

Director's Report for October 10.22.2026

- We started October with two events to celebrate our 123rd anniversary. First, comedian Bill Douglas gave us an entertaining look at his life as a teacher, husband, and father. I enjoyed his comedy act, and I know that others did as well. He said we are the 46th state that he has performed in and that Valley City was the first of several on his schedule in North Dakota. Next, NDSU professor Dr. Ashley Baggett gave a very interesting and informational talk about Carnegie libraries and how North Dakotans fought to bring public libraries into our communities. It was interesting how women's groups became a powerful drive to bring change and the educational opportunities that libraries can provide into fruition. She was excited to see our Carnegie library and gave us many complements on how well we cared for this historic part of Valley City and our wider community.
- Melissa has set up two new patron computers and is in contact with Cybrarian to configure the patron management system and begin our 30-day trial. We are hoping we can get everything working as it should before adding the rest of the new patron computers.
- I visited with Aubrey from BEK Communications about the timeline and installation of the new security cameras and she assured me that we would be good to go on to the timeline the board discussed and approved. They will be installed in December, and the billing will come in January.
- The VCBC Library Foundation met on Monday, October 5th. Plans were made concerning the details needed for the *Libraries are Sweet and Books are My Jam* Market Day Event. The tickets have been selling yet we still have more to sell. The Foundation agreed to cover the cost of the configuration of the elevator for the fire alarm system, which was a cost that we didn't anticipate for the installation of the new system. Technicians from Otis had to coordinate with Electrowatchman to program the elevator for a potential fire alarm.
- I attended the NDLA Conference in Minot on October 7-9th. There was a lot of great information about new things that are coming. Our Interlibrary Loan system will be changing next summer. They have partnered with South Dakota libraries to create the newly named Dakota Bridge system for Interlibrary Loans. This will give us a broader area which will improve our ability to borrow books that we do not physically have here. South Dakota is sharing the cost of this new system which helps us as well. The software we will use to request items for patrons will have a different look and process which should make borrowing an item easier and faster. There is also hope that there will be funds available for grants to help cover the cost of postage that we incur as a library. There was also a discussion about a new bill being proposed that will require vendors of digital and audio media to sell these items to libraries at a fair price. Currently, if a library purchases digital or audio books from a vendor, they may pay up to three or more times what the regular consumer pays. If this passes, we could see a reduction in our cost to be a part of the consortium.
- As of September 30th, the library saved our community \$405,284 for physical checkouts. As of that same date, a total of 21,688 physical and 16,724 digital checkouts took place. Approximate savings to our patrons for both physical and digital media for the year 2026 equals \$717,856. We have gained 219 new patrons for a total of 3,064 active accounts so far this year!