

Director's Report for April 18, 2024

- Hilde and I spoke to the Kiwanis Club on Wednesday, March 13. We were well received, and we had many great comments about the library as well as questions. They gave us a \$200 donation to the fundraiser as a thank you for coming to speak about the library and the projects.
- The *Light Up the Library Fundraising Event* on March 16th came together well and was a fun event for all that attended. We had around 60 attendees and all enjoyed reading and listening to the history of the library, visiting about the project, partaking in the scavenger hunt, and eating cookies inspired from the original 1900 version of the Tuesday Club's *Good Things to Eat* recipe book that they created for fundraising to build a library in Valley City. Many thanks to Hilde, Annie and family, Kelsey, and Deedra for helping that day. Lornetta from the VCBC Library Foundation was a great help too! My sister even came to help! Many pledges and donations were made that day and donations continue to arrive nearly every day since. The creation of a QR Code that people can scan has been bringing in donations as well. The QR Code takes people right to our website donation page where they can choose to donate to the Light Up the Library Fundraiser. As of March 31, (Just two weeks since the kickoff) there was a total of \$960 made through our website.
- The roofing and restoration project along with the Light Up the Library Fundraiser has created a lot of interest in our area and beyond. Hilde and I were interviewed and became part of news stories for both WDAY and Valley News Live! The coverage has inspired people from even quite a distance away to come and see our historic library! I have heard many comments of "We saw you in the news! You did a great job!" Many people comment on the library as well and are excited that we plan to take care of it for the future.
- Kerry requested that the bids be opened at a later date because he was scheduled for jury duty at the original time scheduled and another contractor called and wanted to put a bid in but couldn't get it in by that date. Bids were opened on Monday, April 1st. We received two bids for the roof and only one bid for the restoration of the dome. Details are in your board packet.
- Melissa and I visited the Dutton building and assessed our needs for storage of our nonfiction collection and other items we need to store during the construction. Our biggest concerns are lighting and security. I visited with Moe the next morning and she will have her husband check on the lighting and electrical if we want to add lighting. She will also investigate making sure the one door shuts properly and can be locked. We may have to purchase a lock for that door and a couple of temporary locks for two other doors. She will look for the key to the street entry door.
- I asked our insurance agent about the need for insurance for our portion of the collection that will be stored offsite. She thinks we will need to add insurance for that space but will check that out and get back to me.
- We are already in packing mode and have shifted some of our collection to other places, moved the Summer Learning store to the Makerspace Room, and packed up much of the special collection. The boxes from the care center are working out well!
- I attended a city meeting with KLJ about the project they are doing this summer. They will be tearing up the street on the south side of the library at the same time as our project will be taking place. They actually plan to start in April so the street will be blocked off around the 15th of April. I expressed our need for access to our handicap entrance again as the letter I received stated they did not plan to provide pedestrian access along our portion of the street. Chad from KLJ said it is in the contract that the contractor cannot shut off access to businesses and has to provide that access in some way. So, they will leave the sidewalk open until the street is paved and then will tear out the sidewalk and replace it. I was told this shouldn't take more than a week or two. They will still have to provide access to our handicap entrance somehow so I will hopefully learn what their plan is soon.

- We hired a new library assistant to fill Corinne's position. Her name is Caitlyn Berry. She is excited about working in the library yet is very quiet, so we are encouraging her to be more confident and talkative to patrons.
- Melissa and I interviewed a person interested in working for us through the NICOA program and she will begin working here on Monday, April 15th. This will be a library assistant position yet there will be no cost to us beyond our time to train and supervise her. NICOA will pay her wages and cover her under Workforce Safety. We are excited to welcome Karen Winkler to our team for the time she is in the program.
- The Summer Reading Program details are coming together. Sara and crew have been working on putting the store together in the Makerspace Room, the meal is planned for Summer Learning Kickoff on Tuesday, May 28th from 4-6 pm and summer programming activities are scheduled. If anyone is interested in volunteering for the Kickoff, Sara would be more than happy to visit with you about it. Please call her here at the library if you are interested.
- The Public Library Survey was completed and sent into the State Library on time! I will be working on filling out the State Aid request this month.
- April 7-13 was National Library Week. We scheduled an event called "Meet Me Between the Lions" as a read-in event. It was held on April 11, from 5-6 pm and hosted by me. It was open to all ages and promoted through the Times-Record and Facebook as an event to encourage people to take time to celebrate our library by joining together for a time of reading.
- The Field to Fork Webinar Watch Parties have been going well and will continue through May 1. They have some great topics which provide a wealth of information from experts around North Dakota.
- Hilde and I are scheduled to speak at a Lions Club meeting on May 13. We will be talking about the history of our library and the projects planned to ensure it continues to be here for another 120 years.
- Sara has been reaching out to the elementary schools drumming up excitement about Summer Learning and we have had several classes visit. On Wednesday, April 10th, we had 74 kids tour the library and we have several more tours scheduled. On Friday, April 12th she had over 100 kids tour the library.
- Through March 31, our library has saved our patrons \$138,110 and there have been 6220 physical checkouts so far this year. Digital checkouts through March totaled 4746 which brings our total checkouts for the year to 10,966. Approximate savings for both physical and digital media checkouts equal \$243,471 through March 31.
- We had three requests for mobile/wireless printing during the month of March.