

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Bismarck  
Veterans Memorial  
Public Library

Photo by Mike LaLonde, Bismarck, July 2022

# 2022 AT A GLANCE

## A New Look for the Library

We completed a renovation of the library's exterior in 2022, including new siding and brickwork, windows, doors, and signage, thanks to funding from the City of Bismarck's building fund. Check out the major transformation!

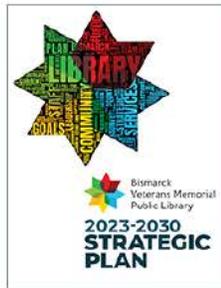


## Library Receives Humanitarian Award

The library received the City of Bismarck's Human Relations Committee's 2021 Humanitarian Award. The library is recognized for its equal service, welcoming atmosphere, safe gathering space, and respect for the diversity within our community. The Library Board of Trustees had approved a new section in the library's public service policy titled Youth Anti-Bullying Prevention.

## New Strategic Plan

The library board of trustees approved the 2023-2030 Strategic Plan in December 2022. The plan provides direction and a cohesive vision for the library, outlining goals and associated objectives, which position the library to better serve the Bismarck-Burleigh County community as a relevant and high-achieving public service organization. This plan, developed from community input, prepares the library to adapt to changes in our community to successfully meet the needs of our patrons and serve as the community's "third space," a communal space distinct from work and home. Learn about our plans for the future of the library. Read the full plan online at [bit.ly/BVMPL-23StrategicPlan](http://bit.ly/BVMPL-23StrategicPlan)



## AN AVERAGE DAY IN 2022

**539**   
**PEOPLE VISITED  
THE LIBRARY**

**1,153**   
**PHYSICAL ITEMS  
CHECKED OUT**

**120**   
**PEOPLE USED A  
LIBRARY COMPUTER**

**332**   
**DIGITAL ITEMS  
CHECKED OUT**

**123**   
**PEOPLE ATTENDED  
A LIBRARY EVENT**

**81**   
**QUESTIONS ANSWERED  
AT SERVICE DESKS**

# COLLECTIONS & CHECKOUTS

## New in 2022

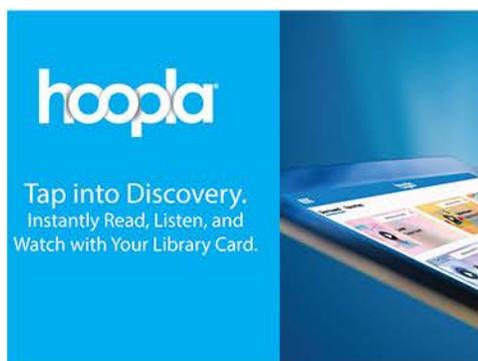
### CHILDREN'S BROWSING BIN COLLECTION

The Children's Library has a new addition for our youngest readers. Pre-readers can struggle to find the books they want to look at. The Browsing Bin collection gives these young patrons more autonomy by organizing the books into broad categories of interest instead of by subject or author. The Friends of the Bismarck Public Library gifted this new collection.



### HOOPLA DIGITAL COLLECTION

We expanded our popular digital resource collection in 2022 by introducing hoopla, giving patrons instant access to an additional one million+ titles in ebooks, audiobooks, comics, movies, TV shows, and music. Thank you to Bismarck Library Foundation, Inc. donors and Friends of the Bismarck Public Library for sponsoring the first year of this collection.



### LOCAL ART COLLECTION

Our circulating art collection includes reprints of famous works from Monet and Degas. Now, thanks to Dakota West Arts Council and Bismarck Library Foundation, you can also borrow locally produced art! Works by Bill Brien, Zack Hargrove, Thea Gilbertson, Joanne Drevlow, Anthony Nelson, and Paul Noot are now available for checkout.



## 2022 COLLECTIONS AND CHECKOUTS STATISTICS

**542,428**   
TOTAL ITEMS CHECKED OUT  
16% INCREASE

**TOP CIRCULATING ITEM**   
NORTH DAKOTA STATE PARK PASS  
CHECKED OUT **380** TIMES

**1,391,791**   
TOTAL DIGITAL COLLECTION

**121,418**   
TOTAL DIGITAL ITEMS  
CHECKED OUT  
23% INCREASE

**192,206**   
TOTAL PHYSICAL COLLECTION

**143,177**   
CHILDREN/TEEN TOTAL ITEMS  
CHECKED OUT  
26% INCREASE

**42,204**   
TOTAL CARDHOLDERS

Your library card opens up a world of entertainment, learning, discovery, and personal enrichment. Borrow books, movies and TV series, audiobooks, board games, video games, and more. Access our digital collection of ebooks, audiobooks, videos, and music, all 24/7. Cards are free to Burleigh County residents. Join a community of 42,000 friends and neighbors! Visit our website for more info and to apply for your library card.

