



The Limited Edition

BISMARCK LIBRARY
FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Summer Fun and Learning at the Library

FOUNDATION SUPPORTS YOUTH SUMMER PROGRAMMING

This summer at Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library was one “for the books” thanks to Bismarck Library Foundation program support.

Summer Reading Challenge

Over 350 youth participated in the library’s summer reading challenge, logging over 9,000 summer reading hours!

“IT’S EXCITING TO SEE OUR SUMMER READING PARTICIPATION CONTINUE TO GROW,” SAYS TRACI JUHALA, HEAD OF YOUTH SERVICES.

Summer reading programs help bridge the educational gap over the school break. Children and teens logged reading hours and earned rewards such as an ice cream coupon for 1000 minutes and an “adopt-an-animal” at Dakota Zoo for 3000 minutes. This program was made possible by funding from the Tom and Frances Leach Foundation, with additional funding from Bravera Bank and Bismarck Library Foundation donors.

Great Libraries Build Great Communities

The Bismarck Library Foundation is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to enrich and enhance Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library collections, resources, and facilities through the generous support of our partners and donors.

What’s New

- SERVING UP COFFEE AND KINDNESS
- COMPUTER LAB UPGRADE
- LEAVING A LEGACY



LEGO programs are amongst the most popular STEM programs at the library.



Familiar children's literature characters greet pedestrians on the library's 6th Street sidewalk.

Summer Fun and Learning at the Library CONTINUED...

LEGO Take-and-Make Program

The popular LEGO Take-and-Make program continued in 2022 thanks to financial support from MDU Resources Foundation. This summer over 800 LEGO kits were distributed with sea-themed builds that tied into the library's "Sea of Possibilities" summer reading program theme.

"WE WANT TO ENSURE ALL KIDS GET A CHANCE TO CREATE AND EXPLORE STORYTELLING THROUGH LEGO," SAYS LAURA RYSAVY, TEEN PROGRAMMING COORDINATOR.

"Kids are excited to pick out a kit to take home," says Rysavy. "We also distribute kits for those who can't be at the library in-person via Little Free Libraries, Little Free Pantries, and at Bookmobile stops."

Active Sidewalks

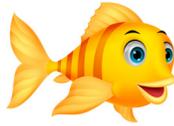
Take a walk around the library and you'll find some familiar faces greeting you on the 6th Street sidewalk! In a unique collaboration, children's book themed art was added to the library sidewalk by local artist Crystal Tretbar, encouraging healthy lifestyles. The project was supported by Blue Zones grant funding from Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health.

"The arts have a strong history of accomplishing the very things public health is currently challenged to do: support wellbeing, create social connection, and transform systems and cultures," says Katie Johnke, nutrition services coordinator at Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health. "When we can combine public health and art, we are helping create a healthier, livable community."



Just Keep Swimming!

FOUNDATION FUNDS NEW FISH FRIENDS



Now introducing: Ruby the flame hawkfish and Professor Gills the Picasso triggerfish! Thanks to funding from the Bismarck Library Foundation, the library was able to purchase two additional fish for the children's library saltwater fish aquarium.

To help name them, library staff asked young patrons to submit their favorite fish names. From Peppa and Asteroid Blast to Trousers and Torch, the library received quite the creative list of name suggestions. The foundation board then voted to select the final names. A special thanks to Rosie and McKenzie for submitting their name suggestions!



Library Director Christine Kujawa and Library Foundation Board Member Mike LaLonde recognize McKenzie and Rosie for submitting the winning fish names.

Leaving a Legacy

SCHOOLTEACHER BEQUEATHS FUNDS TO LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Vivian Kuipers had a big heart for libraries. A local schoolteacher for nearly 40 years, she was a Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library patron and a North Dakota State Library volunteer, reading newspaper articles for the blind.

Vivian passed away in December 2021 after a long, full life, and we are so grateful she ensured her legacy would carry on, bequeathing \$84,000 to Bismarck Library Foundation. This incredibly generous contribution will generate financial support for the library for many years to come.



Vivian Kuipers (1923-2021)

IN 2022, THANKS TO LIBRARY FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS LIKE YOU:

1,500

LEGO KITS GIVEN TO AREA YOUTH



9

NEW LAPTOPS PURCHASED FOR COMPUTER CLASSES



6,500

ADDITIONAL DIGITAL CHECKOUTS VIA HOOPLA MADE POSSIBLE



Gifted Bean barista Hannah greets morning customers.

Serving Up Coffee & Kindness

THE GIFTED BEAN COFFEE HOUSE CELEBRATES EIGHT YEARS

Hard to believe it's already been eight years since The Gifted Bean Coffee House started calling the library home! Tucked inside Bismarck Veterans Memorial Library's main level, co-owners Matt and Sandy McMerty and Gifted Bean staff serve coffee and tea drinks, lunch, and other treats with an extra splash of community care.

