

**Bennington City Council Meeting
April 13, 2026
Library Report**

**Bennington Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting
March 31, 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.

Monthly Library Statistical Report for February 2026 is attached.

The **Finding Gobi** event attracted an attendance of 32 people. The Bennington Buzz announced the event as well as included an extensive article in its March 13th issue.

We collected 63 art entries for the **Nebraska GFWC District II Art Contest**. Twenty-three of the entries were from elementary students, 36 middle school and 4 high school. Bennington Woman's Club judges advanced 44 art pieces to the District II Art Show competition, 38 of the 44 earned ribbons, 19 of the 38 were first place and advanced to the NGFWC State Art Show competition, 2 of the 38 received Best in Show honors. Overall, 12 Bennington Schools were represented as well as homeschool students.

Summer Reading 2026 – attached draft of our Summer Reading Program Brochure represents all the planning that has been taking place the last few months.

The **Washington County Community Foundation** grant award reception was rescheduled to Tuesday, April 14 at 6:00 PM in the Rybin Community Building at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Arlington.

The mayor authorized the use of Keno funds to cover the cost of a new **Library website design**. Natalie and Lisa will meet via Zoom with JM Online on April 1 for our initial session with the design team.

Attached is a report summary of our library's **2024-25 fiscal year Nebraska Public Library Survey**.

During the March 31 library board meeting Nancy Novak of Alley Poyner Macchietta Architecture (APMA) presented an overview of the firm's services and previous library projects. Following the presentation, the board requested a formal proposal for the board to review at their April 28 meeting. The proposal will outline APMA's services for assisting the library in the design and determining the estimated costs for the library's expansion into the existing vehicle bays.

Bennington Public Library Monthly Statistics
February 2026

Circulation		Feb-26		Feb-25	Physical Item Type	Circs	Holdings
Circulation-physical items		10777		8128	Adult Books	1419	6535
Overdrive-all formats		3209		2290	Audio Books	278	317
*OD Audio		*1260		*1018	Cake Pans	7	40
*OD eBook		*883		*863	DVDs	306	1420
*OD Digital Magazines		*288		*113	Interlibrary Loan	24	na
*OD BPS		*778		*296	Childrens Books	8367	13869
Book Club Kits		30		30	Kits	34	58
Total Circulation		14016		10448	Magazines	42	534
					Young Adult Books	300	1486
					Total Circs/Items	10777	24259
New Library Cards		Feb-26		Feb-25	Other Resource Data	Feb-26	Feb-25
City		15		3	Newsbank sessions/views	176/3171	187/3055
Douglas County		27		41	NYT (16 libs) codes/sessions	284/2080	117/429
Omaha		15		10	Computer Use	139	101
Washington County		3		1	Study Room Use	21	31
Total Library Cards		60		55	Conference Room Use	19	22
					Library Visits-door count	3110	2437
Program Attendance	#	Attendance	#	Attendance	Volunteers/Hours	21/96	14/77
Presch STEAM	3	135	4	95	Copier/Printer 1/13-2/12	3533	3137
Storytime Koala-T	4	81	4	85			
Storytime-Thurs	4	239	4	165	Partnership Pass Uses	Feb-26	Feb-25
Storytime-Sat	2	77	2	50	Fontenelle Forest	5	1
Legacy-offsite	2	140	3	120	Kiewit Luminarium	16	n/a
Total Early Literacy	15	672	17	515	Lauritzen Gardens	10	3
Open Art Studio	4	91	4	76	Omaha Children's Museum	18	3
LEGO	4	119	4	52	Strategic Air Command	11	n/a
Read to a Dog	1	63	1	43	Durham Museum	12	3
Total Elementary	9	273	9	171	Total Bookings	72	10
Teen Time	1	3	4	8			
Teen BLAB	1	3		n/a	Online Engagement (views)	Feb-26	Jan-26
Crochet Corner	2	8	2	9	Facebook	58533	222794
Valenteens	1	5		n/a	Instagram	5181	4884
Book Club-offsite	3	18	3	34	TikTok	14145	18111
Total YA/Teen	8	37	9	51	Website	4235	4765
Book Club-1st Wed	1	14	1	9	Google	983	1210
Book Club-3rd Tues	1	9		n/a			
Book Club-RW	1	6	1	6			
Craft Circle	1	13	1	16			
Seed/Compost	2	35		n/a			
Total Adult	6	77	3	31			
Total Program Attendance	38	1059	38	768			

BENNINGTON DAZE

Friends of the Library Book Sale

Thursday, June 4 10:00 AM-7:00 PM
Friday, June 5 10:00 AM-7:00 PM
Saturday, June 6 8:00 AM-3:00 PM

Community Picnic

Friday, June 5 8:00 PM

Summer Reading Booth

Centennial Park
Saturday, June 6 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

Unearth a Story Float Bennington Daze Parade

Saturday, June 6 11:00 AM



SUMMER FINALE CELEBRATION

**Saturday, August 1
1:00 PM-2:30 PM
Centennial Park**

Waterslides, prizes, and fun!