# LIBRARY SERVICES

## New in 2022



### NEW AND IMPROVED PUBLIC COMPUTERS

We updated our 49 public access computers with new hardware, up-to-date software, and operating systems in 2022. Patrons of all ages can utilize the library's computers to do homework, apply for jobs, complete and print forms, communicate with friends and family, and more.



## 2022 LIBRARY SERVICES STATISTICS

**196,673**   
TOTAL VISITORS  
14% INCREASE

**29,617**   
QUESTIONS ANSWERED  
AT LIBRARY SERVICE DESKS

**182,909**   
LIBRARY WEBSITE VISITS

**43,956**   
PUBLIC COMPUTER SESSIONS

**767,982**   
LIBRARY ONLINE CATALOG  
SEARCHES

**56,168**   
WI-FI SESSIONS ACCESSED  
20% INCREASE

**1,596**   
DOCUMENTS NOTARIZED  
FOR FREE BY LIBRARY STAFF

**5,281**   
STUDY ROOMS USERS

**457**   
MEETING ROOM USES  
123% INCREASE

**11,826**   
PEOPLE ATTENDED  
MEETING ROOM EVENTS  
163% INCREASE

### DID YOU KNOW?



The library has meeting and study rooms to accommodate groups from 2 to 200! Our large rooms can be reserved for a nominal fee. Study rooms are always free!



# OUTREACH SERVICES

## 2022 BURLEIGH COUNTY LIBRARY STATISTICS

**45,614**  
TOTAL CHECKOUTS  
32% INCREASE

**19,191**  
TOTAL ITEMS

**8,606**  
TOTAL VISITORS  
39% INCREASE

THROUGHOUT BURLEIGH COUNTY:

**6,530**  
MILES DRIVEN

**513@68**  
STOPS LOCATIONS

## New in 2022 LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES

The Burleigh County Library added three Little Free Libraries at new locations in the county in 2022. Driscoll, Sterling, and Menoken residents now have access to a rotating collection of books at their new Little Free Libraries, which bookmobile staff regularly restock. These three new Little Free Libraries join existing locations at Wing Senior Center, McKenzie, Lincoln, General Sibley Park and Campground, Apple Valley, and Country Creek Drive.



## Burleigh County Bookmobile and Mobile Library in the Community



NATIONAL OUTREACH DAY



BAND DAY PARADE IN MAY

## 2022 MOBILE LIBRARY STATISTICS

IN THE CITY OF BISMARCK:

