

Director's Report for September 09.24.2026

- September means we have started our regular programming for the fall and winter months. Sara and Caitlyn have added some new and interesting programs such as a teen writing workshop and more craft opportunities for teens and adults.
- The new patron computers have arrived. We are working on getting ready to have them installed and set up with the new software system.
- We have two events coming up on Thursday, October 1st, that we have scheduled in a way to celebrate our library's 123rd anniversary on October 5th. First, at 5 pm in the multipurpose room we will have comedian Bill Douglas perform his comedy act. Bill is a retired middle school science teacher who creates much of his material from his experiences as a teacher and father. His program is family friendly yet many of his jokes are geared toward older teens and adults. At 6:30 pm, Dr. Ashley Baggett from NDSU will present a program about public libraries in North Dakota and the role that North Dakotans played in coming together to fundraise and solicit funds from people such as Andrew Carnegie. Since our library is a Carnegie library, I believe this will be a very interesting program.
- Electrowatchman finalized the install of the new fire alarm system on August 25th. We were given a brief training session for it and were assured that we can call if we have questions any time.
- Caitlyn and Sara are currently attending the ARSL conference in Montgomery, Alabama. They were both super excited and we are patiently waiting to hear about all that they learned and experienced!
- I visited with a team from BEK Communications about security cameras and they gave us two options as proposals for a new camera security system. I am including both proposals from them and the one from Electrowatchman for your review.
- The down spout that was disconnected was fixed by a crew from All-Star and is now functioning properly.
- I received notice from Americorps that we were not selected for a slot in their program for the 2026-2027 grant year. We have been put on a waiting list and we are number 20 on that list. I have included the e-mail from Beth Odahlen explaining their decision.
- The tickets for the Foundation's quilt raffle are available if anyone would like to sell some or purchase some. The drawing for the eight quilts that were donated for prizes will take place on December 5th which is the date for our *Libraries are Sweet and Books are My Jam* Fundraising event. The first name drawn will have first choice of quilts and so on.
- We have a new staff member. Mary Catherine Fewell joined our team and began training on Wednesday, September 16th. She is a home-schooled high school senior and is excited to work at the library part-time.
- As of August 31st, the library saved our community \$362,787 for physical checkouts. As of that same date, a total of 18,762 physical and 14,891 digital checkouts took place. Approximate savings to our patrons for both physical and digital media for the year 2026 equals \$650,724. We have gained 197 new patrons for a total of 3,109 active accounts so far this year!