

Bismarck Veterans Memorial
Public Library

2017 Annual Report

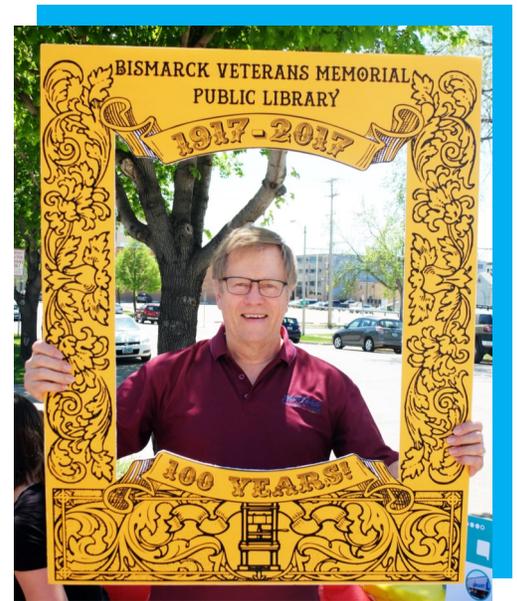


100 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

2017 marked the milestone of 100 years of service to our community. We spent the year reminiscing about the Library's history, while also highlighting our current services and the Library's role in transforming our community by opening a world of possibilities for all ages and backgrounds through the power of literacy, innovative programming, and space for citizens to meet and engage in civil discourse. When the original Carnegie-funded library opened on the corner of 6th and Thayer in 1917, residents of Bismarck likely could not have imagined all the changes and advancements the Library would experience over the next 100 years. From the days of card catalogs and due date stamps, to DVDs, Wi-Fi and e-books, our Library's services have been in a constant state of evolution. Today, we offer a diverse collection of over 250,000 items, 49 public computer stations, space for meeting and studying, educational and enriching programs for people of all ages, and so much more.

In recognition of the excellent service we provide to the community, the North Dakota State Library awarded the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library the 2017 North Dakota Star Library Award. The award was given based on circulation of collection, hours open to the public, program attendance, computer and Wi-Fi usage, and the percentage of North Dakota Library Coordinating Council Standards for Public Libraries met. Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library is the #1 ranked public library in North Dakota for hours open to the public, program attendance, public computer usage, and library card holders. The Library's outreach branches, the Burleigh County Bookmobile and Bismarck Mobile Library, are ranked #1 in North Dakota for hours available to the public and total number of stops made annually.

To learn more about the Library's history, visit our website at bismarcklibrary.org, click on About and select History of the Bismarck Public Library. Here you'll find [Frontier Days to the 21st Century: a History of the Bismarck Public Library](#), written by Head of Information Services Kate Waldera. You can also view our fantastic anniversary video [Celebrating 100 Years](#). We've accomplished a lot in the past 100 years, and we look forward to serving you for the next 100 years!



Attendees enjoyed the photo booth at our 100th anniversary open house.

BY THE NUMBERS 2017

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Visits to the library | 378,509 |
| Residents with library cards | 46,027 |
| Items checked out | 525,655 |
| Public computer & Wi-Fi sessions | 310,034 |
| Items in the Library's collection | 250,751 |
| Library events | 823 |
| Event attendance | 33,535 |
| Digital items checked out | 49,846 |

PERSONAL ENRICHMENT FOR ALL

Programs for Adults

In 1943, Library Director Erana Stadler organized the first adult programs on topics including world relations, equal rights for women, and rural health services. She felt strongly that the Library should serve as a neutral space with access to information, where people could form their own opinions on various topics. In 2017, our philosophy remains true to Ms. Stadler's vision as we strive to provide a diverse space that transforms lives through lifelong learning opportunities for the citizens of our community. The Library held 199 programs for adults, with a total of 9,606 people in attendance.

Throughout the month of May, we held a number of programs in celebration of our 100th anniversary, which included: an open house on the plaza; our first annual Adult Spelling Bee and the tapping of *Page Turner* beer brewed in honor of the Library's 100th year, in partnership with Laughing Sun Brewing Company; an evening with humanities scholar Clay Jenkinson as Theodore Roosevelt; and presentations on the history of the Bismarck Public Library and Bismarck in 1917, held in partnership with the Bismarck Historical Society. Other adult event highlights from this year include:

- Author readings with North Dakota Poet Laureate Larry Woiwode, North Dakota native Debra Marquart, and the student authors of the book *Green Card Youth Voices*, all presented in partnership with the Friends of the Bismarck Public Library;
- Game Changer 101 Community Classes, held in partnership with Humanities North Dakota;
- The introduction of our new monthly Mystery Lover's Book Club;
- The Reader's Voice Book Discussion group reached the milestone of 100 books read;
- We commemorated the solar eclipse in August by handing out 600 pairs of free eclipse glasses and offering presentations on the eclipse by local science and meteorology experts;
- English language learners practiced speaking English in the relaxed, small-group setting of our English Conversation Groups;
- Tai Chi classes were offered to teach beginners the basics of the practice;
- A successful round of Winter Reading Bingo, with 100 participants submitting completed bingo cards.