**1,857**  
MILES DRIVEN

**276@23**  
STOPS LOCATIONS



GATEWAY TO SCIENCE



ZOO BOO IN OCTOBER

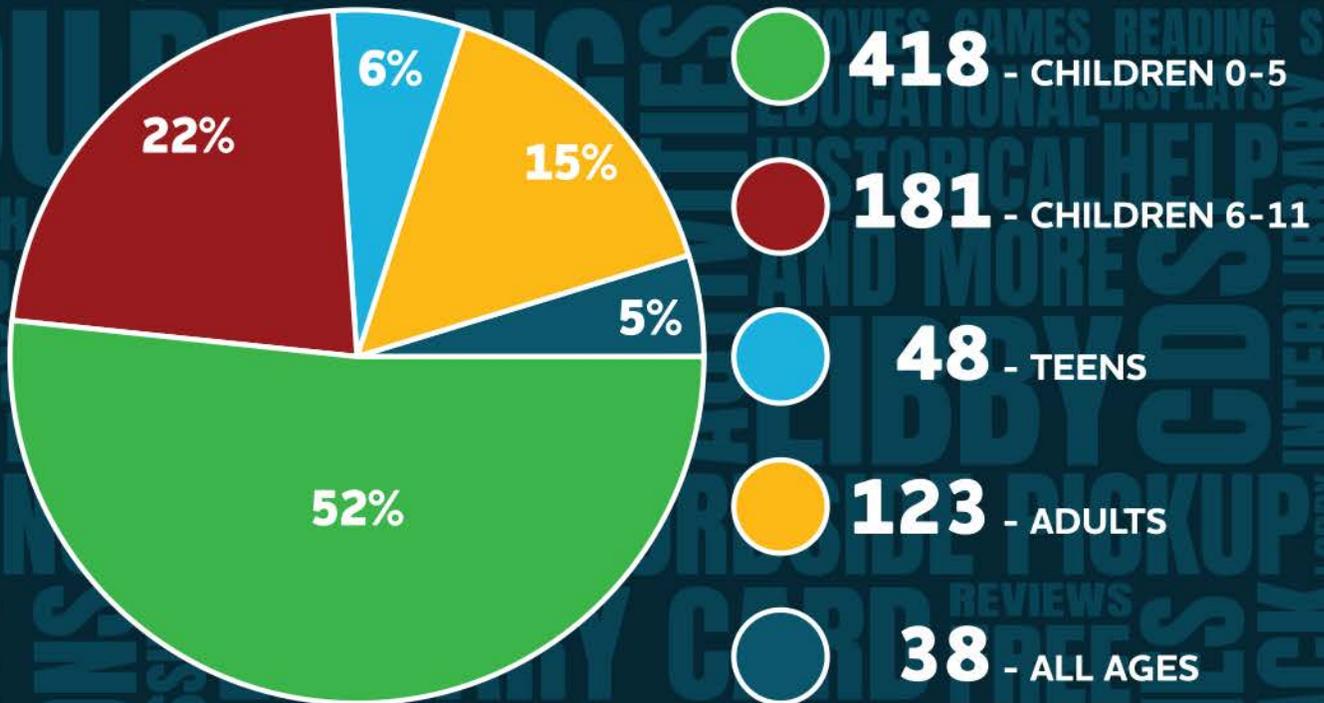
# PROGRAMS & EVENTS

## 2022 PROGRAMS & EVENTS IN SUMMARY

TOTAL EVENTS - **808**

TOTAL ATTENDANCE - **44,924**

AVG. PEOPLE PER EVENT - **56**



## Americans and the Holocaust Exhibit

Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library was one of 50 United States libraries selected to host AMERICANS AND THE HOLOCAUST, a traveling exhibition from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. This exhibit examined the motives, pressures, and fears that shaped Americans' responses to Nazism, war, and genocide in Europe during the 1930s and 1940s. The exhibit was on display at the Library during April, with a series of related special events throughout the month. An estimated 1,800 people visited the exhibition, and 415 attended related events.



# PROGRAMS & EVENTS

## We're Something to Talk About -- Talking Trails!

Have you checked out **Talking Trail's** ten historic Bismarck self-guided audio tours, including our library? Each location has a Talking Trail sign posted with a QR Code and phone number. Download the free app or call the phone number to listen to the self-guided audio tour at each location. The library's sign is right outside the front entrance. Visit the Talking Trail website to see all historic Bismarck audio tour sites. Talking Trail is a project of the Historic Preservation Commission in conjunction with the City of Bismarck's 150th anniversary.



## Thinking Money for Kids Exhibit

In July and August, our Children's Library featured Thinking Money for Kids, a free multimedia experience for children ages 7 to 11 and their parents, caregivers, and educators. The interactive exhibit uses games, activities, and a fun storyline to help children understand what money is, its function in society, money choices, and money values such as fairness, responsibility, and charitableness. Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library was one of just 50 libraries nationwide selected to host Thinking Money for Kids. The American Library Association (ALA) developed the exhibition with the FINRA Investor Education Foundation.



## Tower Garden

The library began a partnership with Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health and Bismarck Parks & Recreation, with funding provided by Blue Cross Blue Shield of ND Caring Foundation, to host a Tower Garden in the Children's Library. Using an aeroponic gardening system, the Tower Garden holds and sustains 20 plants without soil! Patrons and staff alike have enjoyed watching them grow, in addition to promoting a healthy lifestyle. The library held several programs focused on our new garden throughout the year.



# PROGRAMS & EVENTS

## 2022 PROGRAMS & EVENTS SAMPLING

• CRAFTS • CONCERTS • PAINTING CLASSES • READING CHALLENGES

• GARDENING • MEET AND GREETs • THERAPY PETS • PERSONAL ENRICHMENT

• AUTHOR VISITS • GENEALOGY CLASSES • BOOK CLUBS • COMPUTER CLASSES

**Cookie Decorating**  
mini pizza  
cookie decorating  
Learn basic cookie decorating skills with Whisker baking from home!

**Artemis Project**  
A CAMP FOR KIDS  
Learn about wonderful women who helped shape the world despite the challenges before them!

