



ANNUAL REPORT

2017

...at the touch of a button
or the turn of a page.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary2

Mission and Vision3

Message from the Board of Trustees President/
Library Board of Trustees.....3

Community Partners, American Festival
and Education Series, and Hoopla4

Adult Services and Programming 5, 6

Children’s Services and Programming 7, 8

Teen Services and Programming9, 10

Outreach Services 11

Outreach Partner Agencies 2017..... 11

Friends of the Fargo Public Library..... 12

Library Collection 13

Usage Overview..... 13

2018 Library Budget..... 14

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2017 was another record year for the Fargo Public Library. It was also a year of new resources and programs. We achieved record attendance at library events and activities in 2017 with over twenty-six thousand citizens attending. This is to the credit of the creative and hardworking library staff who developed and presented the many events and activities for all ages.

We rolled out two additional electronic content services in 2017. Hoopla Digital and RB Digital Services have expanded our offerings of e-books, e-audiobooks and streaming music and movies. In addition, our popular Library2Go collections through Overdrive are continually expanding.

To ensure our services are aligned with the needs of the dynamic community we serve, the Fargo Public Library began the process of identifying its strategic focus for the next three years with the initiation of a new strategic plan. The plan is being developed from community input from surveys, focus groups and workshops.

In this current year we are excited to begin implementing our new strategic plan and fulfilling the expectations of the dynamic community of Fargo.



Regards,

Timothy S. Dirks, MLIS, MPA
DIRECTOR • FARGO PUBLIC LIBRARY



OUR MISSION

The Fargo Public Library provides effective and efficient library services to meet our patrons' personal, professional, and lifelong learning needs.

OUR VISION

The Fargo Public Library will be a model of excellence in library services and the primary place in the community for people of all ages to fulfill their informational, recreational, and lifelong learning needs.

A MESSAGE FROM FARGO PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD PRESIDENT RACHAEL STEENHOLDT



2017 was a year defined by reflection and planning. The library's new strategic plan will soon be unveiled; and behind that plan went many hours of community engagement, staff and expert consultation, and imaginative deliberation. Fargo can be proud of what the library has accomplished through our previous strategic plan, and share in the library's excitement about what is to come.

2017 FARGO PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Fargo Public Library Board of Trustees experienced change in 2017 with two new members coming on and the assignment of a new Commission Liaison. The Library thanks MaryBeth Hegstad and Becky Walen for the generous giving of their time and talents while serving on the Board of Trustees. We also want to thank Mike Williams for his service to the library as Commission Liaison. We also warmly welcomed Rachael Steenholdt and Dr. Carlos Hawley as the new members of the Board of Trustees, and Commissioner John Strand as the City Commission liaison.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Helen Levitt | Rachael Steenholdt, <i>President</i> |
| Howard Barlow, <i>Vice President</i> | Dr. Carlos Hawley |
| Dr. Herbert Snyder | John Strand, <i>Commission Liaison</i> |
| Gary Groberg | |
| Mary Dickson | |

NEW RESOURCE 2017

In April 2017, the Library added Hoopla to its Digital Downloads Collection. Hoopla provides patrons with easy access to streaming movies, music, TV shows, e-books, e-audiobooks, and graphic novels on their tablets, computers, or mobile devices for free without waitlists or holds. Cardholders can have up to five downloads per month from Hoopla. This resource also has an automatic return feature which eliminates late and overdue fines.

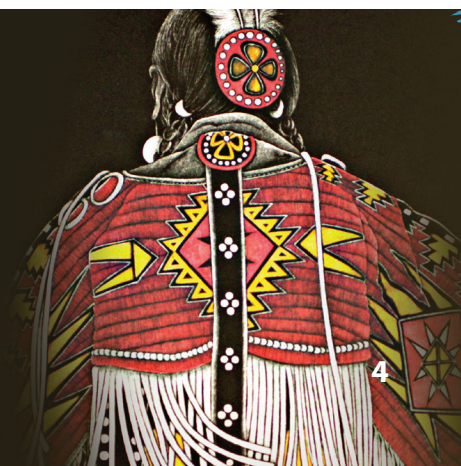


NEW NATIVE AMERICAN FESTIVAL AND EDUCATION SERIES

A highlight of November was the Native American Festival and Education series held in partnership with Cultural Diversity Resources, the Fargo Native American Commission, and the Plains Art Museum to celebrate Native American Heritage Month. Events and activities included a performance by the Buffalo River Singers, storytellers Michael Gabbard and Anne Dunn, Native American food sampling, and screenings of Deb Wallwork's films *Mino-Bimadiziwin: The Good Life* and *Warriors*. Additional support for this successful program series was provided by the Spirit Lake Tribe, Bell Bank, and Knight Printing.

In 2017, the Fargo Public Library partnered with a wide variety of organizations and individuals to enhance library programming and strengthen the community.

- 188th Army Brass Band Quintet
- AARP
- Arts Partnership
- City of Fargo Forestry Department
- City of Fargo Planning Department
- City of Fargo Public Works
- City of Fargo Street Department
- Concordia College Library
- Concordia College Science Academy & Dr. Graeme Wyllie
- Cultural Diversity Resources
- Daughters of the Earth
- Fargo Brewing Co.
- Fargo Moorhead Heritage Society
- Fargo Police Department
- Fargo Public Schools
- Fargo Rotary
- Fargo-Moorhead Choral Artists
- Flatland Dixieland Band
- F-M Ballet
- Friends of the Fargo Public Library
- Front Street Taproom
- Giving + Learning
- Great Plains Food Bank
- Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County
- Lake Agassiz Regional Library / Moorhead Library
- Moorhead Community Education
- MSUM Library
- Native American Commission
- NDSU Extension
- NDSU Computer Science Department
- NDSU Entomology Department
- NDSU Geology Department
- NDSU Libraries
- Newspapers in Education (NIE – The Learning Forum)
- North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters Local 1176
- North Dakota State College of Sciences/ Skills & Technology Center
- Plains Art Museum
- Red River Market
- Red River Modules Train Club
- Red River Tae-Kwon Do
- Spirit Lake Tribe
- Spirit Room
- Therapy Pets of the Red River Valley
- uCodeGirl
- Valley Reading Council
- Welcoming Week 2017
- West Fargo Public Library



native american
FESTIVAL
and Education series

ADULT PROGRAMMING



JANUARY: In January, the Library hosted documentary photographer Ethan Smith for a presentation of his photographic project of the historic Fergus Falls State Hospital. He compiled his works, along with interviews of former clients and employees of the hospital, in a book called *The Castle on the Hill*. More than 100 people filled the Main Library's Community Room to see and hear the stories of history and humanity of the grand Kirkbride building.

