



SPEAK UP FOR YOUR LIBRARY COMMENTS

DECEMBER 2010

Although I think a new library is a good idea and the Leever's location is the best. I don't believe we should have a tax to do it. Taxes are high enough.

I think the location at the old Leever's store should be last on the list of all three due to the growth our town is seeing to the south.

I want the library in the Leever's location. We need to keep our town and library vital & central.

I think the best place for the new library is by the new wellness center. They can share utilities and the land is free.

My opinion is not to put the new library at Leever's, an already used building that is highly inaccessible to everyone including buses. Put the library South of town where the buses will run frequently to the new wellness center & the library will be made to exactly what a library should be... not in an old supermarket!

Need a new Library!! 😊 Absolutely! Education and further education is a necessity for all people young or old.

I take proctored tests here all the time for school. If there were to be a new library, I would like a separate testing room. As quiet as the library is when a person is taking a test it is loud and distracting.

I would like the new library to have a separate children's area similar to the old library.

As a senior citizen with no family in the area, the library has become my "outlet", my connection. Also, the library is within walking distance and I have no vehicle and do not drive; the walk to the library has become my exercise.

Love the self checkout

Great service & great selection. Reference librarians know their stuff!

I can come here and have some quiet time. And they have all materials. THANK YOU

Every time I enter the library I'm reminded of the "education" our daughter got while working in the Children's department during the summers she was enrolled in college. She loved it so much that that is what she ultimately chose to do - be a children's librarian at an elementary school in Plano, Texas.

I, her mom, taught at Kelly Elementary for 22 years and would come with my box to check out "extra" books for my classroom. I always for the latest and new additions!

Thank you to the library!



NOVEMBER 2010

I would like to see the library located more centrally than out at the Wellness Center. I think it needs to be accessible to everyone and it needs to keep its mission separate from the Wellness Center hoopla.

More downtown location, possibly Leever's. It's too far to drive if built in a southern location.

Get input from employees. They have knowledge of how things could work - lay-out, etc. Leever's is fine. Free land is not necessarily a better deal. Per phone call 11-16-10

NO, NO, NO. Put 100,000 into what you have. EGF and UND if they don't have here. Just another building to sit empty.

Keep the present library, maybe extend the hours. If you must have more room, use a vacant building or build a small elec(?). Library by wellness center. We do not need more taxes.

Don't put new library at new Wellness Center. Too far out.

I understand computers are part of the Children's room, but please consider having them in their own section. Young readers DO NOT need distraction. In the move to the future library I feel strongly we must keep a quiet section. I envision that quiet section -- roomy, to allow space for dreaming, thinking, etc. High ceilings. Technology is important, but it should not replace book reading, daydreaming, and quiet.

Please do not cover the book summary on the back. Hard to determine if we are interested. Thanks.

Open a new library. Everyone would benefit. Derek Szklalski

Why insist on one library for all of Grand Forks? Suggestion: Maintain and improve the current library. Finish the second story that was not completed as originally planned. Open "branch" libraries in other parts of Forks (with internet access). Would it be feasible to add a third story to the current building?

I use this place so much and talk about it when ever possible. I think a lot of people forget or don't know what all you have to offer the people. (Yes) to new or used building, would like 32nd Ave. S.

32nd Ave good location for new library.

Build It. South end is direction of GF. Not to take away from the middle or north. Just is 10 years from now it may be the center if place towards south end. Audio books are picking up with my peers and friends. Keep up or add to collection.



Leave the library right where it is. The kids in this town need somewhere to spend their time and they cannot ride their bikes way out to 32nd Ave. S.

How about the field north of Sears (Columbia Mall) as a site for the new library? Plenty of space for a building and parking lot and excess parking could use the existing lot of Sears.

I think the new library should be located at the new Wellness Center. They are planning lots of activities for that area. There's even a push for senior citizens to use it. Perhaps we need to investigate small satellite libraries – Fargo has 2. I feel the Wellness Center is the best place for the new library.

I come to the library weekly to get books and audio books. I live on the north end of town so it is quite a distance to go. I believe the old LeEVERS store site would be a good CENTRALLY LOCATED SITE in which to build a new library.

I think a new library is needed. My hope is that the new library will be built on the "LeEVERS" site. I live in the north end and that would be more handy for me. I have been coming to the library beginning in 1963. Left the city and then moved back. I used to bring my grandchildren and nieces and nephews. I would love a drive-thru book drop off. Love the idea of having skylights and more windows for outside light coming in. Libraries are usually dark and dreary. More parking spaces are needed.

We need a new library. LeEVERS location is best location for city. Thanks for all the hard work getting community input. Sara Bjerke

I prefer the LeEVERS site. I would rather help the low-income or middle-income people instead of people in the south end. The people in the south end have kindles and computers and cars. We need to help the regular people.

After reading the big article in the Sunday (Nov. 14) paper, I was really angry. There was only a computer and cell phone addresses listed to "speak up." There are a **LOT** of us out here who don't have computers!! I don't have a cell phone. How dare the city council and the library assume we all do. I would like to do that survey too, but how do I get it if it's on-line??

I have asked for help to show me how to get on the internet but one lady was so "snotty" and said "we don't have time!" Isn't that what they are there for?? People tell me to go to the library for help but they won't help me!! I can't afford a computer and everything that goes with it. Buy it on credit? I have to credit to get a credit card. I don't want one. I'm too poor.

Speaking of which, there are a lot of poor people on the south end of town too. I couldn't believe it when I read that the poor people from the north end of town probably can't afford to go way down south to a new library. Does that mean that our voices don't count??

It seems that whatever the "city" wants the city gets. "They" want the library way out by the new Wellness Center and so be it. Period. They've already decided according to the council meetings I've watched on TV. We need the library to be in the middle of the city so it's accessible to everyone. It needs to be on bus routes that old and disabled people can use as well. If the library is built way out,



you will have to either extend bus routes **right to** the library/Wellness Center or add a new bus route. The bus needs to be wheelchair accessible and might have to go more often so people don't have to wait so long uptown or in bus shelters, especially in the winter. Once an hour is not acceptable.

The new library should have solariums on 3 sides to take advantage of the natural light. Add water features like gentle fountains, etc. But limit the amount of time one/each person can sit there so as to let others enjoy it too.

You need more than one copy of the daily Herald. I've come there many times and been there for a couple of hours in order to read the Herald and never get to.

More helpful people. Ones who will take the time to show me how to use the computer and internet. I read that computer classes was one thing possible at the new library. Definitely!! If it's free or inexpensive. I can't afford much. I'll never be able to own a computer but there are lots of things I want to look up – recipes, crafts, etc.

I prefer the current location to a further south location. I bike commute year round and it is closer to my house. If the library had to move, it should move closer to downtown.

We tried "Library to Go" and found it easy to use. Only downside is not much selection. Would like to see more. For the new library – I think 32nd Ave would be great! Wide open area for growth, parking, and easy access from every direction yet not too far south.

I love the library. Any location is fine with me except the Rex property – too expensive. Hope you are successful in your efforts! Pat Larson

I think that the new library should be at a central location so that all walks of life can enjoy it. My 1st choice is Leever's location, 2nd choice is 32nd Ave.

Several key points to consider before building a new expensive library for Grand Forks:

1) The location for a new library should be accessible for more than just a small segment of the present Grand Forks population. For example, the plans should consider the poorer children and adults without home computers in the northeast and the senior citizens with limited income in the downtown areas. The proposed southern location does not meet this criterion.

2) The cost of transportation (public and private) will undoubtedly rise in the foreseeable future with the worldwide demand for gasoline constantly increasing. The suggestion for free public bus transportation to an inaccessible southern location will obviously be an expensive alternative. Will the local taxpayer be willing to pay the additional expense in the future?

3) Technology is constantly changing so the future role of any library is unpredictable. For example, our future may include public internet service in every home, as water and electricity are available today. A young and middle-age generation is adjusting to gathering information without reading magazines, newspapers and even books. The wireless computer age is already here with hand-held internet devices.

4) The national economy is in a downward spiral because the government is increasing the money supply and causing inflation. Federal taxes are predicted to rise in the next year. Can some people afford an additional sales tax?

5) The duplication with existing public buildings is obvious. Grand Forks has already several



public buildings with financial problems: Alerus, Empire, Firehall, and even the Chester Fritz. Grand Forks does not need another performance center! According to the Herald, \$500,000 is still owed on the existing wellness center! Also, more services will increase the need for additional staff.

6) The plans for the new library and wellness center include competition with private enterprise, which helps pay the Grand Forks taxes! For example, I include private fitness centers and coffee shops. Why not try to encourage a large bookstore chain, such as Barnes and Noble, to establish itself again in the city so the store can also help pay our taxes?

7) One obvious solution would be to have after-school hours in the computer rooms of easily accessible local schools. It seems strange that the library and the schools must duplicate services, paid for by the same local taxpayers. It is imperative that the local schools maintain up-to-date facilities for the future generation of our country. Thus, the school computers should be open to the public, especially children for their homework!

To any involved: I remember during sixties the first public library downtown, now it is the parking ramp. Even then it felt crowded. Second library currently, I have observed from the balcony it is used to being crowded. Current difficulties: only two handicapped parking spots, too many good old books decommissioned and given for grabs. (Not enough shelf space.) Books and VCR shelved near the floor so that spines are topside. Speaking for other disabled seniors, I can no longer bend down to read catalog number, nor readily grasp books or VCRs. (Lack of shelf space.) Men's bathroom stalls need to be replaced. I believe old Leever's building is the best location at the junction of South Washington and Demers. Visible, major street accessibility, parking beyond handicapped zones, current structure could be remodeled, plus room for second floor. Green it is to utilize existing empty building. If remodeled, I predict ten percent citizen use increase within a month of grand opening. With the third library at Leever's, I predict that Grand Forks city and county will have the best possible facility in the state, if not the region. Aside from emergency plans such as for flood and tornado, I hope this new library will function by autumn, 2013. Sincerely, Erik Luther Williamson

The Public Library needs to be close to schools so children can walk to it. This present building is a fine library. I understand this building is not very old – 25-35 years. It was built with future expansion in the plan – to eventually make a complete 2nd floor. This has not happened. This location is the very best location as it is about in the center of the city. Parking is a problem and even more so when a vehicle takes 2 spots as I saw today coming in to fill this out. How about buying the grassland across the street for more parking? Remodeling this building will be more cost effective than building a new library. A library is not meant for businesses to use as an interview/hiring place. Meeting rooms for visiting/parties/business gatherings are not for libraries. We have the Alerus – a city run building for that. The city does not need another city-Park Board owned building (library or for that matter a fitness center) to hold meetings that should be held elsewhere.

If more computer space is what started the need for a new library, why not have library computer centers placed in already existing empty buildings around town. This would meet the need for more internet access and give this building more room for books.

Taxes are already too high in this city. Government should find ways to cut taxes rather than increase them. Also, the city has an ordinance that show removal needs to be done by 24 hours after snowfall – keep your sidewalk clean for people to walk here!

Tonya and Hillary are wonderful! Both are very appreciated and helpful! Thank you so much.



I've noticed patrons can now check out 5 DVDs per card. As a concerned citizen, I find this excessive and frustrating, especially when I see family checking out an entire TV series, such as "Full House," plus various other popular movies. I already struggle to find movies to watch with my daughter because they happen to be checked out or mysteriously "misplaced." Could not this new policy contribute to this loss? On a side note, it's sad to see my library degenerate into a video store.

Please don't take the site by the new health center. It's too far south.

Please don't go to Leever's – too busy streets for kids.

Has the City of Grand Forks considered utilizing the empty space at Columbia Mall for a library? The former Target location has been vacant for many years. There is already an established and well maintained parking area in a highly visible location.

