

- Community Conversations were held in seven locations throughout the region using the grant funds from ALA for the “Libraries Transform Communities” grant cycle for small and rural libraries. Thank you to Barbara Stone, Anita Punla, and Suzanne Swetnam for your time and energy dedicated to this process! And thank you to all the participants! Results will be written up and shared widely throughout the region. Grant funds were used to employ staff to cover other library functions while carrying out the conversations. Thanks to Nora Sutherland for filling in during this time.
- Erate funded communication project installations have been completed. The internet service speed at the library is now about 8 time faster and can provide better service to more people concurrently. Thanks to the New Mexico State Library for assisting every step of the way and providing funding in addition to guiding the erate funding process. This project would not have happened without NMSL involvement.
- The annual report was completed and submitted on time in August to the NM State Library, allowing the library to be eligible for state and federal funding. While of course numbers fell during the pandemic, the report statistics showed the clear continued use of library services throughout.
- Construction costs and low availability of contractors is impacting libraries – the combination of bond fund spending deadlines and lack of materials and labor to complete planned projects is a dilemma as of yet unresolved.
- The summer series of programs were well-attended and appreciated by families and individuals. Thanks to Billy Ehret, Ashlee Redmond, Nancy Swanson, Linda Sweet, Anita Punla, Corey Coomes, Kiva Lucero, Nora Sutherland, and Amanda Lewis! And thank you to the Friends of the Library for providing funding for all library programs!!!
- Current programming includes some new fitness programs which we hope will become self-sustaining and perhaps fundraisers for the FOL but need time to build so are currently a bit of a cost. Some instructors volunteer their time; all are offered \$25 for the hour of instruction they provide and this comes from FOL. All put out a donation can and any donations are income for FOL. Dee Plana has worked with us to set up a tracking system so that the cost/income will be apparent and can be re-evaluated as we move forward based on participation and donations. Everyone who has participated has been quite pleased with the opportunities.
- Other programming this late summer/early fall includes book talks, outdoor movies, community as poet, Howlers writing group, Caregiver support group, book group, Friday children/family programming, and storytime.
- The new service of delivering library items via the Canon Community Center to homebound seniors is being used and appreciated by several patrons now.
- We are testing circulation of a new low-end tablet for use as an ereader and will expand that opportunity if it serves the purpose well. Thanks to Amanda Lewis for setting up and procedures!
- Touch-free fixtures have been installed in both bathrooms.
- As Library Director I am grateful for the wonderful co-workers with whom I can so confidently leave the library so that I can have an extended visit with aging parents.
- In addition to in-person services the library also offers contact-free services such as curbside pickup, lockers for 24/7 hold pickups, laptops to use outside the library, and reference via phone/ email.
- The FOL continues to meet and be creative about fundraising and continues to provide excellent support to the library. More locals are donating cars to the Friends of the Library via the system <https://jsplibrary.org/fol/#donate> and scroll down) they worked so hard to set up – very rewarding!