Also in January, the Library collaborated with AARP and AT&T for two 'Digital You' workshops in January. AT&T provided 50 tablets as well as tech support specialists for these digital literacy events; 99 people attended these hands-on sessions.



FEBRUARY: Folks found their green thumbs at the Library in February with our 'Houseplants Workshop' with Dr. Esther McGinnis from the NDSU Extension Service. Over 30 people attended the two-hour workshop and learned how to select the perfect houseplants for their home, treat for disease and insect problems, and got their hands dirty while learning how to transplant a houseplant to take home.

MARCH: The Library continued its partnership with Cultural Diversity Resources, a local nonprofit addressing the challenges and opportunities of increased cultural and ethnic diversity, and offered an educational program titled 'The Culture and Colors of Syria' in March. More than 80 people attended this event highlighting the festivals, art, languages, religions, and traditions of this diverse country.

Daryl Ritchison, Interim Director of the North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network at NDSU, presented two programs, 'Historical Blizzards on the Plains' and 'The 1930s: When the Soil Blew Away.' Over 50 people were captivated with Ritchison's lectures, which included photographs, personal narratives, and meteorological data from these regional weather-related events.

MAY: In early May, the Library hosted an author talk and signing for the book, *Green Card Youth Voices: Immigration Stories from a Fargo High School*. Based on a successful model used in Minneapolis, the book is a vehicle to generate awareness about the immigrant experience by high school teens in our area. It includes personal essays of 30 English Learners (EL) from Fargo South High School. Twenty-seven people attended the event.

Also in May, the Library offered a 4-part gardening series. Workshops and topics included 'Spring Lawn Care', 'Container Gardening', 'Herb Gardening', and a 'Blossom Barter' where people bring in plants to trade with other attendees. Over 100 people attended this annual series of events and increased their horticulture knowledge.

JUNE: The Library welcomed Newzad Brifki, author of *My Journey to America: A Kurdish American Story*, in June. Brifki, founder and director of the Kurdish Community of America organization, read from his memoir, which tells of the flight of his family from Sadaam Hussein's Iraq to a refugee camp in Turkey, to their eventual resettlement in the United States. Forty-two people attended this event.

Melissa Schmalenberger, aka Ms. Simplicity, presented a 'Tackling Your Clutter' workshop for an engaged crowd of 40 in June. She provided tips on how to minimize messy areas and inspiration for organizing your home.

JULY: In July, the 'Brew Your Own' series featured kombucha, tisanes, and cold brew coffee. Attendees enjoyed samples of the various beverages while learning how to make their own at home. Expert brewers from 20 Below Coffee in Fargo led the cold brew coffee session. This popular program series had over 60 people in attendance.

SEPTEMBER: During September, the Library featured the community photography and story exhibit *The World in Fargo-Moorhead*, a project that spotlights area residents who have come to the Fargo-Moorhead area from other parts of the world, at the Main Library's concourse gallery. An artist's reception was held for the public in conjunction with Welcoming Week Fargo-Moorhead and over 50 people attended.



The partnership of the Fargo Public Library, West Fargo Public Library, Moorhead Public Library, Moorhead Community Education, and the libraries of Concordia College, Minnesota State University-Moorhead, and North Dakota State University continued with the sixth year of the One Book, One Community campaign. *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by author Jamie Ford was the selected title for 2017;

more than 750 people attended Ford's author visit and related programming during September and October.

OCTOBER: Nora McInerney, Minnesota author of *It's Okay to Laugh (Crying is Cool, Too)* and the host of the American Public Media Podcast *Terrible, Thanks for Asking*, spoke at the Library in October to a captivated crowd of 75 people. Her humorous but blunt outlook on tragic events that can occur in life inspired and entertained the audience.



NOVEMBER: To celebrate Veterans Day, the Library welcomed the Full Battle Rattle Brass Quintet and the Flatland Dixieland Band for a concert featuring some all-time American favorites in honor of those who have served.

DECEMBER: The Fargo-Moorhead Choral Artists performed a family holiday concert in December. Ninety people enjoyed favorite seasonal songs in a family-friendly setting. Children were even able to join in the music-making with various rhythm instruments!



OUTSIDE THE LIBRARY:



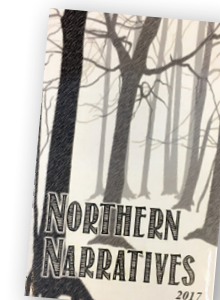
The Library staff continued to promote our services and collections at various community outreach events in 2017. In August, the Front Street Tap Room hosted the Library at a 'Books on Tap' event featuring an adult storytime and trivia worksheets. Folks were able to browse and check-out library materials, get reading suggestions, and hang out. Fifty individuals took part in this 21+ event.

The Library also had a presence in other community events in 2017. The Library took part in the annual Fargo Police Community Picnic, Pride in the Park Festival, Streets Alive, and the Pangea - Celebrate Our Cultures festival. This year, the Library also had a booth at the downtown Red River Market on two Saturdays in the fall. During the September Red River Market, the Children's Department performed a Stone Soup storytime on the main stage. The Library participated in Family Voices North Dakota accessible 'Trunk or Treat' Halloween event in October. The Library van, decked out in a 'Batty for Books' theme, won best decorated trunk!



