

Library Director Report April 2024

Anita Marple

FY24/25 Budget Planning: The County Commission has directed departments and offline boards to plan for the same level of funding as the current year. The Budget Officer/County Clerk heads a committee looking at Standard Occupational Classifications (SOC) for county employees, and when those results pertinent to library employees become available, I will look for adjustments needed in our wage levels/base salary ranges.

There are some necessary increases to service agreements, utilities, fuel, postage, building supplies, and office supplies that reflect the impacts of inflation. The budget we present will stay as close to the current funding level as possible in both the General Fund budget and the Special Revenue Fund budget.

The Library's budget hearing with the County Commission is May 14, and the time has been changed to 10:30 am.

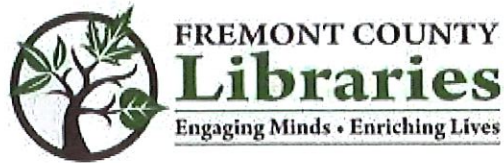
Staff Training: The April 1 all-staff training day focused on customer service philosophy and practice, discussion of organization values, policy review, and staff team connection. Every staff member received and read Ken Blanchard's *Legendary Service* book before the training day, and we had great discussion and practical ideas for applying the principles to our library work.

Internet Use Policy Revision: The 45-day public comment period ended April 16; I compiled the written comments and emailed them to board members on April 17. County ISS director Kevin Shultz and I completed the plan for implementing filters once the May 1 board vote is complete. The additional cost for filtering will be approximately \$1,000 per year; this will be included in the Library's portion of the ISS budget.

Special Board Meeting: Preparation for and follow up to the April 17 special meeting required dedicated time that took priority over other tasks. Documents related to this meeting that have been revised or created include the Challenged Materials Procedure, the FCLS Youth Services Fiction Category Guidelines for Parents, and the CRRLM Review Checklist. I am working with a staff member to create a fillable pdf version of the Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials form. Board chair Carrie Johnson and I worked together on writing a draft letter to the County Commission summarizing the special meeting.

Strategic Planning Process: This month I approached Mary (MJ) Greene, the director of the Lander Community Foundation, to invite her to facilitate the community meetings portion of this process. Decision pending. I will submit a grant request to the McMurry Foundation or the FC Library Foundation for the costs of our planning process, which will include facilitator fees and travel expenses; refreshments and meals; printing; and advertising. A rough estimate of cost is \$1,500-\$2,500.

The next steps are to build the planning team, confirm the facilitator, and establish the timeline. We will be in good shape if the planning team begins by mid-June.

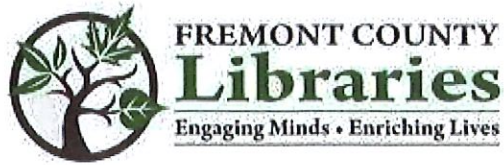


LATC Riverton Landscaping Project: The demolition and new sidewalk steps are complete. The next steps are adding a layer of topsoil, installing irrigation, and installing seed mat. Facilities Supervisor Alex Carlson is doing a great job working with the contractors and keeping the project moving forward. Thank you to our Riverton maintenance staff Jacob Baltzegar for his diligence and skill in problem solving irrigation challenges related to this project.

The other LATC funded project is repaving the Riverton Branch parking lot. There is not a grant deadline for finishing this project, but we hope to see it finished before winter. Currently we are gathering new bids as the original bids were made one year ago.

Work with Community Partners:

1. I met with Riverton Police Department Chief Hurtado, Sgt. Amy Fyler, and new Community Resource Officer Jeff Manning to touch base on security issues and to strengthen our collaboration. The City of Riverton has been taking action to address community problems, and hiring a CRO position is one such action. I look forward to partnering with Officer Manning on programs at the library. RPD has increased its patrol presence at the Riverton Branch, and we see that this is helping deter loitering on library grounds.
2. The library hosted the first of several Community Connections events at the Lander Library on Saturday, April 27, in partnership with the FC League of Women Voters and Wyoming Humanities. Twenty-seven residents from Lander, Atlantic City, and Riverton discussed topics related to democracy and building connections with those who have perspectives different from one's own. We will host this event at the Riverton and Dubois branches over the next few months.
3. The bus pass program funded in partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming ended early this month. I will connect with WRTA and library staff to evaluate the program with those who were directly involved in administering it. This evaluation will be central to the future of this program.
4. With a grant from the Wyoming Association of Risk Management (WARM), we have ordered indoor and outdoor signage for security communication. Signs related to use of security cameras and prohibited activities such as overnight camping and smoking will be installed at each library location.
5. Staff website coordinator Kennedy Erhart and I met with Deidre Meyer, the Curriculum Director for Fremont County School District #1, to discuss the library's online StoryTime project. A key part of the plan for our new online StoryTimes is to focus on Kindergarten readiness. Incorporating standards and social skills into StoryTime episodes is one practical avenue for FCLS to support the work of both the public schools and home school families.