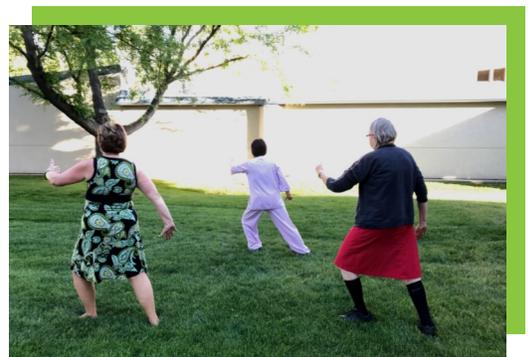
The student authors of *Green Card Youth Voices*



Laughing Sun Brewing Co. brewed *Page Turner* beer in honor of our 100th anniversary.



English Conversation Group

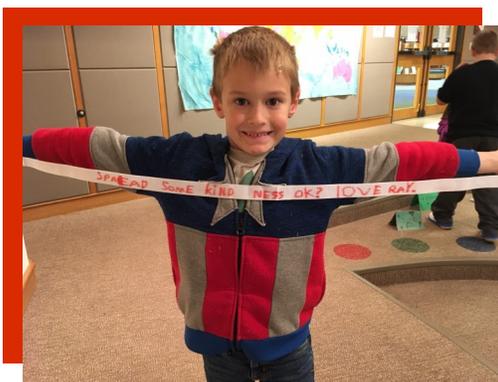


Practicing Tai Chi on the Library's grassy knoll

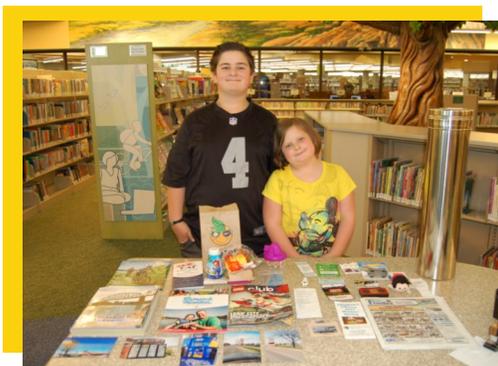
Children's Programs

In 1933, the Library's first children's librarian was hired. She helped children find books and offered story times. Today, as it was in 1933, encouraging and empowering youth is essential to our community's future, and the Library is essential to this mission. At the Library, children can find a full slate of programs and a building bursting with books and other resources to explore. In 2017, we held 528 programs for children, an increase of 31% over the previous year, with over 22,000 people in attendance. Our engaging, educational programs for children from birth through age 11 help instill a love of reading, encourage creativity, and build relationships. Some of the highlights of our children's programming this year include:

- The introduction of Miss Sparkles' Kindness Club, where children in grades K-4 spread joy, love, and smiles to the Bismarck community one kindness project at a time. Each kid-created project is given to an unsuspecting person or group in the hopes that we spread a little sparkle and brighten their days. Kids decorated leashes for Central Dakota Humane Society, designed decorative plates for residents of Missouri Slope Lutheran Care Center, colored bears for boys and girls visiting Sanford Clinic, and created a Halloween party kit for families staying at Welcome House;
- 256 sessions of story time were enjoyed by over 10,000 attendees. Miss Sparkles and her puppet friends also performed story time outreach at locations and events throughout Bismarck, including Dakota Zoo, Missouri Slope Lutheran Care Center, Urban Harvest, River Day Walk, and Bismarck Public Schools;
- Another successful year of our B.A.R.K. (Bismarck Animals Reading with Kids) program, where kids in grades K-5 practice reading with local therapy dogs;
- A group of children put together a time capsule in honor of the Library's 100th anniversary. It includes items that will tell the story of the Library and the community in 2017 when it is opened by future Bismarck residents in 2117;
- The annual Summer Reading Program had the theme of *Build a Better World*. We had 269 children active in this year's program. They collectively read an amazing 9,279 hours in the months of June and July! Featured programs held in conjunction with the summer reading program included a performance by magician Jeff Quinn, a bridge-themed LEGO Build-off, and a concert with children's musicians Jack & Kitty;
- Wiggle Time, a new program which started in June, opened up our wonderful story room for free play for children and their caregivers. Children are invited to explore a mix of play experiences including blocks, puppets, dramatic play toys, trampoline, and other play equipment;
- The children's art program Art From the Heart allowed children to have fun getting messy while playing with paint, experimenting with texture, and creating their own colorful masterpieces.



