



DOWNTOWN LIBRARY
610 QUINCY ST. | RAPID CITY, SD 57701 | 605.394.6139

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT **MARCH 2022**

COMMUNITY, GOVERNMENTAL, AND INTERLIBRARY RELATIONS:

We are beginning a pilot project with the Rapid Transit system to provide public WIFI in some of the busses, by using our WIFI hotspots. Juliet is coordinating with Rapid Transit on this project, which will be assessed over the next few months.

I have spoken with representatives of the Hot Springs library on a couple of occasions regarding them joining the Black Hills Library Consortium. We are beginning to research cost projections for their participation, and I may meet with their library board sometime this spring.

NEW SERVICES

The improved [Rapid City web pages](#) are now live! These include information on Rapid City history, biographies of Rapid City's mayors, Sioux San, downtown development, the Stratobowl, and more. This resource is great for patrons wanting more information about Rapid City. Resource pages can be found by going to our website and clicking on "Rapid City Pages" under the Local History section of the Research tab.

The library received thousands of home Covid-19 test kits to distribute to the public. Tests have been distributed primarily at the drive-thru window. Although demand for the tests was initially high, that has tapered off due to declining Covid numbers locally. However, we will continue to make the tests available through their expiration date.

The library started a new event in February aimed towards preschoolers called Little Artists. Children will learn about and create their own art based on famous artists in the monthly sessions.

STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT:

Hailey Hall joined us as a Library Associate I. Hailey recently completed her Bachelor's degree with a library minor at BHSU, and worked at the BHSU library while in college. We welcome Hailey to our team!

All staff participated in cultural awareness training presented by Lila Melhaff, the city's Human Services Coordinator, and representatives from Journey On. This training is part of an annual refresher training series.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Per the change to the registration policy, current non-resident and temporary account holders were notified that their accounts can no longer be used for accessing eBooks, eAudiobooks, and streaming videos. Several of the temporary account holders were appreciative of the reminder that they needed to have their accounts verified. A few of the non-resident patrons who have out of state and mail stop addresses, were displeased by the action.

Department directors and key staff received 2023 budget instructions from the Finance Office on March 2. A proposed 2023 budget will be presented to the Board at the April meeting; as was done last year, if the Mayor or City Council change the proposed budget, those changes will be brought back to the Board in October for a final approval.

Chris Pappas resigned his position as Training Library Associate II, in order to accept a position at WDT. In the few months he worked with training, Chris outlined a number of training events, including the cultural awareness training mentioned above. We wish Chris well in his new venture.

We are continuing to consolidate data from the needs assessment done by Benchmark Data Labs. When that compilation is done, we hope to work with a facilitator to pull the information into a draft strategic plan to present to the Board, along with options for new mission, vision, and values statements. The projected timeframe is to bring that information to the May Board meeting.

MEDIA COVERAGE:

February 2, 2022 KEVN Mention: [Goodwill helps community get started with their careers](#)

February 2, 2022 KOTA Mention: [Goodwill helps community get started with their careers](#)

February 7, 2022 Newscenter1 Mention: [Tenant and landlord rights an important subject for SD residents](#)

February 10, 2022 KEVN Coverage: [Grab COVID test while checking out books through Rapid City Public Library's drive-thru](#)

February 10, 2022 KOTA Coverage: [Grab COVID test while checking out books through Rapid City Public Library's drive-thru](#)

February 10, 2022 Newscenter1 Coverage: [Free COVID tests at Rapid City Public Library](#)

February 16, 2022 Rapid City Journal Mention: [City offices to be open on President's Day](#)

February 18, 2022 Rapid City Journal Two Cents: Did I miss the memo? When did the library become an extension of the care campus allowing people to drink, pass out or be combative? Sad, won't let my family go anymore, too unsafe.

February 23, 2022 Live KOTA Noon Show: Reader's Advisory

ONLINE REVIEWS:

- February 1, Google 5-Star Review: 'One of my favorite libraries. Love the environment, offered services, on shelf items, and the live birds they have on display upstairs. They even loan board games and video games!' - Nick Bibs
- February 5, Google 5-Star Review: 'Great library for people of all ages with an incredibly helpful and friendly staff!' - Charlie Heyer
- February 12, Google 5-Star Review - Ilona Searls
- February 18, Google 5-Star Review: 'It is a very well played out library, quite modern and great extras' - Howard Phoenix
- February 24, Google 5-Star Review: 'Very friendly staff!' - Leisa Reese

VACANCY REPORT: The city department directors are investigating city-wide options and initiatives to market and recruit employees in all departments.

Vacancy Status as of 3/1/22				
LIBRARY DEPARTMENT	FULL AND PART-TIME POSITIONS	FULL AND PART-TIME EMPLOYEES	VACANCIES	STATUS
Management	2	2	0	
Senior Librarians	2	2	0	
Coordinators	3	3	0	
Business Office	1	1	0	
Facilities	2.75	2	.75	<i>The custodial position has been re-advertised; interviews have been held, but no one selected as yet.</i>
Library Associate I and II	22.75	17.75	5	<i>All the Library Associate I positions have been filled. Between new LA2 positions and vacancies, five of the eight LA2 positions are vacant; those positions are being posted and interviews are being held</i>
Library Technicians	2	2	0	
Outreach	2.5	1.5	1	<i>One Library Associate I position was reconfigured to become a Creative Media Specialist; this position has been posted.</i>
TOTALS	38	31.25	6.75	