

DeMary Memorial Library
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Library Project Happenings

MINIDOKA LIBRARY DISTRICT

What is a taxing district?

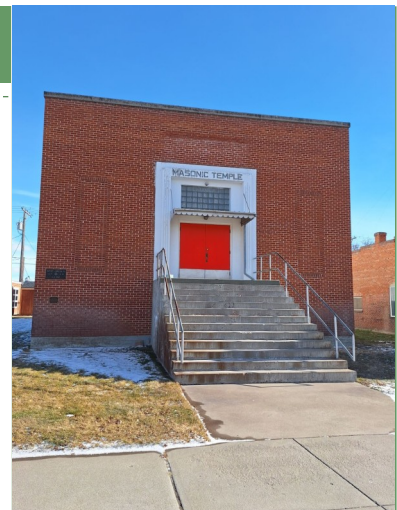
In 1957, the City of Rupert voted to establish the DeMary Memorial Library as directed in the Idaho Statute, Title 33, Chapter 26. This allowed the city to control funding to the library through regular tax distributions from the city residents. The residents pay their city taxes each year and a small portion of those funds are designated to the city library and are recorded in the Rupert City's budget along with other services, such as sewer, water, and streets. This area of taxes within the city limits is called a taxing district.

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, the goal of all Idaho libraries is to provide services to all people within their area of potential service. In following this goal, the DeMary Memorial Library wants to be able to provide consistent access to library services to all of our community within the boundaries of Minidoka County. Historically, we have had outreach to various areas within Minidoka County, such as outlying elementary schools, Summer Reading programs to Paul and Heyburn parks, and Kindergarten Readiness materials provided by the library at Minidoka Schools registration each year. Our community has more needs than we can currently and consistently provide services to our current taxing district, such as book delivery to homebound patrons, more permanent library access to the cities of Minidoka, Acequia, Paul, and Heyburn, and support for the underfunded school libraries. Although we currently provide free access to computers and available library space for small meetings, studying, and presentations to all of our community within the walls of the DeMary Library, our vision is to eventually extend access to locations in the outlying cities by having regular book services in specified locations and times within those areas.

To accomplish this goal, we would like to ask our community to consider increasing our taxing district to include the whole of Minidoka County. This would mean that the requested amount would be spread out over more people and we are able to request less per household to provide our current services to the county citizens. Currently, the library's budget is funded through the City of Rupert property tax revenue. We are competing for funds for other essential services, such as sewers and streets. Both of these areas, as well as many other City departments, are feeling restrained from increased costs, which in turn is being felt by city residents. The DeMary Library's current share is .044% of Rupert property taxes, which amounts to approximately \$195,000 per year. According to the 2020 US Census data, Rupert has 2,142 households and a median owner-occupied property value of \$182,500. On average, each of those households contribute \$80.30 a year to the library budget. A Minidoka Library District would allow us to spread out the requested budget amount and lower the share for each household to .02%, which would result in approximately \$556,769 per year in tax revenue. The 2020 US Census data indicated there are 7,814 owner occupied households with a median property value is \$235,300. The average share of cost is about \$47.06, cutting household contributions by over 40%. This change would also allow us to no longer be part of the City of Rupert budget, giving them \$195,000 to distribute to other city departments to keep their service costs to residents down.

Some additional facts to keep in mind are that each household can check out items on one card, with no additional charges for more cards within the household. The library will continue to participate in the consortium with Burley and Jerome. This means cardholders can use the DeMary card in Jerome and Burley, extending community access to nearly 100,000 physical books, movies, and other items as well as being granted access to a statewide digital library of ebooks and audiobooks in multiple languages.

In the next issue, we will discuss what keeps libraries or departments from increasing their rates without letting the public know?



DEMARY COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATES

VOLUNTEERS

Vangie and Lance Lund
Stacy Shaw
Jenn Young
Kalynda Pearce
Troy Halverson

DONORS SO FAR

DOT Foods
PMT Foundation
In Memory of Edythe Sexton
Rupert Elks Lodge
Brewster Cheese
Police Association
Educational Instructional Services
Packaging Specialities
Alfredo Perales
McEwen Family
Anonymous
Autumn Haven

Total: \$16,454.25

ACCOMPLISHMENTS SO FAR

Water Leak fixed and restored
Roof Fixed
Furnace repaired
Applied for Laura M. Cunningham Foundation grant

PLANNED FUNDRAISING EVENTS...

Still seeking proposals from architects. If you or someone you know is interested in applying for this project, please refer to our website for more information.
demary.lili.org

Continuing to develop History and Vision statements for grant applications.

	<u>2024 Actual</u>	<u>2025 Approved</u>	<u>Projected District</u>
<u>Revenue</u>			
Property Tax	184,446.91	195,000.00	556,770.00
State Revenue	112,770.66	66,000.00	-
Interest	2,327.12	1,000.00	-
Fund Balance	-	20,000.00	-
Grant Revenue	25,076.18	100,000.00	60,000.00
Sales Tax	631.81	500.00	250.00
County Membership	7,635.20	6,000.00	-
Library Collections	3,556.50	3,700.00	4,000.00
Donations	4,787.97	5,300.00	4,000.00
Refunds and Reimbursement	19,697.11	-	-
E-Rate	2,347.90	1,400.00	1,400.00
Total	363,277.36	398,900.00	626,420.00
<u>Expenses</u>			
Salaries	157,751.00	163,350.00	214,942.00
Benefits	37,190.06	40,640.00	50,343.00
Supplies	5,180.08	8,550.00	8,500.00
Miscellaneous	174.01	300.00	300.00
Minor Equipment	362.80	1,000.00	5,000.00
Grant Expense	2,508.98	100,000.00	60,000.00
Collection	22,423.48	26,200.00	42,000.00
Programs & Special Projects	2,795.01	4,000.00	7,000.00
Professional Services	-	-	15,000.00
Technical Services	13,294.82	15,000.00	22,000.00
Credit Card Fees	228.82	200.00	250.00
Dues & Continuing Education	350.00	300.00	2,000.00
Travel Expense	596.91	1,000.00	4,000.00
Utilities	6,058.23	5,800.00	9,000.00
Building Maintenance	2,524.28	5,000.00	7,000.00
Sales Tax Expense	631.81	500.00	250.00
Masonic Hall Lease	46,729.15	18,835.00	18,835.00
Masonic Hall Construction	116,499.36	8,225.00	160,000.00
Contingency	-	-	-
Total	415,298.80	398,900.00	626,420.00