

Library Grant Upgrades

The Balsam Lake Public Library is thrilled to announce the successful implementation of several accessibility upgrades, thanks to a recent grant from the American Library Association (ALA). The library received a \$20,000 award through the ALA's Libraries Transforming Communities initiative, specifically designed to empower libraries to better serve patrons with disabilities.

The grant funded improvements in three different areas: physical improvements, collection development and programming.

Physical improvements were made throughout the library, including the installation of automatic door openers, a much-needed upgrade to our accessible bathroom, clearer signage and more accessible seating for the library, programming room and study room.

The library added a braille book collection, learning tablets & VOX and Wonderbooks - print books with built in audiobook feature.

The library also implemented programs specifically designed for patrons with disabilities. Working closely with Endeavors, offering weekly & monthly programs for their groups with read aloud time, and hands-on, engaging activities.

In addition, the library sponsored a class with the ADRC (Aging & Disability Resource Center), for caregivers, giving them the tools they need to better care for themselves during their caregiving journey.

The library is committed to continuous improvement and would welcome more feedback from the community on the recent improvements and suggestions for more programming.



Erin from Endeavors enjoys reading a braille book from the library collection