

GRAL Director's Report

JUNE 2022

ADVOCACY

-Capital Projects Fund (American Rescue Plan)

I am in contact with the Governor's Office regarding this potential funding source. At this time, there is not a clear process on how these funds are allocated or spent.

UPDATE: I have been in touch with a member of the Governor's staff. The Facilities Maintenance Manager has obtained quotes for electrical upgrades in anticipation of this grant opportunity being available.

-Legislative Update from MLA Lobbyist Sam Walseth

2022 Session Adjourns "Sine Die"

Last Sunday night the 2022 legislative session came to a close, leaving much of the hoped-for legislation on bonding, tax cuts and supplemental spending left undone. On Monday, retiring legislators gave speeches to their respective chambers. Their heartfelt comments, memories and advice about bipartisanship were well received, although it made many of us wonder where those attitudes and perspectives were the week before. Over 40 members of the legislature are retiring, another 11 are making an effort to move from the House to Senate.

The Leadership 4-4-4 Plan

In the days and weeks to come there will be a lot of speculation about a special session to enact bills under the leaderships "4-4-4" plan. The plan called for \$4 billion in tax cuts and \$4 billion in supplemental spending over the next three fiscal years, while leaving the last \$4 billion in available surplus on the bottom line. The deal also called for a \$1.4 billion general obligation (GO) bonding bill.

For Minnesota's public libraries, a bonding bill is the most significant piece of outstanding legislation. Despite a \$1 billion spending target for E-12 education, negotiators for the Education Conference Committee dropped the RLBSS proposal early in the process. A solid effort by both chief authors, Rep. Dan Wolgamott and Sen. Mark Johnson was made throughout the session and they were fully engaged through the final days, working their channels to make this possible. We owe them both many thanks for their genuine advocacy and support.

Education Negotiations

Senate E-12 negotiators made a strong push to put the vast majority of the \$1B target into buying down school district special education expenditures, often referred to as the “special education cross-subsidy.” They also insisted on putting somewhere between \$42-55 million into literacy training grants for K-5 teachers.

The House wanted to divvy up the \$1B target, spreading it across a broader array of services, including continuing existing Voluntary PreK funding, early learning scholarships, mental health funding, English Language Learner funding, nutrition funding, and one-time funding to pay for an unemployment insurance mandate on schools for hourly workers, in addition to some special education funding. The House also fought for several of the mandates and policy provisions, particularly around student discipline.

Tax Cut Negotiations

While the Education conference committee was a tail of difficult negotiations, the Tax conference committee felt like a love fest. Chairs Paul Marquart and Carla Nelson led the group to a \$4 billion tax cut over the next three years. The highlights included a full elimination of state income taxes on social security benefits, an income tax credit for renters, and a first-tier income tax cut, reducing the current law rate of 5.35% to 5.1%. The bill also included a \$30 million increase to both Local Government Aid and County Program Aid. As with most major bills, the tax bill was not taken up for a vote.

MLA Legislative Priorities

Library Capital Investment: SF 4034/HF 4421

SF 4034 Status in the Senate for the 92nd Legislature (2021 - 2022)

Senator Karin Housley and Representative Mary Murphy have been helpful, getting a larger library bonding bill introduced. The bill calls for \$5M in GO bonds and \$15M in cash for the library construction and renovation program. The Governor’s bonding bill includes \$1M for library bonding. The last bonding bill, passed in October 2020, included \$2.951 million for library construction and renovation grants.

Regional Library Basic System Support: HF 4300

HF 4300 Status in the House for the 92nd Legislature (2021 - 2022)

The large, on-going budget surplus gave hope to the Regional Library Basic System Support (RLBSS) proposal contained in HF 1710 (Dan Wolgamott)/SF 1131 (Mark Johnson). HF 4300 is the House Omnibus Education Finance & Policy bill, and the

contents of HF 1710 were loaded into this legislative package. Despite a strong effort by our chief authors, this provision was dropped early in negotiations.

School Libraries & Media Centers Defined: HF 4300

The House Omnibus Education Finance & Policy bill also includes a definition for “school libraries and media centers.” MLA worked with MDE and various public school organizations over the past year on the language. Sen. Mary Kunesh offered this language as an amendment to the Senate’s ‘literacy’ bill, but it was voted down over concerns expressed by majority members that it would create an unfunded mandate on schools. This provision, along with much of the House DFL policy provisions, was not even discussed or debated during conference committee negotiations.

