

**Bennington City Council Meeting
August 10, 2026
Library Report**

**Bennington Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting
July 28, 2026
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.

Monthly Library Statistical Report for June 2026-see attachment

Summer Reading is busier than we could have anticipated. More than 1,400 children, teens, and adults signed up for the Summer Reading Challenge, nearly a **50% increase** over last year. Our **Dinosaur Egg Hunt** was moved indoors due to inclement weather, but the change certainly didn't dampen community enthusiasm. We counted more than **200 visitors** in the library during the event. We are looking forward to our Summer Reading Finale event this Saturday, August 1 from 1:00 to 2:30 in Centennial Park. Thursday is the last day to turn in reading challenge drawing tickets. Drawing prizes will be awarded at the finale.

Adult programming also experienced tremendous participation throughout the month. Former Bennington Mayor Gordon Mueller presented a well-attended program on the beginnings of Bennington, offering attendees a fascinating look at the community's history. We also welcomed a professional genealogist who introduced participants to the fundamentals of family history research and provided practical tools for getting started. Our **Community Book Chat** continues to grow in popularity. Rather than following a traditional book club format with assigned reading, participants gather to share their recent reading favorites, disappointments, and recommendations, creating engaging conversations and helping readers discover new titles.

Our updated **public computer policy**, which includes reduced time limits during the busy summer months, has been successful in managing increased demand while helping maintain a quieter library environment. The new policy has allowed more patrons access to public computers during peak hours. Demand for our **study rooms** has also been exceptionally high this summer, with waitlists occasionally necessary to accommodate all requests.

Natalie and Lisa continue working with JM Online on the development of the library's **new website**. The redesigned site will feature updated information, improved navigation, and a more user-friendly experience for the community. We anticipate launching the new website sometime this fall.

The library continues to invest in **professional development** opportunities for staff. Johnna will attend the **Association for Library Service to Children's national conference** in New York this October and has applied for a TRLS CE scholarship grant. Additionally, Johnna, Taryn, Nora, and Lydia will attend the Nebraska **Youth Services Retreat** in Ashland this September. We are optimistic these learning opportunities will provide new ideas and best practices that will strengthen our youth programming and support thoughtful collection development.

With the additional funds in our continuing education budget our library team is looking forward to a half day **customized professional development session on August 14 with Jamie Hansen** of Alloy Solutions in Valley Nebraska. The training will feature the Working Genius and DISC assessments for our entire staff. As you may remember, this additional funding is a result of the TRLS scholarship applications which Natalie and Heather completed last fall.

The **Nebraska Library Association and MPLA joint conference** will be held in LaVista this October 14 – 16. Because of the proximity it would be a great opportunity for the entire staff to attend which would necessitate **closing the library on one day—Thursday, October 15.**

Over the weekend we had **flooding in the men's bathroom** that spilled over into the hallway and the front part of the library. There is an issue with the urinal that caused it to overflow. By the time we got the water to the urinal turned off, it was a mess. Layne from public works brought shop vacs and squeegees and fans were put in place to help the carpet dry. A quote from John Henry Plumbing to install a single hard flush kit is \$977.54. The service call invoice is \$89.00.

Staff scheduling for the fall will begin mid-August. Heather is out this week and a few days during the last week of August. Natalie will resume her 20-hour week schedule that last week in August when Heather is out.

The next step in the **2026-27 budget process** is a meeting with the city's accountant on Monday August 31 when projected revenues will be known. Future funding for the library expansion renovation was discussed at the budget meeting on Monday evening. The City's general operation budget has funded recent (PWD) and possibly future (Police) City building construction or renovations projects. Therefore, we will remain hopeful City leaders will consider the library's current expansion project in future operation budgets or establish a library sinking fund per **Nebraska Statute 51-209 Public library; funds; disbursements; sinking fund; bonds.** "...The city, village, county, or township may establish a public library sinking fund for major capital expenditures."