**LIBRARYPALOOZA**  
OPEN HOUSE  
Thursday, August 22  
6:30 pm to 8 pm

**BASIC GENEALOGY RESEARCH CLASS**  
DISCOVER the basics of My Heritage Library Edition & Ancestry Library Edition databases.  
Tuesday, 90-minute Session  
March 08 at 2:30 pm  
May 20 at 2:30 pm  
July 12 at 6:30 pm

**NASA's Artemis Project:**  
TO THE MOON,  
MARS, AND  
BEYOND!  
Reading Challenge  
September 01-30, 2022

**Author Visit**  
Michelle Barnsworn  
Story Time with the Author  
Katie Socks!

**JANUARY**  
Ready to Make  
Craft Kits!  
SNOWMAN  
MARACAS!

**Classical Guitar Concert**  
Musical Journeys with  
PETER FLETCHER  
Friday Evening  
November 14  
at 7:00 pm.

**ART PERFORMANCE**  
by Ali LaRock

**BEGINNING**  
COMPUTER CLASSES  
INTRODUCTION TO INTERNET BASICS  
COMPUTER TO IPAD/PHONE  
INTRODUCTION TO MICROSOFT WORD  
INTRODUCTION TO MICROSOFT EXCEL  
INTRODUCTION TO ANDROID

**BASA**  
BEGINNER ROCKET BUILDING EXPERIENCES  
SEPTEMBER 15, 5:00 PM  
OCTOBER 13, 5:00 PM  
NOVEMBER 7, 5:00 PM  
DECEMBER 15, 5:00 PM  
PRESENTATION: 15-15MIN TO REGISTER

**Story Time with the Author**  
Katie Socks!

**Sight for Kids**  
The LIONS CLUB OF NORTH DAKOTA  
is offering Complimentary  
Vision Screening for Children  
as Young as Six Months  
TUESDAY, JULY 26 & THURSDAY, JULY 28  
9:00 to 12:00 PM  
Children's Library - 1st Floor

**For the Love of Reading**  
Jan 21 - Mar 11  
Share your reading adventures!

September is  
**Library Card Sign-Up Month!**  
Let your imagination  
sing  
at the library.

**MYSTERY MEETS**  
CALLING ALL MYSTERY LOVERS!  
Join us for a special event featuring  
mystery authors and book signings.

**BRITISH INVASION**  
with Guitarist  
JOEY LEONE  
Wed. July 13  
7:00 pm  
Reception Room  
Free & Open to All!

**MEET THE AUTHOR**  
Thursday, June 30th  
3:00 to 5:30 p.m.

**Dance Me a Story**  
Thursday, June 16, 2022

**SUMMER MOVIE SERIES**  
E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial  
SPIDERMAN  
THE LOST CITY

**CARDIO DRUMMING**  
Who Knew That  
Fitness Could Be  
So Much FUN!  
November 28th and  
December 5th & 12th

**Learn to Crochet**  
JUNE 12 - JULY 17 - AUGUST 14  
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED  
PROJECTS & RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO BORROW

**SUMMER READING KICKOFF CELEBRATION!**  
FRIDAY, JUNE 17th  
OCEANSIDE POSSIBILITIES  
OUTSIDE ON THE LIBRARY PLAZA

**ZENTANGLE**  
Learn the Art of Zentangle with  
Certified Instructor Pam Vucelic  
Wednesday, May 18th and 25th  
6:30 to 8 p.m. • Meeting Room C

**WE ARE BACK!**  
LIVE & IN-PERSON!  
THURSDAY, MARCH 31st  
5:30 - 6:30 pm  
CHALLENGE: LEGACY STORY CIRCLE

**CHESS CLUB FOR KIDS**  
Thursdays - 6:30 to 8 p.m.  
March 2nd, April 7th & 21st  
May 5th & 19th  
FREE & Open to ALL School-Age Kids & Teens!

