



DOWNTOWN LIBRARY
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RAPIDCITYLIBRARY.ORG



DIRECTOR'S REPORT SEPTEMBER 2024

COMMUNITY, GOVERNMENTAL, AND INTERLIBRARY RELATIONS:

Rapid City Rush, WAVI, Black Hills Federal Credit Union, and the library partnered to host a school supply drive. In addition to standard school supplies, women's shoes were collected for WAVI clients.

The bookmobile was at the Central States Fair from 11-7 on Friday through Monday. About 200 people visited the bookmobile to view the library services available.

Wellfully Adolescent Care Center had asked to be a bookmobile stop, and their location was added to the schedule. At the first stop there, the bookmobile staff were told the kids were pretty excited about the library coming to them. At the third stop at that facility, one of the bookmobile librarians reported that the Wellfully kids RAN to the bookmobile: 'They were all incredibly excited and waving to us from the windows!' One of the Wellfully staff members was so thankful for the bookmobile that she broke down in tears. This is a wonderful example of the impact the library can have on the community.

NEW SERVICES:

Sensory kits have been added to our youth programming events. These kits are designed to help kids with diverse sensory needs feel more comfortable and engaged during library events. They include items like fidget toys, noise-canceling headphones, and other calming tools. These kits are in keeping with the library values to make the library and its services more inclusive and welcoming.

STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT:

Events Coordinator Aly Quinn has been accepted into the Elevate Leadership Institute class of 2025. This institute will allow Aly to enhance her leadership capabilities at the library, focusing on areas such as networking, effective communication, decision-making confidence, positive team-building techniques, and the underlying principles of leadership.

Brady Jones has been promoted from a Library Associate II to a Library Associate Lead for the bookmobile. The Lead position is a new level intended to create another career ladder opportunity for union employees. The two Lead positions identified at this time are for the Bookmobile and Makerspace, areas which require additional focus and oversight that the Leads will provide. The Lead positions were transitioned from Library Associate II positions, so no additional employees are required. Brady has done an exceptional job as the Bookmobile LAII, and we look forward to his contributions in his new role.

Library Associate Hailey Hall resigned to accept the position of head librarian at Stevens High School. We will miss Hailey as part of our team, but are thrilled about her promotion within the profession. Interviews are taking place to fill the vacancy.

Juliet Heltbridle attended the Koha-US Conference (Round Rock, TX) on August 12-16; Koha is the integrated system used for library operations such as checkouts and the catalog. Juliet attended sessions on customizing Koha for staff use, Artificial Intelligence, and improvements coming to Koha in 2024-2025.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Summer Reading Challenge participants submitted their final reading logs, showing 1,344,462 minutes of reading during the event. Participation in the various age groups was:

- Children: 967 participants (+11% from last year)
- Teens: 137 participants (+47%)
- Adults: 152 participants (-32%)

Adult participation dropped despite efforts to boost engagement; more research will be done to discover the reasons and work to increase participation next year. It is noted that there was a significant increase in teen participation, which is often a difficult age group to reach.

There has been no communication from Securitas following their notification of contract termination; and they have not provided staffing since early August. We anticipate there may be one more small invoice remaining, but have not received any additional invoices to date.

MEDIA COVERAGE:

- August 3, Newscenter1 Mention: [The Black Hills Farmer's Market keeps Rapid City colorful](#)
- August 3, Newscenter1 Mention: [Join the final Hydrant Block Party of the summer at Roosevelt Park!](#)
- August 6, Newscenter1 Coverage: [Rapid City firefighters bring fire safety to life with fun story time](#)
- August 14, Newscenter1 Coverage: [The Library Bookmobile: Rolling into the community](#)
- August 15, KOTA Coverage: [Rapid City Public Library brings literature to community with physical barriers](#)
- August 15, Rapid City Journal Coverage: [New kids' book takes young readers on a journey through their emotions](#)
- August 28, Live KOTA Noon Show: [Sign up for a library card and win prizes](#)
- August 29, Rapid City Journal Mention: [Rapid City services impacted for Labor Day holiday](#)
- August 30, KOTA Mention: [What's closed in Rapid City for the Labor Day holiday](#)

ONLINE REVIEWS:

- August 13, Google 5-Star Review: The place is great really love it. I mean it's a public library so this is kinda to be expected. I don't feel comfortable leaving any of my stuff out when I use the restroom. So if you come there with a laptop I'd recommend like packing it up and not just leaving it on the table. They have a security guard and if you are there long enough you can see cops randomly patrolling the library. But as far as the actual library this place is a gem. I've seen people complain about the dewey whatsit but I'm not that much of a nerd I guess. I like the way the subject system is set up. I also like how they have a huge large print section for me when I get old and start going blind. I mean it's pretty big so that's great. Honestly, this place is better than large city libraries in my opinion. And as an avid gamer, their gaming checkout section is amazing plus they have check out dnd books too. I've honestly thought of getting a switch to try the game section they have for it. The staff seems really nice and professional it probably would be annoying coming here during the mask tyranny though. Oh, their audiobook selection is amazing get a CD player off of Amazon and headphones and sit there listening to a huge audiobook selection. They also have a nice self-help section and they keep automatic renewing the book I haven't finished yet. One time they had these guys in there kinda of being annoying in the background. But it was during the rally and what do I expect a little ol lady librarian telling a 250 pound tattooed biker to be quiet? – David W

VACANCY REPORT:

Vacancy Status as of 9/1/24					
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	17.75	14.75	3	<i>Vacancies are due to an internal promotion, a reconfiguration from an LAll position, and a resignation. Two positions will remain vacant pending determination of 2025 budget; interviews are taking place for the other.</i>
Library Associate II	Bachelor's Degree	5	5	0	
Library Associate Lead	Bachelor's degree	2	1	1	<i>There was one internal promotion of a former Library Associate II; the other position is being advertised internally.</i>
Library Technicians	Associate Degree	2	2	0	
Outreach	Bachelor's Degree	2.75	2.75	0	
TOTALS		40.25	36.25	4	