

Director's Report for August 08.20.2026

- The summer learning program ended on July 31st with a total of 282 participants! All those who participated have until September 1st to turn in their reading calendars to earn library dollars and spend them in the Summer Learning Store. The store was getting pretty bare, so we ordered a few more things to restock it. The museum also donated some cool dinosaurs for us to put in there as well. We are happy with the participation this year for reading and programs. Even the adult programs were well attended!
- We had a total of 36 people attend the anniversary event for the Voting Rights Act that we hosted with the League of Women Voters. Professor Alex Jorgenson from VCSU gave the presentation and answered questions from the audience. He explained the history of the Voting Rights Act and how it has changed and been challenged over the years.
- We held the Carnegie Carnival on Thursday, August 13th. We are thankful for the volunteers that helped make the evening a success. Our goal was to give away 250 books, but we still have books left. We will utilize them in other ways. We estimate that around 150 people attended the event. Everyone enjoyed the root beer floats and popcorn, and the children were excited to pick out books they wanted to read. All of the games went well, and Tom Gibson did a nice job presenting his Sam Ting program about immigration and conservation.
- Hi-Line Electric began the install for the electrical part of the new fire alarm system. Electrowatchman will be here on August 17th to begin installing the system.
- I am happy to announce we have received two more grants! Melissa applied for a Vision Grant from the State Library for the purpose of replacing our patron computers with new computers and software and was awarded the grant. Sara applied to NDLA (North Dakota Library Association) for a grant to help pay expenses in attending the ARSL conference along with Caitlyn in Montgomery, Alabama. She was notified this week that she was awarded the grant. Both award letters are included in your packet.
- I will be visiting with BEK Communications next week to go over what we require for a security system for the library. I hope to have some answers on cost and such soon after that.
- During the recent rainstorm, we found water in the Harry Potter Reading Room located in the Children's Library. I looked outside and discovered that the down spout that came off in last year's storm was still not fixed and that the water came from that. I know that we reported it last year, but it didn't get fixed. I contacted All-Star Construction who did the roofing project along with the gutters and downspouts and they will be out next week to fix it. The shop vac we have was not doing a good job of sucking up all the water so I went home and brought my carpet cleaning machine and sucked up all the water and then shampooed that area to make sure it was clean and wouldn't develop a smell. It dried pretty fast with the fan blowing on it. I am hoping we don't get another hard rain like that to cause it to happen again before it is fixed.
- I sent in the application for the Americorps program in hopes of getting support to hire an outreach librarian. I have not heard back yet but hope to hear something soon.

- 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.
- Carter Hass' last day of work was August 13th! He had a lot of fun dressing up as Uncle Sam for the Carnegie Carnival and did a great job of passing out freebies to people attending the event. He will be attending Concordia. We will miss his fun personality and his dedication to serving the library and patrons.
- As of June 30th, the library saved our community \$322,090 for physical checkouts. As of that same date, a total of 17,246 physical and 13,019 digital checkouts took place. Approximate savings to our patrons for both physical and digital media for the year 2026 equals \$565,285. We have gained 163 new patrons so far this year!