

- The library may need the Village Council & Mayor's support in upcoming proposed changes to the financial decision structure for Sandoval County GO Bonds for Libraries. At the January 24<sup>th</sup> Commission Meeting a motion was passed to authorize the County Clerk to publish a notice of intent to adopt an ordinance to create a Sandoval County Library Board. As written in the draft ordinance, Rio Rancho Libraries are over-represented and as such hold the power to choose representation for smaller libraries as well. Clearly this is not fair representation.
- Building updates: The remediation contract is complete and awaiting final payment. The reconstruction contracts are partially complete and awaiting funding for completion. The electrical work for the lighting has begun. The Jemez Springs Community Presbyterian Church continues to be a generous partner in providing temporary space for the library – thank you! Financial, morale, service and storage issues are some of the continued impacts for the delays of financing for this project.
- Funding updates: The Library Director worked with a grant writer, generously funded by MRCOG, to try and find funds to support library operations or repairs. Recommendations for legislative funds on the state and federal level are being pursued. Meetings with our County Commissioner, State Representative, and representatives from US legislators' offices have occurred, and we are grateful for their time, energy, and knowledge. One insurance claim has been addressed (awaiting payment and documentation) and a second claim is awaiting review. Finalization of insurance will allow the pursuit of other funding for non-covered aspects of the repairs. There are a lot of great people with many life experiences putting thought into how to bridge this large financial gap that is about \$100,000 after we receive funds promised/intended for the library towards the expenses. If you have ideas to share please send them my way. Thanks to all who are trying to help out!
- Current overarching goals for the library, which will involve input from the community and decisions by the Library Board, as finances and time allow are:
  - Complete the reconstruction of the library building and reoccupy it. This work may be phased so that we regain use of the conference room/restroom/kitchen area for programming first while the other portion is complete.
  - Find a partner and funds to conduct an engineering study and engineering recommendations to address the presence of a more active hot spring underneath the building and other effects of severe weather.
  - Find funds to follow the recommendations to mitigate the effects of the hot springs and severe weather. AND/OR
  - Decide whether to move library operations to another location if conditions warrant a move.
- **New books and dvds** are slowly being added to the small collection at the library housed at the church. Ebooks & Eaudiobooks are also continuing to be added to the collection. And Kanopy streaming video has been continued as a service of local patrons. Take a look!
- **Early March Special event** is – 10 Early Signs and Symptoms of Alzheimer's and Dementia: Saturday, March 2nd, 1 pm Fellowship Hall, Jemez Springs Community Presbyterian Church. Joshua Fragua Jr. New Mexico Chapter Alzheimer's Association will present. Participation guide will be available for each attendee.
- **January programs were**– the regular programming and a book swap. Regular programming currently includes community as poet, aerobics, yoga, storytime (ages 0-5), Friday fun, and book chat. Thank you to staff and volunteers for providing these opportunities to the area!
- **Staffing changes** – are on the horizon as Nora Sutherland will be leaving the area in a few months. We are restructuring to continue to provide important services such as school-aged programming, summer reading

& events, and other functions. There is a job posting for an Independent Contractor to organize and host summer reading events – if you know of a good candidate please let them know!

- The winter weather is here and has caused several days of library closures already. The sloped entry and parking at the temporary location at JSCPC gets less sun and can be an icy walk to the south side entrance. We are on the list for some plowing of the drive for future snowy days when library staff is able to get there and open the library. Please be careful!
- The Library Board is seeking another new member. Please visit <https://jsplibrary.org/library-board/> to learn more about the board and contact the library if you're interested.
- 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 Friends of the Library continue to be a tremendous support to the library by contributing to operations costs as well as funding all of the programming expenses and some book purchases as well! Thank you to all who contribute as volunteers and as donators of funds!!!