**From:** Kris Nemeth <nemeth.km@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Friday, April 5, 2024 10:20 PM
**To:** Shelley Owens <shelley.owens@gustavus-ak.gov>
**Cc:** Janene Driscoll <janene.driscoll@gustavus-ak.gov>; Rachel Patrick <rachel.patrick@gustavus-ak.gov>; Brian Taylor <brian.taylor@gustavus-ak.gov>; Jim Mackovjak <jim.mackovjak@gustavus-ak.gov>; Kyle Bishop <kyle.bishop@gustavus-ak.gov>; Mike Taylor <mike.taylor@gustavus-ak.gov>; Kathy Leary <kathy.leary@gustavus-ak.gov>
**Subject:** Congratulations and the Library

Dear Mayor Owens,

First off, congratulations on the 20th Anniversary of Gustavus! What a milestone and a tribute to all who contributed to the city’s success. I’m sorry to have missed the celebration but I really appreciate all of the city council members’ and staff’s efforts over so many years. I realize they often receive little recognition. You are all amazingly dedicated to the health of this community. Thank you.

Of course, I appreciate all the city services at the City Hall, DRC, Community Chest, Marine Facilities, Roads and Library. Every service is vital to the community. While I have used all these services and facilities, I would like to call your attention to the library for a moment. During and following the pandemic I rarely visited the library but recently it’s my favorite city endeavor. I find myself there at least three times a week attending Plein Air Painting, Contra Dancing Band Practice and the Makers Meeting. I have been amazed at all the programing offered for patrons of all ages from babes to seniors. There really is something for everyone. Of course, I also appreciate checking out books in person or through the digital library.

I know a lot of planning goes into making the library the creative space it is. I have seen our current librarians’ creative genius applied to incredible art projects that younger patrons complete, the idea of a mural behind the killer whale, the book trail outside, an inspired introduction to reading for infants and toddlers and so much more. The librarians’ enthusiasm is contagious and when they ask if you’ll give a library program to the public you just want to do your part. They’re quick to help out when some of your own programming has issues. By supporting groups such as the Plein Air Painters and the band in the intimate library space there is a multiplier effect for reaching community members when they in turn show art in the gallery or play music at a contra dance at the Gustavus Community Center. It also seems they are doing a great job of directing and supporting community volunteers. “It takes a village.” We’re so lucky to have LeAnn Weikle and Melisa Gomb as our librarians. They have really elevated the library experience.

Thanks for all you do for the city and your support for the library. I look forward to seeing what the city can accomplish in the next 20 years.

Sincerely,

Kris Nemeth

Cc:         City Administrator

               City Council Members