



THE OPEN BOOK

NEWSLETTER OF THE ALBANY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
BY THE FRIENDS OF THE ACPL AND ACPL FOUNDATION



ACPL goes fine free

Albany County Public Library is excited to announce that it is now a fine free library!

The public library has eliminated overdue fees on all items. Previously, there were no overdue fees on books or children's materials, but other items such as DVDs, video games, and board games did have overdue fines.

While it is eliminating overdue fines, fees for lost or damaged items and shipping costs for inter-library loans will not change. Printing costs will also remain the same.

ACPL decided to make this change because of the positive impact it will have on the community. The library wants to have as many Albany County residents and visitors use the library as possible. Overdue fines can block access to members of the community, so this change will help lower barriers and increase access. The change also follows national trends, and will help reduce staff time checking patrons out.

Collecting fees has not been a significant source of revenue for ACPL. Income from

overdue fees falls into the library's operating revenue area of the budget. This area is already a small portion of the overall budget, and overdue fees were the smallest share of operating revenue.

To celebrate ACPL going fine free, the ACPL Board of Directors is doing a one-time fine forgiveness on all past library bills before Feb. 1, 2021. This means that if you have outstanding fines on your library card account, these fees will be waived and your account will be reset to \$0. ACPL recognizes that 2020 was a hard and complicated year and many in our community are struggling. The library hopes fine forgiveness will help.

It is also important to ACPL that former patrons return to use the library. In the past, a patron may have had their library card blocked when the patron reached \$25 in fines. Often these patrons do not return to use the library.

With fine forgiveness, all ACPL library cardholders will be able to start 2021 with a clean slate and can look forward to no more overdue fines. 🌈

Do you still want to pay your fines? Consider making a donation to the ACPL Foundation to support the library! Donate at: foundation.acplwy.org.



Albany County Public Library
Foundation

Dear library supporters,

Thank you to the generous donors who continue to support the Albany County Public Library, especially during these uncertain times.

The ACPL Foundation set a holiday giving goal of \$25,000 from individual donors. Because of you, we were very close to meeting this goal, even during the difficulties presented by COVID-19.

The ACPL Foundation raised \$20,423 to support the library and items off the Giving Tree. This is a great accomplishment and puts the ACPL Foundation on track to meet its giving goals to the library.

Each year, the ACPL Foundation passionately works to raise enough funding to provide a minimum of \$60,000 to the public library. Each time you donate, you are working with us to ensure the library receives essential funding for programming, materials, technology, and special projects.

The ACPL Foundation is also dedicated to providing additional financial assistance, building partnerships across the community, and promoting the library. In FY21, the organization is looking forward to installing a permanent Storywalk around the exterior of the library. We are also excited to be able to help ACPL pursue an important opportunity to reach more people in the community. Read more about this on pages 4–5.

We hope you will continue with us on our journey to make a great library even better. Your support and dedication are pivotal to the public library. Thank you for your incredible generosity during a time of great need in our community.

Best wishes,

Terri Jensen
President of the Board of Directors

Caitlin White
Executive Director

welcome!

New to Circulation

Dylan May joined the ACPL staff as a Circulation Assistant in January. Previously, May worked at the American Heritage Center. He enjoys the pace at ACPL and interacting with the public, especially during COVID-19.

May is originally from Lovell, Wyoming, and spent some time as an English major. He enjoys reading and watching movies.

Favorites in the Library: Virginia Wolf's "Mrs. Dalloway"

Favorite movie: Chinatown

Elizabeth Cardenas came to ACPL in January as a Circulation Assistant. She was interested in working the library because she wants to serve the public while in school. Cardenas has always loved libraries and used them frequently while growing up in Cheyenne. She also enjoys interacting with the public.

Cardenas has a bachelor's degree in history, and she is working on a Masters in Public Administration at UW. She enjoys snowboarding, fishing, and hiking.

Favorites in the Library: Erik Larson

Favorite movie: The Breakfast Club 🌈

We're so thankful!

The Guthrie Family Foundation

provided a \$20,000 grant to support programming and other services at the public library.



Albany County Public Library

Foundation

mini-grant program

Library Foundation provides funding for projects

The Albany County Public Library Foundation debuted its new support program for the public library in September 2018. The ACPLF mini-grant program was designed to provide additional funding to the library for needed purposes, while also providing professional development opportunities to library staff.

This newsletter will highlight a mini-grant project completed in the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

ACPL partnered with local nonprofit, Relative Theatrics, to host a virtual viewing and discussion of AND THE WIND HOWLS. The play is a modern-day story to celebrate 150 years of women's suffrage in Wyoming and promote the importance of voting and civic engagement.

During the event, participants met on Zoom to watch the play. The play was filmed on a local front porch to maintain social distancing. Following the

screening, Susan Simpson moderated a discussion about the play and civic engagement between panelists and the audience. Panelists for the event were: playwright, Leean Kim Torske and members of the development team, Anne Mason and Jared Mohr-Leiva.

