

Director's Report for April 04.16.2026

- Scheduling and planning for this year's summer learning program is nearly complete. Our theme for this summer's program features dinosaurs and is titled "Unearth a Story." The dinosaur theme is very popular, and we have a lot of great programs and events planned for the summer. Supplies are being ordered and promotional materials have been created and will be distributed during our kickoff event. The kickoff event is scheduled for Tuesday, May 26th from 4 to 6 pm. Volunteers are vital to making this event a success so if you are interested in volunteering, please let us know.
- Melissa and I met with Beth Odahlen from StrengthenND about the Americorps program. We would need to provide a job description for the hourly amount of time we are applying for. The most we can apply for is a halftime or 900 hour position. There is some cost to us as the host site and for a 900 hr. position, the cost would be \$1000. There is also training involved and the supervisor for the parttime person would need to do some training. Hours are usually flexible depending on the host site needs. The participants in this program are actually StrengthenND employees so they would be paid by them and all Worker's Safety Insurance is paid by them as well. There are no slots open at the moment so we are unlikely to get someone this year. Their grant period opens in July and goes through November 1. We can apply and perhaps get into the next round of opportunities. In the meantime, we would need to recruit people to apply for the program.
- The carpets are being cleaned on Sunday, April 12th. I will open the library for them and the carpets should have plenty of time to dry before we open on Monday morning.
- The Carnegie Committee will meet again on Tuesday, April 14th at 5:30 pm. A report will be given to the board at our upcoming April meeting.
- We are still in conversation with Ryan from the State Library about our patron computers. Ryan visited with the people from Cybrarian that Melissa has also spoken to too. Ryan thinks they would fit our needs well. We will continue to work on this so we know exactly what we need to have a system that works for us and will serve our needs well into the future.
- Melissa and I also visited with Justin from our website provider Streamline about updating our documents to meet accessibility requirements. We can pay for this service, but it is quite expensive or we can do it ourselves. We do have a deadline coming up in 2027 in which we are supposed to be compliant with the requirements. We are looking at our options and hope to have a plan soon. Right now, our website says we have 467 documents which add up to thousands of pages that are in question for accessibility.
- Melissa and I took part in a webinar about creating short form videos for promotional purposes. We both thought it had some great points and a few ideas that seemed easy to implement. I have been experimenting with some of the apps that were suggested in creating short videos. Please be on the watch for them so you can let us know what you think.
- I completed the Public Library Survey and submitted it to the state. We have already received our "By the Numbers" stats sheet for our library. I am happy to report that we

continue to grow in many areas. It is interesting to see how usage trends are changing and the significant growth in digital resources and usage.

- Now that the Public Library Survey has closed, the portal for State Aid applications has opened. There were no changes in the application process, so I was able to fill in the applications for both the city and county in short order and have already submitted them. We should hear about any funds awarded to the library next month.
- National Library Week takes place from Sunday, April 19th to Saturday, April 25th. This is a great week to celebrate librarians and libraries! We have a few things planned to promote this year's theme of "Find Your Joy." We have joy stickers for giveaway and will have a drawing for joy related books. We also have a "guess who this is" event planned in which patrons can try to identify librarians from clues and their baby picture. There are also specific topics to celebrate during this week including:
 - Monday, April 20th is Right to Read Day, a day for readers, advocates, and library lovers to take action to protect, defend and celebrate the right to read.
 - Tuesday, April 21st is National Library Workers Day, a day for library staff, users, administrators, and Friends groups to recognize the valuable contributions made by all library workers.
 - Wednesday, April 22nd is National Library Outreach Day, a day to celebrate library outreach and the dedicated library professionals who are meeting their patrons where they are.
 - Thursday, April 23rd is Take Action for Libraries Day, a day to rally advocates to support libraries.
- As of March 31st, the library saved our community \$128,743 for physical checkouts. As of that same date, a total of 7137 physical and 5,394 digital checkouts took place. Approximate savings to our patrons for both physical and digital media for the year 2026 equals \$225,835. We have gained 52 new patrons so far this year!