

Director's Report June 2025

Respectfully Presented by Nikki Ericksen, Library Director

Programming

Summer Reading Program: The library partnered with the Butcher's Nook this year to reward the kids with ice cream. The kids have a choice of challenges. Six hours of reading gets them a coupon for a small cup of ice cream at the Butcher's Nook and they can play over and over for our "Summer Read and Chill" program or they can take the "Summer Reading Challenge" and earn a combination ice cream and bowling party by reading 30 hours. The party will be at the VFW bowling alley on July 22nd.

Summer Discovery Program: Running in tandem with the Summer Reading Program, these programming events every Tuesday afternoon from 2:00 to 4:00 invite patrons of all ages to explore and learn with hands on projects. This past week, Mr. Bebb, middle school science teacher, led 20 people on an exploration of magnetism. Participants learned about magnetic fields, what causes them, and even how to build an electromagnet from copper wire, a nail and D battery and their many industrial uses.

Field Trips: The library will be hosting two field trips for the school summer program in July, one for the younger and one for the older kids. We will do our best to provide a fun and educational couple of hours for each group.

Fundraising

The Bookin' It 5K and Fun Run: The event was held on June 14th. There were 74 total registered runners/walkers and 16 local business sponsors plus Runners Edge from Missoula. We raised \$3114.16! It was a fantastic event that is bringing the library a lot of good publicity and doubles as a community event. We have received plenty of positive feedback from the community. We plan to make this event a Sanders County staple on Father's Day weekend.

Events and Meetings

Community Meeting: I have spent the month talking with community members about how they could see the library's handicap accessibility being improved. We held a community meeting on June 18th to discuss the best way to spend the \$10,000 ALA grant that the library received. The overwhelming consensus was to fix the accessible door opener. If there was any money left over, additional ideas included:

- Converting fluorescent lighting to LED (benefit to people with autism).
- Large magnifying lenses for people to use in the library (benefit to visually impaired)
- Carts for people to use in the library when choosing books (benefit to people who are limited in lifting and carrying)
- More community events that are inclusive
- Digital accessibility of our website.

Once I have completed the remaining grant requirements, we will move forward with replacing the door openers. We will then revisit the best way to spend any remaining funds.

Staff and Volunteers

In order to accommodate vacation for staff, the library will be closed July 28th through 31st. I will return from vacation on August 11th.

May Statistics

CD	21
CHAPTER	33
DISPLAY	35
DVD	164
EASY	135
EASY-NF	20
FICTION	138
JUV-BIO	3
JUV-FICT	108
JUV-NF	33
MONTANA	11
MYSTERY	50
NEW-BOOK	50
NON FICTION	35
SCI-FI	11
STACKS	118
WESTERN	33
YA	45
Total	1,078

New Patrons	12
Computer Users	44
Reference Questions	6
Volunteer Hours	24
Crates to Missoula	22
Crates from Missoula	16