

Director's Report

May 18, 2026

Staffing & Transitions

- Chris Weiss retired April 30 after 38 years of service.
- Beth Loesch is now a Library Tech II and served as Acting Director (Apr 1–17).
- Martha Cummins moved into the Library Tech I position.
- Carol Jensen started May 4 as part-time Library Clerk; onboarding underway.

Funding & Grants

- Awarded an \$8,750 grant from Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines through First Bank for Summer Reading programming and incentives.
- Received a \$25,000 Rasmuson Foundation grant supporting a new library website and self-check kiosk upgrade.
- Received a \$4,000 Petersburg Community Foundation grant supporting a self-check kiosk upgrade.

Programs & Community Engagement

- Barb launched the first Friday Commons teen afterschool program and is offering Troll Horn Maker Lab (May 13; ages 7–11).
- Kari hosted a successful Beaded Pendants workshop with Mary Ann Rainey.
- Kari coordinated Baby Raven Reads through spring; the program will expand to weekly sessions this summer.
- Kari expanded collaboration with Sealaska Heritage, including support for Summer Reading, Gumboot Camp participation, Native children's books, culturally relevant toys, and dramatic play additions for the children's area.
- Rainforest Writers continues at capacity, with summer sessions scheduled June–August.
- Ashley Lohr taught a Foliage and Flowers Oil Painting workshop in April and has a Bouy Enamel Earrings class schedule for May 21.
- The Petersburg Science Series featured spring programs with visiting scientists.
- Continued strong participation in recurring programs: yoga with Karen, LEGO Club, Wiggle & Giggle, and outreach storytimes.
- Summer Reading 2026: Planning is nearing completion for the Great Summer Reading Challenge (June 5 – July 19) serving ages 0–13. Highlights include:
 - Weekly activities and incentives
 - Science Camp in partnership with Marine Advisory Program
 - Strong local business sponsorship participation
 - Completion prizes will support local businesses