THANK YOU TO OUR SUMMER READING SUPPORTERS

The Friends of the Bennington Library is a nonprofit that supports the Bennington Public Library by raising funds for enhanced services, programs, and special initiatives—including giving a free book to every child who completes the Summer Reading Challenge and a new book bag to each child who signs up for a library card.



Donations for the Summer Reading Program can be made to the Friends of the Bennington Library. Thank you for your support!

@benningtonlibraryfriends

Learn more about the Friends of the Bennington Library by visiting:
www.facebook.com/benningtonlibraryfriends

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday 10:00 AM-7:30 PM
Tuesday-Thursday 10:00 AM-6:00 PM
Friday CLOSED
Saturday 9:00 AM-12:00 PM
Sunday CLOSED

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

www.benningtonlibrary.org



UNEARTH A STORY™

**SUMMER READING
JUNE 1 - JULY 30, 2026**

KIDS — TEENS — ADULTS

Storytimes, Community Events,
Prizes, and More!



READING CHALLENGE

June 1 - July 30

Read this summer to earn rewards and tickets for the End-of-Summer Prize Drawing!

SIGN UP—ALL AGES WELCOME!

Register for the Summer Reading Challenge by scanning this QR code, visiting our website, or in person at the library.



TRACK THE DAYS YOU READ

Paper reading logs are available at the library, or you can print your own from our website.

READING REWARDS

Preschool-12th Graders

For every 10 days of reading logged, you earn a "Reading Reward" that can be picked up at the library anytime during open hours. After you read 50 days, pick up a certificate for a free book of your choice. Thank you to the Friends of the Bennington Library for sponsoring this tradition!

END-OF-SUMMER PRIZE DRAWING

All Ages (Preschool-Adult)

For every 10 days of reading logged, pick up a drawing prize ticket at the library. All readers are eligible to pick up 5 drawing tickets this year.

ADOPT-A-DINO ADVENTURE

Earn a Bonus Drawing Ticket by taking your Dino on an excursion through the City of Bennington!

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Preschool S.T.E.A.M.

Mondays 10:30 AM | Ages 2-5

Storytime

Thursdays 10:30 AM | Ages 0-5

Saturday Storytimes

June 20 10:00 AM | Ages 0-5

July 18 10:00 AM | Ages 0-5



DINO-MITE WEDNESDAYS

Wednesdays 10:30 AM | All Ages Welcome

June 3 | Stomp Chomp Roar 10:00 AM
June 10 | Bennington Community Theater
June 17 | Omaha Astronomical Society
June 24 | Made New Omaha Makerspace
July 1 | The Great Dinosaur Egg Hunt
July 8 | Bennington Fire Department
July 15 | Fontenelle Forest Raptor Ambassadors
July 22 | Papiis NRD - Animal Adaptations
July 29 | Wildlife Encounters

ELEMENTARY PROGRAMS

Elementary S.T.E.A.M.

Tuesdays 10:30 AM | Grades 1-5

Open Art Studio

Tuesdays 1:30 PM | All Ages Welcome

LEGO @ Your Library

Wednesdays 1:30 PM | All Ages Welcome

Read with a Dog

June 20 10:30 AM | All Ages Welcome

July 18 10:30 AM | All Ages Welcome

Summer Movies

Thursdays 1:30 PM | All Ages Welcome

TWEEN & TEEN PROGRAMS

Teen Retreat

Tuesdays 6:00 PM-7:00 PM | Grades 6-12

June 2 | Kick off Carnival
June 9 | Making Garden Stones
June 16 | College Cooking: Beyond Dino Nuggets
June 23 | Franken Toys
June 30 | Cookie Wars: Dino Edition
July 7 | Dinosaur Trinket Dish
July 14 | Minute to Win It
July 21 | Mini Zen Garden (with Dinosaurs)
July 28 | Blacklight Bash

Teen Crochet Corner

1st & 3rd Thursdays 4:30 PM | Grades 6-12

ADULT PROGRAMS

Second Saturday Craft Circle

June 13 & July 11 | 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Community Book Chat

(Bring-Your-Own-Book Book Club)
June 8 & July 13 | 6:00 PM

Bennington Beginnings:

Stories That Built Our Town

Pioneer diaries and early history that shaped Bennington with Gordon Mueller
June 11 | 6:00 PM

Every Family Has a Story

Inter-Generational Genealogy Workshop
June 22 | 5:00 PM-7:00 PM

STAR PARTY

Saturday, June 20 | 9:00 PM

**Flanagan Lake North Picnic Shelter
17399 Ida Street**

Join the Omaha Astronomical Society for a Star Party! All ages welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult.





BENNINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT

October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025

6,228

REGISTERED
BORROWERS

45,577

LIBRARY
VISITORS

122,204

PHYSICAL ITEM
CHECKOUTS

29,688

DIGITAL ITEM
CHECKOUTS

489

PROGRAMS
HELD

13,889

PROGRAM
ATTENDANCE

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



Partnerships with local organizations continue to grow the library's impact by bringing in new audiences and strengthening our programs. Working with **Third Space Omaha** helped expand our Second Saturday Craft Circle for adults. Collaborations with **Bennington Public Schools** and the **Bennington Woman's Club** increased participation in our Student Art Contest and connected us with more young artists. Our Cat Café event with **Felius** introduced new visitors while supporting local pet adoption. We also partnered with the **Nebraska Extension Office** to offer a Babysitting Clinic for local youth and a cooking class for adults.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Summer remains one of our busiest and most impactful seasons. In June and July 2025, nearly **14,000** people visited the library, **4,425** attended programs, and **966** registered for our Summer Reading Challenge, which encourages readers of all ages to build a daily reading habit throughout the summer while staying connected to the library.



PATRON EXPERIENCE



"I enjoy seeing how engaging your storytimes are and how much the kids enjoy it."

"This library is just THE BEST. you always have books in stock. We just love coming here."

"We've toured so many libraries before deciding which would be our home library. We decided on your library. We love it so much. Thank you for all of your help"

Bennington Public Library 2025 Nebraska Public Library Survey Fisca Year October 1, 2024—September 30, 2025 <i>The mission of the Bennington Public library is to inspire lifelong learning, advance knowledge, and strengthen community.</i>		
Operating Revenue by Funding Source	2024-25	<i>previous year</i>
Local Government-City	\$229,651	\$186,178
Local Government-Douglas County Library Levy	\$146,902	\$122,305
Library State Aid	\$2,532	\$2,177
Fees collected (replacement, copier, non DC resident)	\$2,194	\$2,532
Donations and Grants	\$11,558	\$4,668
Conference Room Rental Fees	\$5,100	\$3,713
Total Revenue and Expenditures	\$397,937	\$321,573
Library Collection		
Print Materials/Books, etc. (1,882 added, 738 withdrawn)	20,479	19,335
Audio books on CD/Playaways (1 added, 262 withdrawn)	264	525
Videos-DVD's, etc. (30 added, 4 withdrawn)	1,391	1,365
Other-Kits, Passes, Cake Pans, equipment, etc. (16 added)	117	101
Total Physical Units	22,251	21,326
E-books downloadable titles	41,334	39,835
E-Audio downloadable titles	28,202	26,293
E-Magazine downloadable units	6,170	5,477
Total Digital Units-Overdrive Libraries Consortium	75,706	71,605
Total Materials available for checkout	97,957	92,931
Circulation of Library Materials		
Adult physical item checkouts	19,558	18,337
Children physical item checkouts	101,966	101,867
Other physical materials-Cake Pans, Kits, eReaders, etc.	680	512
ILLs-Items borrowed from other libraries	242	155
Total physical item checkouts	122,204	120,716
Adult ebooks checkouts	7,290	6,795
Children eBooks checkouts	5,868	4,554
Adult eMagazines checkouts	1,460	1,041
Children eMagazines checkouts	72	17
Adult eAudiobooks	10,957	8,799
Children eAudiobooks	4,041	3,145
Total digital checkouts	29,688	24,351
Total Adult item checkouts-all formats	37,805	33,931
Total Children item checkouts-all formats	107,906	106,438
Total Circulation all formats all audiences	151,892	145,067
Library Programs and Attendance		
Children's Programs/Attendance	326/12311	354/11,469
Teen Programs/Attendance	112/796	103/799
Adult Programs/Attendance	47/447	37/290
Total Programs/Attendance	489/13,880	494/12,558
Registered borrowers (1,110 new cards, 1201 purged)	6,228	6,329
Library Visitors (door count)	45,577	42,729
Volunteers/Volunteer Hours	100/1807	67/1328
Uses of Public Internet Computers	2,232	1,641
Uses of Newsbank Database-Omaha World Herald	6,622	5,654