The Education Conference Committee Members were:

- House: Jim Davnie, Julie Sandstede, Ruth Richardson, Hodan Hassan, Sondra Erickson

- Senate: Roger Chamberlain, Justin Eichorn, Zack Duckworth, Julie Coleman, Chuck Wiger

Library Legacy:

The House Legacy committee advanced a bill that would provide a funding bump to many of the Legacy programs funded last session. Regional library systems would see a \$404,000 increase in fiscal year '23 and the MN Center for the Book would see a \$18,000 increase in fiscal year '23 under the proposal. The Senate was cool to the idea of increasing Legacy funds for Arts & Cultural Heritage (ACH) this session and the final Legacy bill that did pass does not include any increases for ACH programs.

Community Broadband Access

The Drought Relief, Agriculture, and Broadband Omnibus (HF3420) was one of the only large funding bills to pass this year. Included in that package is \$210 million over the next three years for Minnesota's Border-to-Border Broadband grant program. The Office of Broadband Development has been preparing for this potential funding, so we can expect the first round of grants soon. The bill also provides some direction for anticipated additional federal funding for broadband in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Student Data Practices: HF 2353

A compromise was struck between the ACLU, School District officials and Tech Providers on new regulations around student data and school monitoring of usage on school district devices. The bill passed and was signed into law on 5.22.22. The final bill can be found here, the 1st engrossment posted on 5.8.22:

HF 2353 Status in the House for the 92nd Legislature (2021 - 2022)

Regulations on Student Directory data:

The House Public Safety omnibus bill, HF 4608, contained language regulating student directory information. The bill did not pass. The language stated in part:

“An educational agency or institution may not designate a student's home address, telephone number, e-mail address, or other personal contact information as directory information under this subdivision. This paragraph does not apply to a postsecondary institution.”

Scroll to line 215.22:

HF 4608 2nd Engrossment - 92nd Legislature (2021 - 2022)

Regulations on digital and online library database for students: HF 467

This bill advanced in 2021 in the House Education process, but it did not advance or see any debate this session. Look for advocates to reintroduce some version of this during the 2023 legislative session.

HF 467 Status in the House for the 92nd Legislature (2021 - 2022)

LIBRARY MANAGEMENT

-ALS Early Literacy Initiative (recommendations)

Great news! This morning, the ALS Executive Committee endorsed the following summer recommendations created by the ALS Early Literacy Initiative Sub-Committee:

May 16-31, 2022: For fine-free locations and others, review patron records and waive previous fines and fees if possible to get kids and families ready for summer reading.

May 16-August 31, 2022: When youth ages 0-18 return lost items to the library, all attached fines and fees will be waived. No fees will be charged to youth ages 0-18 for replacement library cards.

June 1-August 31, 2022: Offer Fresh Start Summer @ Your Library! Fresh Start Summer is a way for kids and teens who have lost or damaged items to do some sort of activity in the library and/or at home and have the charge removed. We know that many kids and teens do not have the ability to pay off fees and this prevents the very kids who need the library most from using it. This program holds kids accountable for lost or damaged items while also giving them the opportunity to earn back their ability to check out items from the library. Each library will determine how the local program will tie into summer reading initiatives and how fines will be waived at the local level. ALS will create a general press release listing the locations participating in the Fresh Start Summer program

-Public Services Clerk I

Christa Roerick starts June 6!

-Music Park Collaboration with KAXE

The instruments have been ordered and will ship directly to the Public Works Department – who will install them. Delivery could take several weeks. Concrete is scheduled mid-June to coincide with work on the Library grounds for the upcoming RiverFest concert. At this time, I'm optimistic for the park to be 'up and running' this summer.

-RiverFest update

I will have the latest update at the 6/8 meeting.

FACILITIES MAINTAINANCE / SPACE

-Book drop

The Catholic Community Foundation has agreed to support this project! New book drop hardware is on site and the Facilities Maintenance Manager is in contact with a local mason.

-Flag Pole

We have received complaints the flagpole attached to the building does not display the flag respectfully – the flag touches the building at half-mast and is easily damaged. I conferred with the VFW Post 1720 Commander and he agrees a fix is needed. In the process of investigating options and obtaining quotes, a serviceable flagpole (removed from the sports complex) was located in storage at Public Works. I am working with the Public Works Superintendent on getting it installed (and removing the old pole).

-Quiet Study Project

Waiting on materials (insulation)

-Community Room Shades

New shades are on order with Floor to Ceiling.