I think the Alerus sight is the best. I do hope they will add a busline that will serve residents and visitors. I would not want to see residents served at Leever's sight due to traffic on Washington and congestion. I recall when my father arrived in the US as a tourist in NY, he liked staying on 42nd street and have access to downtown Manhattan library which was walking distance from the hotels. I believe this Library should serve the public with immersion language tapes of foreign languages, music and other access to visual technology, maybe even a theatre for plays and foreign movies. I can't wait to see the project to completion and wish you success in its completion.

We believe the Leever's site is the best location for the new library. No matter the outcome of this conversation we also believe that this is an exciting time for Grand Forks. The opportunity to invest so much in the good of our people is rare and we want to ensure that we make the best of this great opportunity.

Before we go any further though, we'd like to commend those leading the charge on the new Wellness Center and acknowledge their generous offer of land for a new library. The new wellness center will be a best-in-class facility and a shining example of the vision and pride of those who have worked so hard to make it happen.

There are two main reasons we support the Leever's site: location and access for people. Our library is a tremendous source of pride and it deserves to be located in a highly visible location, not hidden away from a major corridor as it has been the last four decades. Moreover visible locations have been proven to increase visits.

Leever's central location offers visibility and access that cannot be matched. Residents from all corners of Grand Forks can get to it in a short amount of time. The population within a two mile radius is larger than the alternative sites which studies show has a big impact on the number of users. The site is also between the two high schools and can serve students after school library hours.

The Leever's site also offers superior bus access. While well-meaning supporters of the locations farther south suggest that buses can be rerouted, it's hard to imagine a practical - not to mention



affordable - way to get regular bus service that far south. Re-routing the night bus would be particularly problematic.

In our opinion these factors considered together make the Leever's site an easy choice. In addition, building the new library on the Leever's site provides us with an opportunity to make our tax dollars do double duty for us. Not only can we build a new library, but we can invigorate a neighborhood.

We need to have a conversation in this community about the consequences of leaving old neighborhoods and corridors behind. What will happen to the older areas of town if we continue to build our biggest amenities on the ever expanding southern border?

Development is already occurring on the south end and it will be improved even more with the new Wellness Center. We believe any additional increase in development from adding the library to the Wellness Center site will be small and comes at a serious risk.

How much will it cost in the future to fix our core areas after we have let them fall into disrepair and blight? What effects will that have on our development as a community? Building the library in one of these forgotten corridors is a proactive way to avoid some of these problems. A new public library can and should bring our community together.

A recent conversation with an elderly friend helped put this all into perspective. She was very distressed about the idea of a south end library because she doesn't have a car and lives on a fixed income. Being an avid reader, the library is one of the treasures that helps her happily get through the tough winters in Grand Forks. Ease of access is more than just a factor, it means the world to her. It is the same way for many of the library's current users and if the new library is built in a central location it will be just as important to many new users as well.

It's not every day that a community our size has the opportunity to build a magnificent and important amenity like a public library. We need to do this right and get the greatest possible benefit out of our investment. Lets build our new library in a location where it can do the most good and effectively serve the entire community.

As a Northside resident I am saying don't punish us North end people by putting the library WAY out South, it is something that should be equal distance for both North and South people. In building a new library make sure it is all wheel chair accessible.

I'm for centralized location of the library. If you put it down by the new wellness center it will be to far for me to go and drop off books etc. I don't understand why it has to be so far out of reach for people. And have there drop off box open during business hours. I shouldn't have to get out of my car to drop off books inside the library during open business hours. Are the staff to lazy to go out and get them during the day? And what about offering access to e-books for kindle and



nook? That would be very nice. Thankyou for allowing me to give my input. I guess if you put it by the wellness center I won't be going to the library!!!

At the moment the library project seems to be a rush to build.
With plans to put on the ballot for a vote in April.

We are in a recession this is not the time to raise taxes for a project that is so miss understood.

You now have three locations that you might build on.

All three are bad locations.

The Library says that they researched the areas and needed to meet certain criteria in order to build. The minute you got an offer from the parks district you forgot about the criteria and are in a rush to move forward.

We were told that you wanted to meet the needs of low income families.

Those families live in the north end of town. If you build in the south end the people you want to reach will live far from the new Library. The same can be said for the location on 32nd ave. near the old REX store. That location is also to far in the south end of town with no transportation.

The Levers location on Washington is in the north end of town. That area of Washington is one of the busiest streets in town and will be a dangerous area for children to cross the busy street.

The Library has a game plan and we have not been told what is going on to build on the locations that they are working with. The amount of money is way too high for those of us on fixed incomes. Many of us are retired and on a fixed retirement.

Unless the Library can come up with a good plan I can not see any reason to support this project.

At the moment there are more questions than answers about the Library project. There needs to be a better plan that works with out a pie in the sky approach.

Leevers 1st choice. Do urban renewal now!

I would like the new library to be located at Leevers lot.

I think the new library should be in the old Leevers spot on Washington.

Leevers!

Love the idea of new library! Really, really love the old Leevers location.

The people here are courteous and professional.

Wendy, Library Board, Etc.,

I have lived in Grand Forks since 1954 and have been through the changes from downtown to the South Washington area location.



I would hope that the new facility, which I do agree is badly needed, will be on the Rex property. This seems to be easily accessible with lots of parking and perhaps additional space if required later. Perhaps renovation of that building and incorporating it into a new facility would be feasible.

In addition to the new south end location, I would hope that some sort of satellite facility could be located in the northern end of the city. Might one of the underused elementary schools have space for this? There seem to be unused buildings in the downtown also, perhaps something could be worked out there. If some situation similar to the Parkwood set-up, with limited hours, perhaps volunteers could man it.

Finally, we need the new facility and the more convenient the service can be to all users, the more willing they will be to support the suggested tiny tax hike.

I would just like to let you know that I have found several of the resources listed on <http://www.grandforksgov.com/library/research.html> quite useful, and I would like to thank you for the time and effort invested so far, thanks!

I'm not sure if you are interested in suggestions or not, but I thought that I would try to contribute something to further improve the resource for other visitors. A resource that I have used myself as a starting point for learning different languages on multiple occasions throughout the years is Visual Link Languages (<http://www.visuallinklanguages.com>). The website features hundreds of free lessons in 8 foreign languages.

I think it would make a pretty good addition to your resource list. What do you think?

Keep up the good work!

I am opposed to Grand Forks building a new public library and offer the following points:

1. We do not need a new library. If more space is needed, then rehab an empty building such as the empty Leever building or the empty REX building and have two campuses.
2. These are difficult times economically. In case you have not realized it, we are in a recession. Who cares if the Grand Library is smaller than the Bismarck or Fargo libraries?
3. A sales tax is misguided. Why should everyone (resident and non-resident) who shops in Grand Forks pay for a service they will not use? I resent having to pay a sales tax on every item I purchase for a building I do not intend to use as I do not patronize the current library.



4. Consider charging a membership fee to use the library. That way, those who frequent the library also have a vested interest in paying for the services they utilize.
5. We have a great library at UND that could also be used by taxpayers. Why not make arrangements with UND and develop a collaborative relationship with UND?
6. Grand Forks is a small community, the library does not need to be all things to all people. In large urban centers one could justify a library that provides all sorts of services but that is not the case here in Grand Forks.
7. Since the library is publicly funded, the salaries of the library personnel should also be posted so taxpayers have a better understanding of the library expenses and budget. It would be good for the public to review the salaries of the library personnel. Such information should be posted on the library website. If such information is readily available, please direct me to the source so I can review it.
8. How does the library justify budget increases about 42% above inflation (<http://sayanythingblog.com/entry/greedy-grand-forks-increased-library-budget/>)? Where is the money going?
9. It seems safe to say that if a new library is built, you can be sure library personnel will push for salary increases because of the added work load that comes from having to work a larger library not to mention an increase in staff for the same reason.
10. Last but not least, I am opposed to the library because it comes on the heels of the silly and misguided Wellness Center which will be another albatross similar to the Alerus Center.

Regarding Library Location:

As a physician I tend to first think in terms of public health. With this in mind, it seems we should consider the ease by which citizens could walk or bike most easily to the library's new location. Given it's central location, the old Leever's location seems to make most sense. As a nation, we are pushing to make more walkable, bikeable communities, so I would hope we will continue along, right beside the amazing strides our community has made with its Greenway.

Additionally, I understand that the current library location was on the periphery of town when it was built. Certainly, for decades past, communities pressed ahead with "urban sprawl" building further and further from city centers. As many communities have learned, this is not the most sustainable approach. Creating areas where people both live and work builds strong, safe, healthy neighborhoods that will not be abandoned. Since the flood of 1997, downtown Grand Forks began an amazing transformation. Unfortunately, many beautiful buildings sit empty as the community continues to grow towards Columbia Mall and the South end of town.

This is an opportunity for the City of Grand Forks to take one of those abandoned buildings closer to the city center, the Leever's building, and create something that will stand for decades to come. With its adjacent tennis and basketball courts, Purpur Arena and the associated green space with park and skateboard ramp, this area could be transformed into a wellness center of its own. By transforming an abandoned building near the heart of the city, the Public Library



could transform several blocks of city space, and by doing so, improve the health of those living nearby as they walk to the library, rather than drive their automobiles.

Thank you for your time.

I am 100% in support of locating a new library, should it be built, at the Leever's location. It makes sense in so many ways, but none more than it sits at the crossroads of the two of the busiest streets in town. The majority of those living on the south end work on the north end, which will make it a convenient stop on the way to or from work. It is in the heart of the city and always will be. The new health center location is the worst of the three, and would only be of greater convenience for those living on the extreme south end. Please, don't make that same mistake with the library. The Rex location is even far better than the health center location. As far as funding, a half-cent sales tax is too much, too fast, and will have little chance of passing. Keep working on alternate methods of payments like grants or donations, a small mill levy increase, or finding a way to use a portion of the current sales tax.

After 39 years, it seems that it is possible that there might be a new library. The current one is one of the busiest in the region but old, too small, with not enough parking, and, frankly, in need of increased funding and new ideas -- among others, someone should really take a few hours to compare their web page to other library web pages and ask how things might be done better. (For example, take a look at this one, this one; or take a look at this one and this one from places that really have serious budget issues.) The main point I'd like to make here is that it would be good to have a clean and clear space (simple background, limited number of colors (the current page uses two shades of blue, red, green, and black and I'm not really sure about the pictures there either), the most important information visible in the top left of the screen rather than having to scroll down as I do on my screen to see the hours.)

And while on the subject of technology, there are some other things that could be improved at the library:

why can't I have the option of having notices sent email rather than through the mail?

why doesn't the self-checkout machine let me know I have a hold to pick up when it looks at my account?

Why doesn't the library have its own email system rather than using the current hodgepodge? There is a yahoo address for the children's department, a gmail address for the library director, a hotmail address for the reference department. None of these are intuitive. Why not buy a domain such as gflibrary.org or something like that?

And, finally, when will Bubbles, the library cat finally get his picture in a prominent place on the library web page?



I am deeply concerned about the proposal to place the library on the far south end of Grand Forks.~ As an avid patron for 25 years, I oppose placing the library anywhere but in the "center" of the city.~

The bike racks are often full in the summer and I don't imagine that children will bike to the far south end to go to the library.~ The public library should be accessible and as convenient as possible to the community. I don't believe you should have to take a bus or find a ride to go to your "free" public library.~

I believe the proposed placement on the edge of the city is absurd and will alienate a large part of the Grand Forks population.