NEW Northern Narratives Writing Contest

The inaugural volume of *Northern Narratives* features 26 works submitted by 24 local authors. More than 30 contestants entered into the writing competition. The anthology features selected poems, essays, and short stories submitted to the Fargo Public Library during the Winter Read-A-Thon, which ran Jan. 4, 2017 - Feb. 26, 2017. All pieces were written and self-edited by citizens of North Dakota and the Red River Valley. Judging was done by the Friends of the Fargo Public Library. Zine editions of the three categories were made available in limited quantities for the community. The 2017 *Northern Narratives* project was funded by the Friends of the Fargo Public Library.



To celebrate the publication of the *Northern Narratives* anthology, the Library hosted a small author recognition event at the Main Library in June. All participants whose works were selected received a complete volume (bound copy) of *Northern Narratives*. Feedback was sought from the authors about their experience and how they would like to see the program grow. Copies of the book were also added to the Library's collection.

CHILDREN'S 2017 PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

2017
TOTAL PROGRAM
ATTENDANCE
17,454

Crafternoons at Carlson – 2,074 attended

'Crafternoons at Carlson' is a weekly afterschool open house program for children ages 12 and under. In its second year in 2017, 'Crafternoons at Carlson' has continued to be a great success for the Children's department with more than 60 kids and their parents attending the craft program each week. At these programs, the library strives to encourage creativity in kids through arts and crafts, and provides a fun and approachable environment for families in our community. The Friends of the Fargo Public Library generously support 'Crafternoons at Carlson'.

'Crafternoons at Carlson' will continue throughout the 2018 school year.

NEW

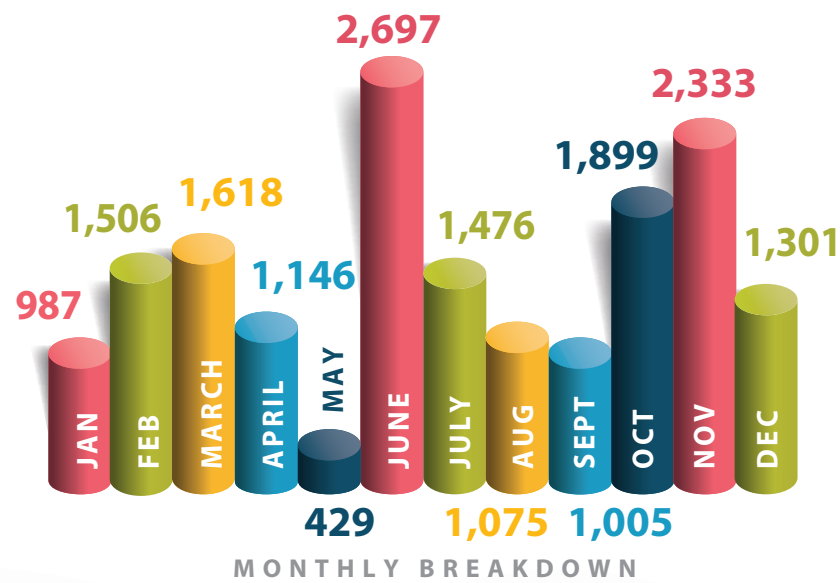
Kindergarten Success Storytime Series – 248 attended

January 2017 saw the start of a new addition to our offerings for young children with a focus on helping parents understand how they can help their child get ready for kindergarten. Research shows that reading to young children is one of the best ways to prepare them for academic success.

The 'Kindergarten Success!' storytimes each focus on a different early learning activity: reading, writing, talking, singing, and playing. During storytime, library staff share information about child development as it relates to literacy and pointers on how parents can incorporate simple activities into their daily interactions with their child. 'Kindergarten Success!' storytimes occur once a month and feature activities that highlight the connection between reading and math, art, and science.

Children who attend leave with a book for their home library. Throughout 2017, over 200 children and adults attended 'Kindergarten Success!' storytime sessions.

Children's Programming Attendance



NEW

Fargo History Hunt – 221 (completed puzzles)

Between June 5 and August 5, more than 200 people completed the Fargo History Hunt, a history-related informational scavenger hunt hosted by the Fargo Public Library and supported by the Fargo-Moorhead Heritage Society and Friends of the Fargo Public Library.

This family-friendly adventure for all ages led participants to 12 of downtown Fargo's historic buildings. A map listing locations also included questions about the history of each building. Answers to those questions were found at each location along with a jigsaw puzzle piece. Once each question was completed and all pieces were gathered, participants returned to the library to enter the grand prize drawing.

Participants, including the following, shared many positive comments: "My kids and I did this last week, and they're still excited about what they learned about their own town as a result. It was a great time visiting various businesses and buildings to learn more about Fargo!"

Another commented that it was not often "that you find something age appropriate that is entertaining for the parent and child."

A third wrote, "It was the most interesting family outing we had all summer according to my 8-year-old who is now a big fan of historical information."

