

Director's Report
Great Falls Public Library
January 2024

1. **MONTHLY MANAGEMENT TEAM UPDATE—PUBLIC SERVICES REPORT:** Sara Linder Parkinson has prepared a report on the Public Services Department. She will provide an overview of the work of her team and answer any Board questions.
2. **LIBRARY PARK TASK FORCE:** The Library Board previously voted both to accept the Library Park Task Force report and to instruct the Library Director to carry out the Task Force recommendations—including taking down the park band shell. The Library received several generous donations at the end of 2023, including a bequest from a life insurance policy of a longtime Library Patron. Since the demolition of the bandshell was not in the Library's FY2024 budget, we will use those donations to pay for the demolition of the Library Bandshell. The Historic Preservation Officer has taken pictures and is documenting the park and band shell. Staff are working to coordinate the electrical work and the demolition schedule. Our hope is to have the project completed by late March (depending on weather).
3. **LIBRARY REMODEL DESIGN REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL:** The RFP review committee reviewed the proposals. After much debate and consideration, the selection committee has elected to start contract negotiations with the top scoring firm. We are working to define the scope and finalize the contract details. We hope to have a contract for the Library Board to review and approve at their February meeting so that it can be on the contracts list for approval at the City Commission meeting in March.
4. **PARTNERS ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY & UPCOMING PROJECT:** On February 1 2023, Great Falls Public Library went live with the MSC Partners Resource Sharing Group (Partners). The Partners is a consortium of libraries within the Montana Shared Catalog. Each Partner library opens its collections to the cardholders of all Partner libraries. Within the consortium, a Partner library cardholder in one community can reserve and check out items from a neighboring community or from a library several hundred miles away. Our patrons have placed hundreds of holds and received hundreds of books through the Partners in the last year.. We are so pleased with the success of this project that provides access to a wider array of materials. The Partners are in discussions of how to improve efficiency and patron experience by using collaborative collection development. We will provide more information on this project in upcoming months.
5. **FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE:** The Friends of the Library had their first planning meeting for the 2024 Book Sale. The Book Sale will be scheduled for May. The Friends are collecting books every Saturday starting February 3rd from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Thank you to the Board members who have volunteered to assist with collection. If you are interested in volunteering, please talk to Sarah Cawley.
6. **TAX HELP MONTANA:** Tax Help Montana will be at the Library again this year. We are pleased to partner with them to provide the important service of assisting members of our community to correctly file their taxes.
7. **NATIONAL LIBRARY MONTH COMING SOON:** April is National Library Month and we are working on some promotional ideas. Jake (Communications Specialist) will be working with staff to create videos about the Library. Please let us know if you have any ideas or would like to participate in a video.
8. **LIBRARY PROGRAMMING:** The Library has some great programs scheduled for February including our annual Black Heritage Evening and a special United Against Hate presentation in collaboration with the U.S. Attorney's Office.
9. **AMERICAN LIBRARIES ARTICLE:** Every year *American Libraries* has an article providing updates about local efforts to improve Library funding. This year, Great Falls Public Library was one of six featured libraries in "Referenda Roundup 2023: Campaign Stories lessons learned from local elections". A copy of the section about us is included in your packet.