I would like to see the old Leavers as the new location which is at the "center" of the city and most accessible to the majority of the population of Grand Forks

Good Afternoon,

As a mother of three, I'd love to see the library have a very large kid friendly children's area with perhaps a children's museum incorporated into it somehow. Grand Forks needs to have more kid friendly places to go – especially in the winter month. I don't know if the library can have a museum built into it, but I thought it would be a great idea. A one stop shop for families to go to. Perhaps help with some of our tourism as well.

J would hope that you consider having the new library in a centrally located area of the town. How about the Leaver's area?

When the new library is built (probability is in the SOUTH part of the city), consider keeping the old library as another branch, not abandoning the NORTH part of our city.

Present library location is perfect. Space is fine. A little remodeling is all it needs!

I keep reading about the Wellness Center in the Herald and the possibility of putting the library near it. I know the library paid a consultant to suggest good sites. However, the location of the wellness center was not one of the sites the consultant identified.

As a senior citizen with no family in the area, the library has become my "outlet", my connection. Also, the library is within walking distance and I have no vehicle and do not drive; the walk to the library has become my exercise.

Love the self checkout

Great service & great selection. Reference librarians know their stuff!

I can come here and have some quiet time. And they have all materials. THANK YOU



Every time I enter the library I'm reminded of the "education" our daughter got while working in the Children's department during the summers she was enrolled in college. She loved it so much that that is what she ultimately chose to do - be a children's librarian at an elementary school in Plano, Texas.

I, her mom, taught at Kelly Elementary for 22 years and would come with my box to check out "extra" books for my classroom. I always for the latest and new additions!

Thank you to the library!

I want to comment on Maureen. She is always so friendly + cheerful + eager to help. Thanks so much for your light, Maureen!

The staff is wonderful, friendly, very helpful. The book selection is amazing. Thank you so much,
P.S. I LOVE BOOKS!

Thank you for doing all this. It's make GGF immeasurably more interesting + vital. Lois Lowry event was terrific! Engaging - just right length. Plus - this event has brought people into community almost as great as VOTING in Person!

- *At every event tell people they can still get bookse library. Id assumed I was too late.*
- *At book signing events w/ small children - give parents a break, let them take "cuts" to the front of the line. (makes it more pleasant for all - plus - one family w/ wiggly little ones had to leave - children couldn't last the line)*

Could staff wear nametags?

Need more on hand help. Y do I need a library card to use the internet. Can't I go in as a Guest

Please move the drop off Box AWAY from the exit. When I return movies I am scared that somebody would pick up one before it is scanned in

I see your getting rid of your audio tapes - Are you going to have a sale for those as you did for your childrens VCR's last weekend

When placing library stickers on the back of audio books, please don't cover-up the story info (usually at the top). Put the stickers at the bottom over author info.

When searching for material, show availability on first view

Facebook comments (From the discussion tab) – November and December 2010

Not sure where to make this comment, but please oh please move the library to the former Leever's, a much better location than on 32nd, walker friendly, close to downtown, near a neighborhood that could use this sort of social center.

A much larger library is needed, with plenty of room for those in wheel chairs to have access to all the isles. I very much miss being able to peruse the books by myself and hate having to depend on others to gather my books for me!

But a HUGE thank you to the staff, who are always willing to help with a smile!



I would love to see the library as a "destination" place for our community! Let's brainstorm some ways to draw people there (like what is already done for little ones) that would be both educational and entertaining. For example, how about an area for those of us wanting to learn a second language? (Maybe kiosks using technology?) Or how about an area that would include technology for individuals to improve reading skills? OR, how about a meeting-type area for educational events?Anything to get more people there to have them see what the library has to offer! (Of course, this would require more space.)

I like the present location and have not had problems with parking or in getting help from the library staff. I am pleased to be able to locate books on my computer and also the ability to download ebooks.

However, if changes are to be made I would like to see the library located on 32nd avenue. To me, this location would be convenient to quite a large number of patrons, whereas the southend location puts the library at an inconvenient distance from too large a number of people. The Leever's location frightens me because of the heavy traffic.

I hope the library will remain in the center of town, and not the far south end. It also needs to be near a bus route for those unable to drive. I enjoy the GF public library in its current location.

I would like the Library in the Leever's location, I understand it needs a bigger location and I think Leever's is good. I also think that 32nd may be too far away, and the Leever's location I believe is close enough to the current location. I also appreciate all the new changes like the self check out and having the website.

I would like the Library at the Leever's location. It is an almost perfect location - centrally located, easy to get to by car, bus, etc, visibility for advertising events, low risk/no guessing as to traffic patterns and if people will go there, established utility services, etc.

Personally, I wouldn't count on the new wellness center being a huge draw for people, it is all still to be proven and personally I think it's just too far away for most people. I also don't think there's a big overlap in common users between a library and a wellness center. I observe two different types of crowds when I'm in a library and when I'm in a wellness center, so I don't see value in the two being linked together.

We love the library, we are heavy users, and I am very very much hoping that common sense will prevail over the lure of some free money and they will do the right thing and keep the library inside of the main part of town. A library is essential to a community and needs to stay in a location where it is actually a central part of that community and not out with the "car required/urban sprawl/always commuting" part of society.

I love the libraries use of computers. I don't have use of e mail at home so using it here is wonderful for me and my family. I get to have contact with my family back in Canada on facebook. Thank you for it's constant use. I don't know what I would do with out it.

I would like the library to be open until 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. so the average person working from 8 - 5 can utilize the facility.

The library are for the wealthy and the poor and that is what makes the library GREAT but you need to have better hours.

I'm excited about a new library in Grand Forks and want to see the following: Children's area closer to door, wide aisles for wheelchairs, etc., increased children's programs (I love story hour!), three week loans, self check out, computer classes, book clubs, no or low fines, meeting rooms with sinks (for possible crafts or serving refreshments at times), meeting rooms that various book clubs or community groups could reserve. I also think it would be nice to have more than one location for picking up reserve



books and returning them. Maybe it could be a joint venture with a few public school libraries. Maybe it could be a joint venture with a retirement center or the new wellness center! It wouldn't need to require a lot of "man hours" if it was handled by someone already providing services at another location. Melody

Comments from the Facebook Wall:

(In response to a letter in the Herald suggesting UND's Chester Fritz library should be Grand Forks' public library)

My thought? Parking at UND is scarce, and walking blocks and blocks to go to the library is hard for lots of people. My father in law uses all four of the libraries in the Grand Cities (GFPL, CFL, Med School, and EGF) and always has the greatest difficulty with parking at the Chester Fritz.

The Chester Fritz Library has a wonderful collection that is quite different from the collection at the public library. I'm sure they do not have room to add the public library's collection to theirs. What would both libraries have to withdraw to be able to have the complete collection in one spot?

I don't see UND students excited about kids in there while trying to study. I don't think the UND library is situated in a convenient location for most people. Although I live in Warren I'm a patron the the GF Library, paying for the privilege. I probably wouldn't use it at all. No parking, hard to get to and it's focus should remain on the university, not the community at large.

Not to be so negative to a suggestion trying to conserve resources, but as a parent, here are some issues: No parking, not convenient for parents bringing children for activities throughout the day, different focus for librarians and collections, disruption to students studying...

(Posted to our wall, followed by comments)

I think that the suggestion of having the library in the old Leever's location is a great idea! It would get rid of a terrible eyesore (empty lot on a main road) and provide ample room to grow!

I didn't shop at Leever's very often because it was too hard getting in and out of the parking lot. Wonder why they had to close if it was such a great location?

I worry about how safely pedestrians (children too) can navigate that area. The sidewalks are far too narrow, in horrible condition, and the Demars/Washington intersection is dangerous (not to mention the busiest intersection in the state). If the library is to be considered at the Leever's location, the library needs to be safely accessible to those traveling by foot, wheelchair, and bicycle.

The south side location is too far for most of Grand Forks. Please consider a different location.

I'm with Michelle. I would love to see you build the new library on the old Leever's lot.

We love the library. There will always be a special spot in my heart for good old fashioned books, but I strongly feel that a new, up-to-date facility with "Information ACCESS" is important for the future of our community. Looking forward to the conversations that will be happening this week, here and in the media.

Oooo... the article today made me think of a must: More outlets for laptops! and free wi-fi!

Please, please seriously consider not having the library in the spot so far out (south end, 40th, I think). Leever's would be so much better or even a spot closer to downtown; we need the downtown to be revitalized, which a public gathering place like the library could help with. You might save money at the one spot, but think of the larger picture, how much our downtown could use a steady influx of visitors and how this might bring more businesses in, restaurants, etc. What a pity that the library ever moved from the downtown in the first place.



I totally agree! I think we should have a downtown library with a satellite library in a vacant strip mall location on the south end. I love what Fargo did, we should use them as an example of what our potential could be.

OCTOBER 2010

I think you should put your new library in downtown Grand Forks - there are not lots of opportunities to bring a well used facility to the downtown. The land and parking could be less expensive also - plus it would be easy for patrons to walk to a restaurant or nearby business to spend some money. This is a one of a kind opportunity to bring good traffic to the downtown. I think it would also bring more of a community feeling to the library than one along South Washington - or where ever the other sites are located.

Thanks for letting me give my opinion.

SEPTEMBER 2010

Hello

I LOVE the GF library and all of the positive changes going on to make it a more progressive, vibrant place. In keeping with this trend, may I make a suggestion? It would be very helpful if the library staff that interact with the public would wear name tags that identify them both as library staff and their first name. I often find they know who I am, but I don't know their names!

Thank you for considering my suggestion. Keep up the great work!!

I just want to say how thrilled I am that Library2Go is up and running. I do have one question -- will more books be added as time goes on?

Thank you for adding this valuable tool to library patrons!

Barnes & Noble is offering a free eBook reader (software). I downloaded one to my little netbook at home. While reading the user instructions, I started wondering...

Is there a way for your librarians/resident experts to download/install the BN eBook reader to one or more of the computer terminals there? It is already so convenient to go online there.

The way I understand the instructions, B & N will sell downloads of eBooks. They also offer FREE eBooks through or from Google! The eBooks are then maintained online in the purchaser's "My eBook Library" and can be downloaded to the BN reader on a pc unlimited times for re-reading.

I haven't learned how to download those free eBooks yet. But I read that they are books with



expired copyright dates.

I think this could be a way to greatly increase the books available through your library without needing any additional space and at little or no cost.

Even if the technology is not yet available, I can imagine a time when a patron can go to the library and "borrow" books on a library "book reader" -- with no worries about keeping the library's only copy of a popular book out too long -- no reshelving -- no "weeding out" of perfectly good books to provide more space on the bookshelves.

You can probably think of many more possibilities.

Could someone look at what B & N is offering and see if this could be used in your library? I will be pleased to talk with you about this idea anytime.

Many Thanks!

Is it possible to get the new audiobooks on CD in a MP3 format so that they may be easily transferred to MP3 players, ipods, etc.? All new CD players will already play MP3 formatted CDs now. The current process to convert the current audiobook CDs and then transfer them to MP3 players is both time consuming and not easily done. It is already getting harder and harder to even get CD players and tape players are almost a thing of the past.

I just want to say how thrilled I am that Library2Go is up and running. I do have one question -- will more books be added as time goes on?

Thank you for adding this valuable tool to library patrons!

AUGUST 2010

My family has been in Grand Forks for twelve years. My children have grown up with weekly library visits as part of our routine. Lately, in the last six months or so, we have found the library a very uncomfortable place to visit. It appears to have become a drop-in center for people not necessarily utilizing the library for its intended purpose. We have to walk through huge clouds of smoke to enter the library, and are then met with a variety of unsavory characters within the building. I no longer feel that my kids are safe to go into the bathrooms alone. I realize that the library is a public facility, open to all. However, I do not feel it should be a place for loitering or a dry place to getting out of bad weather. Is a "no loitering" policy something that could be enforced? I've also noticed cars parked in the parking lot with people sleeping in them, with no intention of using the library. Parking spots there are hard enough to find for those of us legitimately wanting to use the library!