AND THE WIND HOWLS was commissioned by Relative Theatrics and the Wyoming Arts Council.

Thanks to Chris & Rebecca Merrill for funding this mini-grant project!

In FY20, the ACPL Foundation provided more than \$5,000 for mini-grants. In FY21, the ACPL Foundation has about \$1,400 for mini-grants. While this is lower than in the last two years, the ACPL Foundation is excited to see what projects can still be accomplished.

Are you interested in funding a mini-grant project? Let us know by contacting the ACPL Foundation at cwhite@acplwy.org! 🌈

ACPL now has a bookmobile

ACPL acquired a used bookmobile in February!

The public library was presented with a unique opportunity to buy a used bookmobile from Natrona County Public Library in January. The sale price was an exceptional deal at \$30,000.

"I am thrilled about this opportunity, because this opens up a whole new world of possibilities for library services in our community," Library Director, Rachel Crocker, said.

A bookmobile is a vehicle designed for use as a mobile library. Several libraries around the state have them, but due to the high purchase cost, ACPL did not. A new bookmobile can cost around \$300,000.

Overall, the cost of purchasing and preparing the bookmobile for use at ACPL is over \$60,000. To manage this large cost, the library submitted a grant to the Albany County Recreation Board. This grant

application included the purchase cost, a new wrap (the design on the bus), checkout items for the vehicle, bookmobile technology, and Internet access.

ACPL will hear whether this grant is approved in the spring. While waiting on grant funding, the ACPL Foundation provided the \$30,000 upfront cost to purchase the used bookmobile before it was sold to another entity.

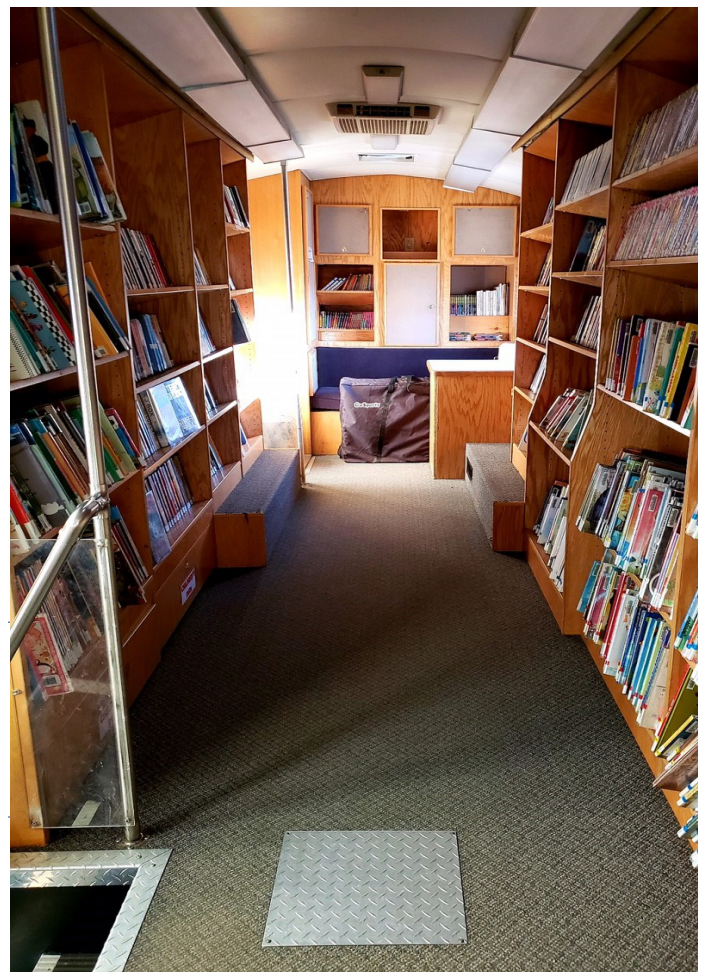
The bookmobile is the size of a large bus, as shown in the photos. It can hold thousands of materials for patrons to checkout and has room for computer terminals. The bookmobile has a small programming space as well. Once it is ready for public use, patrons can use the bookmobile just as they would the main branch of the library.

More outreach and better access have always been



goals at ACPL. The bookmobile makes these goals more attainable. ACPL intends to increase its outreach services and library access with the bookmobile. Primarily, the library hopes to use the bookmobile as a West Laramie branch. While the main Laramie branch of ACPL is fairly centrally located in Laramie, it can be difficult for West Laramie residents to visit the library. A mobile West Laramie branch would allow ACPL to better serve individuals and families with greater convenience.

“We really want the library to be a place where people feel safe and comfortable coming, but it is equally important that ACPL goes out in the community,” Crocker said. “The bookmobile will let us reach people that aren’t able to come to us and provide more opportunities for the public.”



