

Rolling Meadows Library April 2024 – Interim Executive Director’s Report

Executive Summary

Lucia attend the Zoom meeting “Conversations with Secretary of State, Alexi Giannoulias & RAILS Members Library Directors” on April 29. It was a lively discussion with him and his staff in which he showed his support for libraries and librarians. Most important was his support of HB 4567 which makes it a felony to threaten (for example bomb threats) or target libraries and librarians in the same way schools are protected. Other various partnerships and grant opportunities were discussed. This is to be an ongoing series of discussions. The Volunteer luncheon was the month's highlight event. Special Services did an outstanding job with the set up and creative charming decor. We honored Donna Harrison and Donna Naymola, for their outstanding years of service to the library. I look forward to our new executive director’s arrival.

In the Library

The Illinois Employer Support of the Guard And Reserve Awards Committee (ESGR) has chosen RML as one of Illinois' outstanding employers for the past year! Because of our strong support to the National Guard and Reserve, RML will be honored with an Illinois ESGR State Award. RML’s part-time reference librarian, Michael I., is in the Illinois National Guard.

On April 10, Nana and Elizabeth presented the library’s very first Bad Art Nite. This was a joint program between the Reference and Readers Services departments; it was an amazing evening of creative frivolity as patrons used their artistic ingenuity and humor to cobble together the very best "bad" art in the suburbs. The program relied on "leftover" materials from the Y.S. Department and donations from staff. With 20 people in attendance, the library’s first Bad Art Nite was a successful endeavor, and patrons exhibited pride in their finished pieces. There were prizes awarded, and all participants left with a mini masterpiece.

In the Community

Laura and Kate represented the library at the Week of the Young Child Celebration held at Forest View Educational Center in Arlington Heights. ECDEC (Early Childhood Developmental Enrichment Center) and FIND PI (Family Involvement Nurturing Development Prevention Initiative) sponsored it. We attend every year to share our services with many families with young children.

Laura attended the District 15 B-PAC (Bilingual Parents Advisory Committee) meeting. She also, promoted library services at the Food Pantry at the RMNRC (Rolling Meadows Neighborhood Resource Center). And taught a class on Library Digital Resources at the RMNRC. Kate and Dan presented at the Sandburg Jr. High’s WOW Career Day.

Department Highlights

Youth Services

- Laura hosted the Lincoln Story League Meeting a librarians storytelling resource sharing group at RML
- We celebrated Dia de Los Niños-Children’s Day Book Day in person for the first time since the pandemic. We had over 130 people attend. They celebrated books and reading with a song, activities and cake!
- A bookmark design contest for children K-8th grade was held in honor of Children’s Book Week. The 27 entries were so wonderful we are awarding extra prizes.
- Kate performed five preschool outreach storytimes.
- Spring class visits have begun and will continue.
- We have a new display with books purchased at the Guadalajara International Book Fair! They are marked so we can keep track of these exciting and unique titles. The display was up for Dia de Los Niños-Children’s Day Book Day so they debuted to a wide audience. Many items were checked out.

Readers Services

- On April 13, we hosted the Latte Game Lounge. 64 people attended. The interactive program was initially intended to be a kickoff to publicize the second Adult and Teen Winter Reading Program but needed to be rescheduled due to the weather. Although the program took place after the fact, we still took the opportunity to promote the upcoming programs and services the library has to offer, as well as highlighting our developing teen and adult board games collection.
- A new readers’ advisory resource has been created to share with patrons. Compilations of the library’s book discussion groups that patrons can reference for book club and reading ideas are now available. The resource dates from 2011-2024, will be updated annually, and is conveniently housed with the Book Club Kit collection.
- Multiple copies of Rolling Meadows and Fremd High School Summer Reading books are now available for our patrons. Rolling Meadows High School’s new Head Librarian Katherine Shaw is our contact at the school. She thanked us for being the very first library to have the books ready for the students!

Reference Services

- We welcomed Olya to the department! She is a new part-time librarian working 15 hours per week.
- Four one-on-one computer help appointments were scheduled in April. Anne also offered computer classes. The class focused on the online crafting resource CreativeBug proved popular. Attendees were able to try their hand at crochet!
- Besides meeting in-person, the Creative Coloring Club is featured in a display case showcasing a variety of artistic coloring styles. Members enjoyed the opportunity and are thrilled to see their works displayed. And for those not able to join us in-person, take-home packets are still available.
- The Four Seasons Book Club just completed its first year back. As we came out of hiatus last July, we started with four members. The group has grown to 13 members now.

- Lauren’s Sow, Grow, and Learn kit program still proves popular. All 70 Sow, Grow, and Learn kits are spoken for. Library resources are always highlighted!
- Anne attended an OCLC workshop at Harper College. Representatives from three areas of OCLC (Cataloging, Resource Sharing and Discovery) told us how each area uses AI and the ups and downs of AI. They also discussed possible upcoming changes at OCLC.
- Lauren attended Newsbank webinars on America’s News and HeritageHub. Both are online resources for patrons.

Special Services

- Installed displays in the main level display cases. The Creative Coloring display showcases artwork created by patrons during our monthly Creative Coloring Club. The new I-Spy display promotes our Dia de los Niños event and features a collection of figurines donated by former board member, Ernest Martin, in honor of his late wife, Josephine. It has been a huge success with patrons of all ages.
- Arts Alive Concerts continue to be well attended, 77 patrons attended the April Concert.
- The new layout for the Summer Newsletter was completed and will be sent to the printer for a hard copy proof on May 2.
- Our design efforts have been focused on the Volunteer Luncheon, Outreach marketing materials, Summer Reading Challenge (SRC) promotions, and the SRC Launch Party.

Technology

- We have started raising the height of the Reference Walkup PC stations. The tables will comply with current ADA standards after this project is completed, for a relatively inexpensive amount.
- Current Technologies is wrapping up several additional “staffed area” door security upgrades.
- We are working on completing the installation of a large TV screen in Reference Meeting Room # 3. This will give patrons the option of using a designated PC & large screen like our other meeting rooms.
- We have been working with Tech Services on engraving Library of Things items and making instructions/manuals for every item through QR code labels.
- Jessica & Mike have been upgrading the QR codes so that usage can be tracked and improved.

Circulation

- We helped Kate welcome several school groups. The children were excited to check out books, and 15 students got their first library cards.
- Annual patron purge was completed removing 460 expired cards. The current database represents 8904 residents and 1282 reciprocal borrowers.
- We’ve been checking out more “things”. The Nintendo 3Ds consoles were immediately checked out, and patrons are asking about what other items we’ll be adding.

Technical Services

- Wendy attended an OCLC seminar regarding Cataloging, ILL, and end use products at Harper College.
- Over 53% of items for the Library of Things have been cataloged.

Facilities

- We machine scrubbed all ceramic floors.
- We machine cleaned upholstered chairs in the garden lounge.
- We are working on a display for YS.