



DOWNTOWN LIBRARY
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RAPIDCITYLIBRARY.ORG



DIRECTOR'S REPORT **APRIL 2023**

COMMUNITY, GOVERNMENTAL, AND INTERLIBRARY RELATIONS:

Sean Minkel, Russ Conklin and I met with the City Hall Facilities Manager and Public Works project managers to review our building maintenance needs and schedule. This is a preliminary step for developing a city-wide facility maintenance plan.

NEW SERVICES:

We are developing a new seed library, under the guidance of Library Associate Garrett. The goals are to help fend off food insecurity, educating members of the community about growing and harvesting, and promoting the preservation of regional heirloom plants. Events related to gardening and food preservation will be provided in conjunction with the seed library.

A new laser engraver has been installed and tested in the makerspace. The next steps include staff training and practice, ordering supplies, development of a maintenance schedule, and marketing once a full launch date is confirmed. The previous engraver was a consumer level model that stopped working. The new machine is an entry-level commercial engraver; in addition to the improved specifications from the last machine, the new laser is faster, larger, and can engrave cylindrical objects.

STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT:

PR Coordinator Laurinda Tapper and Creative Media Specialist Deirdre Knell attended a social media conference in Orlando. They learned about best practices for design, posting, and engagement and networked with professionals from for-profit, non-profit, and governmental agencies. Other topics addressed were the future of digital engagement, public relations crisis communications, how to start a podcast, and effective internal communication.

Training and Systems Coordinator Juliet Heltibridle attended the Computers in Libraries conference in Arlington VA. She attended sessions on digital collections, technology skills assessments and training, and privacy and security. The main theme of the conference was Artificial Intelligence, and several keynotes discussed the risks, potential uses, and impact of AI in libraries of all types. Ideas from the conference will be discussed with the leadership team for possible implementation. Juliet also spoke to a number of vendors regarding possible feature enhancements and new service ideas.

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A March 1 report from the collection agency reflected a cumulative recovery of \$171,855 since initiating the service in November 2018, an ROI of 10.51 to 1.

The library closed early on Monday, April 3 due to the developing snowstorm. The city and the library were closed on Tuesday, and the library also had a late start on Wednesday, due to weather-related staffing availability.

MEDIA COVERAGE:

- March 8, Rapid City Journal Mention: [Rod Pettigrew announces run for ward 5 council seat](#)
- March 6, Rapid City Journal Promotion: [Rapid City Public Library to host 'Ice Fishing 101' this week](#)
- March 7, Rapid City Journal Mention: [Obituary](#)
- March 8, Newscenter1 Mention: [Readiatrics book drive kicks off March 8 to build literacy in the home](#)
- March 10, KOTA Mention: [Readiatrics children's book drive starts in Rapid City](#)
- March 11, Newscenter1 Coverage: [Master Gardener shares tips on small spaces with Rapid City residents](#)
- March 13, KOTA New Coverage: [Rapid City Public Library's digital offerings have increased](#)
- March 23, Rapid City Journal Mention: [Local school board meets to discuss book restrictions](#)
- March 22, Live KOTA Noon Show: Material highlights and recommendations

ONLINE REVIEWS:

- March 13, Google 5-Star Review - Daniel Gordon
- March 17, Google 5-Star Review – Kelly Long
- March 29, Google 5-Star Review: I recently had the pleasure of visiting the Rapid City Public Library and I was thoroughly impressed with my experience. Although being in a smaller town, the library is better run, staffed, and designed than many bigger city libraries I've seen.

Firstly, the library had a wide variety of books and resources available to the public. I was able to find everything I was looking for and more. The organization of the library (being divided cleanly and making great use of the large floor space) and labeling of the areas made it easy to navigate and find what I needed, despite their being so many sections. They have a large nonfiction and information section, a HUGE game section, makerspace, and an entire floor dedicated to teen and children books.

Secondly, the staff was incredibly friendly and helpful. They were able to assist me in finding specific books and even gave me recommendations based on my interests. Their customer service was exceptional and made my visit enjoyable. They have staff available for literally just asking questions, running the makerspace, and checking out the variety of resources from the front desk.

Lastly, the library itself was clean, quiet, and comfortable. It was the perfect environment for studying or reading. The seating was comfortable and there were plenty of tables available for use, in fact they even have a system in place for reserving different study rooms from personal usage if you have a card.

Overall, I highly recommend the Rapid City Public Library to anyone in the area. Their resources, staff, and environment make for an excellent experience. – Thomas G. (Gilby)

VACANCY REPORT:

Vacancy Status as of 4/1/23				
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	15.75	13.75	1	<i>One LA1 position remains vacant; we continue to receive and review applications.</i>
Library Associate II	8	7	1	<i>The training LA2 position remains vacant, although we have temporarily closed the advertisement due to lack of qualified candidates.</i>
Library Technicians	2	2	0	
Outreach	2.75	2.75	0	
35.5TOTALS	39 or 39.25	35.5	2.5 or 2.75	