



# The Limited Edition

BISMARCK LIBRARY  
FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

## Merry & Bright - All Year Round!

### FOUNDATION SUPPORTS NEW ART INSTALLATION

Next time you stop at the library, don't miss the new sculpture on the south side of the building, funded by Bismarck Library Foundation. This colorful art piece aligns with the library brand and adds a welcoming and positive ambiance. Library Public Information Specialist Kevin Tengesdal created the design, with construction and installation by Mann Signs Inc. staff, pictured above with Library Director Christine Kujawa.

**"I WAS THRILLED TO DESIGN A SCULPTURE INCORPORATING OUR LIBRARY'S LOGO," SAID LIBRARY PUBLIC INFORMATION SPECIALIST KEVIN TENGESDAL. "THE DESIGN FEATURES BOOKS SOARING THROUGH THE AIR TO FORM OUR LOGO'S STAR. IT WAS EXHILARATING TO SEE THE DESIGN TRANSFORMED INTO A 3D WORK OF ART."**

Mann Signs owner and president Scott Bina shared that they were happy to be involved in such a unique project. Library staff are appreciative of the Bismarck Library Foundation for funding the construction and installation of this beautiful sculpture, which is available for everyone passing by to enjoy.

## 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

- PARTNERING MAKES IT POSSIBLE
- LIGHT UP THE NIGHT
- HAPPY 3RD BIRTHDAY BOOKMOBILE!

# Partnering Makes It Possible

## LOCAL BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS GENEROUSLY FUND LIBRARY PROGRAMS

In addition to the ongoing support of our individual donors, many businesses and non-profit organizations in our community have been strong Bismarck Library Foundation partners, funding library programs to keep access to personal enrichment opportunities free and accessible to all in our community. We're so grateful for their support!

### MDU Resources Foundation

LEGO programming is among the library's most popular programs for youth. In addition to regular LEGO build challenges, MDU Resources Foundation has generously funded LEGO Take-and-Make events, allowing the library to purchase bulk LEGOs and assemble kits for youth to take home and build, then take apart and use creatively for other builds. Families of all backgrounds and income levels appreciate this fun, engaging, no-screen activity. This year over 1,100 kits will be distributed to area youth thanks to MDU Resources Foundation support.

### Fredrikson & Byron

It takes many hands to make the Bismarck Library Foundation's annual Art of Books event happen – and some funding support certainly helps, too. The law firm Fredrikson & Byron has been an ongoing partner helping cover the expenses of this “friendraising” event, including support of the Pearce Award for Library Service, named after the Pearce family, who gave substantial support to the library for decades, including forming the Foundation in 1976. Bill Pearce was an attorney with the Fredrikson & Byron law firm. The firm also generously provides unrestricted funds to help the Foundation continue its mission to enhance library programs, resources, and facilities.

### Tom and Frances Leach Foundation

Youth reading programs are the keystone of the library's summer programming, helping curb the “summer slide” in literacy skills by encouraging reading with goals and prizes all along the way. The Tom and Frances Leach Foundation has been a generous ongoing partner with Bismarck Library Foundation to make these possible. Thanks to this support, the library has been able to grow the program with more creative community-connected prizes such as sponsoring an animal at Dakota Zoo and pay-it-forward opportunities for participants to select a non-profit to benefit as part of their reading goals. This summer, over 200 youth participated in the library's summer reading programs.



*Families flocked to the library for this year's summer reading kickoff.*



*LEGO programming encourages imaginative play and engineering skills.*



## Pickleball For All

### PICKLEBALL EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE FOR CHECKOUT

Continuing the expansion of the “library of things”, Bismarck Library Foundation partnered with Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health to make pickleball equipment available to library patrons, encouraging physical activity in our community.

**“WE’VE RECEIVED NUMEROUS REQUESTS FROM PATRONS TO ADD PICKLEBALL EQUIPMENT TO OUR CIRCULATING COLLECTION,” SAYS ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR ELIZABETH JACOBS. “WE’RE HAPPY TO BE ABLE TO OFFER ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS ACCESS TO THIS FUN ACTIVITY.”**

Pickleball sets may be checked out for seven days, inquire at the checkout desk. Visit [bisparks.org](http://bisparks.org) for pickleball court locations and times. Pickleball court times are also available at the YMCA. Other items available for checkout include disc golf sets, fishing poles, and North Dakota State Park passes.

