Executive Director’s Report

COMMUNICATIONS
By Paula Watson-Lakamp

- Completed monthly/weekly goals of Communication Plan
- Organized, managed and supervised all graphic design work for the District
- Worked with OrangeBoy on dashboard and Savannah messaging system to send out new campaign to “Occasional” users
- Worked on new social media promotions and platforms including “The River’s Mouth” blog
- Working with a voice actor to do our Captain Cache blogs as a podcast
- Worked with local and regional media on various stories
- Continued work on new Strategic Plan Marketing strategies with various workgroups
- Continued to roll out new Library District “Connect to Curiosity” to staff and public
- Finalized work on 2018 Summer Reading Challenge - Rock On!
- Set up opportunities for new Book Bike – took the bike to Open Streets and Lagoon Concert.
- Began work with FoCo Book Fest
- Helped with organization of Fort Collins Comic Con
- Began work with Master Plan project

HUMAN RESOURCES
By Sabrina Stromnes

HR Manager:
- Leadership team has completed workplace harassment training. Remaining supervisors and managers have been assigned training with due date of 7/13.
- Updated and set up all performance management documents and information on Redmine.
- Finalized several process and recruitment related documents and put on Redmine for managers.
- Attended Employer’s Council Colorado Compensation Briefing.
- Recruitment
  - Hires:
    - Library Assistant (part-time Council Tree Library): Cindy Burkhart
    - Circulation Assistant (Old Town Library): Krystina Stellway and Adam Grasser
    - Outreach Intern (through September 2018): Herman Chavez
- Ongoing:
  - Employee relations issues
  - Performance management
  - Employee questions and support
  - On/offboarding
  - Manager/Supervisor questions and support
  - Assist employees with FML, STD, LTD, Non-FML medical leave
  - Manage/support Volunteer Program Manager
  - Liaison between City of Fort Collins HR, Payroll, Benefits, and Learning
  - Manage Workers’ Compensation
Volunteer Program Manager:  
By Audrey Glasebrook

- Interviewed 17 volunteer candidates, and placed most of them in volunteer roles (with an emphasis on the Summer Reading Challenge).
- Trained several volunteers one-on-one for the Summer Reading Challenge. Tracked completion of online training for returning SRC volunteers.
- Posted staff volunteer requests in Volgistics and sent out opportunity emails to all volunteers, finding help for special projects and events over the next several weeks.
- Collected hours from 142 library and Friends of the Library volunteers who served in May.
- Presented on “Volunteer Motivation” at June 7th DOVIA meeting, to approximately 25 attendees, and led a volunteer panel discussion on what motivates volunteers.
- Attended ServiceUnites conference on volunteerism in Atlanta, GA from June 17-20.

OUTREACH SERVICES

By Johanna Ulloa Girón

The Outreach Department collaborated with multiple partners to provide the following programs and services.

The highlight of the month was Imaginantes 2018! We had an incredible group of kids that participated in our teen summer program. This year we explored the world through the culinary arts. A total of 18 teenagers/young adults between the ages of 12-20 worked in the Whole Foods Market Cooking School under the direction of Chef Ana Mario Benavides.

We had several guests that presented about different jobs related to the food industry, for example, Agricultural Scientist Dr. Federico Martín, Food Distributor for Restaurants, Mónica Borges, and restaurant owner Armando Chavez, talked to our group and inspired the participants.

Participants also had the opportunity to be part of two field trips to Ascent Climbing Studio where they practiced self-control and trusting themselves to achieve a goal; they also visited Sylvan Dale Ranch where they learned about nature, conservation, agriculture, and cook-outs.

The kids also watched Black Panther screening at The Lyric Cinema Café followed by a discussion on racism, colonization, intersectionality, oppression, and tolerance facilitated by Family Therapist Erandi Herndon. Participants had a very positive feedback on this 5-day workshop, and we are truly grateful for the generous contribution of Friends of the Library and The Paterson Family Foundation to make this program possible.
Another Highlight was the kickoff event from PLA, and IMLS to the Inclusive Internship Initiative (III) held at Washington DC. Our intern Herman Chavez and I attended the three-day event. It was an incredible opportunity to tour the Library of Congress, as well as the Academic Library at Georgetown University where we participated in a speed mentoring exercise. We had the pleasure to present at the Masters’ session about Imaginantes. We were exposed to many different programs and services that libraries are offering across the nation.

The biggest takeaway from all the presentations is that libraries are encouraging to diversify their workforce as library’s portfolio of services and programs is expanding to non-traditional offerings. Herman Chavez provided a great presentation to the Outreach team about this incredible kickoff event. If you want to follow his internship with us, please check his blog at https://plintern.tumblr.com/.

Summer Reading Challenge in our community We are meeting kids were they are and providing quality programs, services, and collections in Arabic, Spanish, and English. Leah Weatherman, Karol de Rueda, and Iman Al Sudani are doing more than 30 story times in the community per month.