Lander Library Report **April 2024**
Rachel Arnold, Lander Manager

Adult Services Department

Displays: The displays for April reflected that Spring is in the air. We highlighted popular books with "Quack Open a Good Book." We continued with the special give away from the National Book Foundation on the second display. Brad Fox will be coming to the LVHS Auditorium to speak about *The Bathysphere Book* on May 1, 2024. It is a part of the Science & Literature program with the National Book Foundation. We estimate that we have given approximately 110 copies to our patrons. It should be an awesome event. Our third display is a continuing of the Going Green for Spring.

Book Clubs: 9 Ladies were present this month for Bookies Book Club at the Lander Senior Center. We enjoyed conversing about Bonnie Garmus's *Lessons in Chemistry*. I passed out *Have You Seen Luis Velez?* for discussion in May.

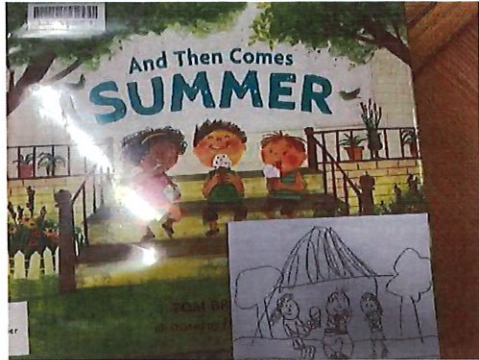
Programs:

- On April 8, 2024, Lane Bushmeyer was the presenter for our second Good Stewards event, "Urban Jungle." It focused on house plants, repotting plants and making cuttings the right way. Each participant went home with more knowledge and a few repotted cuttings from plants that were donated for the event. There was a wonderful turn out with 14 participants.
- The Met Opera had a showing again this month. *La Rondine* was presented on April 20, 2024. There were 14 grateful opera lovers in attendance.
- The last Good Stewards event is on the 29th of the month. Lori Hunter of Rebound will be coming to present "The Art of Bookbinding: Reduce, Reuse & Upcycle" workshop. We will be talking about different ways to recycle everyday items.

The computer and wi-fi usage continues to be utilized, and we help patrons with their computer needs on a daily basis. There have been many patrons reaching out to thank us, as a library, for all the many different things we provide. It is a needed resource for this community.

Youth Services Department

April has come and gone in a whirlwind of activities, highlighted by the Spring Plays, as outlined below. With the better weather, we have also seen an increase in patrons in the Children's Department.



More patrons are asking reference questions, which is always fun. A highlight this month is a young patron who comes in about once a week with a specific book in mind. If one of us can't immediately figure out what book she is looking for, she will draw a picture of the cover, and, so far, we've been able to track it down!

Preschool Visits: Some of our preschool visits fell during the week of the plays, while others came for a storytime and the plays. Apple Valley and CDS came for Storytime on April 5th and 9th for a total of 39 visitors. The Preschool DUPLO session brought an additional 10 visitors.

LEGO Club: Twenty-one builders packed into the Little Theater on April 4th for an exciting building adventure at LEGO Club. One builder built a "chess set" out of LEGOs, while another built a "Leaning Tower of Assorted Colors", which despite appearances, remarkably did not topple during the week it was on display.

Public Storytimes: Our Enhanced Storytimes continue to be a hit with a total of 57 attending. We ordered some new sensory activities for the littles to play with and they are enjoying the new balance board, ball ramp, and puzzles very much. Storytime Dance Party had 8 attendees this month.

Library 101 Class: A Homeschool group requested some instruction in how to find things in the library, so I presented an explanation of how items are arranged in the Children's Department and then the kids played a game. Twelve participated in this event.

Chess Club: Chess Club attendance has been a bit sparse lately with soccer going on. A total of 4 attended the two sessions this month.

Spring Plays: The highlight of the month was easily the plays performed by the Story Hour Players on April 15th, 16th and 17th. School children were bussed to the library from Gannett Peak Elementary, Wyoming Indian Elementary, Fort Washakie Elementary, and Academy of the Winds. Several preschools attended as well. Two public showings also occurred. A total of 744 people watched the plays in 12 showings.

