

Library Director Report April 2023

Anita Marple

Budget Preparation: A majority of my time this month was devoted to preparing the Library's General Fund and Special Revenue Fund budget packets. Evaluating our revenue streams, calculating spending for the remainder of the current year, communicating with vendors, planning time with the assistant director and facilities supervisor, and writing the budget messages are the core activities of preparing the budget. The library board budget work session on [DATE] was a valuable time to discuss the library system's current needs and to set priorities. The FCLS General Fund budget request for FYE2024 is very close to the status-quo budget the Commissioners requested from departments and offline boards.

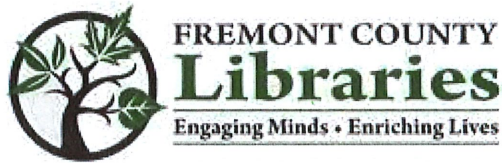
I will present notes on each budget packet at the May 3 library board meeting.

Fremont County LATC Grant Applications: I submitted six applications to the County for Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency (LATC) funding. The U.S. Treasury website definition of LATC funding: "The LATC Fund is a general revenue enhancement program that provides additional assistance to eligible Tribal governments, eligible revenue sharing counties, and eligible revenue sharing consolidated governments." The Library's applications for infrastructure projects:

1. Riverton Branch Library Landscape Project
2. Riverton Branch Library Parking Lot Replacement
3. Riverton Branch Library Parking Lot Repair (an alternative to the Replacement request)
4. Dubois Branch Library Fence Project
5. Lander Library Interior Painting Project
6. Riverton Branch Library Main Desk Countertop Replacement

League of Women Voters Meet & Greet: The LWV event on was an opportunity to visit with local leaders and elected officials in a low-key environment. As non-partisan entities, the Library and LWV are developing a strong partnership for providing information to county residents and candidate forums during election cycles.

Resources for Library Support Groups & Nonprofits: Two events in April were the Lander Community Foundation's "Power Hour" grant-writing workshop at the Lander Library and a live webinar on [IDENTIFYING DONORS]. The Lander Library is an onsite access location for the Foundation Center, Foundation Maps, GuideStar, and Grants for Individuals databases that assist nonprofits and individuals with organization development and grant sources. The cost of subscribing to these databases is prohibitive for individual organizations, so I am excited to offer the community this resource through a special initiative of Candid (the database owner) and Wyoming Libraries to Business. Under the current arrangement, access is available until the end of 2024.



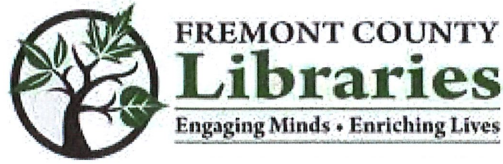
FCLS Website: This project often reminds me of “The Tortoise and the Hare.” Web designer Jason Grubb has the framework in place, and now library staff are working on content. Jason and I are working on a training plan for staff, and he will be our technical consultant and official “fixer of problems.” In part, the delay reflects the limited amount of staff time available for developing the website. For example, I recently met with the youth services lead librarians to discuss online StoryTime content plans. This will be a cooperative effort, and we know that it will be a highly accessed feature on the new website. Coordinating time to meet and create content is happening simultaneously with finishing regular in-person StoryTimes and preparing for Summer Reading Program. Slowly but surely, we will accomplish the objective with our current level of resources.

The new website will feature Resource Searching (catalog and databases), Services (meeting rooms, ILL, copying/printing), Programs (onsite calendars, online links), Library Information (hours, contacts, policies, how-to/FAQs), and Community Connections (links to local resources, county information, emergency services contact info, etc.). This is the beginning, and I hope we’ll develop additional features that meet the needs of library patrons.

When my role becomes solely Library Director, I will invest more time in developing the website. Maintenance of the website ultimately will involve other staff and is a key part of long-term planning.

Commissioner & Library Support Groups Meeting: I appreciate the Library Foundation’s taking the lead for this event. Commissioners Larry Allen, Jenny McCarty, Mike Jones, and Ron Fabrizius attended, and I also invited County Clerk Julie Freese and Commissioner Administrative Secretary Becky Enos. Library Board members Sherry Shelley and John Angst attended, and each of the library support groups were represented. The good food, good communication, and relationship building among our major stakeholders strengthens our library system.