The Homebound program continues to deliver reliable services in the community thanks to the great pool of volunteers. We now have up to 20 volunteers that dedicate their time to select, check out, and deliver materials to our homebound customers.
Dementia Friendly Communities of Northern Colorado and Sylvia Garcia brought Poudre Libraries’ first Memory Café to Harmony Library! For people with mild to moderate cognitive impairment and their care partners, Memory Cafés encourage social interaction in a safe, supportive environment with games, reminiscing conversation, music, food, and laughter. We had seven participants and hope to see the group grow each month.

COUNCIL TREE LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

By Currie Meyer

Record-setting use: Visitors, young readers, and check-outs

Over 1,100 people per day on average visited Council Tree Library in June (6/1 to 6/25/18), which is a 16% increase over average daily visits in 2018 so far. On Monday, June 4, more than 1,500 people visited Council Tree – our busiest day yet this year. Exciting, and yet these numbers reflect a typical “June jump,” which we’ve seen since opening in 2009.

22% of the 5,416 children participating in Rock On! have already completed the benchmark ten hours of reading, and 40% - just under 500 - of all children participating in the challenge visited Council Tree Library to claim their prizes.

As of June 26, Council Tree Library customers checked out 45,732 items, and we checked in 39,716 items.

DART week June 18-24

For the second of three annual sample periods, over 100 public service library staff recorded each public service question they answered the week of June 18-24 using the DART reference tracker system. DART is a free, web-based tool provided by the Colorado-based Library Research Service that records, sorts, and archives service transactions. Each “DART week” provides a sample of data showing transactions (questions answered), sortable by building, location within the building, question type, and duration.

Public service transactions were down 10% from June 2017, which was our second busiest DART week ever. Big thanks to our SRC volunteers, who handled almost 800 transactions!

Bike to Work Day June 27

Green Team members Crystal Bollman and Gayle Brakefield hosted the Library’s Bike to Work Day station from 6:00-9:00 am June 27. Paula Watson-Lakamp and I set up the new Book Bike, giveaways including books, pencils, and bookmarks. A record 160 bikers rolled up to our station, a collaborative effort of Happy Lucky Tea, Rocky Mountain Multisport, AMD, and Charles Schwab. Kudos to Green Team member Meg Schiel for organizing this year’s event.
Intel’s corporate community service day benefits the library, June 20

Seven volunteers + one hour of focused scrubbing = clean library, delighted visitors, and satisfied volunteers. Thanks to Audrey for pairing CTL with Intel again this year!

HARMONY LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

By Ken Draves

Harmony Nonprofit Center
As reported in recent months, we are creating a nonprofit resource center (to be designated the “Harmony Nonprofit Center”) at Harmony library. The new center will allow current professional staff to provide dedicated training and consultation space to our nonprofit and business communities. The center will likely be ready for operation by mid-August. We are creating the center by repurposing existing Harmony spaces, relocating three staff members to open up new public space for our customers.

New FRCC-Larimer Building
Deputy Director Ken Draves and Campus Librarian Annie Fox met with FRCC Facilities Director Dennis DeRemer and Dean Shashi Unnithan to discuss logistics of a $34 million Health Care Career Center (formerly Allied Health and Nursing Building) scheduled to open in August 2020, with a construction start in 2019.

New Solar Charging Stations
Through a grant from the City of Fort Collins, FRCC has installed two solar panels near Harmony library along with adjacent electric vehicle charging stations, which are now operational. We have preserved the same number of designated short-term and handicapped accessible parking spaces as we had previously.

New Bicycle Checkout Stations
In cooperation with the COFC, and similar to the bike lending station in Library Park, FRCC has a new Pace bike station located near Harmony Library. The Library District Communications team is working on getting word out to the public.

Summer Reading Challenge
Summer Reading Challenge registration of all ages: As of June 30 we 11,165 participants. In 2017 total registration was 10,518 so we’re already ahead of last year with approximately a month a half still to go.

Homeschooling Project
We’re partnering with the Northern Colorado Homeschool Association for a homeschool fair in August to be held at Old Town Library. A pilot Homeschooling Resources web page is in the works, and its debut is planned for August. A homeschool curriculum collection is also in progress.

Programs and Continuing Education
For our Harmony Staff Meeting Elaine Burritt coordinated having guest speakers provide training on “Senior Access Points: A New, Local Resource for Aging-Related Issues.”

In collaboration with FRCC Music department, the Library District presented “Harmony on the Green” on June 15, featuring Papa Juke, a four-member R&B band to an enthusiastic outdoor audience of over 90 people of all ages.

Elaine Burritt attended the American Library Association Conference in New Orleans, learning about a variety of topics affecting libraries today, as well as enjoying keynote speakers such as Michelle Obama, Doris Kearns Goodwin, and Carla Hayden, our Librarian of Congress.

Circulation

- We have moved the Assistant Supervisors to the vacated Prospector area.
- We have weeded the Reference Collection and integrated parts of the collection with Adult Non-Fiction.
- Red Dot Non-Fiction, Classics, Children’s Holiday and Jobs and Careers have been moved to their new locations.
- I have shifted some hourly staff from the evenings to afternoon and morning shifts to better accommodate our workflow.