BENNINGTON Public Library **AUGUST 2026** **BACK SCHOOL**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
★ PRESCHOOL ★ ADULTS ★ ELEMENTARY ★ ALL AGES ★ TWEEN & TEEN	August Out & About Storytimes Wednesday, August 19th 10:00 AM @ Cup & Cone Tuesday, August 25th 10:00 AM @ Nelson Produce Farm	1 10:30 AM: Read with a Dog 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM: Summer Finale in the Park!	2	3 10:30 AM: Preschool STEAM	4 3:30 PM: Open Art Studio	5 10:00 AM: Book Club for Adults @ BPL 3:30 PM: LEGO @ Your Library
9 10:30 AM: Preschool STEAM 6:00 PM: Book Chat for Adults @ BPL	10 10:30 AM: Preschool STEAM	11 3:30 PM: Open Art Studio	12 10:30 AM: Storytime 3:30 PM: LEGO @ Your Library	13 10:30 AM: Storytime	14	15 10:00 AM: Storytime
16 10:30 AM: Preschool STEAM	17 10:30 AM: Preschool STEAM	18 3:30 PM: Open Art Studio 6:30 PM: Book Club for Adults @ Runza	19 10:00 AM: Out and About Storytime @ Cup and Cone 3:30 PM: LEGO @ Your Library	20 10:30 AM: Storytime	21 3:00 PM: Book Club for Adults @ Ridgewood Senior Living	22
23 10:30 AM: Preschool STEAM 6:00 PM: Sleepless in Nebraska: Sleep Class Ages 14+ Registration Required	24 10:30 AM: Preschool STEAM	25 10:00 AM: Out and About Storytime @ Nelson Produce Farm 3:30 PM: Open Art Studio	26 3:30 PM: LEGO @ Your Library	27 10:30 AM: Storytime	28	29
30	31 10:30 AM: Preschool STEAM	Sleepless in Nebraska Monday, August 24th 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM		VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION: WWW.BENNINGTONLIBRARY.ORG		

Bennington Public Library									
June 2026 Statistics									
Circulation		Jun-26		Jun-25		Item Type Description		checkouts	
Circulation-physical items*		17523		14979		Conference Room Keys		5	
OVERDRIVE		2831		2247		Adult Books		2152	
*OD Audio		*1505		*1112		Audio Books		547	
*OD eBook		*921		*938		Cake Pans		4	
*OD Magazine		*350		*171		Circulating Equipment		1	
*OD BPS		*55		*26		DVDs		546	
Book Club Kits		30		35		Interlibrary Loan		21	
Total Circulation		20384		17261		Childrens Books		13556	
						Kits		45	
New Library Cards		Jun-26		Jun-25		Magazines		86	
City		21		17		Young Adult Books		560	
Douglas County		126		166		Total Physical Item Circulation		17523	
Omaha		43		36					
Washington County/Other		2		4		Other Resource Data		Jun-26	
Total Library Cards		192		223		New tems processed/cataloged		159	
						Newsbank sessions/views		179/3749	
Program Attendance		# Attendance		# Attendance		NYT (16 libs) codes/sessions		2414/8770	
						Computer Use		370	
Presch STEAM		5 243		5 273		Study Room Use		31	
Storytime Koala-T		4 77		3 60		Conference Room Bookings		11	
Storytime-Thurs		4 289		3 189		Library Visits-door count		6848	
Storytime-Sat		1 24		1 23		Volunteers/Hours		51/404	
Total Early Literacy Programs		14 633		12 545		Copier-Printer 5/13-6/12		5789	
								5876	
Open Art Studio		5 240		4 202		Partnership Passes			
LEGO		4 153		4 164		Fontenelle Forest		24	
Read to a Dog		1 56		1 22		Kiewit Luminarium		24	
Elem STEAM		5 265		4 190		Lauritzen Gardens		25	
SRP Movie		4 122		5 162		Children's Museum		22	
Community Partners		4 401		5 586		Strategic Air Command		16	
Total Elementary Programs		23 1237		23 1326		The Durham Museum		23	
						Total Bookings		134	
Teen Time/BLAB		0 na		5 49		Online Engagement (views)		Jun-26	
Teen Retreat		5 98		4 86		Facebook		16934	
Babysitting Clinic		1 15		1 15		Instagram		12054	
Teen Crochet Corner		2 4		2 9		TikTok (video views)		10686	
Total YA/Teen Programs		8 117		12 159		Website		7061	
						Google Business Profile		1466	
Book Clubs /Book Chat		4 31		3 23		Self-directed/Outreach		Jun-26	
Second Saturday Craft Circle		1 6		1 11		Scavenger Hunt-children		1050	
Benn History w/G. Mueller		1 34		0 na		Bennington Daze Activities		471	
Geneology		1 12		0 na		Reading Challenge Sign-ups		1332	
Total Adult Programs		7 83		4 34				914	