I'm not sure what has changed in recent months that has increased such traffic in the library, but I hope the Director will feel it necessary to address these issues. We love our library and would like to feel comfortable there again!

Since I use the library frequently here are some library suggestions:

- Self-service bar code checkout (I just used one at the Maplewood library and it was easy and quick to use)
- more parking
- drop off box on North end of GF
- newer nonfiction books (history, quilting)

It would be great for parents to be able to be with their kids in the children's department. My daughter (9 yrs old) said, "Mom come upstairs with me!" I said "Can I do facebook upstairs?" and she said "yes". We found out that the policy for the computers up here is only for 6 graders and under. I was able to approve or disapprove of movie choices and answer her questions - feel closer to her and she felt safer. Thanks for your consideration in keeping kids + parents connected.

More graphic novels

Hi I just wanted to make you aware of a concern I have with your bathrooms. Our family was at Sea World and in their restrooms they have these Step and Wash step stools under the sink so children can wash their hands. Their step stools seem safer and more durable than regular stools and moms were commenting on how much easier it was, than having to lift up our kids. Hopefully you will consider adding these to your bathrooms. I know all of us moms would really appreciate it! Thank you

JUNE 2010

I think the old Leever's Building (site) would be a good place for a branch of the library.

Leever's for new location please

We would like the new library to be at Leever's, that way we can eat & read books at the same time.

Please leave it at old Leever's store so people that take the city bus, because it is on bus route.

I think the 2 best library locations are across from the Alerus Center or on 32nd Ave South across from the Center Court Fitness.

I would appreciate more mystery books in large print! Otherwise this is a great library with very useful librarians and staff.

Just make it quieter! There's too much noise with people coming in, kids going up stairs, etc.



Separate buildings for adults/kids

New Library- how about a drop in child care room with adult supervision for people needing to work on computers. Children should be welcome in the library, but when they whine for hours on end because their parents ignore them, it makes it hard for everyone.

- Also, a quiet area, where quiet is enforced, would be nice
- Let's have a library that is attractive – No Aleruses please!
- Would like Leever's area- others are too far away.

I LOVE this library so much!! I'll bring in some books. – “Keep on Keepin’ On”

I think barcodes would be easier if they were on the back. Then again only 1 barcode to choose from would help. Thank you.

I really like the new computer system setup. It is so easy!

Hooks on the stalls in the men's bathroom would be nice.

Bubbles needs her own facebook page! ☺ Or include her in the GFPL children's fb.

Very nice.

Thank you again for organizing and encouraging the summer reading program. This program is a great way to have lots of fun with books! ☺Excellent job.

This place has many books but to me it seems kinda dark and scary for children.

Pictures of good readers

Really miss the 1:30 story time this summer. All summer programs go from 10:00-12:00, can't make a.m. Thank you!

MAY 2010

Why don't the library stay where it is? Can't the street out front be taken out and the half lot on the other side be used to make more room?

Hoping the Leever's location will be chosen for the new library.

The library is very well used. Please build a new library that will provide a proud symbol for Grand Forks as a learned, open, & progressive city & county

More room for books please, I'll pay my share of taxes for library only.

I really like the Leever's location. It's so nice and central. Lots of parking!!



The old Target of La Belles stores would be good for parking and convenience.

I think the Leever's Block would be a good place for the new library.

Leever's area would be a great location for the new library

You should contact community artists to see if they would be interested in hanging art or selling art in the library it would add a lot to the library and the community itself and promote the library

1. Don't really like the new system of not dating the DVDs their return dates. If I lose the slip of paper I am up the creek w/out a paddle – Can manage the books W/O the date but not the DVDs with out the stamped return date
2. Am concerned about moving the GF public library further south. There is space at its current site for additions and additional parking. Would be a better idea to keep it here where it is now – more accessible to more people here. Please consider the availability of this library to the majority of the people and please try to remember that not everyone has a car. If the library would move further south would the city or library find a weekly bus trip to the library for those people who cannot drive or who are carless.

We need separate entrances for adults/children. I'm tired of screaming, bawling kids walking through and up the steps of "my" section so they can get to theirs. The old library downtown had separate entrances and that was when kids were obedient! Thanks

Just re-carpet the floor and paint the walls a brighter color. Put some art work up on the walls too! The building is fine – don't waste all that money moving to a new building or building a new one.

I would just like to let you know that Deb does a great job at helping people. She went out of her way to find some Jazz DVD's for me. I really appreciate her. Thank you.

Very Friendly and Helpful Thanks

Over all, the library staff are friendly & helpful. The Reference section should have an A+ - they always are courteous and ready to help. Any questions – if they don't know the answer, they find someone who does! They're awesome!

Hey I want to thank you for the use of the internet. The staff are probably tired of seeing me. But thank you. Look to see my boy in G. F. Herald

Love! Love! Love! Electronic checkout!

You ought to use the same system as the checkout to check books back in!

Notices for when previously reserved books are available should be sent by email. Not snail mail! Get with the times!



I like the new self check out stations. The new system seems to be working well. But when checking out DVDs it's a lot nicer to have the date marked on the DVD. The slip of paper that states the due date usually gets lost & then it get confusing when they're due. Books are different – due dates are not as critical as DVDs (Meaning late fees of 100 per day per DVD) Thank you

How about notifying us for late fees via email instead of charging \$1 to send via snail mail?
You should stamp all movies even in the kids section

Please stamp DVD's, I sometimes lost the paper and can't remember when the movies are due back

Per Senior Patron... Please put huge glass display case in high traffic area for everyone to see & enjoy

I would like to see the library have a huge book sale and sell many of books no longer wanted or donated. The Friends of the Library section in the back is nice, but small.

Please have librarians check out books- - they are quicker and it is nice to talk with them while we wait!!
(Children's Department)

I hate your new computer sign-up system!!!

APRIL 2010

I was recently in Shakopee Mn at their public library, and they have a system set up for their computer use. You go to a computer and scan your library card, you get to chose your computer time. 30 min or 1 hour. Then it gives you a computer number. you then go to that computer and sign in. your computer has a countdown clock, this is your time allowed. If you want additional time, you will have to request it again. It gives other a chance to use the computer, all is fair. This seemed like a great system, and it didn't involve asking a librarian for assistance. All self service.

Here is a link to their library. The bldg is beautiful as well. light and airy, two levels. If I were to build a library, I would use this as a model.

MARCH 2010

Has anyone looked into using the old Target building at Columbia Mall for the new library? It seems like a large enough space with plenty of parking and good handicap access. Plus being attached to the mall would be good for business I would think.

I'm wondering if the library has any plans in the near future to begin involvement with Overdrive, or any other way of circulating ebooks. I've been using a Barnes and Noble ereader since December, and am excited about the possibilities of being able eventually check out library books with it.



And, admittedly, I'm envious of all the people on the messages boards at Barnes & Noble talking about the library collections in their communities.

Here's a link to the overdrive website, although I'm sure you're already familiar with this, or maybe even other such sites. It sure would use minimal physical space in our library!!!!

<http://www.overdrive.com/products/dlr/>

I'd be most interested in hearing what you think about this.

Hi.

At the West Yellowstone Library on their late evening night they have Talk and Stitch night.

Ladies (generally) come with or without kids to the library and the ladies sit and knit or crochet.

The manager knits so she can help a person (young or old) that wants to learn (they must have their own supplies) or someone already there that is experienced can help them.

I have only been able to go to once but the ladies I know that go on a regular basis loves it. They get to meet people with a common interest and learn new techniques and also gab.

Wendy-

I am writing to offer a suggestion for the library. A drive up book return chute, built into a side of the building. Books can be put in the chute and returned right into the building at any time of the day. No need to park in the tiny lot to go into the building to return items. And you would save time by not having to go into the building during open hours.

Just a suggestion.

Hello,

I just relocated in the Grand Forks area, and wanted to know if I am able to reserve audiobooks thru your website? If I reserve them thru your website, do you physically pull the item and hold it for me? Is there a charge for that?

I'm very interested in knowing whether the Grand Forks library has a subscription to Overdrive, a library supplier of ebooks for ereaders, like the Barnes & Noble Nook. If there is not a current subscription, is this option being explored for the future?

Hi there!



My family goes to the library 2-3 times a month, if not once a week. We love the library! my kids are all under age 6. My 6 year old has been reading for 2 years, in part because of the library's resources.

I would not like to see the library have branches. Which one should we visit? I wouldn't want to miss anything, but visiting all the branches would be inconvenient.

I also wouldn't like to see the library change locations. I realize that sometimes change is necessary, but it's such a tradition to go to the library! I just hate to see changes in tradition! I also have a pet peeve: parents bringing their kids to the library to play while they surf the internet in the kids section. I hate seeing this. Get books! Can this type of thing be discouraged with the arrangement of the computers, further away from the area where the kids want to be?

Maybe then the parents will want to be with their kids and more likely to bring books home. I also hope that the children's section does not morph into a playplace, like mcdonald's. Please encourage children to have a quiet time at the library, by continuing to provide the puzzles and child sized furniture, and the things that have been there for years! The kids really do love this, and part of the fun of the library is the "shhh, this is the library" atmosphere.

Thank you for this opportunity. I am looking forward to seeing all the improvements.

Hello!

Maybe the library could set up a small coffee shop as a fundraiser. My brother-in-law's church runs a little coffee bar after services as a fundraiser for youth events. Also, it'd be great to see an emphasis on 'going green'!!

Thank you!

First, I was ecstatic to hear the library was working to update/remodel! I think the library is such a great asset to our community and should have been updated years ago.

Second, I also think unfortunately the library often gets stereotyped as someplace 'uncool', especially by youth in our community. Updating the library has the potential to turn it back into a 'cool' place. Incorporating ideas into the library that maybe seem a little unconventional yet are hip and could attract an entirely different and new library user.

I frequent the library often, not just to check out books but often as a quieter place to get work done than the office or a coffee shop. It is a relaxing and productive space and ideas like comfy couches and internet lounges I'm sure would be staples in a new renovation and have already been thought of, but just a few other ideas I have often envisioned on my frequent trips to the library are as followed....

A loud room: someplace library guests (especially youth) could go that is sound proof to hang out, talk, maybe use a cell phone, even for an adult like me to meet a client for work if they wanted. Having a room designated for that purpose would not only help lift the stereotype of a "stuffy old quiet library" as well as bring new people and new reasons to come to the library.



The room could be reserved for community group meetings, for students to rehearse a speech they are giving to their class, or for a library user to go in a call their friend to ask "what was the name of that book you recommended?" There are many possibilities.

Movie Theatre: of course nothing on a large scale but a place with a larger screen and some theatre style seating for 25-50. This little theatre could screen classic movies, documentaries, or "based off the book" movies. It could again be reserved by teachers to show a film to their class, a child's birthday party, or for the library to host movie nights. It provides a fun element to the library and again can bring in more users to the library. If you get a person in for one thing you expose them to hundreds of other things the library has to offer.

Love it or Leave it wall: designate a wall space for readers to post comment cards of books and movies they've read and their reviews. I would love to go up to a wall and see what books other readers highly recommended then go find that book to check out myself. It's interactive and connects the library to people!

Poetry readings/open mic nights: everyone has seen on TV the coffee bar seen with listeners snapping their fingers if they enjoy the poem just read.

I suppose that is enough ideas for now. I am thrilled to see the library continuing to grow and thank you for the service you provide to our community. You have my full support!