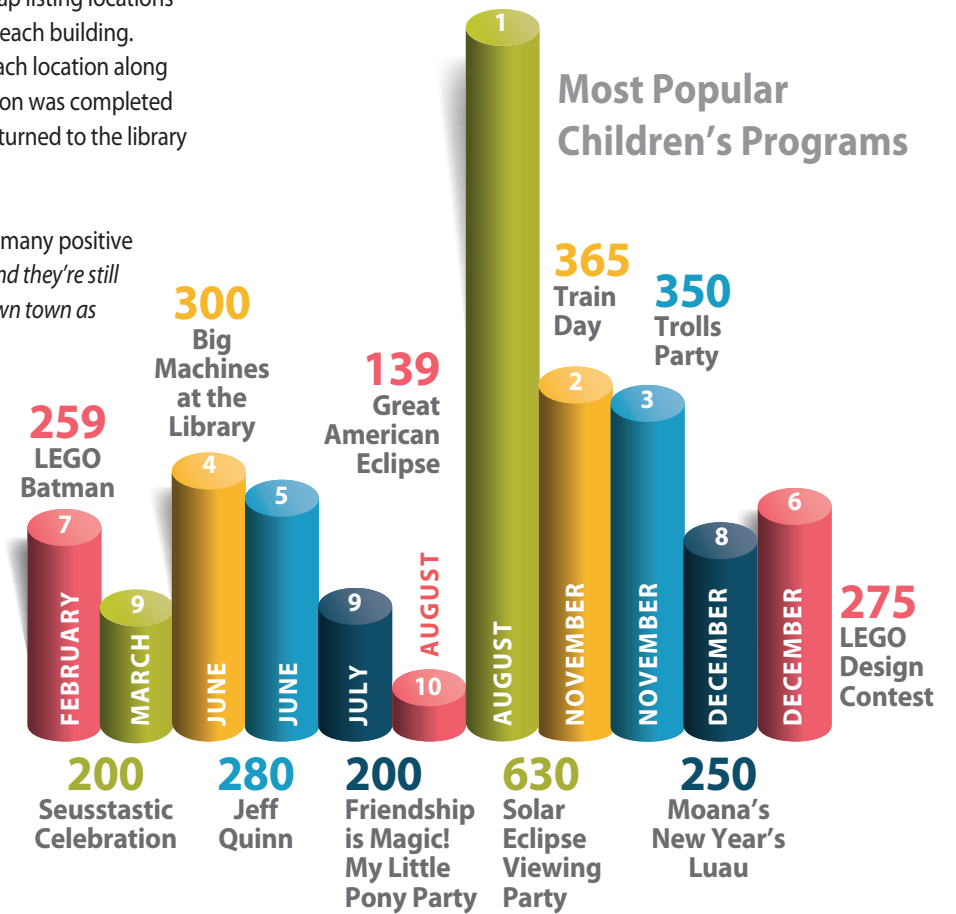
The Fargo History Hunt was a great way for the library to promote lifelong learning and foster a sense of community.



NEW

Revolve Program – Revolve is an afterschool program at the Dr. James Carlson Library that started in November. It currently runs Monday – Wednesday each week and is staffed by AmeriCorps volunteers. Participants get homework help, tutoring, crafting sessions, computer time, and snacks. Approximately 30 elementary and middle school students attend each week.

Most Popular Children's Programs



OUTREACH Family Events
3,988 Attendance
(BOTH ON AND OFFSITE)

Summer Reading Program
4,268 Attendance
101 PROGRAMS [JUNE 5 – AUG 5]

SUMMER READING PROGRAM
541 CHILDREN RECEIVED A BOOK FOR FINISHING

SUMMER READING PROGRAM
177 CHILDREN HAD THEIR PHOTO OR NAME IN THE FORUM

SUMMER READING PROGRAM
25,370 HOURS READ

WINTER READ-A-THON
266 PARTICIPANTS

Storytime
6,934 Attendance
Punch Cards 191



2017 TEEN PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

In 2017, the Library offered a wide array of interesting and educational programs designed specifically for teens. Area teens were invited to participate in a variety of craft, science, puzzle-solving, and art events. In all, 36 programs engaged 354 teen participants at the Library's three branches throughout the year. While familiar favorites such as the Winter Read-a-Thon and Summer Reading Program gave teens incentives to read for enjoyment, many new offerings became available for teens to participate in throughout the year.

2017 saw partnerships with several local organizations in order to offer a wide range of programming catered to teens. We were fortunate to have Dr. Wyllie of Concordia College return to lead a series of engaging and dynamic hands-on science events for area teens. In addition to science programming, we offered some new craft programs such as an introductory embroidery class.

The theme of the **Teen Summer Reading Program** for 2017 was 'Build a Better World.' Teens participated in weekly programs designed to encourage creativity and collaboration. Some of the more popular programs included Spray Dye Shirts, Bristle Bots, and Mini Herb Gardens. In all, 134 teens returned book logs and 176 participated in summer events.

December wrapped up the year with two fun programs! We offered the annual gingerbread house decorating, which gave teens a fun way to test their decorating and icing skills. We also made homemade mints, offered in three different flavors and a variety of colors. They were really fun to make and it was a great way to end the year!

36 TEEN programs IN 2017

NEW

One new addition to teen programming this year was a series of programs based on the popular escape room concept. Staff created a mini escape room with a sequence of puzzles and brain teasers that required teens to work as a team to use their problem solving skills in order to "break out" of the room. **The Escape the Library** programs were held several times throughout the year, and proved to be very popular, often requiring additional sessions to meet the high demand.

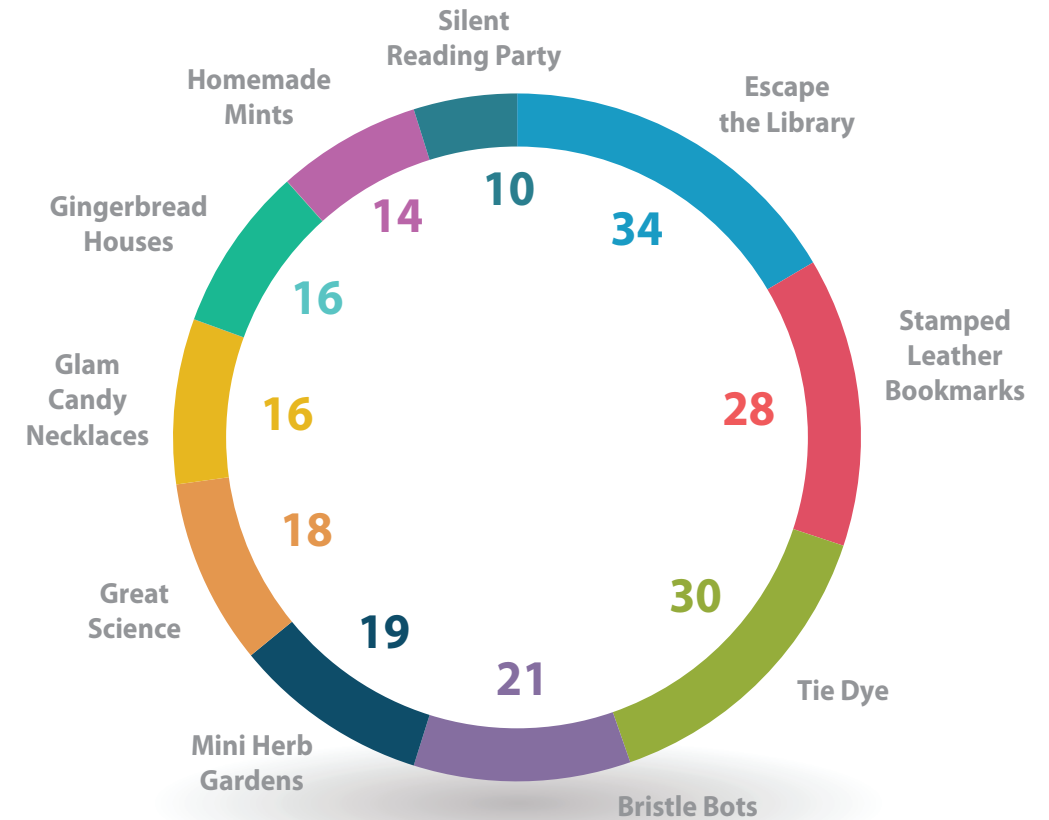
The **Design-a-Bookmark Contest** has had a big following in the Children's department for several years, and in 2017 the contest was expanded for teens to participate in as well. One winner in each of two age groups was selected to have their bookmark design printed and distributed at all three Fargo Public Library locations. The contest was a success and is sure to attract even more participants in 2018.