FIRE RESPONSE

I responded to 23 calls during May with 7 responses from the Library.

END OF REPORT

May in Children's

Well! Whaddya know? After my incessant months-long whining workshop, spring, and perhaps, summer, are, really-and-truly, here. In addition, while I whole-heartedly support "No-Mow-May" (believing that life on Earth is important) I am also very much looking forward to "Time-To-Mow June." Things are looking up!

Dion just poked her head in to share some fun stats. While we continue to get between 50-85 views of each Online Storytime on our Facebook page each month, our Walleye storytime, which just went up last Thursday, May 26, has already garnered 145 views on YouTube! We can't quite figure out where that audience is coming from, but, okay! ("Mushrooms" also has over 100 views on YouTube. Perhaps the sudden onslaught of viewers was hoping for slightly different content? But, hey, they watched it!)

May brought many requests for school groups to visit the library. While I'm not quite comfortable with that just yet, I did spend most of a delightful day at West Elementary visiting each of their five Kindergarten classrooms. We talked about libraries, summer reading, and then I read a book and did a flannel board activity with them. I also sent home Summer Reading book logs with each student, and two families came immediately after school to sign up everybody in their household! In other good news, Cathy Peck-Burley, Title 1 teacher at West, came in and picked up reading logs for EVERY student at West. I sent a letter to the school, to help explain the program, and Vice Principal Lindner sent that out to every family via SeeSaw, their communication app. I am very impressed with their commitment to doing everything possible to urge their students to read over the summer.

Our summer programming is slim, but is designed to encourage families to get to the library. For ten weeks, starting June 6, kids can come get a scavenger hunt sheet. Some can be completed here at the library (I'll attach the first one, so you get the idea) others are to be done at home. When the hunt is completed, kids can return their sheet and collect the brag tag (think plastic dog tag) designed for that hunt. There are 10 different brag tags to collect over the summer. Looking ahead, I will be out of the library for a few weeks following a surgery, but, if Covid numbers remain low in July, I think it's time to start in-person Storytime once again. That decision will be made in July. If we, indeed, do start in-person storytime, I also have a few other programs I'll try. And then...drumroll...our Second Annual Summer Celebration is scheduled for August 17. Clear your calendars, because not only do I need competent adults to people the tables, but it's going to be pretty darn fun! (The Kona Ice is already paid for!) (And yes, you are all competent adults... ☺) Happy Reading!

June 2022 at your Library

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Don't forget to watch Online Storytime every THURSDAY on the Grand Rapids Area Library YouTube Channel and Facebook page!</p>			1	2	3	4
5	<p>6</p> <p>Scavenger Hunt #1 — Outside the Library</p> <p>Complete the scavenger hunt and turn in your sheet at the Children's Library Desk to collect your brag tag!</p>	<p>7</p> <p>1:00 pm TaikoArts Midwest Drumming</p> <p>Family-friendly program for all ages. This performance will take place in the KAXE/ Rotary tent, so bring your blanket or chairs!</p> 	8	<p>9</p> 	10	11
12	<p>13</p> <p>Scavenger Hunt #2 — Inside Your House!</p> <p>Artastic kit pickup!</p>	<p>14</p>  <p>Artastic kit pickup!</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Artastic video posts on YouTube & Facebook!</p> 	16	17	18
<p>19</p> <p>11-2 Juneteenth</p> <p>Family-friendly program for all ages. This performance will take place in the KAXE/ Rotary tent, so bring your blanket or chairs!</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Scavenger Hunt #3 — Outside Your House!</p>	21	<p>22</p> 	23	24	25
26	<p>27</p> <p>Scavenger Hunt #4 — Inside the Library!</p>	28	29	<p>30</p> 		



Questions? Call the Children's Desk at (218)327-8823.

Or visit our website at: [www.https://www.cityofgrandrapidsmn.com/library](https://www.cityofgrandrapidsmn.com/library)

All library programs are FREE and open to EVERYONE!

GRAND RAPIDS AREA LIBRARY SUMMER READING

Complete the scavenger hunt and turn in your sheet at the Children's Library Desk to collect your brag tag! There will be a new scavenger hunt each week: June 6 - August 15.



