libraries).

ByWater Solutions is hosting an online training session for the Aspen Web Builder on Thursday, January 29.

In addition, both Natalie and Heather will be involved in assessing new applications that may become available for enhancing the Pioneer Koha ILS.

Robert Rosenquist obtained a quote from CCS Presentation Systems (\$3,707.87) to correct issues and enhance ease of use of the **conference room AV system**. The scope of the work includes removing the damaged wall plate, installation of new wall plate equipped with HDMI, USB-C, and 3.5 mm audio inputs. New HDMI and USB-C cables for end users to connect their devices to the wall plate (many current laptops no longer provide HDMI outputs).

Installation of an audio transformer with an RCA cable in the AV rack to be available for a Bluetooth receiver. Installation of a vented shelf within the existing equipment rack to reposition the Blu-ray player at a more accessible height for ease of use. Re-soldering control cables behind both displays to restore full functionality and control capabilities. Reprogramming Extron control system to integrate and support the newly added input sources.

Strategic Electric came out to correct the issue with the connections to the **outdoor lights**.

The transition to our new **cleaning service** with City Wide Facility Solutions went smoothly.

A-United Automatic Doors and Glass came out to service the interior **automatic door** of the library this month. The door controller went out in December and needed to be replaced.

### **Personnel/Staff Development**

Our library staff is committed to intentionally seeking and refining systems and procedures that strengthen the library's effectiveness. Lisa is serving as a member of the Pioneer Consortium Board of Directors. Heather has joined Lisa in attending consortium and executive meetings to learn more about our Koha information library system

Nora, our new part-time library aide, successfully conducted her first storytime this month. Johnna provided the outline and books, and Lisa was present as a co-leader and moral support. Johnna will be taking time off for her wedding in April as well as a long weekend now and then and it is a great help to have a staff member available to sub for her.

Our library will be the venue for one of the Three Rivers Library System's **Summer Reading Workshop** on Friday, February 13.

Part-time hours will be adjusted this spring and summer as staff members' availability changes.

### **Social Media/Online Engagement**

One thing to note is our extremely viral Facebook video where we shared our favorite books we read in 2025. We gained more than 200 new "page follows" from it and it received 189,000 views, 2200 likes, 27 comments and was shared 56 times. While we never know when a video or post will "hit" – we are going to focus our efforts on more videos that feature library staff and collection/book reviews and that are not so graphic/programming heavy.

<https://facebook.com/reel/1410102087259669/>

### **2025 Online Engagement**

Facebook: 143k views, 10,643 profile visits, 220 new follows

Instagram: 39.7k views, 1,197 profile visits, 132 new follows

Website: 48,245 website views, 16,517 website visitors

TikTok: 198k video views, 1.6k profile views, 475 shares

### **General Online Stats 1/12/2026**

Facebook: 2,168 followers

Instagram: 674 followers

TikTok: 1,695 followers, 53.3k total likes

Google: 5.0 stars (36 reviews)

*7 weeks ago:*

*"Love, love, love this library. Ms. Johnna's story times are incredible. She creates a calm, fun, inviting environment for kids to read, play games, sing songs, and develop a love for reading. My kids always have so much fun. They have a variety of events, a very organized/wide*

selection of books, and it's located close to a park and ice cream shop, making it the perfect location for a fun family day"

**Bennington Public Library** **2025** **BY THE NUMBERS**

**TOP CHECKED-OUT TITLES**

CHILDREN'S BOOKS	CHILDREN'S CHAPTER BOOKS	YOUNG ADULT FICTION	ADULT FICTION
 	 	 	 
 	 	 	 

VISITS TO THE LIBRARY **47,215**  **1,076** NEW LIBRARY CARDS ISSUED

 **345**  
PARTNERSHIP PASS CHECKOUTS  

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**127,931**  
PHYSICAL ITEM CHECKOUTS 