Kindness Club kids decorated leashes for Central Dakota Humane Society.



A group of children put together a time capsule for our 100th anniversary.



Story time outreach with Miss Sparkles at Bismarck Public Schools



B.A.R.K. volunteer Frankie reading with kids at the Summer Reading Celebration



Getting creative at Teen LEGO Club

Teen Headquarters

Our wonderful new Teen Headquarters (HQ) officially opened its doors in January 2017. Thanks to the fundraising efforts of Bismarck Library Foundation, Inc., we now have a dedicated space for our community's middle and high school students. HQ is a safe space for reading, studying, doing homework, playing games with friends, attending teen events, being creative, and exploring technology. On any given afternoon, students can be found challenging each other at video games, completing school work, experimenting with our 3D printer and LEGO robotics kits, and getting creative with art and crafting materials. HQ is also

a great place to hold events and programs specifically for teens. In 2017, we offered 96 events for teens, with total attendance of 1,630. This equates to a 140% increase in the number of teen events over the previous year, with a 445% increase in attendance! From arts to technology and beyond, our teen programs span a wide variety of topics and interests. Our teen program offerings this year included: Otaku Club, where teens get together to share their love of anime and manga; Table Top Gaming and video game tournaments, where students challenge each other at a wide variety of board games and video games; classes on sewing, drawing, acting, and cosplay; a teen library lock-in, where teens had (supervised!) fun in the Library after hours; and Pinterest Party, a joint teen/adult program, where attendees created seasonal craft projects inspired by Pinterest.



Comic Con

Bismarck's first ever Comic Con was held at the Library on May 6, 2017. This hugely successful event brought together over 1,100 fans of comics and manga, fantasy and sci-fi, and other pop culture enthusiasts for an afternoon of celebrating their fandoms. There were themed rooms, trivia contests, photo opportunities, a costume contest, and much more. Comic Con was made possible through the efforts of a dedicated team of Library employees who were excited to share their love of pop culture with the community through this event. Our Comic Con



Our award-winning Comic Con Committee

committee was recognized with the 2017 Innovator Award from the Mountain Plains Library Association. The Innovator Award is given annually to recognize an up-and-coming individual or group in the MPLA region for a creative, inventive, trail-blazing project that has significance to the library's community. It was awarded to our staff for their creative and resourceful efforts in organizing and implementing Bismarck's first ever local Comic Con event.



One of the many amazing costumes at this year's Comic Con

OUTREACH

Burleigh County Bookmobile

In 1976, Burleigh County residents petitioned to have library services extended beyond the city of Bismarck. As a result of this successful effort, Burleigh County began levying support to re-establish bookmobile services county-wide. Fast-forward to 2017, when our library on wheels made over 500 stops throughout the county. The Bookmobile brings a world of learning and imagination to rural school students, who are excited to explore the wonders of the shelves each time the bookmobile visits. Individuals at assisted living centers and residents of rural locations can visit the Library without having to travel outside of their communities. In 2017, 9,210 individuals visited the Burleigh County Bookmobile, registering a total of 47,943 item checkouts.



Bookmobile Assistant Vickie Schmidt helping rural students



Excited students line up to get on the Bookmobile



Clifford showing off the Mobile Library

Bismarck Mobile Library

2017 marked the Bismarck Mobile Library's first full year of service to the community. The purpose of the Mobile Library is to ensure that Bismarck residents who are not able to visit the Library in person still have access to our services. The Mobile Library made 268 stops throughout the city of Bismarck in 2017, with a focus on older adults in assisted living centers and afterschool programs. The vehicle is generously sponsored by Kupper Chevrolet, and the ongoing fuel and insurance costs are funded by the Friends of the Bismarck Public Library.



County Commissioners Jerry Woodcox and Kathleen Jones visiting the Bookmobile in recognition of the Library's Star Award—with Head of Bookmobile Services Keli McDonald and Library Director Christine Kujawa

Together, the Burleigh County Bookmobile and the Bismarck Mobile Library ranked number one in North Dakota in 2017 for outreach service hours available to the public (736), and total number of outreach stops made annually (789). The two vehicles drove a combined total of 6,852 miles across all corners of the county and city to provide on-site library services to citizens who might otherwise find it difficult to visit the Library.



