

Director's Report
Great Falls Public Library
February 2024

1. **MONTHLY MANAGEMENT TEAM UPDATE—YOUTH SERVICES REPORT:** Rae McFadden has prepared a report on the Youth Services Department. She will provide an overview of the work of her team and answer any Board questions.
2. **MILL LEVY IMPLEMENTATION:** Thanks to the HR Department for their assistance! We have been recruiting to hire new staff including two Safety Specialists, three part-time Library clerks, one full-time Library Specialist for Youth Services, one part-time Library Specialist for Youth Services, one part-time bookmobile driver and one Technology Systems assistant. The job application window closed on February 14th. The Management Team reviewed the applications and interviews are scheduled for the last two weeks of February. We hope to have new staff starting around the first of April. Recruitment for the part-time custodian position has started and we hope to have that new staff person starting in May.
3. **GREAT FALLS GENEALOGY SOCIETY, HISTORY MUSEUM & LIBRARY PARTNERSHIP:** The Great Falls Genealogy Society, History Museum and the Library have started meeting quarterly. We have agreed that “The History Museum, Genealogy Society and Library are committed to collaboration. We believe that by working together we can be more effective in our separate missions. We aim to complement the work of each other—not to duplicate or compete.” We are currently working on plans for preservation and access for print Tribunes, newspaper microfilm and local yearbooks. Our aim is to ensure that essential local history is preserved AND that we do not waste space by unnecessary duplicate holdings.
4. **DIGITAL BORN NEWS PRESERVATION PROJECT:** I am working with Dan Karalus from the Montana Historical Society to start to address the problem of preservation of digital born news. I’ve included the problem statement document we developed in your packet. We are scheduling an initial meeting of the Work Group for the week of May 6th.
5. **FOUNDATION APPROVED PROJECTS:** At their January meeting, the Foundation Board approved all of the Library’s funding requests. The Library Board approved these project requests at their December meeting. We will start implementing the projects over the next couple of months. A copy of the approved requests is in your packet for reference.
6. **TRUSTEE TRAININGS:** The Montana State Library Commission has allocated \$4,000 to each Library Federation for Trustee training. The Pathfinder Federation chose to sponsor a Dan Clark training in Havre this Spring and provide each Library with a \$185.00 for Library Board of Trustee training. ***I’d love input from the Board on how to spend the \$185.00.*** The Montana Library Association Conference will take place April 17 to 20 in Butte. We will be sending staff to the Conference for ongoing training and we are happy to also support any Trustees who wish to attend. I’ve included brief schedule in you packet. More information, including program descriptions are available at the MLA Conference website at <https://www.mtlib.org/2024-Annual-Conference>
7. **WORD MEISTER:** The Great Falls Public will be hosting the ***Word Meister Contest*** again this year on Thursday March 28th from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. This is fun evening of teams competing to match words to their proper definitions. Last year, the Library was represented by Whitney Olson, Jill Baker and myself. I hope that we will be able to field a team again this year even through Whitney and Jill are unavailable. Please let me know if you are interested in representing the Library with me.
8. **HIGHRISE STORY TELLING:** In a recent *Your Work Matters* newsletter, Library Boards were encouraged to develop elevator pitches that focus on the VALUE that the Library provides to the community. In your packet, I have included the text of the newsletter article and DRAFTS of pitches we can use to promote the Library.