FEBRUARY 2010

Old Target building in the Columbia Mall, Plenty of parking easy access for all people.

I am the sister of Nancy Jo Gardner, who before her death, worked in the reference section. I partake of the Ashland, Oregon library and volunteer for the Friends of the Library. We have a program intermittently throughout the year that shows feature films to the general public. I am not sure how the films are procured but it has been a tremendous success.

The viewings are on a weekly basis in the afternoon with popcorn! See what you can do.

Leavers would be a good place for the new library and sales tax a good way to pay for it.

Please don't use the Leavers store or Target.

Has anyone considered (if a new library is built) to build a new library in the area of the Alerus Center/CanadInn? Just wondering!

Target Mall! New site.

I think there should be dividers between the computers.

Your website to reserve a book is way too confusing. ☺

We really appreciate the library system here. We like the new addition of the printout with book titles. Some kids books we would love to see are the Molly Dingles series "Yellow as a..." and etc., as well as



the Fiona Watt series "It's not my..." Also we think it would be great if there was a service offered where one could email a list of books ahead of time and then it would be ready to pick up at a certain date. This would be a helpful teacher benefit. Thanks again for all your hard work.

I enjoy this library. It is homey and warm. I would contribute to a new library.

More DVD series.

Make area for being able to drink and read with inviting and comfortable couches and chairs. Shelves lower (too high for us short people ☺). Bigger children's area and area for children to sit and read.

We do need a new library!

The new printouts are too long – nice to have a printout, but too long! Need recycling bins for them. How about 1 printout instead of 2 or 3 (kid's DVDs + books + adult DVDs).

It's cold in here.

- 1) If you want to spend money, spend it on new books and computers.
- 2) Extend the 2nd story , or even add a third story to the existing building.
- 3) The north side of town is poorer and doesn't want a new library that will be further away.
- 4) Tear down the fence and cover all the grass with pavement for parking. Cover all the windows with book shelves and add better indoor lighting. If people want to see grass and trees they can go to a park, not the library.

Leavers would be a good place for the new library and sales tax a good way to pay for it. Rose Kalal

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I enjoy this library. It is homey and warm. I would contribute to a new library. Shirley Hogan

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We do need a new library!

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It's cold in here. 2-26-2010

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- 3) The north side of town is poorer and doesn't want a new library that will be further away.
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JANUARY 2010

Nice library but out of space. New building needed, but I hope it stays at this location. Thanks.

Old Leever's building for new site.

The main library at St. Cloud, Mn has about 10 stations where people can sit and watch 2-HR films. The public can walk behind these and see over the shoulders of people watching. Also, there are private booths for watching films. Of course, no porno is allowed and all the films belong to the library. St. Cloud State Univ. also has a large area where students and the public can view films, either educational or entertainment.

Please visit or get information about the public library in Salt Lake City, Utah. It is wonderful.

It is just a little too quiet.

Get more computers

More headphones

We want cooler fish!

I love the Hannah Montana books!

I think you should put on a puppet show/ or you should put on a movie with popcorn.

The ladies at the Internet desk are mean and rude...fire them.



I understand the art loan program is soon to stop – I wish that didn't happen. Art is such a beautiful contribution to people's lives. How can we continue this? Is it a matter of loan items? Is there a way to help get art if needed for the library? Help!

I really admire the audio book section. I listen on the road. Great library!

Teacher says: Get a security system. I'm sick and tired of looking for books the computer says are here but aren't. Way too many to be staff error.

Dennis would be happy with your transition- The library is looking good- and I am so happy to see it used - a lot! Good work - And I'd like to request that we have the Weekly Standard for those like me who are interested. Thank you.

Please keep our library where it is. There's plenty of room to expand right here if needed. I use this library a lot. I read 8-10 books a month. The parking here has never been a problem. Do not move to uptown Grand Forks. Thank you.

New library locations- The old Leever's spot (Washington and Demers) -
The spot of the old Best Buy bldg. on Columbia and 24th across from Gate City and Alerus on corner.

Put the new library connected to or near the new fitness center.

Have you considered the old Target building?

Nice library but out of space . New building needed, but I hope it stays at this location. Thanks.

Old Leever's building for new site.

Suggestion for new GF Library 11-2-09: The main library at St. Cloud, Mn has about 10 stations where people can sit and watch 2-HR films. The public can walk behind these and see over the shoulders of people watching. Also, there are private booths for watching films. Of course, no porno is allowed and all the films belong to the library. St. Cloud State Univ. also has a large area where students and the public can view films, either educational or entertainment.

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More headphones

We want cooler fish!

I love the Hannah Montana books! From: Stella Niemeier

I think you should put on a puppet show/ or you should put on a movie with popcorn. Kassie Kuntz



The ladies at the Internet desk are mean and rude...fire them.

I understand the art loan program is soon to stop – I wish that didn't happen. Art is such a beautiful contribution to people's lives. How can we continue this? Is it a matter of loan items? Is there a way to help get art if needed for the library? Help!

I really admire the audio book section. I listen on the road. Great library!

Teacher says: Get a security system. I'm sick and tired of looking for books the computer says are here but aren't. Way too many to be staff error.

Jan 20, 2010 Dennis would be happy with your transition- The library is looking good- and I am so happy to see it used - a lot! Good work - And I'd like to request that we have the Weekly Standard for those like me who are interested. Thank you. Del Rae Meier

Put the new library in the old Target Store.

A drive-thru book drop-off like a bank deposit drive-thru.

A need for cozy (10-12 people) soft chairs, couches, coffees etc - coffee shop type rooms for book clubs. Need in new library

What I would like to see in the new library ...Book sale room for the " Friends of the Library". Could also make this a gathering space for local book clubs, civic groups, etc. Thank you.

New Library- Location- Target at Mall? Build it, they will come! Partner- with Starbucks or any "Mom and Pop" coffee shop. 24 hour Wireless Access area. Thank you!

How about a bulletin board that patrons could use, ie. for sale, wanted, etc. in the new library.

I just wanted you to know that I really am enjoying the play-away book I checked out . I'm almost done with it. I really hope you get more. It's a really easy way for me to enjoy a story and get my housework done. Thank you.

Coat hooks (with bolts through the door) in men's room would be nice. 2. And new plastic stall walls and doors. 3.?

I love the library. I am 7 years old and my name is STELLA. My favorite books are by: Roald Dahl Examples: Madilda, The Witches

Why can't you get the wireless internet working?



Increase your fees for library cards. This may help up revenue. Good luck with improving the library, it's definitely needed. User fees, late fees should be increased.

I like the printed receipt idea, but that is a huge waste of paper. All I need is title, barcode, and due date. Then I'd keep it on the fridge. The list I got was so long, I'm going to toss it. The Omaha Public Library had shorter printouts years ago- more useful.

Please make book receipts shorter. Thanks

Please make room for a community events bulletin board in the new library.

Keep stamping the due dates on movies, or have the stamper available for the patron to use.

DECEMBER 2009

I have a questions/comments about the computer usage at the GF Library.

The issue rose when I was using a computer with Internet access at the library.

I had used a computer for more than an hour at the library, then left and came back to use the computer again.

I was informed that my 1st usage for the day was for more than an hour. For this point, I do NOT disagree. I agree 10,000 percent that I was there for just over an hour.

The question is that the person that was sitting next to me was there BEFORE me and was still there on the same computer during my one plus hour. And, was still on the same computer 2 hours later. (After I left and came back)

Why, if time on the computer is an issue?

The second point I want to make is that I counted 12 open computers that were not occupied when I came back. It was not like there was a waiting list, people standing in line, etc

If time is an issue with the computers at the GF Library, why doesn't the library implement the system the Minneapolis Libraries have?

With your Minneapolis library card, you receive a login name & password for the computers. With the software used in the Minneapolis libraries, you receive a TOTAL of 60 minutes per day of computer usage per day. No matter how your time is "divvied" up throughout the day. For example, you can be on the computer for a one 60 minute time frame, six ten-minute sessions, etc, etc.

Just curious



I would like to suggest a new book for the Grand Forks Public Library -- "Process of Elimination" by Robert Stricklin (ISBN 978-1432741013). The book's publisher is Outskirts Press and the date of publication is August 19, 2009.

I read this author's previous novel, "A Necessary Evil," and thoroughly enjoyed it. This new book looks even better. It's a political thriller with a controversial plot that should appeal to many other library patrons.

Several of us were talking at work about the possible new library. One gal had lived in Dickinson and said that they bought a one-story house that stood behind the library and used it as a used bookstore. It was staffed by volunteers and she said they had no problems getting people to work there. We also talked about the Target store. This might be a good location. It has great parking and a deal might be worked out with B Dalton where a patron could get say a 20% discount on a book purchase. There could also be a used bookstore in the corner of that building.

Are there any thoughts of incorporating a children's museum within the library?

The cost of creating, operating and maintaining an independent children's museum would, I believe, be beyond what the GF community could support. What if a "permanent" exhibit area was built into the children's area?

Here is a link to a museum in Pennsylvania that, I thought, had an interesting layout:
<http://www.the-childrens-museum.org/>

While a GF community Children's Museum wouldn't include exactly what the PA museum has, there are a lot of exhibits that would fit in well.

There is a space exhibit (maybe some how tie in with UND's space studies - arrange an annual field trip to UND's observatory - <http://observatory.space.edu/> - note that one of their primary goals is to promote science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education in ND's K-12 schools). Maybe there is some type of funding that could be applied for; maybe a guest speaker or two (graduate students doing "learning labs" - instead of monetary compensation, maybe it could be independent study hours granted to grad students who participate in the program).

The dinosaur exhibit - tie in with UND's geology dept (<http://www.geology.und.edu/> -- same sort of premise as the space exhibit - independent study hours exchange for university students working with the exhibit)

Coal mine - do a tie in with various types of energy - coal, wind, water - support from EERC - ask power companies to donate towards initial set up - could have film exploring a wind turbine site, a coal plant, a mine, etc . . .

An exhibit on the human body - again, UND's medical school could be a resource as well as Altru, Meritcare, Aurora.

An exhibit on "growing" as in plants, farm crops.



An exhibit area on the various types of art/mediums -- if switched out on a quarterly basis you could do a rotation something like:

Pottery - Sculpture (Jan - Mar)

Weaving - Beading - both Native American and "modern" (April - June)

Painting (July - Sept)t

?? maybe journal, poetry (Oct - Dec)

With the art exhibit(s) there could be once per month "workshops" - again, UND has an art dept that may be able to help - or the local school system art teachers - maybe an exhibit area within the exhibit to display art from local school students - do different themes/different mediums throughout the year.

Have a display of Native American life prior to the immigration wave of the 1800's, another display of the settling in the 1800's of the immigrants.

An exhibit on Theodore Roosevelt - the president ND considers to be its "own"

Some of the exhibits could be permanent, with periodic "upgrades", while other exhibit areas could be switched out on a quarterly basis.

Note: if students from the university were used and given independent study hours, there would be a paperwork burden on at least one person at the library (documenting their work/hours/etc), but hopefully that paperwork wouldn't be too taxing.

Just some thoughts. Thanks for your consideration.

NOVEMBER 2009

Good Morning,

I enjoyed hearing on the radio this morning the exciting things happening for and at the library. I am one of the people who is unable to make use of the library because of a severe allergy to cats. I spoke to the man who headed up the library many years ago. He basically "blew me off". It was obvious he loved his cat. He has been gone for a few years yet I am told the cat remains.

My thought is the library is funded by the public for use by the public. There will always be some of the public who are unable to use the library, for many reasons. Is there any possibility the cat can be removed, eliminating one of the reasons?

Hi. 11-10-09

I have a suggestion for the intake of library materials, especially DVD's.