Scavenger Hunt #1 — Outside the Library

Find the objects and answer the questions below:

1. How many posts are there for the Story Walk? _____
2. How many benches can you find on the Library grounds? _____
3. How many picnic tables can you find? (hint: look on all sides of the building!) _____
4. What is the name of the radio station to the east of the library? _____
5. What is the name of the river to the south of the library? _____
6. Can you hear a bird? What does it sound like? _____
7. Can you find a sign with pictures on it? Describe, or draw, one of the pictures.
8. Find something that rhymes with the word "far." _____
9. Find something that is blue. _____
10. Find three different shades of green on the trees.

WEEK



GRAND RAPIDS AREA LIBRARY SUMMER READING

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Scavenger Hunt #2 — Inside Your House!

Find the objects and answer the questions below:

- 1. Pick a window in your house. When you look out that window, how many colors can you see?
2. Find something you stir with in the kitchen:
3. Find something that starts with the first letter of your name:
4. Find something with wheels:
5. Find four yellow things: a. b. c. d.
6. Find something that plays music:
7. Find something round:
8. Find something that makes you happy:
9. Find something that is blue:
10. Find a book with numbers:



GRAND RAPIDS AREA LIBRARY SUMMER READING

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Scavenger Hunt #3 — Outside Your House!

Find the objects and answer the questions below:

1. How many cars can you see from your front door: _____

2. Find two crawling critters: a. _____ b. _____

3. Find two flying critters: a. _____ b. _____

4. Find your favorite thing to play outdoors: _____

5. Count the windows on your house: _____

6. Find two rocks that are different from each other. Are they different sizes?

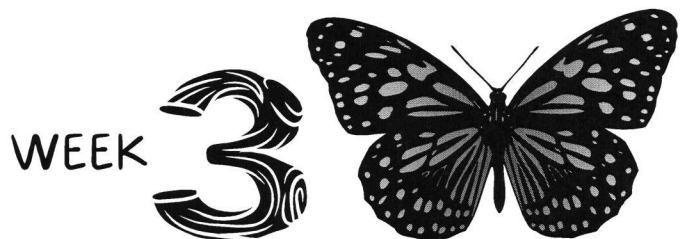
Shapes? Colors? What makes them different? _____

7. Find something round: _____

8. Find something green: _____

9. Describe a picture you see in the clouds: _____

10. Find something rough: _____



GRAND RAPIDS AREA LIBRARY SUMMER READING

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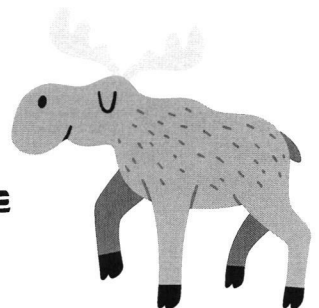
Scavenger Hunt #4 — Inside the Library!

Find the objects and answer the questions below:

1. Ask a library worker to write their name: _____
2. What is the name of the creature flying over the Fairly Tales?
(398.2) _____
3. Name two animals painted on the walls: a. _____ b. _____
4. How many window panes are covered by a glittery paper? _____
5. Name two things sold at the Farmer's Market in the Children's Library:
a. _____ b. _____
6. Write three letters you can find on the fish in the Children's Library:
a. _____ b. _____ c. _____
7. Find something blue: _____
8. Find something that makes you happy: _____
9. Find a picture of a moose hanging on the wall, what is the Ojibwe word for moose?

10. Find something smooth: _____

WEEK



GRAND RAPIDS AREA LIBRARY SUMMER READING

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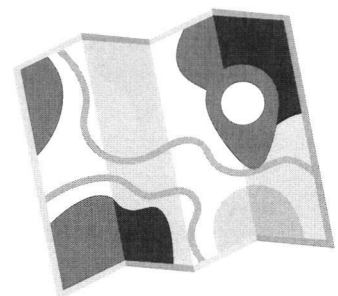
Scavenger Hunt #5 — In Your Community!

Find the objects and answer the questions below:

1. I found a mailbox on _____ (which street or avenue?)
2. I found the fire station on _____ (which street or avenue?)
3. My favorite store is on _____ (which street or avenue?)
4. The police station is on _____ (which street or avenue?)
5. The library is on _____ (which street or avenue?)
6. The movie theater is on _____ (which street or avenue?)
7. My favorite restaurant is on _____ (which street or avenue?)
8. I found a grocery store on _____ (which street or avenue?)
9. I found a bank on _____ (which street or avenue?)
10. I found a gas station on _____ (which street or avenue?)

WEEK

5



GRAND RAPIDS AREA LIBRARY SUMMER READING

Complete the scavenger hunt and turn in your sheet at the Children's Library Desk to collect your brag tag! There will be a new scavenger hunt each week: June 6 - August 15.