At the Commissioner meeting prior to the luncheon, Library Foundation President Cody Beers made a clear presentation of the Foundation’s financial workings to the Commission. I believe the discussion was profitable for greater understanding for everyone regarding the challenges faced by both the library support groups and the commissioners.



Riverton Branch Library & Dubois Branch Library **April 2023**
Shari Haskins, Assistant Library Director

RIVERTON BRANCH LIBRARY

Adult Services Department

The Adult Services Department offered several programs throughout April. We hosted a classical concert alongside the Wyoming Arts Council and the Piatigorsky Foundation, featuring guitarist Jack Sanders. 30 Patrons joined us for the concert and were incredibly interested in Jack's music and knowledge. Alongside the concert our monthly book club was held and continues to be successful.

At the end of the month we welcomed author Rodger McDaniel for an author talk and presentation on his book *Profiles in Courage: Standing Against the Wyoming Wind*. We had a great turnout, with almost 50 patrons joining us to hear Rodger speak. I had multiple compliments throughout the evening as well as patrons later in the week coming in to tell us how much they enjoyed and appreciated the event.

We ended the month by preparing for New York Times bestselling author Marc Cameron at the beginning of May, while enjoying the slowly improving weather.

Submitted by Tannar Miller, Adult Services Lead Librarian

Youth Services Department

April came and went fast! Our Teen and Children's departments have been busy with story time kids and our after school crowd. We have been continuing our Lego Club every Tuesday from 3-5pm and we've had some teens that have come down to participate also. We finished up our Spring Storytime Session and will take the month of May to do Wyoming Reads for First Graders and get ready for Summer Reading.

In the Children's Department, we introduced the two Nugget Couches pictured here. They have been a huge hit in our library. We have received lots of compliments and thank you's from our patrons. You can build with them, but kids also pull them to sit or lay down and read.



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Our Teen Department has been very busy with our after school crowd. A Dungeons & Dragons group meets weekly. We have changed the layout to make the space more comfortable, secured a TV for playing video games or watching movies, and relocated YA audiobooks with the corresponding print books to increase checkouts. We continue to look for other seating options for their space.

Submitted by Kirbie Despain, Youth Services Lead Librarian

DUBOIS BRANCH LIBRARY

Ongoing Outreach: Crowheart Elementary, Adult at-home delivery service

Ongoing Programs: Story Time & PreK Lego Club, Juv Lego Club, Wednesday Night Movies

Author Alyson Hagy did a very interesting and fun book talk on her book *Ghosts of Wyoming*. There were 13 in attendance.

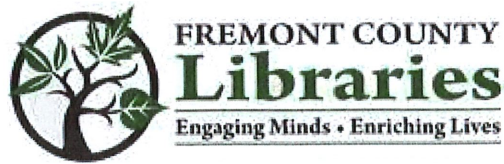
WyomingPBS was our special Story Time guest on Friday, April 28. The Molly of Denali character and story were a bit hit with our littles and their families.

Weekly movies will resume May 17th. Recent movies have been well attended on Wednesday evenings.

Life is good at DBL!

Submitted by Kathy Gettelman, Lead Librarian





Lander Library Report April 2023

Anita Marple, Library Director & Lander Manager

Adult Services Department

April has been a very busy month. Many patrons have come through the doors in search of internet access, meeting rooms, study places, programming and, of course, books and movies.

Seed Library The seed library is continuing to be extremely popular. The marketing campaign was a great success. Thanks to Monty Hettich for taking charge of all the details and to staff member Lane Bushmeyer for coordinating the project. We average of 3-4 visitors a day acquiring seeds since installing the display.

Scrabble Night Weekly Scrabble Night has ended. Although, I wouldn't be surprised if our loyal players decide to meet up and play anyway. We would be happy to accommodate them!