**FRRIENDS OF THE BISMARCK PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
CREATE YOUR OWN BOOKMARK DESIGN CONTEST  
Time to Get Creative!  
For All Ages  
Now Through November 30th  
Chosen Bookmark Designs Distributed in 2023

**MINDFULNESS FOR BEGINNERS**  
Bring Yoga, Meditation & Mindfulness

**P.D. BARK THERAPY DOGS**  
Bring your dog to meet our therapy dogs!

**Meet the Puffer Sisters**

**Resume Rescue**  
Monday, February 21  
Monday, April 11  
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Computer Training Lab  
Creative Workforce  
Leah Hargrove, Instructor

**Winter Painting Class**  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH  
Great Time for Seniors & Adults!

**OCEANS OF POSSIBILITIES**  
LEGO TAKE AND CREATE  
Sunday, June 26th  
4:00 - 5:00 pm  
Library Main Level

**HYGGE HANGOUT**  
SAT. JAN. 22 & SAT. FEB. 19, 2022  
5:00 PM to 6:00 PM  
HYGGE - Cozy and warm atmosphere

**THE HOUSE SHE BUILT**  
The House that She Built  
Monday, February 21st  
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM  
Community Education and Public Awareness  
Community Room

**MAR. CHALLENGE**  
March 1st - 31st  
Read 15 minutes a day

**Stories & Songwriting**

**Sound Beginnings**  
Great Instructor: AMANDA CRANE  
MUSIC EDUCATION THAT'S  
IN TUNE WITH CHILDREN!

**RESTORY BOOK CLUB**  
DISCUSSING THE BOOKS  
THESE TRUTHS WILL TELL YOU  
THESE TRUTHS WILL TELL YOU

**STAR WARS READS!**  
GALACTIC CHALLENGE  
BEANSTACK OCTOBER 2022  
READ. THIS IS THE WAY.

**HOW TO STAY SAFE ONLINE**  
Cybersecurity Education and Public Awareness  
Community Room  
Tuesday, July 29 - 2:00 PM

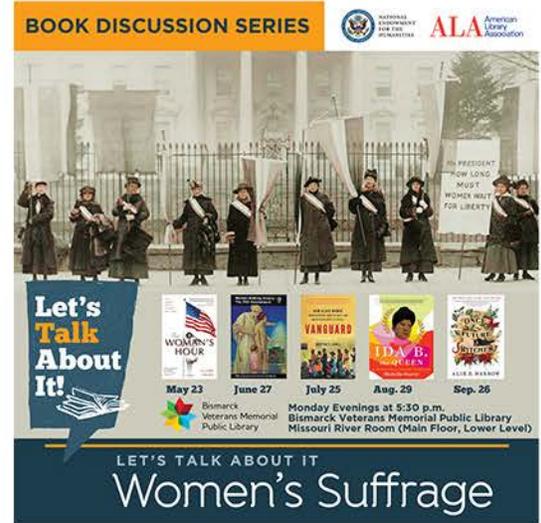
**HALLOWEEN SPUNKIN' CLASS**  
October 31st  
5:00 - 6:00 PM

• GAMING EVENTS • COMMUNITY WELLNESS • SCIENCE CLUBS • DANCE

# PROGRAMS & EVENTS

## Let's Talk About It! Women's Suffrage Book Discussion Series

The library was proud to be chosen by the American Library Association to participate in *Let's Talk About It: Women's Suffrage*. These books focus on the history of women's suffrage in the United States. The selected books were: *The Woman's Hour* by Elaine Weiss; *Women Making History*, essays compiled by the National Park Service; *Vanguard: How Black Women Broke Barriers, Won the Vote, and Insisted on Equality for All* by Martha S. Jones; *Ida B. the Queen: The Extraordinary Life and Legacy of Ida B. Wells* by Michelle Duster; and *The Once and Future Witches* by Alix E. Harrow.



## Families Around the World

The library's third annual *Families Around the World* event embraced the diversity in our community and celebrated the unique cultures we share. The evening hosted lively music and dancing presentations, guest exhibitors at information tables, hands-on activities and craft projects, and tasty food samples from local purveyors. The library presented *Families Around the World* in partnership with Bismarck Global Neighbors, Bismarck Public Schools, and the Bismarck Library Foundation, Inc.



## International Observe the Moon Night

On a clear October night, we joined together to look up to observe our moon along with the rest of the world community. Multiple crafts and activities, a special guest speaker, and powerful telescopes were available to view the moon in all its splendor. Binoculars and curiosity were abound with space-themed refreshments that were out of this world. The library offered this observation in partnership with the Bismarck-Mandan chapter of Girl Scouts Dakota Horizons and North Dakota's Gateway to Science.



