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DIRECTOR'S REPORT MAY 2024

COMMUNITY, GOVERNMENTAL, AND INTERLIBRARY RELATIONS:

To promote the pending arrival of the bookmobile, kids were invited to design their dream bookmobile in a bookmark contest. There were many creative entries, but they were narrowed down to three winners whose bookmarks will be printed and distributed with the bookmobile schedule in May.

The library has had its busiest outreach season since before COVID. In April, we provided services, activities, and library promotion at SDSM&T's Cultural Expo, YFS' Kid's Fair, Community Services Connection of the Black Hills, WDTA's Earth Day Expo, the Liberty Center's Healthy Kid's Day, and the downtown YMCA's Healthy Kid's Day.

NEW SERVICES:

The no-text picture book collection debuted in early April. These books are intended for adults with dementia, memory loss, or other developmental disabilities. The hope with this collection is that the books will assist patrons in recollecting memories and starting conversations with caregivers. The suggestion to add this collection came from Library Associate Kath, who implemented the selection, ordering, and cataloging of those materials.

STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT:

New Library Associate Azi Smith joined our team on the day of the mini-conference! Azi recently moved to Rapid from their hometown of Fort Collins, and has filled a new Library Associate position that was authorized to provide program support for the bookmobile.

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With the state legislature's passage of HB1197, libraries need to ensure their policies are in line with the requirements in that new law. The State Library will hold virtual information sessions to discuss compliance with the bill. There will be two opportunities to participate: Wednesday, May 22 at 9:00 a.m., or Wednesday, May 29 at 6:00 p.m. If any Board members would like to participate, please let me know and I will forward the meeting link.

We are addressing a number of facilities maintenance issues, some possibly due to aging equipment and structure. An electrical panel needs to be replaced, and the city's Facilities Maintenance Supervisor assisted with the process of obtaining quotes for that work. The dry pipe fire suppression system in the covered garage has been losing pressure due to a faulty valve; such systems are commonly in use for outdoor areas that experience freezing temperatures. While a compressor is already being used to maintain safe operation, the faulty valve will need to be repaired. Additionally, leaks in the control units for the lawn sprinkler system were discovered during the annual preparation for warmer weather. These parts are being quoted for replacement. With the ongoing rains, there have also been some roof leaks, but fortunately without interior damage.

MEDIA COVERAGE:

- April 1, KOTA News Coverage: [Rapid City library has literary use for peeps](#)
- April 6, KOTA News Coverage: [Rapid City Public Library to hold watch party for Solar Eclipse](#)
- April 8, Newscenter1 Mention: [Rapid City Solar Eclipse: Memorable moments from 2017 viewing](#)
- April 8, Newscenter1 Coverage: [Design the bookmobile with RC Public Library's bookmark contest](#)
- April 9, Newscenter1 Mention: [It's Library Week! Help celebrate with your favorite book!](#)
- April 14, KOTA News Coverage: [Rapid City Public Library's long-awaited bookmobile set to hit the road soon](#)
- April 15, KEVN News Coverage: [Rapid City Public Library's long-awaited bookmobile set to hit the road soon](#)
- April 24, Live KOTA Noon Show Coverage: [Organize your own book club with help from the Rapid City Public Library](#)

ONLINE REVIEWS:

- April 11, Google 5-Star Review – Kimberly Seidl
- April 14, Google 3-Star Review: Nice library. They have an unusual way of cataloging their non-fiction so that if you're searching on your own you may never find it. I don't bother trying to look for any non-fiction in person. Why don't they use the standard Dewey decimal order? The other improvement I believe they could make is to look at their purchases more closely. They have partial collections of series. I recently checked out a book that turned out to be the 2nd in a series. Where's the first book in that series? I have been working through another series that they only have part of, but at least what they don't have is available from another library. I have made several requests for them to purchase books to complete a series I was reading, but it's getting tiresome. Making improvements in these two areas would make it possible to raise my Google rating. As long as they don't decide to purchase one of those horrid self check in stations that utilize a conveyor belt, my rating won't drop. – Beth Agee

COMMENT CARDS:

- I am a visitor from the east coast and I was impressed by the services provided by your library. Free notary service in a public library is unheard of in states with a much bigger budget. Your staff are amazing!
- I have so many things I want to say – but first thank you for the makerspace – we came in from out of town on our way from NJ to MT and this was an excellent activity for the boys to experience. Also I noticed the maxi pads in the women's restroom! Thank you for thinking forward and making these available for any woman who needs it. This is something that should be everywhere! God Bless all of you!
- Beautiful! So well-organized. So many events and resources! One of (if not THE) best library I've ever been to! I got my card three hours after arriving in town. Kath was super kind, helpful, efficient. I can't wait to stop by again (and again and again!)

VACANCY REPORT:

Vacancy Status as of 5/1/24					
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	16.75	16.75	0	<i>Includes the 1FTE authorized in 2024 for support of the bookmobile; offer was made and accepted for that position.</i>
Library Associate II	Bachelor's Degree	8	5	3	<i>Interviews for the Early Education LA2 were unsuccessful; we are looking to possibly reconfigure that position.</i>
Library Technicians	Associate Degree	2	2	0	
Outreach	Bachelor's Degree	2.75	2.75	0	
TOTALS		40.25	37.25	3	