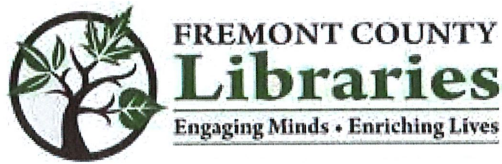
Book Clubs The We Love Jane Austen Book Discussion and Tea Society meets each Thursday evening with approximately 10 members having tea and sharing their insights. The monthly Bookies Book Club met on April 6, 2023 at the Senior Center with 11 ladies attending. New faces are always welcome.

Displays Our displays for the month centered on our April programming and Poetry Month. The gardening display features books related to flowers, vegetables and how to be a better gardener. The poetry books are a great selection of various poets. Both have been popular. Julie is working on a big Route 66 display that she has always wanted to do for her last display before retiring at the end of May.

Met Opera We offered three Metropolitan Opera Live in HD events this month: April 1 *Falstaff*, April 15 *Der Rosenkavalier*, and April 29 *Champion*. Dr. Chris Hodkinson and approximately 40 of his students from Wyoming Catholic College attended *Der Rosenkavalier*. A committed audience of 15 local residents continue to enjoy these live events.

Programming The Alzheimer's Association had the third Dementia meeting this month. Fifteen people participated in person and via Zoom. We heard from Wyoming 211 about connecting caregivers with the correct agencies. The Alzheimer's Representative, Debra Di Bianchi, shared about how to communicate in the different stages of Alzheimer's and Dementia.

Our "Good Stewards of the Earth" series occupied every Monday evening this month. We featured Dave Morneau of the Popo Agie Conservation District, Griff Sprout of Sprouts Greenhouse, Angelina Stancampiano from Sinks Canyon State Park, and Melissa Hemken of Melissahof Hatchery. Each presenter brought interesting ideas and knowledge to our patrons for creating gardens and keeping them healthy throughout the growing season. Melissa provided great information about chickens and how to keep them healthy, even during long hard winters. Our final program on May 1 is a Forum with the experts for a Q&A time.



Author Talk On April 25, 2023 we hosted Alyson Hagy, a creative writing professor at the University of Wyoming and novelist, to speak about her book *Ghosts in Wyoming*. She kept 15 patrons enthralled from 6:00 to 7:00pm. She answered questions and asked questions about local ghost stories. Wonderful time!

Thank you all for your support.
Submitted by Rachel Arnold, Adult Services Lead Librarian

Youth Services Department

Born to Read Becky Packer continues to make this program a success. She packed ten kits this month and took them to the hospital to distribute to newborns.

Spring Plays StoryHour Players presented two plays, "Jack and the Beanstalk and Friends" and "Unlucky Cinderella" for area preschool through second grade classes as well as the general public on April 5th, 6th, and 7th. Despite a blizzard closing schools forcing last-minute rescheduling, the Story Hour Players presented the plays 9 times to a total audience of 729.

Preschool Visits Most of our preschools attended the Spring Plays instead of their monthly scheduled StoryTime. Apple Valley did attend on April 14th with a total of 20.

Public StoryTimes Regular Public StoryTime and Toddler Time saw an attendance drop off this month after the plays. Toddler Time and StoryTime were offered April 12th, 19th and 26th with a total of 18 participants.

StoryTime Dance Party StoryTime Dance Party had a train theme this month with songs, stories, and activities focusing on trains. Nine patrons attended on April 21st.

Chess Club Retired teacher Kirk Norman started Chess Club for fourth through sixth graders. Eighteen students attended this fun three-week program and learned the basics of chess. Kirk hopes to offer more chess opportunities at the library if students are interested.

Lego Club and Junior Builders We are very sad to lose our Lego Club volunteer, Dianne Perez, who passed away recently. She was an enthusiastic leader of our Lego Club and always a good friend to us at the library. We will miss her and remember her.

On April 6th we offered Lego Club at the same time as the newly formed Junior Builders. Lego Club continues to be for kids ages 6 to 12. Junior Builders is an opportunity for younger builders ages 3 to 5 to build with the library's Duplo blocks with their parents. Twenty-two attended Lego Club and 21 attended Junior Builders.

CanTeen Activities CanTeen crafts were offered four times this month including: bobble head animals, paper globes, and rock cacti. A total of 22 teens attended these events.

Submitted by Tamara Anderson, Youth Services Lead Librarian