

**Director's Report**  
**Great Falls Public Library**  
September 2022

1. **CABLING/BROADBAND UPDATE:**
  - **New Cabling:** New network cabling has been strung throughout the building. Contractors started installing the new cabling on June 20<sup>th</sup>. The contractors will be here on September 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> to switch all of our devices from the old to the new cabling.
  - **Fiber Upgrade:** The permit for Vision Net to upgrade our system connection to fiber was approved on August 11<sup>th</sup> and we had a site visit for the project on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. The project should be completed by the second week of October. Once the project is complete the Library system speed will be 1 Gigabyte/second.
2. **ROOF PROJECT:** The roof project is complete. The project cost totaled \$253,757.00 which is \$6,243.00 under what was budgeted.
3. **JOINING THE PARTNERS:** Montana Shared Catalog Partner Resource Sharing Group approved the Great Falls Public Library application at their September Meeting. GFPL will spend several weeks adjusting our procedures and scheduling additional courier pick-ups. Once we are live with the Partners, GFPL patrons will have access to the collections of over twenty libraries (including Missoula and Imaginelf in Flathead County) simply by placing a hold. A fact sheet about the Partners is included in your packet.
4. **BIG RIVER RUCKUS:** Big River Ruckus was an overall success. Participants enjoyed a fabulous presentation by Craig Johnson, a discussion by our Montana author panel and the energetic poetry recitations between musical acts by Dave Caserio. Unfortunately, the attendance at the literary events was lower than we had hoped. The children's art activities, puppet shows and sidewalk painting were enjoyed by excellent audiences. We will continue to adjust our participation in Big River Ruckus to maximize our return on investment.
5. **IMPROVING LIBRARY CARD ACCESS:** As discussed at the last Board meeting, the Library would like to lower the barriers to Library use. Later in the agenda, the Board will be voting on a change to Library Card policy to allow persons age 14 – 17 to obtain cards without requiring a parent signature. Your Board packet also contains information about a proposed project to partner with local school districts to provide students with Great Falls Public Library digital resource access Library cards.
6. **PERMANENT STORY WALK:** Thanks to funding from the Community Development Block Grant program, the Cross Charitable Foundation and several individual donors, our permanent Story Walk is almost completed. The Story Walk posts are here and will be installed by the beginning of October. As part of ARTSfest 2022, volunteers painted colorful animal footprints on the sidewalk between Gibson Park and the Library.
7. **BAKER & TAYLOR:** As you may know, the Library purchases the vast majority of our materials from our main vendor Baker & Taylor. We not only order most of our materials from them, but they also do most of our processing. They prepare the materials with covers, spine labels, security tags etc so that our books/DVDs/CDs come 90% ready to go straight to the shelves. In August, Baker & Taylor experienced a major ransomware attack. The Library was unable to order materials for several weeks and our shipments of materials was limited. They seem to have recovered from the attack. We are able to order materials again and shipments are arriving.
8. **AAUW BOOKSALE:** AAUW will be having their book sale in October. Please see the October Press Release for details on this wonderful annual event.