



DOWNTOWN LIBRARY
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RAPIDCITYLIBRARY.ORG



DIRECTOR'S REPORT **JUNE 2021**

COMMUNITY, GOVERNMENTAL, AND INTERLIBRARY RELATIONS:

The Pop-Up Library started our summer stop rotation on May 1. Since then, we have served over 475 people at 20 pop-up events. People have registered for library accounts, checked out and returned materials, collected take-and-make kits, and asked reference questions. The best attended stop is the Black Hills Farmer's Market on Saturdays from 8am-12pm. Some of the comments we've received include:

- *We love that you are coming to New Underwood now!*
- *Thank you for coming here this is so wonderful for us. I don't like driving all the way downtown, it's a haul for us.*
- *We'll see you next time! We appreciate you coming out here for us!*
- *This is a great idea, thanks for being here!*
- *Our favorite thing about Rapid City is the library*
- *We love using your online services!*

Information about the Summer Reading program was delivered to area daycares and preschools; the school district sent the information to the households of their elementary and middle-school students. Laurinda Tapper presented to Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) about the library's resources, including the summer reading program. These strategies help aid early literacy efforts and minimize children's summer learning loss.

The city department directors held an all-day retreat with the Mayor on June 2. Topics addressed included strategies to address topics from the city-wide cultural survey and the non-union employee guide.

NEW SERVICES:

Summer reading for kids, teens, and adults kicked off on June 1. The kids' reading theme is [Tails and Tales](#), focused on animal events and activities. As with previous years, kids record their reading, and turn in their reading logs for prizes provided by local businesses and the Friends of the Library. Teens will also read to the Tails and Tales theme, with age-appropriate reading requirements and activities. Adults and teens will submit bookmarks for chances to win weekly prize baskets that will include a book, an activity book, a craft, and a gift card to a local business.

STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT:

The Administrative / Facilities Coordinator position has been posted, with applications arriving almost daily. The position will be posted through June 14; we hope to have someone on board in the position in mid-August.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

On June 1, we eliminated the 'masks strongly recommended' statement. Masks are still required for direct staff assistance, and in areas where social distancing from staff cannot be maintained (makerspace and business office). We also resumed normal meeting and study room capacities, and have returned some of the upholstered furniture to the public areas. These actions were based on the sharply declining numbers of active Covid-19 cases in Pennington County; those case numbers continue to be tracked daily.

The library property had previously been included in the 'no skateboarding' ordinance area for safety reasons. However, a newly-revised ordinance has eliminated the library property from this zone. We will continue to track patron complaints and near-misses, but have removed our 'no skateboarding' signs.

We have received a proposal from Benchmark Data Labs to conduct nine community focus groups in order to gather data for the next strategic plan. Benchmark's facilitation is particularly important for gathering information from non-library users. The total cost of the project is within my approval authority as director, however I wanted to apprise you of the plan. The Library Foundation has also agreed to pay some of the costs, including door prize incentives for those attending the user groups.

MEDIA COVERAGE:

- May 1, 2021 KOTA News Coverage: [Rapid City Library is expanding their services for the summer](#)
- May 1, 2021 KEVN News Coverage: [Rapid City Library is expanding their services for the summer](#)
- May 4, 2021 Rapid City Journal Coverage: [Library Preps for summer programs](#)
- May 6, 2021 Rapid City Journal Coverage: [Library Summer Reading Program to begin June 1](#)
- May 10, 2021 Rapid City Journal Mention: [City Department Directors pitch projects for share of 20 million in surplus funds](#)
- May 15, 2021 Rapid City Journal Opinion Mention: [Ours: City Council needs to consider public's request for surplus funds](#)
- May 19, 2021 Newscenter1 Mention: [Readiatrics Book Drive donates over 5000 books for area children](#)
- May 26, 2021 Rapid City Journal Mention: [Some city offices and facilities to close Monday](#)
- May 26, 2021 Rapid City Journal Coverage: [Library hopes to roll out mobile unit in Rapid City](#)
- May 26 KOTA Live Noon Show: Summer Reading
- May 27, 2021 KOTA FOCUS Radio Show – Summer Reading

ONLINE REVIEWS:

- May 6, 2021 - 5-Star Google Review, Aaron Finch
- May 6, 2021 - 5-Star Google Review, Starnes Floyd
- May 8, 2021 - 4-Star Google Review, JJ Dusing: Visited for the first time in a long time (5-10 years). Pleasantly surprised with how nice it is inside. In addition to the books, they also have movies, video games, and board games available for check out. Will definitely be back
- May 11, 2021 - 5-Star Google Review, Laurene Twitty
- May 19, 2021 - 5-Star Google Review, Ken Eisenbraun
- May 23, 2021 - 5-Star Google Review, Chardinai DuVall
- May 25, 2021 - 5-Star Google Review, Cindy Cole