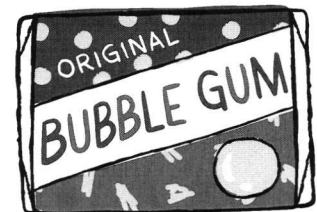


Scavenger Hunt #6 — Adjectives!

Adjectives are words that describe people, places, or things. Find the objects and answer the questions below:

1. I found something sticky: _____
2. I found something loud: _____
3. I found something tall: _____
4. I found something flat: _____
5. I found something curvy: _____
6. I found something pink: _____
7. I found something tiny: _____
8. I found something cold: _____
9. I found something old: _____
10. I found something wet: _____

WEEK **6**



GRAND RAPIDS AREA LIBRARY SUMMER READING

Complete the scavenger hunt and turn in your sheet at the Children's Library Desk to collect your brag tag! There will be a new scavenger hunt each week: June 6 - August 15.



Scavenger Hunt #7 — On a Hike!

Find the objects and answer the questions below:

- 1. Find a colorful flower. It is (what color?): _____
- 2. I found an animal. It was a: _____
- 3. I found a pinecone.
- 4. I found a stick.
- 5. I found a triangle.
- 6. I found three different kinds of leaves.
- 7. I found a dead tree.
- 8. I found something living in the dead tree.
- 9. I felt something smooth.
- 10. I felt something rough.



GRAND RAPIDS AREA LIBRARY SUMMER READING

Complete the scavenger hunt and turn in your sheet at the Children's Library Desk to collect your brag tag! There will be a new scavenger hunt each week: June 6 - August 15.



Scavenger Hunt #8 — By the Book!

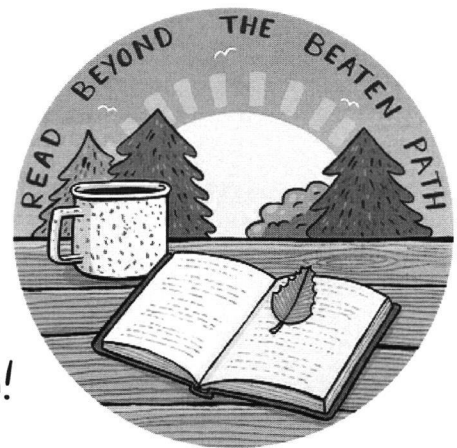
Find the objects and answer the questions below. You do NOT need to remove the book from the shelf or bin, simply write down the title.

- 1. A book with a one-word title:
2. A book with a blue cover:
3. A book with a red cover:
4. A book without a dust jacket: (Don't know what that is? Just ask!)
5. A book with an animal on the cover:
6. A book by Mo Willems:
7. A magazine:
8. A DVD with a person on the front:
9. A Wonderbook:
10. A book with a number in its title:



GRAND RAPIDS AREA LIBRARY SUMMER READING

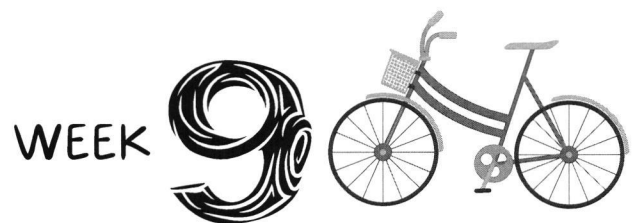
Complete the scavenger hunt and turn in your sheet at the Children's Library Desk to collect your brag tag! There will be a new scavenger hunt each week: June 6 - August 15.



Scavenger Hunt #9 — Riding Around Town!

While you are riding or walking around town, find the objects listed below.

- 1. A blue car
- 2. A yellow house
- 3. A dog
- 4. A flag
- 5. A bicycle
- 6. A fence
- 7. A mailbox
- 8. A delivery truck
- 9. A person walking
- 10. A motorcycle



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Scavenger Hunt #10 — In My Room!

In the room where you sleep, find the objects listed below. (If need be, you can find them in other parts of your house.)

- 1. I found something soft. It was _____
2. I found something blue. It was _____
3. I found something warm. It was _____
4. I found my favorite shirt. Its color is _____
5. I found something that goes on my head. It was _____
6. I found something green. It was _____
7. I found a stuffed animal. It was a _____
8. I found something round. It was _____
9. I found something in my favorite color. It was _____
10. I found something that makes noise. It was _____