The ACPL staff is already brainstorming the ample ways the bookmobile can be used. The bookmobile may be used at outreach events such as the Farmer’s Market, or parked at locations where the library is providing programming. It will also serve as a great marketing tool for the library.

While ACPL has obtained the bookmobile, it will take several months to complete the project and develop a schedule. Figuring out the best way to staff the bookmobile will also be an important task for the library staff to work on. The library looks forward to being able to debut the bookmobile to the community with a grand opening. Watch the library’s website and Facebook for updates! 🌈

What's Happening

Children:

Storywalks®

Come read a story while walking around the library! A new Storywalks® will be posted each Thursday through the following Wednesday. Enjoy them at your leisure.

Family Storytime Online

A new recorded storytime is released each week on Tuesday.

A Storytime Activity Kit related to each week's storytime will be available to pick up while supplies last.

New Baby Kits

A bag filled with early literacy information and ideas for things you can do with your baby. Available the first Monday of the month.

New Toddler Kits

A month's worth of activities and ideas of things to do at home with your toddler. Available the first Monday of the month.

Program Break

Children's programs will take a break May 9–June 4 to prepare for the Summer Reading Program.

Teens:

Teen Book Club

First and third Thursday of the month at 3:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Explore graphic novels, manga, and comics.

Adults:

Mostly Cozy Mystery Book Club

First Monday of the month at 2 p.m. via Zoom

A book club for those who like their mysteries light on sex and violence, and particularly enjoy amateur sleuths!

Family Storytime with Miss Deb

Storytime theme for this week is:
Bath Time



**WATCH IT AT
YOUTUBE.ACPLWY.ORG**



Albany County Public Library
LARAMIE • CENTENNIAL • ROCK RIVER

@ Your Library



Albany County Public Library
LARAMIE • CENTENNIAL • ROCK RIVER

Student Hours

Monday–Thursday 10–6
Saturday 10–2

Middle and High School students, book 1–4 hour appointments to use the library to study and do homework!



Contact the public library to reserve a time or if you have any questions

307-721-2580
info@acplwy.org

Murder Club: A True Crime Book Club

Second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m.

A book club that delves into infamous murders, serial killers, and other true crime mysteries.

Silent Book Club

Every Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

Join the Wyoming Institute for Humanities Research and the Albany County Public Library for a Silent Book Club! It's pretty simple—show up on Zoom with whatever book you want, and then for one hour, we read. For the first few minutes, we share on screen or via chat whatever book we brought. Then all the microphones go off, and we read together. At the end of the hour, if people wish, they can read aloud to the group a few interesting sentences from their books.

A Wyoming Winter Book Club: War and Peace

October–May, last Monday of the month

Read through this classic 150 pages at a time.

After Hours Book Club

Last Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. via Zoom

Books are chosen by club members.

Quintessential Sequential Book Club

Last Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m.

A place for interested newcomers and fans of the sequential art form of literature (graphic novels, comic books, Manga) to discover and discuss all the beautiful, provocative, and heroic stories this form has to offer.

All Ages:

NEW! Creativebug

Thousands of award-winning art and craft video classes by recognized design experts and artists. Available with your library card number!

Game Bazaar Online

Every Tuesday at 7 p.m. via Discord

All ages are welcome to participate in the library's weekly tabletop gaming night with online guidance from library staff.

For more information on events, visit the library's website, like the library on Facebook, or contact the library at 307-721-2580.

A big thank you to

Union Pacific
Foundation!

COVID-19 Relief Support
\$2,500 Grant



Albany County Public Library

Foundation



Albany County Public Library

Foundation

Friends of the Library

310 S. 8th Street
Laramie, WY 82070
307-721-2580



Return service requested

NONPROFIT
ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
LARAMIE, WY
PERMIT #75



Keep our mailing list current. Let us know about address changes or multiple copies. We can email this too. Send your address to cwhite@acplwy.org.

Visit us at acplwy.org



Friends of the ALBANY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

ONGOING Book Sale

Proceeds from all of these go toward purchasing new library materials!

More information online:
<https://friends.acplwy.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/ACPLBookSale>

Expanded Amazon

24/7 access to our books priced at \$10 and up.
<http://tinyurl.com/lbookcellar>

Expanded Book Nook

Located just inside ACPL's front doors.

Call **721-2580** to reserve a shopping time.

A large selection of books from all genres!

Personal Shopper Service

A service for Friends members only. Email Betsy who will shop the basement stacks for you:
fol_volunteercoordinator@acplwy.org.

* Membership:

Become a member or renew your membership at
<https://friends.acplwy.org/membership>

LIBRARY HOURS BY RESERVATION

Call: **721-2580**
ACPL staff will let you know what time slots are available. Each reservation spot is for 45 minutes and will start on the hour.

Tuesdays & Thursdays
10am – 6pm
Saturday 10am – 2pm