The Blockbuster Store has time-tested design for returning DVD's. Why not incorporate those designs. It prevents stealing and unauthorized removal of those DVD's still in previous borrower's name.

In other words, we need designs so that those returning DVD's gets protection it needs until it is entered into the computer system. The previous borrower and the librarian is going to spend tons of time just looking for the missing DVD in their home and library, when it was actually stolen from us.

The newer remodeling designs would be worth it(in kind).



SEPTEMBER 2009

I am very pleased with two new things the library is offering.

Infant Toddler Story Time on Thursday is great!

24 hour outside book return is also great. With young children it is easier, convenient and safer to have access to the outdoor return.

Thank you!

It would be very helpful if the library could purchase or rent more copies of highly popular books. I truly love that there is a large print, audio and regular print version of the book available – I just would like more copies of the regular print version so that one would not have to wait sometimes several months to get a copy. Either more books purchased or a more strict return policy and higher fines on late books would maybe help to alleviate some of the late returns also. I understand the many budget constraints and also the space considerations for having more books – that is why renting may be a great option.

Thanks for taking the time to listen.

Dear Director Wendt,

Welcome to Grand Forks! I had a volleyball coach with the last name of Wendt when I grew up in Missouri. Anyway, I think the old Leever's grocery store would be a great place for a larger library. A second story could be added on to the existing structure. There should be plenty of outlets for computers. There is an abundance of parking. It is just down Washington Street. Of course, a major issue would be funding to remodel. Just an idea!

I was wondering if you could order more graphic (comic) novels. I have been going to the library for a long time and it is my favorite place. The staff is very nice and professional. I think a lot of people would like more graphic novels. Thank you. David Loranger 701-795-4844

Good job! Love the library. Love Bubbles.

Please keep my library where it is! Expand here or next door where buildings are empty. Do not go uptown. The parking uptown is always bad. It will be much cheaper to expand here on your present location. Go up two stories or sideways. This is a great library where it is.

Sincerely, Gerry Christen 701-582-5328

I am in favor of **NOT** moving the library downtown. Parking is more difficult and EGF Library is down the road. We are frequent users and donate many books to the library. Thank you for all your hard work!

Our children are 3 and 21 months. They love the library!

Thanks, William Haug, Jr. MD Altru Sports Medicine Cell 330-3092

Don't move the library downtown. Bad idea!

Leave the library just the way it is.

You need two new bike racks! The one you have is crap!



Sioux Falls has branch libraries. Can return to any library but pick up at one near you. Less driving. Also enough room to display the case of DVD's empty of course so it takes less time to look through them.

With a library in EGF that could serve our downtown, I feel another North end location would be more convenient for more North end residents. I would like to see a branch rather than adding onto present site. Carrie Hanson

This is a great library. But the teen section is scarce. I'd like to see more modern teen fiction books. Thank you!

Much help on my research paper. Thanks.

From Tom Gilsdorf, thomas.gilsdorf@gmail.com Please, please, Please! Don't change having the children's section separate from the rest of the library. I have taken my daughters to many "highly touted" public libraries only to find that the children's section is not separate from the rest of the library. There are always patrons and library staff who shush and hush even the smallest noises the kids make. The GFPL is the only public library I know where kids really feel welcome. Thanks! Tom Gilsdorf

Where are the new books? Looks like more and more video! J. Moran

Is there any chance the library might be open until 9 pm on Fridays also? I don't want to cause earlier closing on other days, but it would be convenient to stop by after work on Fridays to pick up reading/viewing material for the weekend. Thank you L. Sandahl 701-343-2245

Our first trip here today. We are impressed w/your inventory. Love the pirate ship!

old, outdated, unexciting (written at top of page) As someone who just moved into town and loves the library I was disappointed as I walked in Tuesday. It looked unorganized and confusing; much like trying to find the place to begin with. I brought my children for the summer reading program, again not an easy feat. After roughly 10 minutes someone was able to get one child signed up...Why aren't you encouraging children under the age of 5 to get excited about reading? Shouldn't they be allowed to participate as well? Needless to say we did not stick with the program...too confusing. And the staff, not real excited to be here...at least that is the impression we got. This is probably not what you are looking for, you probably want more "how to" than what's wrong. But these were my instant reactions to the library.

These are from the comment box in children's:

It is way to quiet in hear.

This library is awesome. I'm just a kid and most kids don't like to come to the library in the summer, but I love to because our public library is so inviting.

You guys and gurls are the best.

Can we have a rolacostr (rollercoaster) in the Library and a ridie setyn (not certain what this is).



You are great!! :)

I love the Library. :)

Dear Library Staff, I love love love --- love all your books! But my favriot (favorite) ones are Magic Tree House books and Bailey School Kids. I love all the books! Thank you thank you so..... so much!!! Your friend, Stella

AUGUST 2009

I am a fairly recent transplant to the Grand Forks area and have been lucky to live in cities with great library systems. There are a number of suggestions I have for the library here that I have seen in other areas.

1. It would be great to have smaller branch libraries in town that are more focused on their neighborhood. Grand Forks is a big enough town that it could use another location or two. I think the library may be more utilized by more people if it is easier to get to and closer to home.
2. Late books should be fined and holds should not. Charging a late fee would do a couple things. First, it would encourage people to return books on time and second, it would provide additional income to the library. 10 cents/day for late books could most likely provide more money in the long run then \$1/hold since charging for holds discourages patrons from using this service.
3. There should be sensors on the books and door. It would be so easy for someone to walk out with a book now since there are no sensors. Many times there are books I am looking for that are missing and I wonder how many have walked out. This could also save money in the long run since books would not have to be replaced.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my input.

- 1.) Implementation of security procedures and devices for theft prevention; tax-payers and patrons suffer when people can easily or conveniently slip through unprotected doors without first scanning materials...the phrase "lost or missing" occurs too frequently for those who seek items honestly...if the small EGF Campbell Library has security, ours should too.*
- 2.) A cost efficient, FRIENDLY and genuinely enthusiastic reference library staff- a reduction in numbers would eliminate payroll issues and increase productivity.*
- 3.) Monitoring of obscene or garish clothing worn by certain patrons and especially watching those who loiter upstairs in the Children's Department- without children.*
- 4.) Installation of new carpeting and lighting throughout the entire facility- the main stairway carpeting smells abhorrent and is unhygienically within hands reach of little ones.*
- 5.) Rearrangement of shelves along the main floor perimeter walls to create more inviting areas for*



reading and computer use.

6.) Switching from a paper card DVD checkout system to a streamlined case process- storing actual discs only behind the checkout counters.

7.) Converting the easy fiction section in the Children's Department to properly alphabetized shelves instead of antiquated lettered bins- a valuable teaching tool for young children who appreciate neatly arranged school libraries in Grand Forks.

Welcome to Grand Forks, Wendy and Aaron; thank you for your willingness to serve our city.

I hope to see the GFPL expand

I would like to have a new library – state-of-the-art- facility. Grand Forks needs a new and beautiful facility.

Bigger parking lot!

The library needs to stay at this location – moving downtown not a good idea—expense and you have a beautiful facility here. Mary Koponen, 701 757 0686

County residents would be happy to have my taxes support the library and would like a county representative on the board

I am visually impaired and would like to see more large-print books. I come here weekly and really appreciate the selection you have but would like more.

Doing a fabulous job!

I will speak up for the library. I know that people are beginning to discuss a new library in the community. I think it's very important to hear what the non-library uses have to say! Good job!

Terri is awesome!!

I think there should be more computers for small children to play educational games

Improvements to the webpage to make it more user friendly please!

Would be nice if children's check out in the children's area. Also a new library in same area or close.

Please post copies of NY Times Best sellers lists book club books and Oprah's for adults and children.

Newer books would be better and newer DVDs, but otherwise I like the library

Very nice rearrangement of children's department—much more open feeling and makes it seem much bigger

Looks good upstairs. We need the drop off outside to be open all the time!! Need more parking.



The library is wonderful and the librarians are very nice, especially the ones upstairs!! (in the children's section) Anna Koponen, 10

Lower DVD fines – or email immediately when they are late

Please leave the drop off box open all the time thank you

Use auditorium downtown for new building

Staff the desk so the check out line is never six people deep

I really like the Grand Forks library and the pleasant, helpful personnel. Some suggestions for improvement are:

1. A larger area for parking cars. The present lot is too small.
2. Free coffee for patrons, as is offered in other libraries.
3. Hand sanitizer, which is popular in libraries and banks.
4. Allowing your musical CDs and DVDs available for inter-library loan.

Thanks

I'm a regular user of this library. I like it where it is. **Keep Our Library Where It Is.** Expand here if more room is needed. **Please Do Not** move to downtown. There is no parking and it would be too inconvenient and expensive. Sincerely, Gerry Chister, PO Box 65 Northwood, N.D. 58267 701-587-5328

Dear Persons at the Grand Forks Public Library,

We are kids that live in Grand Forks. The person typing this letter is me, Sophie (12). I have a little sister named Lucy (9) and a little brother named John (7). We have some suggestions for the children's section of the library.

Suggestion #1:

Please lose the stuffed animals or at least wash them. When we are at the library we never really see kids playing with them. Plus, think of how many three year olds have spit on them. No one wants to play with spit up.

Suggestion #2:

We have an idea for a remodeled play area. We have included a picture drawn of what we think kids our age would like to play on. Drawn by me, Sophie. Our idea was a castle. We like the castle idea better because it has different levels and comfortable places to read. Please replace the had plastic chairs with beanbags. If you don't like our idea, that's o-k, we just thought it would be cool.

If you do not have enough money to remodel the play area we are willing to hold a bake sale in front of the library. You can reach us at (701) 780-0996.

Thank-you for reading our suggestions, even if you don't like them.

Sincerely,

Sophie, Lucy and John Glessner.

JULY 2009

Since I use the library frequently here are some library suggestions:



- Self-service bar code checkout (I just used one at the Maplewood library and it was easy and quick to use)
- more parking
- drop off box on North end of GF
- newer nonfiction books (history, quilting)

Wendy-

I am writing to offer a suggestion for the library. A drive up book return chute, built into a side of the building. Books can be put in the chute and returned right into the building at any time of the day. No need to park in the tiny lot to go into the building to return items. And you would save time by not having to go into the building during open hours.

Just a suggestion.

JUNE 2009

I definitely think the library needs to be renovated - it is rather tacky !! carpets are a mess, shelves loaded with books that are not put away so can't find books and they aren't checked out. It just needs a lot of work; something should have been started years ago. computer areas are not all that comfortable, some times have to wait to get a computer. place just doesn't look too good. do you have volunteers to help with shelving, putting things in order, etc ?

To whom it may concern:

We are recently arrived in the area, and we recently obtained library cards at your library. In the conversation at the desk, the woman helping us explained about story time, and she assured me that my children, ages 3.5 and 18 months would be welcome. We talked about the subject of today's storytime, Bubbles, and my daughter was especially excited for this.

To my way of thinking, Bubbles sounded like a theme my 18 month old would get something out of too. However, when we arrived at story time, it was mixed up fairy tales, not bubbles. Clearly, the expectation was that those attending be very quiet, and the level of the stories was absolutely three and above, better above. I felt very uncomfortable, and left my daughter, taking my son into the hallway.

If storytime is really for children who are older, I'd suggest that you publish this. I do not care to embarrass myself or my children in the way that occurred today. We've been to many story times in libraries, book stores, and elsewhere coming here from an urban area. It is possible to mix levels by including music, finger plays, a variety of book lengths and difficulties. I was sorry that this did not occur.