PEOPLE WHO ATTENDED A LIBRARY PROGRAM  
**13,780**

 **27,332**  
EBOOK & AUDIOBOOK DOWNLOADS

**Bennington Public Library  
November 2025 Statistics**

	2025	2024		
<b>Circulation:</b>			<b>Collection Code</b>	<b>checkouts/renewals</b>
Circulation-physical items	9,561	8,349	Adult DVDs	33
OVERDRIVE	3,112	2,329	Adult Fiction	1,279
<i>eAudiobooks - 1199 eBooks - 889 eMagazines - 281 BPS - 743</i>			Adult Large Print Fiction	2
Book Club Kits	30	30	Adult Magazines	9
<b>Total Circulation</b>	<b>12,703</b>	<b>10,708</b>	Adult Nonfiction	252
New Items Processed/Cataloged	261		Cake Pans	2
<b>Newsbank searches/views/sessions</b>	<b>280/792/3964</b>	<b>472/3586/135</b>	Interlibrary Loan	13
<b>NYT (16 libs)stats codes/usage</b>	<b>331/2614</b>		Childrens Boardbooks	298
<b>Computer Use</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>105</b>	Childrens Chapter Books	919
<b>Study Room Use</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>22</b>	Childrens Comic Books	19
<b>Conference Room Use</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>21</b>	Childrens Books on CD	13
<b>Cards issued:</b>			Childrens DVDs	208
City	7	16	Childrens Easy Readers	1,603
Douglas County	51	29	Childrens Graphic Novels	758
Omaha	23	2	Childrens Magazines	22
Washington County/other	6	1	Childrens Nonfiction	865
<b>TOTAL NEW LIBRARY CARDS</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>48</b>	Childrens Picture Books	2,681
<b>Program Attendance:</b>			Childrens Playalongs	201
Preschool STEAM-Monday (4)	177	103	Childrens Readalongs	142
Storytime-Thursday (3)	166	130	Kits	30
Outreach Storytimes-KoalaT (3)	56	38	Young Adult Fiction	185
Saturday Storytime (2)	53	67	Young Adult Graphic Novels	18
Out & About Storytime @ BFD (1)	147	165	Young Adult Nonfiction	9
Outreach-Legacy School (3)	135		<b>Total Physical Items Circulated</b>	<b>9,561</b>
<b>TOTAL EARLY LIT PROGRAMS (16)</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>503</b>		
Read to a Dog (1)	23	42		
Open Art Studio (3)	34	104		
LEGO (4)	78	121		
<b>TOTAL ELEM PROGRAMS (8)</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>267</b>		
Teen Time (1)	5	21		
Teen BLAB (1)	2	4		
Outreach MS Book Club (4)	25	40		
Teen Crochet (2)	12			
Teensgiving (9)	9	13		
<b>Total YA/Teen Program (9)</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>78</b>		
Book Club-1st Wed	13	11		
Book Club-3rd Tues	10	9		
Book Club-Ridgewood-3rd Fri	6	5		
Craft Circle w/3rd Space	30	19		
<b>Total Adult Programs (4)</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>44</b>		
<b>Self-directed Early Lit-Scav Hunt</b>	<b>325</b>	290		
<b>General Interest-Mush Dog Sophia</b>	<b>150</b>	n/a		
Library Visits	3,069	2,527		
Volunteers/Hours	18/68	15/73		
Copier-Printer (10/13-11/12)	3,276	2,108		

**Social Media Stats November 2025**

**Facebook:** 11.3k views, 717 profile visits  
**Instagram:** 5.6k views, 64 profile visits  
**Website:** 3,697 views

**Google Profile:**  
 People viewed our profile: 933  
 Profile Interactions: 664  
 Searches showed our profile: 447  
 Website clicks: 458  
 Calls: 50  
 People asked for directions: 156

**Bennington Public Library  
December 2025 Statistics**

	2025	2024	Physical Materials Circulated	
			Collection Code	Checkouts/Renewals
<b>Circulation</b>				
Circulation-physical items	10,305	7,919	Adult DVDs	33
OVERDRIVE	2,924	2,294	Adult Fiction	1,323
<i>eAudiobooks - 1147 eBooks - 854 eMagazines - 280 BPS - 643</i>			Adult Large Print Fiction	1
Book Club Kits	30	30	Adult Magazines	10
<b>Total Circulation</b>	<b>13,259</b>	<b>10,243</b>	Adult Nonfiction	234
<b>New Items Processed/Cataloged</b>	<b>330</b>		Cake Pans	2
<b>Newsbank searches/views/sessions</b>	<b>265/728/3318</b>	<b>480/3455/1684</b>	Interlibrary Loan	25
<b>NYT (16 libs) stats codes/usage</b>	<b>334/2526</b>		Childrens Boardbooks	345
<b>Computer Use</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>94</b>	Childrens Chapter Books	944
<b>Study Room Use</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	Childrens Comic Books	10
<b>Conference Room Use</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>16</b>	Childrens Books on CD	11
<b>Cards issued:</b>			Childrens DVDs	212
City	5	3	Childrens Easy Readers	1,819
Douglas County	42	30	Childrens Graphic Novels	866
Omaha	16	4	Childrens Magazines	41
Washington County/other	1		Childrens Nonfiction	952
<b>TOTAL NEW LIBRARY CARDS</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>37</b>	Childrens Picture Books	2,765
Preschool STEAM-Mon (5)	180	131	Childrens Playaways	231
Story Time-Thurs (3)	184	135	Childrens Readalongs	129
Outreach Storytime-KoalaT (3)	60	70	Childrens YOTO Audiobook	76
Storytime Saturday (2)	69	50	Kits	30
<b>TOTAL EARLY LIT PROGRAMS (13)</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>386</b>	Young Adult Fiction	212
Read to a Dog (1)	56	38	Young Adult Graphic Novels	25
Open Art Studio (3)	132	97	Young Adult Nonfiction	9
LEGO (3)	98	57	<b>Total Physical Material Circs</b>	<b>10,305</b>
<b>TOTAL ELEM PROGRAMS (7)</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>192</b>		
Teen Time (3)	5	30		
Teen BLAB	2	4		
Outreach Middle School Book Clubs (2)	15	11		
Teen Crochet (2)	17			
Teen Movie-Elf (1)	15			
Teen Study Time (1)	12			
<b>TOTAL TEEN PROGRAMS (8)</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>45</b>		
Book Club-1st Wed	15	11		
Book Clubs-3rd Tues	12	9		
Book Club-RW	7	5		
Craft Circle w/3rd Space	5			
<b>TOTAL ADULT PROGRAMS (4)</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>25</b>		
<b>Self-directed Early Lit-Scav Hunt</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>250</b>		
<b>Take 'n Make Kits</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>200</b>		
<b>Visits</b>	<b>3,190</b>	<b>2,476</b>		
<b>Volunteer/Hours</b>	<b>17/91</b>	<b>15/69</b>		
<b>Printer/Copies-Kyocera 11/13-12/12</b>	<b>3282</b>	<b>1,532</b>		

**Social Media Stats December 2025**

**Facebook:** 12.3k views, 777 profile visits

**Instagram:** 7.9k views, 104 profile visits

**Website:** 3,675 views

**Google Profile:**  
 People viewed our profile: 873  
 Profile Interactions: 571  
 Searches showed our profile: 356  
 Website clicks: 390  
 Calls: 43  
 People asked for directions: 138