



DATE: October 17, 2022

Administrative

The final report for the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) was filed with the Arkansas State Library. There is still no word on Round 2 of ARPA money for libraries. However, the State Library says there is still hope and the Arkansas Advocates for Public Libraries are still lobbying for us.

The Headquarters staff and I have been very busy getting ready for our 75th anniversary celebration. We had a special edition library card printed and made available during the month of September (Library Card Sign Up Month). On October 22, we have planned a fun day at the Monticello Branch with games, crafts, food and some special book characters for the public. That night there will be our invitation-only event for special guests.

Our Regional workshop was held in August. Topics covered included the revised procedure manual, Niche Academy, First Amendment audits, and the partnership with South Arkansas Community College.

We have been the victim of check fraud again. However, this time it not our checks but two county checks to us that was the victim of thievery. This seems to be a major problem in our area. We have been in discussion with the County Clerks about using direct deposit for our millage claims.

I was contacted by the Eudora Branch Library concerning an AT&T bill for fiber internet. Apparently the mayor of Eudora wrote a grant for high speed internet and had it installed in the city buildings, including the library. However, the library is not a city building and the county pays the internet bill. Lake Village Library files erate for the internet service on behalf of the county and is on a contract. It has been a huge mess that hopefully one that will get straighten out soon.

We are enjoying the new Regional Van. We purchased a 2021 Chrysler Pacifica. The van seats seven and allows the second and third row seats to fold flat into the floor so it can double as back-up express van if needed.

Arkansas library patrons have a powerful new tool to borrow items from any Arkansas library collection. They now have access to Mockingbird, the Arkansas Statewide Virtual Union Catalog. Mockingbird allows libraries throughout the state to share their catalogs with other libraries and with library users.

Technology & Branch Updates

The McGehee & Dermott Branch Libraries were the victims of a break-in the same week. Just change was taken at Dermott and around \$40 was taken at McGehee. Both libraries were broken in through the back door. The security camera at the McGehee Library captured a good image of the perpetrator. The image was posted on Facebook and the person was identified.

We have made many repairs to our library buildings this quarter. Both Dumas & Dermott have new roofs. The Dumas Library also is sporting a new ceiling. At the Dermott Library, the contractor replaced the ceiling to floor windows by back door with a solid wall. The back door at Dermott was damaged during the break-in at Dermott and has been replaced with a metal door (See pics).

The McGehee Branch is looking spiffy since the power wash it received in August and the Star City Branch had repairs made to the front eaves. The Star City Branch has been awarded the Giving Tree Grant from the Delta Community Foundation to transition the Genealogy room into a small meeting space complete with technology.

Community Engagement & Outreach

The Region and the Monticello Branch participated in the Monticello Our Fest festival on August 27. We passed out Take and Make kits, informational brochures and candy. I attended the Association for Rural & Small Libraries in Chattanooga, TN in September. Attending conferences always exposes me to fresh ideas. It also gives me the opportunity to discuss products and services with other libraries who use them. I spoke with the representative from Kanopy (streaming service through Overdrive) and we will be launching that service November 1st.

Meetings & Workshops Attended

Arkansas Library Association Conference Committee – August 1, 2022, via zoom
Association for Rural & Small Libraries – September 14 – 17, 2022, Chattanooga, TN
RIPL (Research Institute for Public Libraries) – September 27, 2022, via zoom
Arkansas Leadership Institute – October 12, 2022, Fort Smith, AR
Arkansas Library Association Conference – October 13 – 16, 2022, Fort Smith, AR

