

**Library Director Report November 2022**  
Anita Marple

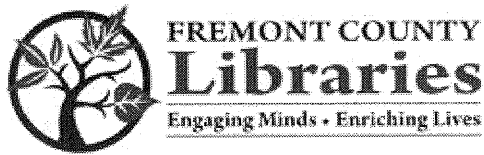
**Election Judge Duties:** For the general election on November 8, I worked a full day at the Lander polling site. County employees from the courthouse form the main pool of election workers, and staff from other county departments volunteer to work the polls as scheduling allows. I enjoy taking the time to support the heart of our democratic process, to work alongside other county employees and community volunteers, and to interact with people in the community on election day. Julie Freese has done an exemplary job of overseeing Fremont County's election process. Margy Irvine, Sara McWain, and all the Election Office staff did a fantastic job facilitating a complex process.

**Wyoming Library Directors Retreat:** The November 2-4 retreat was excellent. This year a central topic was library perspective and response to the increased attention on library collections and efforts to remove books. John Chrastka, Executive Director of EveryLibrary Institute, presented on advocacy and activism to develop support for libraries. Advocacy focuses on building coalitions with community partners to promote library services and use. Activism focuses on engaging supporters to take practical action on behalf of the library. This affirms the direction we are pursuing with developing our avenues of advocacy, and it provides guidance on how to involve library supporters in actively communicating with our funding stakeholders at the county and state levels. More of this content will be shared at the upcoming Library Support Group Summit in January.

**Library Support Group Summit:** This will be a Library Think Tank event for the Library Board, Library Foundation board, and Friends of the Library boards and is scheduled for Saturday, January 21, 8:30am-12:30pm in the Lander Library Carnegie Room. We will be talking and making plans for advocacy to build library awareness and use and for activism to positively engage with our funding stakeholders.

**Library Collection Issues & Challenges to Materials:** I continue to monitor developments locally and statewide regarding these issues. The FCSD#1 December 13 board meeting includes an agenda item on school library collections. I will attend this meeting. I am also attending the December 3 Town Hall meeting in Riverton hosted by Fremont County legislators Tim Salazar and Pepper Ottman. Connecting with Fremont County legislators and commissioners ahead of the legislative session and our next county budget season will be priorities in my schedule during the next few months. I will also attend the annual Legislative Reception on January 12, 2023, at the Laramie County Public Library in Cheyenne. This event is hosted by the Wyoming Library Association and provides dinner and the opportunity to meet with legislators an advocate for library support.

**Policy Work:** I have finished gathering information on exit interview policies from other entities and have received a Memo from the County Attorney's office in reply to a Request for



Opinion on both the FCLS Exit Interview Policy and the FCLS Conflict Resolution Policy. My summary Memo and the County Attorney Memo are included in the board packet.

I am in the midst of the policy review and research for the FCLS Materials Acquisition & Maintenance Policy. I am reviewing several policies from other library systems and using a Policy Audit checklist tool specific to this policy from EveryLibrary Institute. On Monday, December 5, Shari Haskins and I will work on policy recommendations for the board. The procedure portion of materials acquisition/collection development is also in progress but not complete. Updating the procedure will be straightforward; I simply need time to meet with Shari and complete the task.

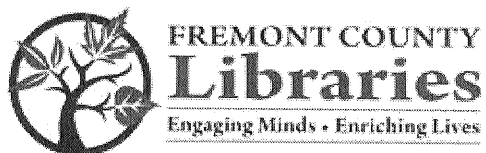
**ALA Covid Library Relief Fund Grant Update:** Spending activity for this grant will conclude at the end of December 2022. Most of the spending for collection development and literacy support has been accomplished, and the marketing piece of the plan occur later this month. We are creating a direct mail postcard to reach at least 10,000 households in Fremont County. When we have received and processed all the collection materials, we will promote and acknowledge the ALA CLRF grant award which has made these additions possible.

The \$20,000 grant breakdown:

- \$5,000 Digital collection purchasing on Overdrive platform
- \$2,500 Classroom book kits to support struggling readers
- \$2,000 Fiction print collection
- \$2,000 Non-fiction print collection
- \$3,500 Early literacy materials
- \$5,000 Marketing & promotion to FC residents

**County Government Personnel Changes:** The Clerk and Treasurer offices have experienced a level of turnover which is impacting workflow and meeting deadlines. For the library system, this means our financial reports are not providing complete budget information for our General Fund and Special Revenue Fund. One report which is current is our General Fund expenditures report which I included in the board packet for the December meeting. While the Clerk and Treasurer offices train new people and work to catch up, I am communicating support and patience. Carla Thomas and Jeanine Parrill in the financial office have been helpful and professional as they pick up extra duties to accomplish necessary work. I greatly appreciate working with them.

**Library Financial Status:** From my own spreadsheet and the General Fund expenditure report for November, I may confidently report that our budget is in good shape. In the first five months of the fiscal year, nothing alarming has occurred related to utility expenses or fuel expenditures, staff with spending responsibilities have been conscientious, and the only unexpected expense has been satellite equipment updates for the opera presentations.