Revolve is an afterschool program at the Dr. James Carlson Library that started in November. It currently runs Monday – Wednesday each week and is staffed by AmeriCorps volunteers. Approximately 30 'tweens and teens attend each week.



354 TEENS
Actively participated in our 2017 programming

2017 TOP TEEN PROGRAMS



OUTREACH SERVICES 2017

The Fargo Public Library is dedicated to serving the Fargo community including those who are unable to visit one of our three locations. Our Outreach Services are made possible by our team of dedicated and hardworking volunteers.

In 2017, Outreach Services delivered 14,067 items to 6,509 patrons at 22 sites, and our outreach volunteers gave us a total of 2,891.75 hours. In addition, volunteers contributed more than 306 hours inside the library by shelving books and providing program assistance at the three library locations.

The most recent estimate for the value of an hour of a volunteered time in North Dakota is \$25.40. That makes the cumulative total of all hours given to the Fargo Public Library by volunteers this year worth \$81,222.85.

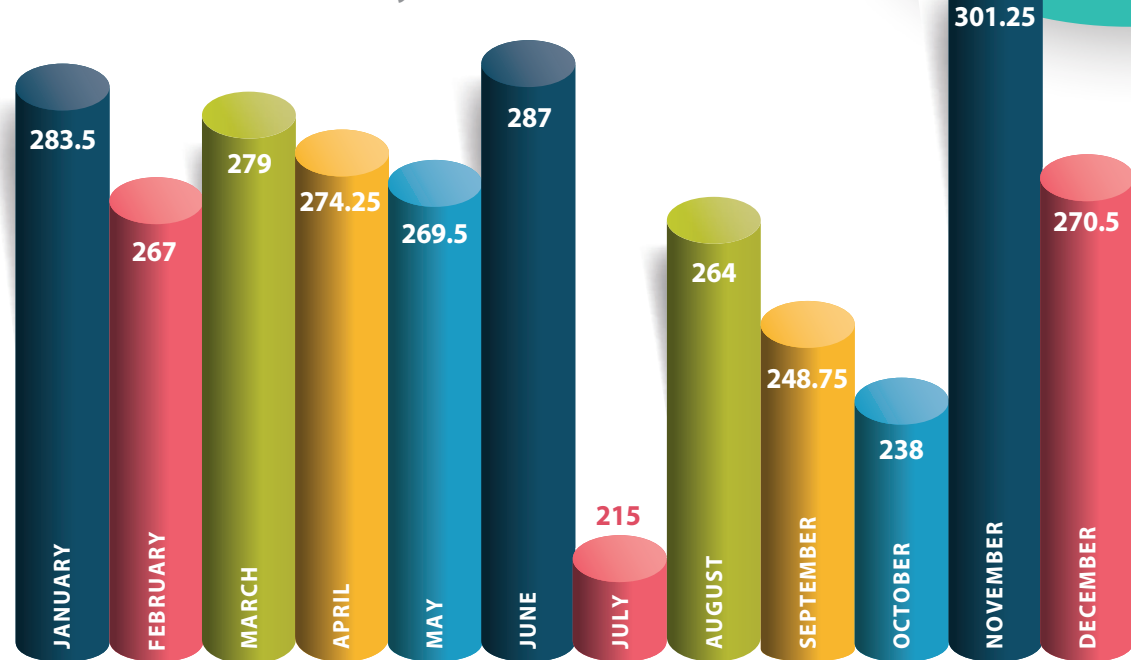
OUTREACH PARTNER AGENCIES

The Arts Partnership/
 ADA Access to the Arts
 Bethany Retirement Living
 Bethany on 42nd
 Edgewood Vista
 Elim Rehab & Care Center
 Eventide Fargo
 Ecumen Evergreens
 Good Samaritan Society
 Fargo Housing Authority Sites
 - Crossroads Senior Living
 - Homebound High Rise
 - New Horizons
 - North Sky Apartments
 - Sunrise Manor

Fargo Moorhead Directors of
 Volunteer Services (DOVS)
 One Oak Place
 Pioneer House Assisted Living
 Riverview Place
 Rosewood on Broadway
 Touchmark at Harwood Groves
 Retirement Community
 Trollwood Senior Center
 University Drive Manor
 Villa Maria
 Vibra Hospital
 Youthworks