# PEOPLE

## 2022 LIBRARY LEADERSHIP TEAM

Christine Kujawa, *Library Director*  
Elizabeth Jacobs, *Assistant Library Director*  
Lynn Bryntesen, *Building and Grounds Manager*  
Matthew Engel, *Technical Services Associate II*  
Troy Hamre, *Adult Services Librarian*  
Alison Hiatt, *Burleigh County Library Associate II*  
Matt Hovland, *Head of Circulation Services*  
Traci Juhala, *Head of Youth Services*  
Bea Kaiser, *Administrative Office Manager*  
Beth Schatz Kaylor, *Library Executive Foundation Director*  
MacAllistar Kemmer, *Adult Services Program Coordinator*  
Sky M. Kujawa, *Chief Morale Officer (CMO)*  
Jana Maher, *Youth Services Program Coordinator-Children*  
Sarah Matthews, *Head of Adult Services*  
KeliAnn McDonald, *Head of Burleigh County Library*  
Laura Rysavy, *Youth Services Programming Coordinator-Youth*  
Kevin R. Tengesdal, *Public Information Specialist*  
Patrick Trotter, *Technology Manager*  
Hannah Vanorny, *Circulation Services Manager*



## LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mike LaLonde, *President*  
Dianna Kindseth, *Vice President*  
Justin Hughes  
Mike Fladeland  
Sue Sorlie



### DID YOU KNOW?

The Library Board of Trustees is responsible for establishing the mission and vision for the Library, determining the policies implemented to govern the Library, hiring and evaluating the Library Director, advocating for the Library, and overseeing the finances of the Library.



### VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to our volunteers Sally, Sylvia, and Connie for sharing their time and talents with the library. We are grateful they volunteer here and are glad to have them on the library team. Last year they donated a combined 300 (!) hours of service to the library. Thank you!

### STAFF ANNIVERSARIES IN 2022

- LaVilla Opp – 35 years (PT)
- June Preszler – 30 years (PT)
- Debb Lorenz – 15 years (PT)
- Sarah Matthews – 15 years (FT)
- Keli McDonald – 10 years (FT)
- Brenda Paxton – 5 years (PT)
- Laura Rysavy – 5 years (FT)



PT Service Award Recognition (L to R):  
Library Board Trustee Dianna Kindseth,  
Brenda Paxton, Debb Lorenz, June Preszler,  
LaVilla Opp & Library Director Christine Kujawa

# FOUNDATION & FRIENDS

## BISMARCK LIBRARY FOUNDATION, INC.

**\$315,280**

GRANTS, GIFTS & DONATIONS  
DISTRIBUTED TO THE LIBRARY



**4-STAR**

HIGHEST RATING FROM  
CHARITY NAVIGATOR



### 2022 PARTNERS

- American Library Association
- Andrist Charitable Trust • Arts Midwest • Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health • Bravera • Dakota West Arts Council • Frederickson & Byron
- FINRA Foundation • MDU Resources Foundation • Midco • ND Council on the Arts • Petro-Hunt
- Sanford Health • Scheels
- Susanne Mattheis Charitable Trust
- Target • Tom & Frances Leach Foundation • Donors Like You!



Bismarck Library  
Foundation, Inc.

### A SELECTION OF PROJECTS MADE POSSIBLE BY FOUNDATION DONORS AND PARTNERS:

- 1,500 youth LEGO kits
- 6,500 additional digital checkouts
- Computer lab upgrade
- Fresh paint for library's main level
- New heating equipment on order
- New ride-on commercial vacuum
- Tower garden for children's library
- Youth summer reading kick-off

## FRIENDS OF THE BISMARCK PUBLIC LIBRARY

### FEATURED IN 2022: LIBRARYPALOOZA

The Friends of the Library organized the first annual Librarypalooza event in August, which welcomed community members to explore all the library has to offer, along with fun events, music, food, and even a magician! An estimated 300 people attended this fun library-wide event for all ages.



**309**  
TOTAL MEMBERS



**\$34,744**  
RAISED THROUGH  
USED BOOK SALES



**\$35,043**  
CONTRIBUTED TO LIBRARY  
PROGRAMS & SERVICES



### PROGRAMS & SERVICES MADE POSSIBLE BY FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY:

- Browsing Bin collection for young children
- Library Connections email newsletter
- Additions to the teen manga collection
- The hoopla digital collection
- Furnishings for the Missouri River Room
- Financial support for many additional programs and events



# Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library



## CONTACT US

515 North Fifth Street  
Bismarck, ND 58501  
(701) 355-1480

[www.bismarcklibrary.org](http://www.bismarcklibrary.org)

## HOURS

**Monday-Thursday**  
9:00 AM - 9:00 PM

**Friday-Saturday**  
9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

**Sunday**  
1:00 PM - 6:00 PM

