COMMUNITY, GOVERNMENTAL, AND INTERLIBRARY RELATIONS:
Paulette Schenck has been appointed by the County Commission as liaison to the library board.

NEW SERVICES:

Foundation Center Database:
We acquired the database on March 7. Carrie Bond was made the contact person for outside parties wishing to use it. She is currently in training for use of the database, along with some of the supervisors.

Our agreement with the Vucurevich Foundation is that the Rapid City Public Library offers to host the Foundation Center’s FOUNDATION DIRECTORY ONLINE database in order to make it widely available to the residents of Rapid City and Pennington County. The Vucurevich Foundation would purchase the database for the first year. Since the database would not be able to be accessed remotely (outside the library), the library would designate one staff person as contact person for any individuals/organizations interested in researching grant availability. The library staff person would serve as contact person, perform initial or on-going research into available funding sources for interested parties, and could serve as a resource for the process of writing grants. The library staff person would NOT be involved in the actual writing of grants. A reporting system would be put in place in order to evaluate the effectiveness of this process of bringing needed funds into our community.

This arrangement would function for one year, during which time the success of this program would be evaluated both by use and by successful grant activity. After that time, the library would absorb the cost of the database if it has been decided by the library to be an effective tool.

STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT:

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

Security Update:
We went out for an RFP at the end of February and received two responses: one from Securitas Security out of Gillette, WY. The other was G4S Security out of Casper, WY.
Update of the Public Area:
The city signed off on the redesign of the public areas with representatives of Gustafson Builders. There are still a few finishing touches that need to be done, but the staff has been working hard to reopen the public area. Everyone has worked above and beyond to make this redesign a success. The proof of that is our ability to complete work a month ahead of schedule. If all goes well we should be open today, Monday, March 13.

Rushmore Mall branch:
I have been contacted by Brandon Boyster of the Rushmore Mall wishing to start a conversation about having a library branch located in the mall. I told him I would run the idea past the board to see if you were interested in pursuing the idea.

Strategic Planning:
The Chapman Group is still working on the draft document.

Chaos (Stephen Trafoya):
In February, the focus for CHAOS was Hands-on design. We had fifty people learn to 3D design their own heart charm the first two weeks in February. Their designs were 3D printed for them for free (a perk of the program) and they learned a new skill in 3D design with the Tinkercad tool. We will continue this Drop-in Design & 3D print program in March with “Lucky Charms.”

We hosted 20 people for our Hardware Jewelry making program. The attendees were given access to a variety of tools and items like nuts, bolts, metal gears, wire, beads, keyrings, chains and more. People then created necklaces, keychains, earrings, bracelets, and pendants that they got to take home with them. The program was well received and everyone had a blast.

We continued to build our Scratch Coding Club in February. This month, we focused on how to code a short animation in a 2-part series. This program is starting to build momentum as kids are showing interest in wanting to be creative with code. In March, we will replicate the program but focus on video game design.

Finally, we had several meetings with different organizations in the community. We are looking at ways to partner with them as it relates to CHAOS programming and outreach. Our meetings with 7400 Circuits, School of Mines, Wayne Lang, and The Garage were productive in coming up with potential partnership ideas. We will also be hosting School of Mines in March to provide training for library staff on a different 3D modeling software that we can offer to patrons in our space.

Chamber Business to Business Fair:
The library again had a booth in the Chamber’s Business to Business Fair. We had a good response from attendees for our Star Wars theme. Kudos to Laurinda Tapper and Stephen Tafoya for all the hard work put into the booth.

Children’s librarian:
We have offered an internal candidate, Katherine Kuntz, the position and she has accepted. Her first day was March 6.

Promotion:
Emily Morse has been promoted from Customer Service Specialist to Library Associate I.
Media coverage:

KOTA: http://www.kotatv.com/content/news/Western-Dakota-Improv-host-comedy-show-414209863.html


Newscenter1: http://www.newscenter1.tv/story/34663052/girls-who-code