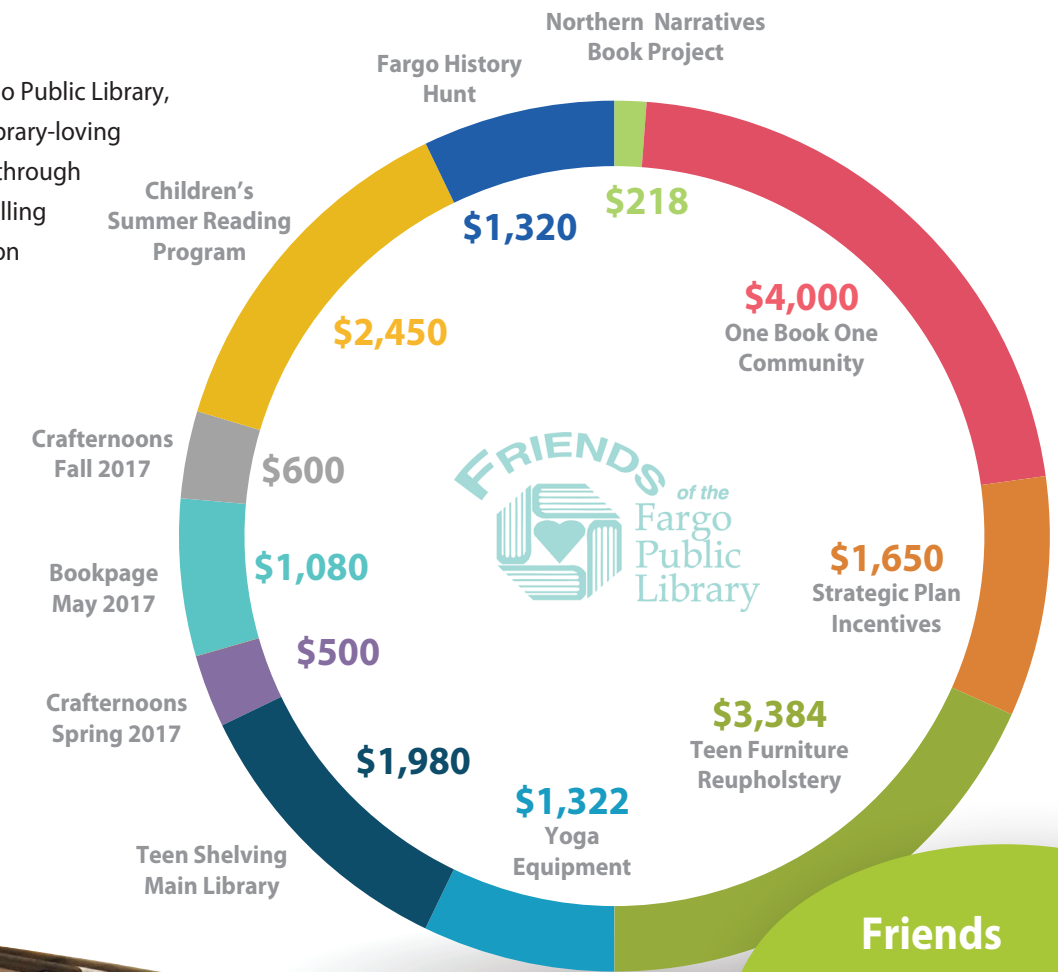
TO FIND OUT MORE, CONTACT
Pam Strait
 VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR
 pstrait@fargolibrary.org
 701-241-8111

Monthly Outreach Hours



FRIENDS OF THE FARGO PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDING ON A LEGACY OF SUPPORT

The Friends of the Fargo Public Library, a non-profit organization of library-loving volunteers, raises money through memberships and donations and by selling used books. The Friends organization operates a bookstore in the Main Library, resells books at the Carlson and Northport libraries, and conducts special large sales. These efforts and resulting revenue enabled the Friends to provide a little over \$18,500 for the Fargo Public Library in 2017. That funding helped support and expand a variety of services, programming, and equipment purchases.



Friends
 PROVIDED A LITTLE OVER
\$18,500
 to the Fargo
 Public Library in 2017

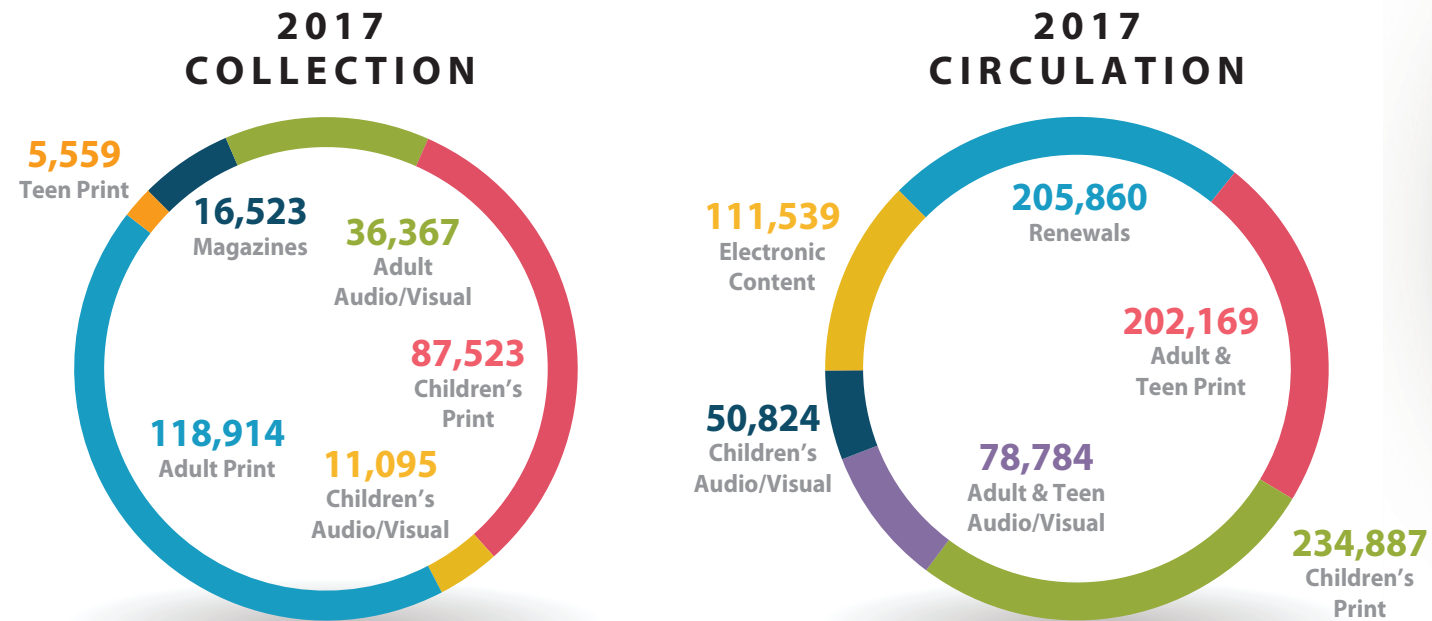
For more information about the Friends

- CALL: (701) 364-2665
- EMAIL: Friendsoffargopubliclibrary@gmail.com
- MAIL: Friends of the FPL • P.O. Box 1365
 Fargo, ND 58107
- VISIT: www.fargond.gov/city-government/departments/library/support/friends-of-the-library