To be frank, I have been very disappointed that despite having a large, very well-staffed children's area, there is so very little for children who are below age five in terms of your programs. My daughter has done a younger children's version of Summer Reading every year of her life, and we were so disappointed that she had to be excluded from this opportunity this year. Given the staffing and materials you have at your disposal, it would seem to me that a bit of room could be made for younger children and their needs. A love of reading is certainly established well before age 5.

Thank you for your consideration.

I hope you will reconfigure the conception of library to include online and download media to increase access in this rural state. Access to electronic



resources (such as computer access) will be increasingly important in allowing upward mobility. As the technology changes more rapidly than the majority of people can afford to upgrade personally, especially in a time of economic hardship. Perhaps there could be partnering between the Job Services and the library.

Are you planning to (or could you) get some books by Charlaïne Harris on CD? You have all of her books in paper form, but I'm in need of some new listening material and would like to "read" some of her work. Thanks,

APRIL 2009

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input regarding our public library's future. I am a regular patron of the library, but more importantly, I have several friends with children who use the library all of the time. It is an absolutely invaluable resource for them and a treasure that improves the quality of life.

I know the library is looking to expand. I think this is an opportunity to consider all good options. It is important, also, to make sure any additional investments of infusions of capital into our library carry a great deal of bang for their buck and position the library to grow with the community. That said, I would like to propose that the library board explore the possibility of selling the current location and purchasing the former Leever's and Hardee's lots on the corner of South Washington and Demers Ave. Not only would this new location provide plenty of space for expansion, but it would be highly visible. Demers and Washington is said to be the busiest intersection in North Dakota. Imagine the possibilities as far as promoting the library goes! Furthermore, by locating the library in such a prominent location, the city would be sending a clear message that a superb library is a high priority. There is even an economic development angle. The prominent new location would be good for the South Washington Corridor which is in danger of becoming blighted. In addition, a visible location, easily accessible not only by public transportation, but also by bike (it is along a bike path) and vehicle would improve access. Finally, the current location is tucked away and may be difficult to find for people from outside of Grand Forks.

I wish the library board and staff the best of luck during this time of transition and appreciate the opportunity to provide input.

Keep the library where it is!

Please, please more **PARKING SPACES!**

Microsoft 2007! It would be nice to be able to do school work here!! Thanks. (Librarian response: We do have MS 2007 on some computers.)

To whom it may concern: Since I moved back to Grand Forks, I have no access to internet, the Grand Forks Library provides that. It also provides, as I can see, a place for some children to come and spend some time instead of doing drugs or whatever. I grew up in Grand Forks. The Library has always been a



place where I can put myself in time out and relax. The help here is ALWAYS, always been wonderful in every way. I lived in Minneapolis and Phoenix and their libraries are wonderful, but so is this one!

A library is a wonderful place for families. It nourishes minds and souls, and it encourages people to read. It is a great and useful place. Please continue to fund it! Barb Anderson

The library is a wonderful, cozy, warm place to spend time.

I love the library. I can find good books I like in the library. Stella N.

You need two more bike racks.

You need two more bike racks with a covered top when it rains.

Need a new bike rack.

Can we have a baby room?

Library is great but needs to be more accessible to wheelchair users. Bathroom (male) prime example: 1. Difficult getting in door. 2. No stall accessible. Other outside concerns in winter. James A. 775-9984

I am disabled. I use a power chair. I can **NOT** use your bathroom. I cannot go into aisles between shelves. This library is **NOT ADA compliant**. Sadly, I expected more from a public library. I was unable to use the library.

I think it is reasonable to charge a yearly fee (in addition to the taxes you receive). The interior needs updating majorly! Lorraine Nelson

People are parking at the west edge of the main parking lot between GFPL's main entrance and the center island (i.e. west of the handicapped spot and its twin.) This causes traffic messes especially when things get busy (e.g., 4-5 pm Fridays). Pedestrian safety issues too! Please put a NO PARKING sign with an arrow pointing west on the north side of the handicapped spot signpost (or similar location). You might also consider laying down diagonal stripes for a crosswalk area between the main entrance curb and the handicapped spot and its twin. (Diagram included.)

Please keep the library at its present location!

You need two new bike racks with a roof over them when it rains.

I use a wheelchair. Library is easy to get around in. Two problems – both men's bathroom.

1) Door not accessible, can get wider chair in by forcing but not appropriate.

2) No stall that is accessible. One must leave door **open and then transfer by pivoting**. Okay if legs are weight bearing, but again, not appropriate – no privacy.

This is the second time I have commented on this.

Can you have a rollercoaster that can read books to you?



The library is run very well!!!

The East Grand Forks Library has an awesome story time for kids. It would be great if this library mimicked them!

MARCH 2009

I just discovered a site called Library Elf that helps library patrons keep track of materials so they can avoid overdue fines and fees. I am not entirely sure how it works and was all set to explore it, but there are no ND libraries participating. I thought I'd mention it to you since you are looking for ideas for our library and I thought this might be worth checking into.

<http://www.libraryelf.com/>

The site claims a person can:

Avoid overdues with email alerts

Check multiple library cards

Track books, DVDs, CDs, videos, etc.

Join for free*

Hello,

Do you have a yearly book sale? If so, what date are you holding your book sale this year?

I totally understand your 7 day policy for movies and single discs - We need to make sure everyone has access. However, this policy applied to DVD's for a full season of a TV series is just ludicrous. These packages have around 18 episodes per unit. It is impossible for almost anyone to view the entire package in a week. With no renewal (a bizarre policy), the package must be returned without viewing it all. I prefer to watch the episodes in order. Your policy makes this impossible. The no renewal policy ensures that I will not be able to re-check the package. Indeed, most of the time it is almost impossible to find the same season available for a long time. This policy ensures that people cannot enjoy their favorite TV shows. What are you people thinking? Does no one think these things through? Why are you making it impossible for me to enjoy my favorite TV shows and watch them as the package intended? Please use some common sense. Set different rules for DVD's that have viewing times of 15-20 hours.

FEBRUARY 2009

I LOVE the online access. I also appreciate the association between the Grand Forks library and the UND library, which allows me to use my student ID to check out books from both. I see lots of families using the library, which is great. I like the books for sale for donations and the video/audio checkouts. The staff is wonderful. Everyone has been so helpful and friendly. I look forward to exploring the library further, particularly to do my research. Thanks again for a great job. Now that the jail and flood wall are done, how about a new library!



What a pleasure to see all the improvements in the library. I enjoyed the new placement and expanded collection of CDs/DVDs.

What about 1) an exhibit on Charles Darwin: Origin of the Species?

2) a different portrait of MLK (not with a milk mustache.)

Great work! Thanks for what you do. Jenny T.

I love the library! Katherine

Keep the library in the middle of town – or why not 2 libraries?

Hello Library! Our family loves visiting the Grand Forks Library and recommends it to friends. We enjoy the boat in the kids' area, story time, and the **great** DVD selection. A few comments:

1. Children's books should be allowed to be checked out upstairs. I know the capability is there. It's pretty frustrating to have so many checkout stations for different things, and the front desk is usually very busy. With small children, to have to wait in so many checkout lines all the while trying to be quiet can be hard.

2. Patrons should be allowed to browse the stack of "to be put away" DVDs at the time a library employee is filing them. I know it would be a bad time, however, whilst waiting for other patrons to be checked out, the stack sits. These movies have been checked in and are simply awaiting filing. You say first come, first serve. If I were to follow that, I'd have to stalk the filer to see what they are putting away. If we were allowed to see what's to be filed, we may want to take some, thereby reducing the amount of "to be filed DVDs."

3. "Organization" of DVD section and Children's books can be very hard to navigate if you don't fully understand the library's strange system. Some books ("Barbar," for example) are filed under "Barbar" or by author or by subject. How are we supposed to find our favorite books if they are often found in different spots? Yes, the computer, yet 85% of the time I have used it, it's wrong. The item says checked in, but it's not where it's supposed to be or the DVD is on the shelf, but there's no card in the browsing section so I can't check it out. Also: you have "DVDs in a series" section, however several "series" are in the movie section. Every time I browse DVDs, there are mis-filings. Another example: You have a nonfiction DVD section, yet not all are there (ie: "Survivorman," "Dirty Jobs" – in the nonfiction abyss...) **PLEASE STOP CONFUSING US!**

Please consider a notice that there is a library cat. I love cats, but many people have severe allergies or fears. This would keep the cat and people safe. A cat lover.

JANUARY 2009

I sincerely hope that a new larger library with greatly expanded parking facilities is in the very near future--as few years as can be worked into the schedule. The existing building has outlived its usefulness as a library--old, small, lacking parking, multifloored, lacking sufficient electrical/computer outlets.



May I suggest that a location at a shopping mall would be ideal? The parking lot is already there as is the basic building. People would have a multiple reason for going as they could shop, eat, and visit the library with only one stop!

The library should be open until 9PM on Saturday.

Hi. I really like the current library location and the dedicated parking, although more would be better. If it would add enough space, I would like to see the second floor added inside the existing library. It has desperately needed updating and new decor for a very long time. If that isn't enough space, perhaps there could also be an addition. It seems to me the city could waive some of the green space in order to allow for more building and parking.

I have no need for branch libraries, but if others do that is fine too. I think it would be TERRIBLE to put our only library downtown which is much less accessible to most people. It would not be a draw for downtown, it would be a detriment to the library.

Having some free or cheap meeting rooms is a real need in this community and I'd like to see this use planned for and encouraged. Sorry I haven't been able to make it to any of the meetings. You may also want to do a survey of people who actually walk through the doors of the library. Thank you.

To the future planners:

One idea for a location that I have thought of is the large building located at 24th Ave. and S. Columbia road that once housed the Best store and later the GF Herald after the flood. The building is quite large and although the age of the building may not help with the electrical/heating/technology difficulties of the present building, it may be OK since it housed the Herald technology needs at one time. I believe the building has been for sale for some time, and it certainly would have a lot of parking space and be nicely located in a visible and very usable location. The price may be OK and certainly would have all amenities on one level which would be handicap accessible and eliminate the need for an elevator. Even the attached strip mall units could house possible ideas previously mentioned for example a coffee shop, separate technology area, or quiet lounge reading areas. The building would still need renovations, but it may be worth doing a cost analysis in comparison to building a completely new building and the lot to put it on. I do feel we have outgrown the present building, but it would be nice to incorporate some of the present façade of the library into the new location (cement book border on the top of the front) for history's sake. Thanks for giving us, the citizens that love our library, a voice in the future planning.

Coffee shop needed and more computers

MY OPINION!!! I think you should have a kids' room where kids can come and play games while their parents are on the computers. Anyone is welcome and other projects like reading coloring, crafts, lots of games. Also maybe you could have a donation to help my stuff for the program and get like a pool table, bean bag chairs, an air hockey table, also like 5 white boards like so people can doodle on it. That is what I think. And lots and lots more fun and awesome stuff.

My opinion about this library is you should have a kid's room for all ages three to 16.

I like the library where it is. I can drop the kids off and not go far out of my way when running errands. Please leave the library in the middle of town. Is Grand Forks big enough to have more than one public library?



The easiest, cheapest, and greenest way to expand the library would be to add/finish the second floor from the existing area over the entire main floor. The support pillars are mostly all there. Some of the grass area could be used to expand the parking by several rows. Leave the trees in place. I would design the second floor support structure to be visible with an early industrial age look.

You need a new electrical system.

Hey guys, the only thing I would want you to do is lengthen time on the computers.

We love the library.