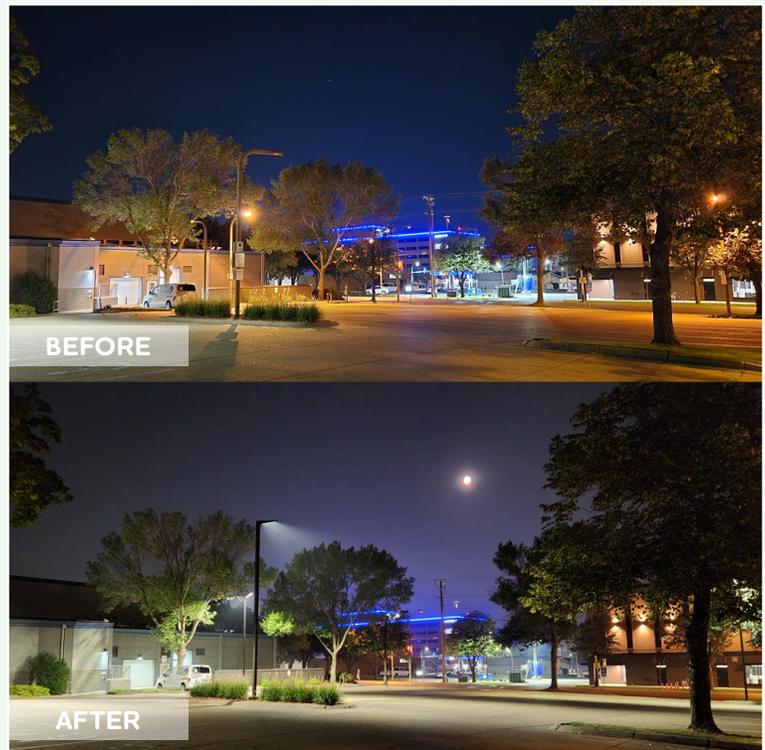


*Library pickleball kits include four paddles and four balls.*

## Light Up the Night

### FOUNDATION SUPPORTS NEW LED LIGHTING

Thanks to the generosity of Bismarck Library Foundation donors like you, the library was able to upgrade the parking lot lighting to LED, improving illumination of the area before the dark evenings of winter set in. The new lights are more energy efficient as well. Bismarck Library Foundation covered 75% of this lighting replacement project; the remaining funds were covered by the library’s operating budget. The picture shows the previous parking lot lighting (top image) and the new brighter illumination (bottom image) thanks to LED lighting. Thank you!



# Happy 3rd Birthday, Bookmobile!

THE BURLEIGH COUNTY LIBRARY-ON-WHEELS ROLLS ON

Thanks to tremendous support from 287 individual and business donors like you, in 2019 the Bismarck Library Foundation helped raise \$150,000 to pay for a new Bookmobile, with the new vehicle hitting the road in fall of 2020. Three years later, staff continue to appreciate the new vehicle.

**“THE NEW VEHICLE IS SO MUCH QUIETER AT OUR STOPS SINCE WE ONLY RUN THE GENERATOR WHEN WE USE THE AIR CONDITIONING,” SAYS KELI MCDONALD, HEAD OF BOOKMOBILE SERVICES. “THE BROWSING SHELVES ARE MORE USER FRIENDLY, ESPECIALLY FOR OUR PRESCHOOL AGED KIDS, AND THE BUILT-IN WI-FI MAKES CHECKOUTS EASIER. OUR NEW BOOKMOBILE PROVIDES A BETTER EXPERIENCE FOR BOTH OUR STAFF AND PATRONS.”**

The previous Burleigh County Bookmobile served the residents of Burleigh County since 1975. The much-loved library-on-wheels needed to be replaced after logging more than 129,000 miles of service, serving thousands of patrons.

The new vehicle has an approximate lifespan of 20 years and its colorful graphics can be easily spotted at stops throughout Burleigh County. It makes stops at schools, neighborhoods, and community centers throughout the county year-round to ensure access to library resources to those who may not have ready access the main library facility in downtown Bismarck. For a full schedule of stops, visit [bismarcklibrary.org](http://bismarcklibrary.org) and click on Programs.



**SINCE THE NEW BOOKMOBILE HIT THE ROAD IN 2020:**

**12,000+**

MILES LOGGED

**15,000+**

VISITS AT OVER 800 STOPS

**80,000+**

CHECKOUTS



## Betty Mills

(1926-2023)

We're saddened by the recent passing of Betty Mills, a lifelong Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library supporter and advocate. As shared in her obituary, Betty "loved books almost more than her children (we never made her choose)... She served on the Bismarck Public Library Board, even helping haul books to the current location shopping cart by shopping cart. Often she said her dream was to be locked in a library with a sack lunch and she effectively achieved that dream in her homes -- so many books."

In 2016 Betty was honored with the Bismarck Library Foundation's Pearce Award, its highest award for library service. Even late in life, she was still actively supporting the library, with a celebration of her 95th birthday in 2021 raising over \$4,000 for the Foundation. We will miss Betty dearly. Her legacy will long live on for us all at the library.

## Missouri River Room Refresh

### FOUNDATION SUPPORTS LIBRARY MEETING ROOM UPDATES

Tucked behind the fiction shelves on the library's lower level, the Missouri River Room is a favorite gathering space for library meetings and events. From winter hygge programs to book clubs to the Bismarck Library Foundation's own board meetings, the room has a warm ambience with shelves filled with rare and unique books and a cozy fireplace, but also a/v equipment that makes it suitable for most any kind of library program.

With its frequent usage, the room was overdue for a refresh with early 1990s-era carpet and dated wallpaper, but the costs fell outside of the library's operating budget. Fortunately, thanks to our donors, the Foundation was able to step in with \$12,000 in funding to help replace the carpet and remove the old wallpaper in favor of fresh paint. This is a welcome addition to the updated furnishings funded by the Friends of the Bismarck Public Library in 2022. These efforts help ensure the room is a clean, inviting gathering space for many years to come.



*The library's Reader's Voice Book Discussion group gathers in the updated Missouri River Room.*



# The Bismarck Library Foundation, Inc. Donors

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE GIFTS FROM THE FOLLOWING SUPPORTERS (MAY 16, 2023 TO OCT 15, 2023).

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 Burleigh County Library

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**INVITED**

# ART RECEPTION

with **Walter Piehl** • **December 7, 2023** | **6:00 pm**

Main atrium of Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library

**Come celebrate the newest addition to the library's art collection, a painting by North Dakota artist Walter Piehl.**

*The event will include a short presentation and reception.*

*Free to attend. No RSVP needed.*

*Artwork & reception are sponsored by Bismarck Library Foundation & other private donors.*