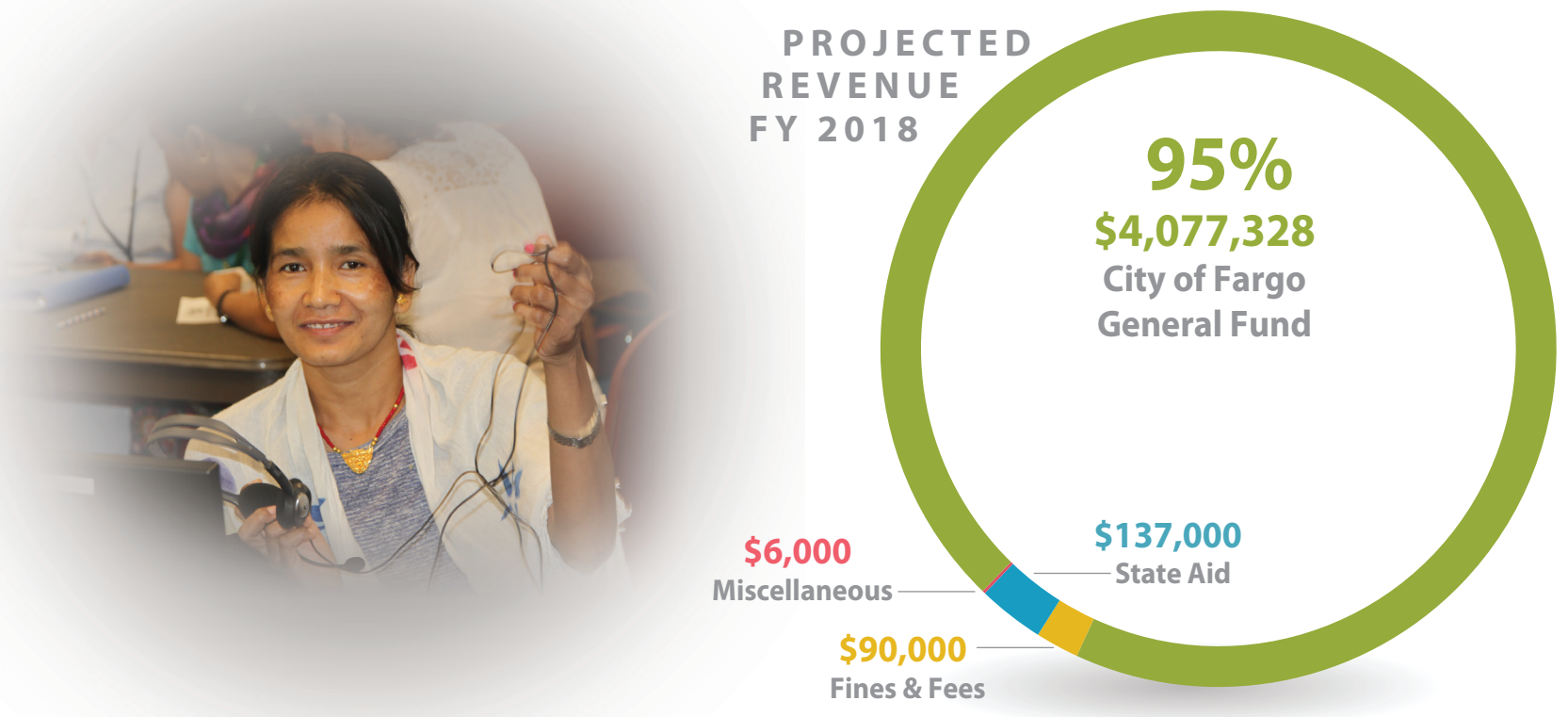


2017 FARGO PUBLIC LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

The Fargo Public Library continues to focus on growing and improving our electronic collections to meet the increased needs of our community.

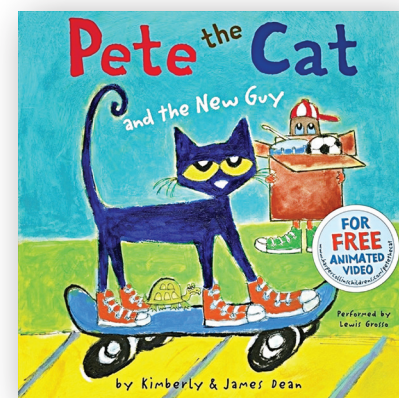
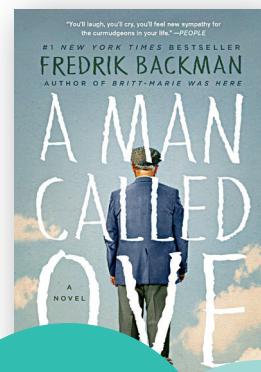