Dubois Branch Library April 2024

Kathy Gettelman, Dubois Manager

I will be asking the Dubois Friends of the Library at their May 16th meeting if they will be willing to fund a Library Page position for the summer. We hope to be able to have a Page and Intern for the summer season. Last year we had Andee and Broderick, and we really enjoyed working with these young adults.

Adult Department

Ongoing programs/events:

Never Sweat Book Club, Stitch & Be Sewcial at the Library, Movie nights, Monthly Book Fair

Teen/YA

Sci-Fi Saturday Matinees will resume in the fall.

Youth Services Department

Family Story Times and STAY & PLAY are going extremely well. We had 27 attendees at one of our April story times. Wow, that is an amazing turnout for our small community!

Comments from patrons:

From Linda: Thank you to Becky and Kathy for helping me print my online class required study items. So much to print!

From Dawn: It is great to have Kathy available to help me with learning how to set up Excel spreadsheets for my business.

Comments from our Facebook page:



Meghan Riley, local Dubois parent, posted the following on our Facebook page:

Thank you for making the library such a fun and welcoming place for the kids (and the rest of us)!



The photos are of Meghan's kids and they love coming to the library. Cat Kids in the library!

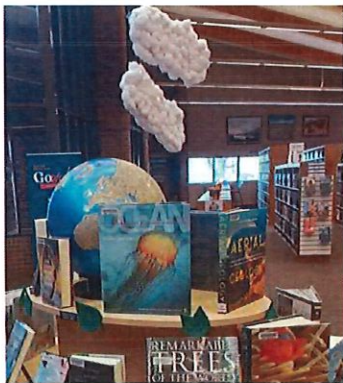
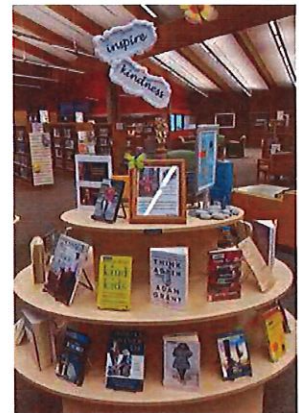
Riverton Branch Library
Anita Marple, Library Director

April 2024

Adult Department

The adult staff continue to provide computer assistance, circulation service, and information on myriad topics to patrons. The rush of tax season is over, and we helped folks find the forms they need and offered assistance navigating the IRS website.

Staff member Elizabeth created two engaging displays in March and April. The first was "Inspiring Kindness," in recognition of Mr. Roger's (the kindest man imaginable) birthday on March 20th. A variety of books encouraged kindness towards yourself, other people, kids, and animals. We included movies with messages about being kind in all aspects of life, such as "Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" (highlighting the show Mister Rogers' Neighborhood) and "My Neighbor Totoro" (a Studio Ghibli Anime about the kindness of others). The display featured kindness quotes, butterflies, and a rock painting project to bring joy to anyone that might find them along their path.

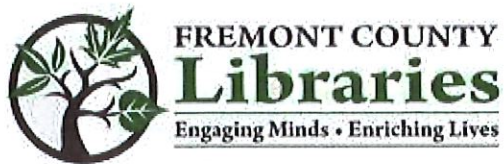


The April display featured learning about and caring for the Earth in keeping with Earth Day on April 22nd. Documentaries and non-fiction books focused on ecosystems around the world, climate change, and how to care for our planet. Some fiction was included to show different authors' imaginings on what might happen if climate-related disasters occurred.

Youth Services Department

In April we did quite a bit of outreach in the Riverton community with the Kiwanis Books & Breakfast event, and our colleagues from the Lander Library joined us for the Community Baby Shower. Child Development Services was back for a monthly story time which includes two groups of about 50 kids! We continue to see new faces for our weekly scheduled story times and the department is full of activity, learning, and play.

The Enchanted Entertainers have begun rehearsals for the play they will perform during the annual Wyoming Reads event in May. I enjoyed putting my creative writing degree to work by



adapting a well-loved children’s book into a theater format. The play will feature silly versions of favorite tall tales, and we are excited to present this to the first-grade students in our community!

We will begin prepping for summer reading sign-ups, events, crafts, and activities in the upcoming months. We are looking forward to our favorite time of year in Wyoming with annual events like Chalk the Walk, the Foam Party, as well as some new activities celebrating the theme “Adventure Begins at Your Library.”

Submitted by Aubry Ellis, Youth Services Lead Librarian