

DOWNTOWN LIBRARY
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RAPIDCITYLIBRARY.ORG



DIRECTOR'S REPORT **FEBRUARY 2023**

COMMUNITY, GOVERNMENTAL, AND INTERLIBRARY RELATIONS:

We are partnering with the South Dakota State Library and South Dakota Game Fish and Parks for a program called *Check Out South Dakota State Parks*. This program provides libraries with three transferrable state park passes that can be checked out by library users. We will evaluate the community's interest in this program, and will consider adding additional park passes if it proves to be a success.

The SDSMT Industrial Engineering students provided preliminary findings for the upstairs area. While the preferred option would involve moving the community room, we recognized that was not a practical solution. They recommended sound buffering options for the upstairs area that could be implemented, but will do some additional research before presenting their final recommendations.

NEW SERVICES:

We have a new health and wellness database specifically for teens. This resource will help teens or their parents find information on a variety of issues facing teens, including physical and mental health, family life, green living, relationships, and more.

We are featuring a new weekly event for preschoolers called Little Explorers. Each Thursday, the little explorers delve into simple STEAM concepts with hands-on, sensory exploration and play. This learning event has proved to be popular, with between 25 and 60 young attendees each week.

The first Winter Reading Challenge was held from December to January, and used our [new tracking application](#). 130 children, 54 adults, and 12 teens completed their respective challenges and were eligible for prizes provided by WaTiki Indoor Waterpark.

STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT:

Welcome to new Library Associate Is Kathlynn Short and Dan Ames. Kath and Dan both have diverse and eclectic work histories which will benefit the library. Kath has worked as a political intern and for multiple political parties, and also worked in a university archival collection. Dan most recently worked with the Forest Service and the Rapid City Fire Department. We are glad to welcome both Kath and Dan to our team and to share their expertise with patrons and staff alike.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

The library once again received its Exemplary accreditation level from the State Library; this is the highest accreditation level and we have held this level for many years. The current accreditation is valid from January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2025, and will again require ongoing training activities for Library Board members. I hope many of you will be able to participate in the Black Hills Library Mini-Conference on April 24 to work towards this training goal.

I was informed by Floyd's Truck Center that the bookmobile chassis was delivered on February 8 to the hybrid drive installer in Pewaukee, Wisconsin. As a reminder, the chassis will be paid for by the Library Foundation. Once the hybrid drive is installed, the bookmobile will be shipped to Maryland for construction of the box. We are still anticipating a late fall 2023 delivery to Rapid City.

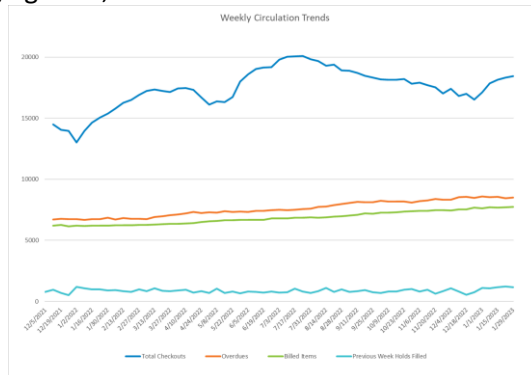


We are working on some significant shifting and renovations in the admin offices. Jen and the Business Office have moved into my former office space; this will allow one of the windows to be made into a service window into the lobby, providing more effective customer service to patrons and staff. My office will move to the front part of the former Business Office. The rear portion of that office will be separated and made into a more effective recording room, which is used for oral history interviews, video productions, and for volunteers who read materials for the State Library's talking books program. A partial wall was removed from the main floor restroom area, allowing for better access and visibility for people moving in and out of the restrooms. Another project for later this year is to fully refurbish the staff restroom in the east staff work area; this restroom is used by the majority of our staff, and has not been updated for at least 25 years. That project was budgeted for in the 2023 budget.

In an effort to identify efficiencies in keeping the facility clean, we have purchased two commercial-grade robot vacuums. These can automate much of the daily cleaning chores, although we understand they are not a perfect solution. We will continue to assess their value and effectiveness over the coming months, and may purchase more if warranted.

The city's non-union wage study has been completed, with recommendations for a new scale and placements on that scale going to City Council on February 20. The scale ensures that current positions are competitive with the market. Individual employees were placed on the new scale at a point closest to their current salary, without moving backwards; there was also the ability for department directors to make adjustments in order to avoid compression issues. The budgetary impact of the new scale will be approximately \$20,000; it is anticipated this can be absorbed by the current budget due to various vacancies. Another RFP was issued for a study of union wages; we anticipate that study will be approved by the Council in the near future, and is more likely to have a significant budgetary impact when implemented.

After one year of not charging fines, the number of overdue materials has not changed significantly:



MEDIA COVERAGE:

- December 9, 2022 - Rapid City Journal mention: [Man sentenced to 15 years after killing father of five](#)
- December 25, 2022 - KOTA News mention: [Rapid City and Spearfish open Christmas tree recycling sites](#)
- December 27, 2022 - mention [Obituary with RCPL Foundation memorial donation requests](#)
- December 28, 2022 - Live KOTA Noon Show: Board Game Collection Promotion December 30, 2022
- December 28, 2022 – Newscenter 1 mention: [Here's Rapid City's New Year's holiday schedule](#)
- December 31, 2022 – Newscenter 1 mention: [Ward 1 Alderman Pat Jones announces that he is running for second term in 2023](#)
- January 5, 2023 - South Dakota Searchlight mention: [1 million free COVID tests one year later, some used, some not, some nearly thrown out](#)
- January 25, 2023 Live KOTA Noon Show: Reader's Advisory

ONLINE REVIEWS:

- December 8, 2022 - Google 5-Star Review: Nice big library. It's cool you can borrow boardgames, Mark Nagel
- December 13, 2022 - Google 3-Star Review, JD Dragon
- January 17, 2023 - Google 5-Star Review: Love the open floor and ease of finding your way around. The second floor has an area for teens and an area for the younger kids, as well. They have a section of books for sale and the prices can't be beat for hardcover (\$2)! The kiosks for checking out materials is easy to use and fast but a friendly staff is always available, if you should need them. One of our favorite places to go on a cold, snowy day, Johonna Wellington
- January 20, 2023 - Google 5-Star Review: Great library. Lots of computers, has a craft room with complimentary supplies and a large kids section upstairs, Madison Mazur

VACANCY REPORT:

Vacancy Status as of 2/1/23				
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	2.5 or 2.75	2	.5 or .75	<i>The facilities position has again been posted, with flexibility for either a 20-hour non-benefited position or a 30-hour benefited position, based on the interests of a successful candidate.</i>
Library Associate I and II	23.75	21.75	2	<i>An offer was made and accepted for the Makerspace Library Associate II position. There are remaining LAI and LAII vacancies, with interviews taking place and applications being reviewed.</i>
Library Technicians	2	2	0	
Outreach	2.5	2.5	0	
TOTALS	38.25	34.25	2.5 or 2.75	