

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT MARCH 2021

### **COMMUNITY, GOVERNMENTAL, AND INTERLIBRARY RELATIONS:**

Sean Minkel, Jennifer Read and Sam Slocum met with the Rapid City Indian Boarding School Lands Committee to begin a conversation about the library potentially preserving and digitizing historic archives.



Two young readers pose with their completion certificates for reading 1,000 books before kindergarten. This early education initiative's goal is to encourage literacy skills and help kids get off to a positive start in school.

I spoke with the Hill City Library librarian and her Board about the possibility of Hill City joining the Black Hills Library consortium. They are giving it serious consideration, and had a number of relevant questions. They plan to contact the support contractor for our integrated library system to obtain up to date cost estimates.

We have begun gathering public data informally to help in revising the strategic plan. There is a kiosk in the lobby to obtain feedback from library users. Questions will also be posted on social media, in hopes of obtaining feedback from non-library users. I also plan to ask for comments when I present to the noon Optimist group on March 17.

The library's bookmobile team has begun meeting to plan for the 2021 pop-up library season. We are currently considering up to 8 locations around Rapid City, each to be visited on a bi-weekly basis.

### **NEW SERVICES:**

In-house storytimes resumed in March. Attendance numbers are still being limited to maintain appropriate social distancing.

AARP has typically reserved the library's meeting rooms to provide tax assistance to community members. This year, due to COVID-19, AARP decided not to provide in-person tax help. To help fill in that gap, the library website has been updated to add a [tax resource page](#), which includes links to forms and assistance options as well as services the library provides (printing, computers, Book-A-Librarian sessions). Basic tax forms such as 1040 and 1040-SR forms have been printed to facilitate quick pickup of these commonly asked for forms.

### **STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT:**

Staff have been asked to submit proposals for training sessions they'd like to offer at the Staff Skills Symposium on April 26. Once an agenda is outlined, an invitation will be made to Library Board members to also attend any sessions they would like.

Terri, Sean, Lisa, and Sam all completed a virtual training, "We're All in This Together: Serving the Whole Community" which covered information on using census data to help identify underserved groups in the community and providing equitable services. Thank you to the three Board members who also participated; this training counts towards the library's accreditation.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

The 2022 budget process is beginning. The City Finance Office has slated the Board's April meeting as the deadline for 2022 budget approval. As in previous years, once the initial budget is approved, there will likely be changes as revenue projections are updated; a final budget will be presented for approval in August, prior to the City Council's approval.

About 18 months ago, the library signed on with Black Hills Energy's Renewable Ready program. As of last fall, we have been receiving 100% of our electric power from renewable sources, primarily due to BHE's new wind farm in Wyoming. We just received the first financial benefit from this program, with a credit of almost \$110 off our \$5600 February bill.

The Mayor informed all city staff of relaxed safety requirements for city facilities, effective February 17, due to the reduced number of Covid-19 cases in Pennington County. However, he acknowledged that department directors have the authority to impose stricter policies within their work groups, or for buildings outside of City Hall. Therefore, these changes will not impact the Board's action from the February meeting.

### **MEDIA COVERAGE:**

- February 24, 2021 [KOTA Live Noon Show](#) – Early Literacy Promotion

### **ONLINE REVIEWS:**

- Facebook, Feb 14, 2021: Anna Christine recommends Rapid City Public Library. 'Love the library, I come here with my nanny family. However, it very inconvenient that to get a library card I have to drive an hour to Sturgis to when I live in Box Elder. Would be nice if the two could somehow work together to provide people with easier access to the library and not have to go out completely out of the way to do so.'
- 5-star Google rating: Bright Star Win, February 27, 2021
- 3-star Google rating: Had what I was looking for. Paul Cameron, February 28, 2021
- 5-star Google rating: Awesome place for adults and kids alike, the maker space is truly incredible. Sanford Ader, February 28, 2021
- 2-star Google rating: Went to take a drink out of my water bottle and security guard freaked out. Like seriously get a life. greazy louis, February 28, 2021
- 4-star Google rating: They were very helpful. Betty Finley, February 27, 2021