BUDGET • PROJECTED REVENUE • FY 2018

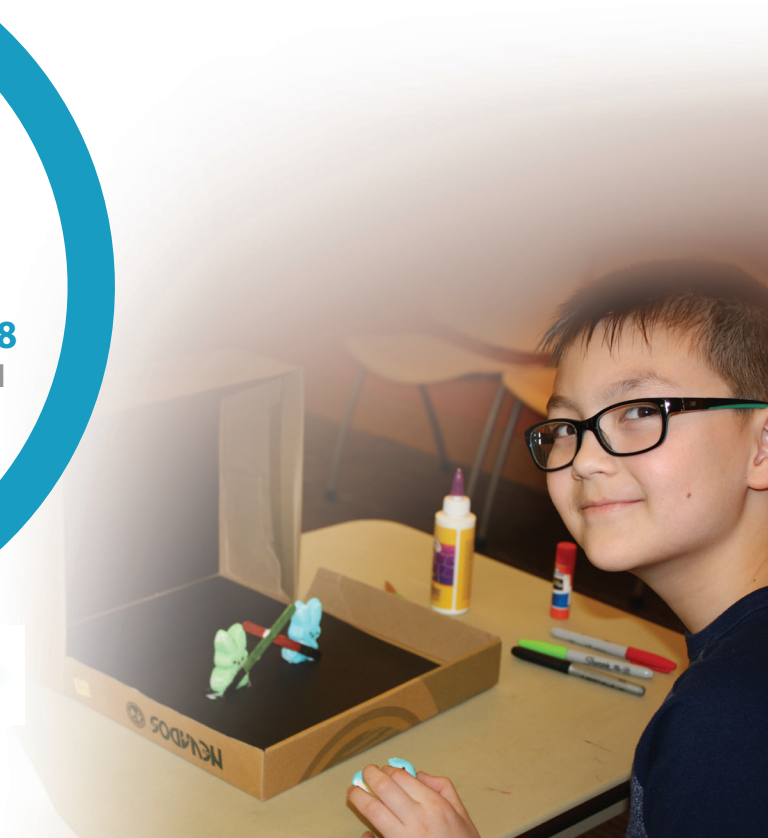
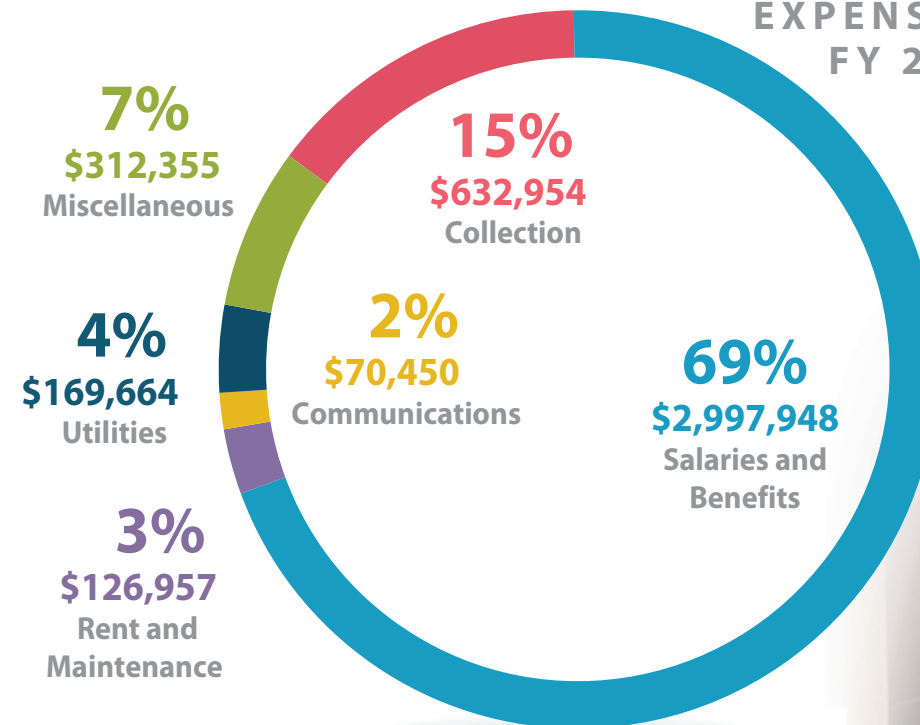


TOP 10 CIRCULATED TITLES IN 2017

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Adult</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>A Man Called Ove</i> – Fredrick Backman 2. <i>The Girl on the Train</i> – Paula Hawkins 3. <i>See Me</i> – Nicholas Sparks 4. <i>The Woman in Cabin 10</i> – Ruth Ware 5. <i>The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up</i> – Marie Kondo 6. <i>Tricky Twenty-Two</i> – Janet Evanovich 7. <i>Off the Grid</i> – C.J. Box 8. <i>The Whistler</i> – John Grisham 9. <i>Small Great Things</i> – Jodi Picoult 10. <i>The Guilty</i> – David Baldacci | <p>Teen</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Divergent</i> – Veronica Roth 2. <i>Red Queen</i> – Victoria Aveyard 3. <i>The Fault in Our Stars</i> – John Green 4. <i>The Heir</i> – Kiera Cass 5. <i>Avengers, vol. 1</i> – Jonathan Hickman 6. <i>Everything, Everything</i> – Nicola Yoon 7. <i>The Siren</i> – Kiera Cass 8. <i>Glass Sword</i> – Victoria Aveyard 9. <i>A Court of Thorns and Roses</i> – Sarah J. Maas 10. <i>Salt to the Sea</i> – Ruta Sepetys | <p>Children</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Pete the Cat and the New Guy</i> – Kimberly and James Dean 2. <i>Do You Want to Build a Snowman?</i> – Calliope Glass 3. <i>Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Ugly Truth</i> – Jeff Kinney 4. <i>Guinness World Records</i> 5. <i>Pete the Cat and the Bedtime Blues</i> – Kimberly and James Dean 6. <i>Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul</i> – Jeff Kinney 7. <i>Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus</i> – Mo Willems 8. <i>Bitty Baby and Me</i> – Kirby Larson 9. <i>Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days</i> – Jeff Kinney 10. <i>Pete the Cat's Groovy Guide to Life</i> – Kimberly and James Dean |
|--|---|---|



PROJECTED EXPENSES FY 2018





The Fargo Public Library
is a department of the City of Fargo.

THREE LOCATIONS IN THE COMMUNITY:

MAIN LIBRARY

102 3rd Street North
Fargo, ND 58102
(701) 241-1472

DR. JAMES CARLSON LIBRARY

2801 32nd Avenue South
Fargo, ND 58103
(701) 476-4040

NORTHPORT LIBRARY

2714 North Broadway
Fargo, ND 58102
(701) 476-4026

www.fargolibrary.org

...at the touch of a button or the turn of a page.