

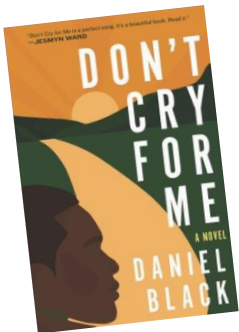
Director's Report to the Library Commission January 27, 2025

Budget News:

- I meet with the Mayor and Finance Director on Tuesday, January 28 to present the FY26 Library budget.
- The Preliminary Budget Work Session Schedule has also been published and the library is scheduled with the Finance Committee on Thursday, March 13 at 1:15 p.m.
- The "I love Ledyard Library" campaign is back again this year. Seeing that February is National Library Lover's month, I thought it would be fun to ask our patrons why they love their library. Hearts will be available to fill out and will be showcased throughout the library. In addition, we are also reminding our community that all of our programming funding comes from donations, fundraising, and grants. If you have a little extra love for the library, consider making a donation.

Library News:

- DeeDee ODonnell is our newest member of the team and accepted the Library Associate position. She started on January 22 and is off to a great start so far!
- We switched our language learning database to Transparent Language which features over 130 languages, including English for speakers of more than 30 languages. American Sign Language is available as well along with resources for kids who are interested in learning a new language!
- The 2025 One Book, One Region title is *Don't Cry for Me* by Daniel Black. The kickoff event will be held on Wednesday, January 29, 4:30 p.m. at Mitchell College's Red Barn in New London.
- Take Your Child to the Library is Saturday, February 1, 2025. Join us at Bill Library for Sing Me A Fairy Tale: The True Story of the Three Little Pigs.



Building News:

- The heat in both library buildings has been a struggle this month. Our Public Works team is fantastic and they have been very diligent to investigate the problems. The Bill Library boiler broke and has been repaired. Gales Ferry Library is a bit more of a conundrum and will require a technician to visit in the coming weeks.
- The Men's toilet at Bill broke and needed a part replaced. Unfortunately, the restroom was used despite it having an out of order sign on the door and the water ended up constantly running over the long MLK weekend. Our water bill might be higher this month as a result.
- The Gales Ferry bathrooms are due for a refresh. Public Works will hopefully be tackling this in the next few weeks. The Men's bathroom will receive touch up work on the ceiling and walls along with painting the walls. The Women's bathroom will receive a fresh coat of paint.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Smith
Library Director