

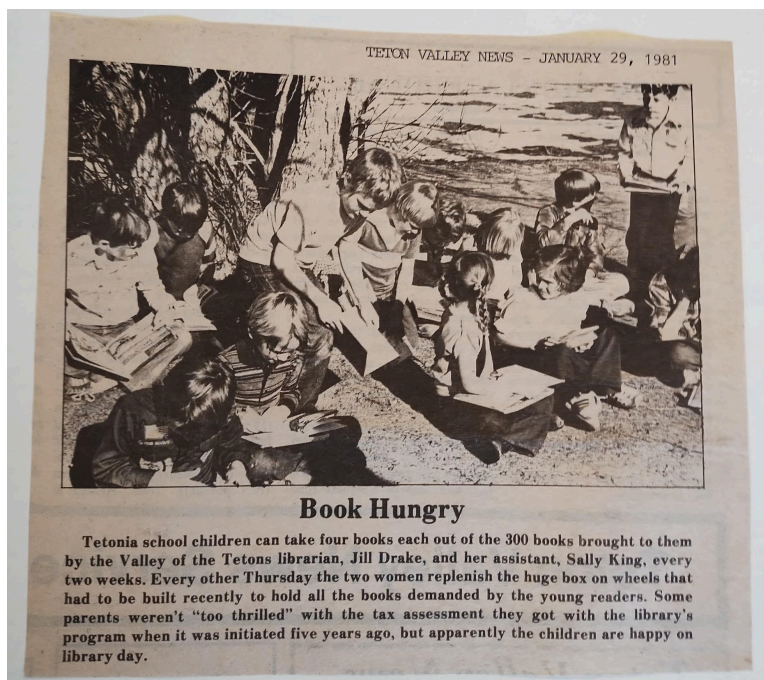


April 2024

History of library services in Teton

Valley of the Tetons Library District began in Victor in 1966, but the north end of the valley wasn't voted into the taxing district until 1976. At that point, Teton County could collect tax money for the support of library services for all residents of Teton County, Idaho.

In 1976 and at least through 1984, Valley of the Tetons traveling librarians brought children's books to Teton every other Thursday, allowing kids to check out 4 books each out of the 300 offered.



Teton County School District opened Teton Elementary School library weekly in the summer starting in the year 2000. Teachers volunteered as librarians to keep kids reading when school was out of session.

In 2014, the opening of a Valley of the Tetons Library branch in Driggs brought permanent library services closer to Teton residents.

Ebooks, audiobooks and digital content available through Overdrive and Libby were made available to all Teton County residents starting in 2015.



In 2017, a community survey for the City of Tetonina found that 73% of Tetonina residents wanted a library in the city.

Little Free Libraries, like the one set up in the pocket park off of Highway 33 in Tetonina in 2018 offered a few books to Tetonina residents.

In 2019, a \$16,500 grant from the CHC Foundation that then-Mayor Gloria Hoopes and Tetonina City Clerk Jacque Beard requested, provided funding to purchase a 12 by 24 foot shed which was placed in Ruby Carson Park on land provided by the City of Tetonina. With a building and many community donated books, the Tetonina Library opened with volunteer staff and administration.



Tetonina library building delivery in 2019.

A volunteer-led group operated the Tetonia Library off and on from 2019 to 2023. COVID, and a lack of staffing and fundraising proved to be major challenges in maintaining consistent operating hours. Frequent talks between the City of Tetonia and Valley of the Tetons Library during this time led to the incorporation of Tetonia's library space as an official branch of Valley of the Tetons Library starting May 1, 2024.



Librarian Mary Madsen shelving books in the Tetonia Library circa 2022.