



DOWNTOWN LIBRARY
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DIRECTOR'S REPORT OCTOBER 2021

COMMUNITY, GOVERNMENTAL, AND INTERLIBRARY RELATIONS:

Received from the Central High School librarian:

I want to express my gratitude again towards the Rapid City Public Library's collaboration project with RCAS. Since using the Sora + Connect program, Central High School students have been thrilled to have more digital books available to borrow. We started this last spring at one school, in hopes to expand it to others this school year. It is working so incredibly well.

With your approval, we will finish adding the rest of our High School level this week (we have already submitted the paperwork), and then hopefully start including our middle schools to this program around December. Our rep at Overdrive is so excited that we are expanding the program to more students in the district, pending of course that the public library is still on board with continuing to add students/schools to this program. Maybe next year we could even look at adding elementary 😊

We are hopeful to receive more funding from RCAS as a result of increased usage, which is proof that our students will use this program and will benefit academically with increased reading options. Thank you again for the collaboration. Our community is so fortunate to have such a wonderful public library!

Benchmark Data Labs has released a survey which will begin gathering information for our needs assessment and strategic plan update. The survey will be released on social media and through our website, and we will also have paper copies in the library. Please share this survey with friends and organizations you belong to; we are seeking input from all segments of the community, especially from those who don't use the library.

STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT:

Congratulations to Chris Pappas, who has been promoted from a Library Associate I to a Library Associate II for training. Chris demonstrated significant experience in training, which he has done in the Coast Guard and in an academic setting.

Police Sergeant Marcos Glass provided de-escalation training to 29 staff members. The training provided staff with reminders and additional tips for interacting with patrons in challenging situations.

Carrie Bond, Library Associate II for Makerspace and Teens, was selected for Elevate Rapid City's first Leadership Institute. In addition, she was awarded the Linda Rabe Women in Leadership scholarship. Congratulations to Carrie!

Sean Minkel, Juliet Heltibridle, and I attended the South Dakota Library Association virtual conference. We participated in sessions such as toy libraries, inclusion issues, and accessibility in libraries. A highlight of the conference was the announcement that Juliet had been named as the Support Staff of the Year award winner! Juliet was nominated and recognized for her natural leadership and interest in finding out how things work with an open mind. Juliet is passionate about staying current on library trends, but also has a caring nature and patience when working with the public. Congratulations to Juliet!

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Sculptor Dale Lamphere picked up the Bluestem Woman sculpture for refurbishment. The sculpture has been at the library since 1976; it was commissioned by the library using funds donated by Mr. and Mrs. Ray Kroc. Over the years, the sculpted grasses that give the statue its name have been broken off, and the woman herself has become a bit worn. We look forward to having her return to the local history room early in the next year.

The front sidewalks have been scarified, to remove uneven surfaces and minimize tripping hazards. Some of the sidewalk sections around the large trees were removed and re-poured because the heaving was too much to allow for scarification.

We are continuing to deal with maintenance and repair issues related to an aging building. Most recently, the compressor for the fire sprinkler system malfunctioned, and a backup compressor caused issues as well. The situation has been resolved for the time being, but more work will be needed in the near future. This issue highlights the need to continue to plan for future repairs and replacement of mechanical systems. We also appreciate the fire department for making multiple visits in response to repeated trouble alarms.

MEDIA COVERAGE:

- September 1, 2021 Rapid City Journal Mention: [Rapid City Council to consider COVID 19 bonuses for more city employees](#)
- September 4, 2021 Rapid City Journal Mention: [Black Hills Reads resources aid kids learning literacy](#)
- September 8, 2021 Rapid City Journal Mention: [Letters to the Editor](#)
- September 8, 2021 Rapid City Journal Coverage: [Mini Makers at Rapid City Public Library](#)
- September 14, 2021 Rapid City Journal Mention: [Two Cents Mention](#)
- September 16, 2021 KOTA Mention: [Nationwide labor shortage impact among Rapid City](#)
- September 17, 2021 KEVN Coverage: [Last month pop-up libraries popping up around Pennington County](#)
- September 17, 2021 KOTA Coverage: [Last month pop-up libraries popping up around Pennington County](#)
- September 23, 2021 KOTA Live Noon Show: [September is Library Card Awareness Month](#)
- September 28, 2021 Newscenter1 Coverage: [Rapid City Public Library holds event for National Voter Registration Day](#)

ONLINE REVIEWS:

- September 8, 2021, 5-Star Google Review - Tammy Less
- September 11, 2021, 4-Star Google Review – Anthony Hetzel
 - Nice place, big clean helpful staff
- September 17, 2021, 5-Star Google Review – Daniel Lillistone
 - I can't read words
- September 18, 2021, 5-Star Google Review – Tabitha Jo
- September 19, 2021, 2-Star Google Review – Angelina Decory
 - Boring
- September 22, 2021, 5-Star Google Review - Barb Allum
- September 22, 2021, 5-Star Google Review – Janice Hawley
- September 28, 2021, 4-Star Google Review – Eric Janis
 - It's a library... with computers, chairs, tables and most importantly, books...