



DOWNTOWN LIBRARY
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RAPIDCITYLIBRARY.ORG



DIRECTOR'S REPORT **SEPTEMBER 2023**

COMMUNITY, GOVERNMENTAL, AND INTERLIBRARY RELATIONS:

The pop-up library was invited to participate at Central States Fair; this was the library's first appearance at the fair since 2019, due to the pandemic and staffing. Children and teens did an activity and the upcoming Library Card Sign Up Month and general library services were promoted.

I presented at a mini-conference sponsored by the South Dakota State Library and held in Custer. The topic of my presentation was dealing with and documenting adverse incidents; a number of the libraries present had no policies in place to deal with those issues.

Laurinda and Scott H. gave a library tour to the city's Culture Champions team. As a result of that tour, a city Public Works employee nominated Laurinda and Scott for a Cheers for Peers award: *'Thank you Laurinda and Scott for the amazing tour of the library. I have been using the library for 20+ years and had no idea all the resources our library offers. You two are clearly so passionate about the library and the work you do and it really showed throughout the tour. I can't wait to share the knowledge you gave me with others so more people can learn about how awesome our library is! Thank you!!'*

NEW SERVICES:

To aid with development of bookmobile stops, we have developed a [form](#) for public feedback about service locations. We will use this feedback, analysis of current and past Pop-Up Library stops, and growth patterns in Rapid City in order to help develop the bookmobile routes. Bookmobile service is anticipated to start in late February or early March 2024, dependent upon the vehicle's delivery date.

STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT:

Officer Josh McElroy provided ALICE training to staff on August 18, as part of the library's annual safety training. We are currently coordinating with the RCPD to provide the practical portion of the ALICE training in October and appreciate their assistance with this annual refresher training.

Three new staff members have joined our team:

- Sophie Brown is a new Library Associate I. She previously worked at the Belle Fourche library, and is pursuing her Master of Library Science degree at the University of Denver
- Niko Mathiesen joined us as a Library Technician. Niko had been working for the Breadroot food co-op, and will fill the place of Amylee Blanks, who is retiring in early September
- Jim Warren filled our long-vacant custodial position. Jim is a familiar face, having previously worked as one of the security guards

[Ellie Young](#) submitted her resignation as the Early Education Library Associate II. Her husband has been assigned to Spokane, and she will be making that move soon. We commend Ellie for the work she has done to develop the Early Education position, and wish her well in her new ventures.

Amylee Blanks retired after working in part-time and full-time roles since 1995; staff and volunteers held a celebration of Amylee's career prior to her departure. Amylee will be moving to North Dakota with her family, and we wish her well in her retirement in colder climes.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

The annual Summer Reading Challenge wrapped up in August. Participation numbers continue to grow steadily each year, partially as a result of a user-friendly tracking app that was implemented last year:

- Child participants: 925, nearly 5 times more than in 2020
- Teens: 93, a 46% increase from 2020
- Adults: 225, more than twice the participation than in 2020

The Library Foundation has expressed an interest in funding acoustical remediations for the second floor and lobby areas. Using information from the SDSMT students, I have talked with vendors of acoustical baffling products, and with a local contractor for installation. This project will be undertaken in phases, with evaluation time after each phase to determine the extent of the remediation and what additional sound barriers may need to be installed.

The library began automating the account collections process. Previously, staff had to email new accounts and reports to the collections service. Those functions are now updated automatically, minimizing repetitive staff work and reducing the chance of errors and missed reports.

A back-to-school party was hosted to celebrate the completion of Summer Reading Challenges and the end of summer. Over 750 people participated in this Mario Brothers-themed event. The trial period of story times at the pop-up library also concluded; the story times were positively received by the public, with an average of 20 attendees per session. The story times are being planned for continuation with the bookmobile service.

MEDIA COVERAGE:

- August 1, KEVN Coverage: [Build, create, and let your imagination run wild at Curiosity Club](#)
- August 1, KOTA Coverage: [Build, create and let your imagination run wild at Curiosity Club](#)
- August 1, Newscenter1 Coverage: [Rapid City Public Library back to school party: it's a party in mushroom kingdom](#)
- August 1, Newscenter1 Coverage: [RCFD reading program teaches kids about fire safety](#)
- August 2, Newscenter1 Coverage: [Rapid City Public Library Makerspace and their laser engraver in action](#)
- August 3, Newscenter1 Mention: [From art walks to tipi challenges – check out these awesome events happening in and around Rapid City](#)
- August 3, Newscenter1 Coverage: [Rapid City Public Library opens laser engraver to the public – see it in action](#)
- August 7, KEVN Mention: [Hydrant parties at the park conclude at LaCroix Park](#)
- August 10, Rapid City Journal Mention: [Final hydrant party to be held at LaCroix Park on Friday](#)
- August 10, Newscenter1 Mention: [From water slides to back to school Mario parties, check out these events happening in Rapid City](#)

- August 12, [Newscenter1 Mention: Last hydrant part of the summer](#)
- August 22, YouTube: [Mayor's 2024 Budget Press Conference](#)
- August 22, Newscenter1 Mention: [Mayor Salamun proposes 2024 budget for Rapid City](#)
- August 24, KOTA Coverage: [Rapid City Public Library releases new podcast – strange, scary, and unexplained experiences](#)
- August 28, Rapid City Journal Mention: [Rapid City offices adjust schedule for Labor Day holiday](#)

ONLINE REVIEWS:

- August 16, Google 4-Star Review: Aptly situated in the central portion of downtown Rapid City, this library contains an extensive catalog of books (i.e. childrens', mystery, adventure, non-fiction, etc.). There are also movies and console games available. The public library took part in a summer reading challenge, which was rewarding for kiddos and adults alike. Occasional projects and events are open to the public. Thus, the library adds a touch of community involvement. Books can be checked out for approximately 3 weeks, but they are automatically renewed if not returned by the initial due date or more time can be requested it needed. Movies can be checked out for roughly a week and are also automatically renewed, provided no one else requests the title or titles. The library itself, as well as the perimeter grounds, is well-maintained and orderly. This offers a very welcoming and inviting atmosphere. Computers are available for catalog search and other respected needs, such as research or school work. The interior is quite spacious, and the overall layout and decor are reminiscent of traditional libraries with a few signatures touches to bring forth its own unique vibe and flow. There are historical artifacts and relics to round out the experience and to assist in showcasing native cultures and tribes that call the Black Hills home. – Jonathan Jaramillo
- August 30, 5-Star Review – Rhiannon Menard King

VACANCY REPORT:

Vacancy Status as of 9/1/23					
DEPARTMENT	MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS	TOTAL POSITIONS	CURRENT EMPLOYEES	VACANCIES	STATUS
Management	Master's in Library Science	2	2	0	
Senior Librarians	Master's in Library Science	2	2	0	
Coordinators	Bachelor's Degree	3	3	0	
Business Office	Associate's Degree	1	1	0	
Facilities	Custodial experience	2.75	2.75	0	
Library Associate I	Bachelor's Degree	15.75	14.75	1	<i>One offer was made and accepted; that person will start later this month. Interviews are continuing for the remaining position</i>
Library Associate II	Bachelor's Degree	8	6	2	<i>Applications continue to be reviewed for the training position; the early education position has been posted.</i>
Library Technicians	Associate Degree	2	2	0	
Outreach	Bachelor's Degree	2.75	2.75	0	
TOTALS		39.25	36.25	3	