

Report of the Library Director for Dec 2024/Jan 2025 Activities

Collection updates:

We are researching the possibility of creating a “middle grade” collection area. This could help with space issues in the kid and teen areas, but would require moving the Westerns. Albany has recently added this type of collection, so we are waiting a bit to see what worked and didn’t work for them, before we move forward.

Building issues:

We have banned shopping carts (from local stores) on library property. We are working on behavior issues with those that hang out outside and at the bus stop. SHPD is driving by multiple times a day and overnight to keep an eye out for any trouble.

In building updates:

We are adding our recent gifted items to their designated areas. We have a new table top gaming table for the teen room with new fidget stools, a new reading cube add to the kid’s area and lots of new games and other items for both areas. These are all donations from the community, Sweet Home Community Singing Christmas Tree audience donations and from the Friend’s of the Library. Lots of Lego parts for

In-person Programming:

New Year new programs! 2024 was a busy year with programs as we averaged almost 1 program a day. We are adding some new programs for 2025 and already scheduling programs for our Summer Reading Program. We are working with Sunshine Industries to offer a weekly or monthly movie date for their clients.

New Building:

We received the final allocation from the Alheit Revocable Living Trust to go towards land acquisition for a new library building (\$355,695.70). This brings the donation to around \$800,000 in total.

Other updates:

We have applied for several grants for various items, from new books to items for better handicap access. We should find out if we received any of these grants in the next several months. More grants open up in the next few weeks to continue applying for!

Megan was accepted to be part of the Libraries Advancing Community Learning to Reduce Substance Abuse national forum in Kansas City in May 2025. <https://lacl.missouri.edu/> This is a fully funded, limited participation event.