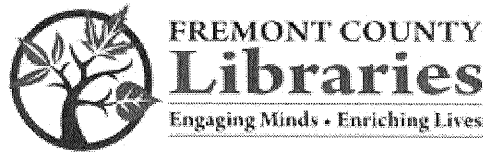
**Aspen Discovery Platform:** We have a new catalog interface (called a “discovery layer”) for online searching of the library collection. Aspen provides more dynamic interaction with collection information. Links on our website have been updated, and we’re working on updating links on the public search computers in the libraries. A new mobile app is available also. Search for “WYLDcat” in your app store.

**New Website Update:** Our website developer plans to have our site ready for testing by mid-December.

**Assistant Director Report:** Shari requested to give her report orally at the board meeting. This is an excellent option due to the extra duties Shari took on during my vacation and the time she has spent covering for Riverton staff absences due to medical issues and a new baby. Congratulations to Tannar & Sarah Miller on the birth of their daughter who arrived on Thanksgiving!

Shari Haskins is a valuable leader in our library system. She embodies our library values and devotes great time and energy to serving library patrons and staff. Thank you, Shari!





## **Lander Library Report      November 2022**

Anita Marple, Library Director & Lander Manager

### **Adult Services Department**

It is cold outside—finally--but that hasn't stopped patrons from visiting us.

**Met Opera:** We began the month of November by live streaming "La Traviata" for our opera loving patrons. The next opera is "The Hours," a new opera based on the book by Michael Cunningham and the Paramount film adaptation. If you are an opera fan, please note that Renee Fleming makes her highly anticipated return to the Met in this production. Thank you to the **Lander Met Opera** group for coordinating this opportunity in Lander. Thank you also to **Kevin Shultz**, our county IT supervisor, who has facilitated satellite modifications for the Live in HD broadcasts.

**Book Art Display:** We have on display this month some Book Art made by our staff members. It ranges from folded book art to wreaths and bee hives. We invite you to take a look.

**Thanksgiving:** To celebrate the Thanksgiving, we provided a take-home gratitude activity which has been very popular.

**"Bookies" Book Club:** This partnership with the **Lander Senior Center** is back! Retired library staff member **Terry Dunn** has graciously agreed to help lead. We met at the Senior Center on November 3, 2022 to introduce the book selection. Our first book is *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge. The group discussion on December 3 included 7 individuals. A great re-start to a long-term partnership! In the future we hope to expand our outreach programming to other entities serving our senior community.

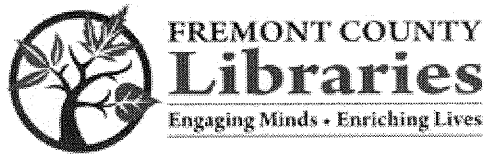
**Tuesday Night Yoga:** We began November 8th and plan to continue through the winter months. **Tiffanie Zimmer** is our volunteer leader for this program. A solid group of 17 to 20 ladies and gentlemen have attended--a wonderful turnout for this time of year.

**Services:** Meeting room and public computer use numbers are strong. Patrons regularly come in to study, read the papers, and connect to wi-fi via laptop or mobile device.

**Holiday Open House & Buffalo Bill Holiday Show:** December 22, 5:00-6:30pm is our Holiday Open House, and 6:30pm is the start time for Buffalo Bill Boycott & Dr. Jo's Holiday Show. Please join us for refreshments, activities, and a great show with Bill and Jo!

As always, more plans are in the works!

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving.  
Submitted by Rachel Arnold, Adult Services Lead Librarian



## **Youth Services Department**

The weather took a turn towards winter and affected some of our program attendance, but we still had many fun activities.

**Born to Read:** Becky Packer prepared 12 kits for newborns at the hospital this month.

**Preschool Visits: Child Development Services** brought a total of 43 children and staff on Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup> for their monthly StoryTime sessions. **Little Children's Preschool** brought 25 on the 15<sup>th</sup>. **Lander Learning Express** was unable to attend storytime due to weather issues on the 15<sup>th</sup>, but they brought 18 to LEGO Playtime on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. A total of 86 were reached through these programs.

**Public Storytimes:** 107 children enjoyed story times this month. StoryTime and Toddler Time were held on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>. A puppet program was presented on November 16<sup>th</sup> as a special Thanksgiving StoryTime.

**Lego Club: Dianne Perez** continues to do an excellent job for us volunteering to lead Lego Club. Four builders enjoyed Lego Club on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**CanTeen Activities:** Staff member **Kennedy Erhart** offered activities on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>. 37 teens participated.

**Passive Programming:** We currently have a display of Financial Literacy posters from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. In conjunction with this, we are giving away booklets designed to help young children learn about topics such as how to save money, how to be a good borrower, what things cost, etc.

Submitted by Tamara Anderson, Youth Services Lead Librarian