“THE GIFTED BEAN COFFEE HOUSE IS SUCH A SPECIAL PART OF OUR LIBRARY,” SAYS LIBRARY DIRECTOR CHRISTINE KUJAWA. “HAVING A COFFEE SHOP HERE ADDS TO THE FEELING OF THE LIBRARY AS A COMFORTABLE, INVITING SPACE.”

The Bismarck Library Foundation played a key role in raising private funds to build the library coffee shop space in 2007-2008. During its early years the coffee shop space changed hands a couple times until the McMertys took over in 2014. The opening of The Gifted Bean turned a dream into reality, creating a successful working environment for their son Cristian, who has Down syndrome, and for other individuals with unique abilities and talents.

“There are many people with disabilities in our community who want to be employed, but even with vocational support services available, opportunities are limited,” says Sandy McMerty. “We opened The Gifted Bean in part to show what inclusion really looks like, not just for persons with disabilities but for everyone.”

Most days the coffee house bustles with parents and children stopping in after story time with the library's Miss Sparkles, staff from nearby hospitals ordering lunch to go, and regulars making it their daily caffeine stop. But it hasn't always been like that. The pandemic closures of 2020 were difficult for many small businesses, and The Gifted Bean was no exception. “We weren't sure we'd make it through that,” says Sandy. Since then, business has slowly picked back up.

“Our customer base is a unique blend,” says Sandy. “Maybe half our customers are library patrons, but many come just to see us, drawing a new crowd to the library as well. It's a win-win.”



As both an employee and frequent customer, Luke is a familiar friendly face at The Gifted Bean.



The Gifted Bean menu wall includes many McMerty family photos.

The best way to support the Gifted Bean? Visit the Gifted Bean. In addition to their standard menu, they offer catering with 48-hour advance notice. As a token of appreciation, Bismarck Library Foundation donor club members receive a free drink at The Gifted Bean for their contribution of \$100 or more annually.

“We get lots of inquiries on job openings from people who know and understand our mission, seeking employment, but we don’t have any job openings right now,” says Sandy. “Our ability to hire is based on customer traffic. We’d love to see our growth continue so we can bring in more coffee-slinging rockstars in 2023.”



Everything is better with sprinkles!

	Monday - Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	9:00 am - 6:00 pm	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	10:00 am - 3:00 pm	Closed

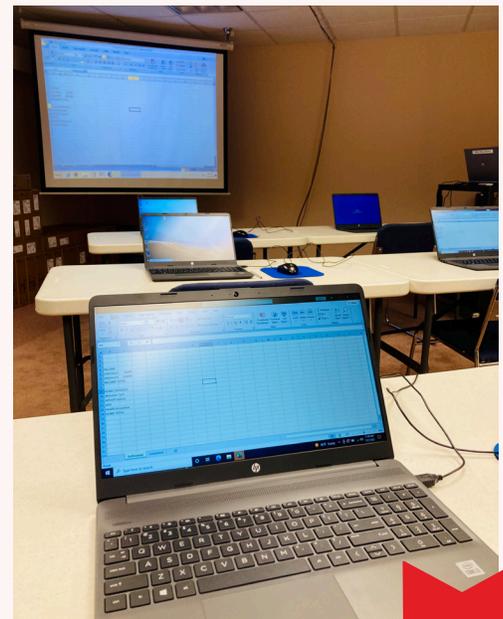
Computer Lab Upgrade

FOUNDATION SUPPORTS NEW TECHNOLOGY PURCHASE

With financial support from Bismarck Library Foundation, the library recently upgraded its computer lab equipment with nine new HP laptops, Office 2021 software for each, and a cart for easy equipment transport to different areas within the library.

“THIS TECHNOLOGY UPGRADE ALLOWS STAFF AND PATRONS EASIER, FASTER, AND MORE EFFECTIVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION,” SAYS MACALLISTAR KEMMER, ADULT SERVICES ASSOCIATE.

The new laptops have already been put to work in the library’s beginning computer and basic genealogy research classes, which are free and open to the public. “With the most up-to-date technology, we can teach patrons about software they can use at home or work to be successful in their everyday lives,” says Troy Hamre, Adult Services Librarian. For information on upcoming classes, visit bismarcklibrary.org.



New laptops set up in computer lab for a recent Introduction to Microsoft Excel class.

The Bismarck Library Foundation, Inc. Donors

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE GIFTS FROM THE FOLLOWING SUPPORTERS (MAY 16-OCTOBER 15, 2022).

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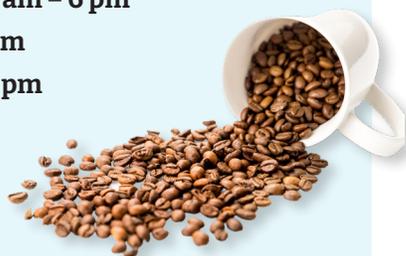
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'Tis the season for warm drinks!

The Gifted Bean Coffee House
Located inside Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library
Mon-Thurs 9 am – 6 pm
Fri 9 am – 4 pm
Sat 10 am – 3 pm



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