



DOWNTOWN LIBRARY
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DIRECTOR'S REPORT TEMPLATE OCTOBER 2020

COMMUNITY, GOVERNMENTAL, AND INTERLIBRARY RELATIONS:



The pop-up library at the Goodwill location on Lindbergh Avenue had some four-footed visitors recently.

There has been a delay in getting the pop-up library at the mall for the winter. The mall administration required a contract at the last minute, which had two clauses that were not agreeable to the city attorney's office; the mall would not agree to any changes. We are optimistic that further negotiation may remedy the situation, but at this point the pop-up library is on hiatus. We will also look for another indoor

location in North Rapid that has significant traffic and visibility.

NEW SERVICES:

Virtual events continued to be offered in September, with an author talk from Dorothy Rosby and a presentation in celebration of the 100th anniversary of woman's suffrage featured historian Ruth Page Jones. 260 STEM/STEAM make and take kits were handed out at the downtown library; additional kits were distributed at the pop-up library.

STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT:

Katherine Marmer joined us on September 28 as a Library Associate I. Katherine holds a Master's degree in Library Science, and moved to Rapid City from Portland.

As a result of cancelled library conferences this year, a number of those conferences were modified to be available online. Unfortunately, they seemed to cluster in a 3-week period from mid-September to early October. I participated in a Library Funding and Advocacy Conference, and Sean Collins and I participated in the Computers in Libraries/Internet Librarian Conference. I also attended the Association for Small and Rural Libraries Conference, and several staff and Library Board members participated in the South Dakota State Library conference. Sessions ranged from cutting-edge technologies, to building advocacy and support for library campaigns, and mental health for library staff.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

A journalism student from Purchase College (New York) interviewed me by phone for a paper she's writing on the effects of the Covid pandemic on public libraries. From her previous interviews, she found that other libraries have also been dealing with budget cuts, shutdowns and safety precautions, but we're apparently the only one that has been able to provide continuous service from a drive-thru window.

A long-deferred project to replace lighting switch panels has been started; the switches have been problematic for a number of years. One panel certainly dates from the original building; the other had been re-located during the 2002 expansion, but likely also dates from 1972. One of the panels is also in a public area, and will be re-located to an area accessible only to staff. There will also be efficiencies made with clustering the switches.

Kristyn Ward and Chutima Supboon submitted their resignations. Krissy is now an assistant registrar at WDT, and Chutima has returned to the planning department at the County. We wish them well with their new adventures, and are in the interview process for their replacements.

Staff members suggested working overtime in order to cover for staffing shortages. While this will help provide consistent service, overtime will be authorized on a limited basis to avoid burnout. Thanks to Sean C, Mackenzie, Carrie, Becky, Scott H, Scott O, Lucy, Stephanie S, and Juliet for their willingness to help out and work some extra hours.

A power outage on October 7 caused the library to close early. The power cut occurred about 4:00 p.m., and BHE reported that power might be restored about 6:30; a later update said restoration would be about 7:00. Since the library would have closed at 7, and without the ability to provide services, I made the decision to close the facility.

MEDIA COVERAGE:

September 1, 2020: Newscenter1 Coverage – [Library kicks off literacy with children's program and sign-up month](#)

September 3, 2020 KOTA Coverage – [If you're looking to hit the book this may be the perfect time since September is national Library Card Sign-up Month](#)

September 3, 2020 KEVN Coverage – [September is national Library Card Sign-up Month](#)

September 6, 2020 KOTA Coverage – [Rapid City Public Library starts new program for young kids](#)

September 6, 2020 KEVN Coverage – [Rapid City Public Library starts new program for young kids](#)

September 21, 2020 Newscenter1 Mention – [Draft environmental report details B21 personnel influx economic impact for western South Dakota](#)

September 22, 2020 Rapid City Journal Mention – [Douglas School District prepares for predicted influx of students from B21 Base](#)

September 23, 2020 Live KOTA Noon Show – Library Card Sign-up Month

September 28, 2020 Live KOTA Radio Now – Library Card Sign-up Month