Hi, I strongly feel that the library needs to be a place to draw in more readers. The atmosphere does not make patrons want to find a cozy area with others and read as opposed to grabbing books and running. As the economy worsens there is a need for people to have places to go and escape for a while and reading promotes a need. A reader is distracted from personal and world problems when they are in the act of reading so the need to promote reading now is more important. Bluntly, the atmosphere is cold and there is not the best use of space in this design with high ceilings and fluorescent lighting. Would be nice to find areas that I guess I would describe as a coffee house atmosphere. Draw in and hold people. I find more people to sit and talk with about books in Starbucks than in our own library. Can't say I want to curl up with a book for a while anywhere in the present library, so tend to use it less. A cozy reading room with scheduled book reader groups to meet and recommend their reads to others would be great – also to schedule teen reading groups for the same purpose.

The Civic Auditorium would be a good spot for a branch library. A walkway could be built to the huge parking lot across the street. There would be other child related activities in the area such as the pool and Y. It would make use of a structure that the city already owns. Preserve and enhance downtown.

A nursing area would be great - a place to breast feed babies.

How about a new release section for DVDs? Librarian choice of the month on books, movies, CDs?

It would be great to get WiFi (Wireless Internet) up here (Children's Dept.) so I can work on school work while my children enjoy the ship, computer games, and looking at books!

[Library note: We do have Wi Fi in the Children's Dept. I'm guessing the patron did not ask for help or information on how to connect to it.]

I no tat the boks and moves are grat I ting the Libare is gat.

I know that the books and movies are great I think the Library is great.

It is grat the Lbare is grat.

It is great the Library is great.

DECEMBER 2008



I would like to see a room for genealogists who are researching their family history. It could still be the North Dakota room, but it should be larger with space to work. It also should have at least two computers that are dedicated to family research & not used for any other purpose.

I have very much appreciated our GF library. You are doing a great job. Here is one suggestion for the future: Increase spending in classic literature books on CD [for children](#), especially younger children. This is a great way to expose more kids to a wider range of character-shaping books. (Our kids listen to them at bed times and on trips.) It seems like this area has not seen much growth in our library in several years, though I'm thankful for the collection you do have.

I'm writing to urge all involved with the GFPL to resist the urge to build a newer, bigger, shinier, etc. library. First off, I must disclose that I have a vested interest in the library remaining at its present location--I live on Library Circle, and one of the main reasons I chose to buy a house there was its close proximity to the library.

In this time of nationwide economic struggle, it seems foolish to burden our city's children with bond payments and tax increases to fund a new project, when a much less costly alternative exists--refurbishing and remodeling.

Some may argue that refurbishing or remodeling is just as expensive or even more so than building anew. Those arguments ignore all the external costs involved with new construction--what is the cost to the local neighborhood that now has an empty, gaping building right in the center of it? What happens to all the small business located around the original site, now that all that traffic is traveling to a different location? How much will it cost to destroy and dispose of the old building, or how much will it cost to maintain it empty? How much more will it cost to extend bus service to the new location? These are just some purely economic considerations.

New construction is the biggest source of pollution in the United States, and perhaps even the world. If our city is going to pay more than mere lip service to the notion of responsible living in a world of dwindling resources, using what we already have is the most eco-friendly option. That doesn't mean, of course, that what we already have can't be improved.

The efficiency of the existing library could be improved in several small ways that, overall, would make for large improvements. For example, automated checkout counters could be installed, opening up the front desk area. A library-card keyed computer terminal sign-up could be installed: Swipe your card, get in an electronic queue displayed on an overhead monitor, and sit down at the terminal indicated when your time comes up. Compact shelving could be installed to increase storage space. There are many more small, human-scale examples that could apply. I do not claim to be an expert.

Some patrons complain that parking is a problem. Although I have not seen any data or survey results, I have never personally observed the parking lot so full that a space is not available. Even if it is the case that complaints about lack of parking are frequent, building more parking space might not be the answer. Research shows that building more capacity leads to even higher levels of congestion, since the apparent resource availability induces more people to drive instead of use alternative transportation. If a new library were built at a remote location, more people would need to drive to get to it (versus the current centrally-located location) and parking density would necessarily increase. Even if a huge parking lot were constructed, this "Wal-Mart effect" likely would not be fully ameliorated--people would still complain that they had to park far, far away.

In sum, the current library's central, convenient location, the deteriorating national economy, the negative environmental effects of new construction, the research showing more parking leads to more congestion, and the availability of reasonable-cost, human-scale technologies strongly favor re-using as much of the



library infrastructure that we can.

If I can be of assistance in any way, or if you would like me to clarify any of these points, I can be reached at the number below. Thank you.

I would like to see a more child friendly library, more room to sit and move around and it would be nice if the children section could be on the main floor. The location is perfect for me and I would use it more if it were updated.

If you do build a new Library, I would like a central location, not way out in the south End behind Wal-Mart or something.

Also, much better security/privacy on the computers, I'm sure from what I've seen, by the way you have things set up, theirs allot of information/identity theft going on at our local Library. With the multiple users its just not that hard if someone knows what their doing to remotely hack in, even from a close apartment, to see what people are doing on line where their going and what their passwords are or those that would load key stroke soft ware that keeps a log of all the users after the thief leaves the building. Not to mention all the rubber necks sitting on both sides of you.

Hi! Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the Grand Forks Public Library. Our family has been coming to the library every week since we moved here nearly ten years ago. Our children, now nine and six, are growing up committed readers and library supporters. We love our library!

While I realize that the idea of a brand new building is appealing, perhaps our money could be better spent on materials and programming. Please take time to explore how the current facility could be improved through cosmetic and other changes. The location is good, the parking is easy, and the building is already there.

I am amazed and delighted by the great selection of children's and adult books, videos and magazines that the library offers. Please keep that up! The core of the library isn't the snazzy facility -- its the books. The library employees are great too. We really appreciate the friendly and helpful staff in the children's section.

I'd love to see more programming in general. I'd particularly appreciate children's story time at a time when working parents can take advantage of it. This also goes for the summer reading program, which is primarily scheduled during working hours. Many families must be missing out on these events.

Another area that might be enhanced is the library web site. I am a librarian by training myself (MLIS, UT-Austin) and have spent most of my career building library and information web sites, so I realize this is likely an issue of staff time and expertise. I'd be delighted to help out in some way, if you decide to go ahead with any usability testing or other efforts to improve the library's web site.



Thanks for organizing this effort. The library is a great community resource!

I am a frequent user of the library and think it is a huge asset to our city. I would love to see the library relocated to downtown, perhaps in one of the rehab-ed buildings that sits empty. I realize parking is an issue, however, it is also a big concern at the current location.

I like this location! It's so central, plus it's beautiful, the trees and windows – expand if you must, but don't move. Please!

Upgrade the library in its current location. The library is centrally located in a higher-density area. This allows the largest number of residents to access the library, even if they do not have access to a car. Also relocating the library would create a “dead zone” around the empty building, which would be very bad for our neighborhood and the city as a whole.

New library!!

I think it would be a great idea to have the library in the old Target. Maybe they'd donate it for a tax write off?

Please implement tighter and more advanced security to eliminate frequent “lost” or “missing” items – stores do it: the library needs to, too. Friendlier reference librarians would be appreciated.

The library staff does a really good job under difficult conditions. We need more space in the library which would make room for more books – we need more videos and CDs to allow for a longer checkout period. I would gladly pay higher taxes to achieve these goals.

A good place for a new Library would be the old Leavers building/lot.

I feel the present library is centrally located. I feel the present building should be expanded to its intended potential (2nd floor added.) Electronic library could be moved to another GF location with better access for checking out books electronically.

Security (in body form) for patrons and staff. Library all on one floor; children's is now so isolated for staff and patrons, especially at night and on weekends.

Please get the cat out of the library. It stinks like cat piss.

The GFPL does an excellent service for this community under difficult conditions. Our community needs to serve this library.

Need more space so --- a new library.

I like it the way it is – only maybe more space – more staff, recarpet areas. Please read reviews on movies (DVDs) before buying them. There's so much commercial, bad stuff coming out/being



requested. Can we stick to [Quality](#) materials – less trashy – lowbrow stuff in DVD – CD orders- why encourage this usage?

Hello, I would like to see the Library include (and keep) books of inspirational and religious subjects, including those of Christian, Jewish, and Muslim origin. Thanks.

I have read Robert Ludlum books using the Internet, but the real book is so much better!

Librarians are speaking in a regular or even loud, tone of voice. They can be heard across the entire main room. Whisper!

The GF Public Library is a **TREASURE!**

Love the library & what it offers. Nice compliment to UND. Keep quality nonfiction coming.

I love the Library and the great books.
Love, Stella Niemeier age 6

I love the library but it needs more Trixie Beldon books.
Ava age 9

Thank you for helping me.
Maureen age 9

Thanks for helping me.
Mason Segan

DECEMBER 2008

Finish the second floor. Put computers/DVDs on second floor. Rewire for computers. Expand stacks for books so you are not discarding books so often! Put hardwood floors down or new carpeting. PAINT!! Expand seating/study areas on first floor. Put convenient access (door) for patrons on computers or those who only come to check out DVDs, (hopefully in new area on 2nd floor.) This building lacks character. Benefactor (ex. Bricks at EGF Library). Ask for donations/fundraiser for community members. Good Luck! I love the library.

Keep the library where it is, not everyone lives on the south end of town.

I think the old Target site would be ideal!! Everyone can make it to the mall. Good and ample parking. Go for it.

I think the library should also be a museum. A learning center showcasing more history, not only about the state, but about different races of people who helped to bring us to where we are today



If you build or remodel, hire an interior designer to consider design and architectural interest. Things like lighting, color, flooring. (Things that add comfort, beauty, utility, and character.) Other: pillars, desk area, seating areas, etc.!!

You could build a new multi-story library in the SE corner of the property, add more parking along the northern property line, and replace the old building with more parking. The above should make the moving of the collections to a new library easier and cheaper. Don't be sucked into moving south and paying for a new property with the claims about "center of population." The current property should be adequate for a properly planned building. Get rid of that pile of rust in front while you're at it.

Love the library! Need more space.

You're all doing fantabulous!! Keep it up!

Helpful, courteous, friendly (Reference, computers, etc.)

I come into this public library quite often and have noticed that the tables and study cubicles are always dirty. Would it be possible to have someone clean or wipe them every now and then? Thank you!

I like the library a lot.

Higher pay for the workers! Some are my friends.

I am from the south end of GF – but it seems to me that our patrons from the north side could use a branch at their end of town. More cozy seating areas would be nice. Coffee/smoothie bar? Keep up good work in children's area! If a new library is built, it would be nice to have more windows and natural light (if energy efficient). Do we have enough room in the parking lot for buses and vans to get in and out?

I would like to see a new library – perhaps where Leever's used to be or by the mall where there is a strip mall largely unused with one spot that is quite big – community workers could donate labor. Donations accepted – Pay it Forward!

What about the old Leever's building? That's a nice central location and plenty of parking.

1. A self checkout machine
2. A larger library
3. More than one copy of every book.

Security system. Maintain great collection!

We need brighter lighting between the book shelves (fiction).

Re: Computers

Because so many people would like a terminal on the end or by itself, in order to get some privacy, please either (space allowing for walkways) 1) move one terminal from opposite sides at the end of a row of 4 to face the end or 2) put up dividers (like voting booths) between terminals. Thank you!



I love this library. People are very nice and friendly. You have a good collection of books and DVDs. I wish I had more time to read. But if I need something, I get help to find it. Thanks for good work.
Sunita Sharma

The Library is such a great place, it has something for everyone. I would gladly pay a fee per book or yearly fee to help fix up this wonderful place.

We have a great library.

Please dust in here more – the work tables in computer lab are laden with dust – who knows about the rest of the library. Somebody needs to do this.

Nice library. Why won't you help people find books????????????????? Who's actually works here anyway? The staff just sit and work on the computer.