The Art of Books trivia winners



Bismarck Library Foundation, Inc. Staff Kristi Simenson and Cameo Skager

FOUNDATION & FRIENDS

Bismarck Library Foundation, Inc.

The Bismarck Library Foundation, Inc. was established in 1975 with the mission of enriching publicly-funded Library services by raising private funds to enhance collections, resources, and facilities. The Foundation’s *Art of Books* event kicked off the Library’s 100th anniversary festivities at the end of April. A large group of library lovers attended. They bid on book-themed art created by 26 local artists and took on the challenge of Scott Wild’s Trivia Tour. Longtime Library supporter Betty Mills was honored with the Pearce Award. The event was also a kickoff to the *\$100 for 100 Years* campaign in support of the Foundation’s efforts to help provide for the needs of the Library. The Foundation’s major financial contribution to the Library in 2017 funded the Library’s 100th Anniversary promotions and events.

Richard Weber, President

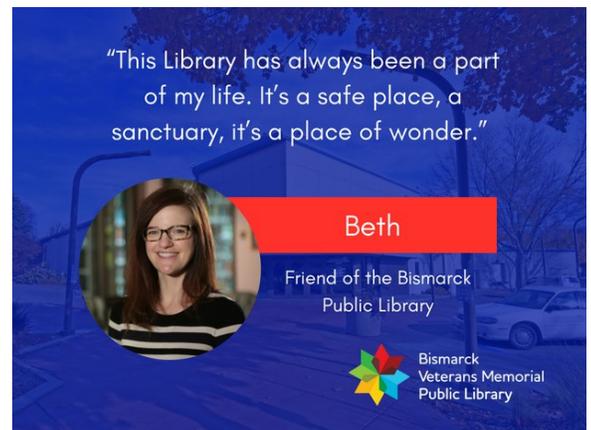
www.bismarcklibrary.org/171/Bismarck-Library-Foundation

Friends of the Bismarck Public Library

The Friends of the Bismarck Public Library celebrated a milestone anniversary of its own this year. Formed in 1992, the year 2017 marked the Friends’ 25th year of contributing to the strength and success of the Library’s programs and services. The majority of the funds the Friends contribute to the Library come from their twice-yearly used book sales, which were a great success again this year. A total of \$42,153 was raised through the hard work and dedication of the volunteer members of the Friends. Some of the programs and projects supported by the Friends in 2017 include:

- Tai chi, meditation, and painting classes for adults;
- Additions to the Library’s popular Binge Box collection;
- Placement of three additional Little Free Libraries, bringing the total to 13 FOL-sponsored Little Free Libraries in our community;
- Ongoing operational funding for the Bismarck Mobile Library;
- Funding for the Library’s 100th anniversary video.

Jennifer Bandy, President



friendsofthebismarckpubliclibrary.wildapricot.org/
www.facebook.com/FriendsoftheLibraryBismarck/

ADMINISTRATION

Christine Kujawa, Director

Elizabeth Jacobs, Assistant Director

Bea Kaiser, Administrative Assistant

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Lynn Bryntesen, Maintenance

Matt Hovland, Circulation

Traci Juhala, Youth Services

Vern Mastel,
Technology Coordinator

Sarah Matthews,
Adult Programming

Keli McDonald, Bookmobile

Lora Rose, Technical Processing

Kate Waldera, Reference

LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Library is governed by a city-appointed five member Board of Directors. Terms are for three years with a six year limit. Major duties include hiring the Library Director, setting policy, overseeing finances and approving monthly expenses, and advocating for the Library.

The Board of Directors meets in the Library at noon on the fourth Thursday of every month. Meetings are open to the public.

Joyce Hinman, President

Pat Grantier, Vice President

Bob Bartosh

Michael Fladeland

Michael J.B. Schaff

Bismarck City Commissioner Nancy
Guy—Library Liaison

Burleigh County Commissioner
Kathleen Jones—Library Liaison

“My kids have such a fabulous
Children’s Library, such a fabulous
Library in general. When we leave
there it’s like we’ve been on vacation.”



Kristy

Library Patron



Bismarck
Veterans Memorial
Public Library

CONNECT WITH US

Library Hours

Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 9:00 pm

Friday - Saturday 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

Sunday - 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Phone

701-355-1480

Library Website

Check out our events calendar, headlines, and find out all about the Library and our services.

<http://www.bismarcklibrary.org>

Ask-A-Librarian

Contact us by email any time by filling out the form under the Ask-A-Librarian link on our homepage.

Library Connections Newsletter

To receive email notification of new issues, email us at

bplnews@bismarcklibrary.org. View the current issue and past issue archive online any time at <http://bit.ly/1Uc2sit>.



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