



## ALBANY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

310 S. 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
307-721-2580  
acplwy.org

facebook.com/acplwy  
instagram.com/acplwy

### CURRENT MAIN LIBRARY HOURS

SUN-MON: 1PM-5PM  
TUE: 10AM-6PM

WED: CLOSED

THURS-SAT: 10AM-6PM  
Through May 5

**CENTENNIAL  
BRANCH HOURS**  
MON-FRI: 11AM-3PM

**ROCK RIVER  
BRANCH HOURS**  
WED, FRI, SAT: 11AM-3PM

March  
2024

Vol. 18 No.1

# THE OPEN BOOK

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



## ACPL receives \$1+ million infrastructure grant

The Laramie Branch of the Albany County Public Library will receive \$1,030,136 in infrastructure grant funding for a multi-purpose space project. The project will dramatically improve the existing multi-purpose areas at the Laramie Branch and create a new space for library and public use.



The ACPL Conference Room as it currently looks, before scheduled renovation.

The full cost of the project is \$1,060,944. The infrastructure grant has certain expense restrictions, mostly related to technology, such as laptops, Zoom equipment, and TV screens. ACPL is seeking funding for the remaining \$30,808 needed for the project.

The multi-purpose space project focuses on three community-use areas. Each space will focus on enabling health, education,

and job functions to improve the Albany County community. This project will allow ACPL to host more simultaneous programs, increase its partnerships in the community, and provide higher quality areas for public use.

The first part of the project is the library's large meeting room. This room has had minimal updates since 1981. The space desperately needs updated to better meet library and community needs. The room is dated with heavily worn carpet and has accessibility, security, technology, and sanitary issues.

Under the project, the large meeting room will see a complete renovation, improving the feel and look of the space, as well as

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improving lighting and technology. AV equipment will be updated to allow public groups to use technology with minimal staff assistance. All new furniture, including more comfortable seating, will be added, and the meeting room will be incorporated into ACPL's security system.

An exciting part of the meeting room project is adding a kitchenette to address sanitation issues, related to water access and safe food preparation. A kitchenette, including a refrigerator and dishwasher will greatly improve how the room can be used and will be a popular addition for library staff and public groups.

With upgrades to the meeting room, ACPL will be able to improve the public restrooms. ACPL will upgrade to touchless features, update to provide more equitable access, and improve aesthetics.

ACPL's small conference room, located near the Children's Area, is another multi-purpose space that will be renovated during the project. The space will be updated and soundproofed to allow for private sessions, such as case-management or telehealth appointments. The room's technology is lacking and will be improved. New furniture will be added.

The third multi-purpose space included in the project will be the creation of a new area for children and families. On the east side of the Laramie Branch building, there is an exterior partially-covered patio with a concrete wall located just off the Children's Area. This is currently a dead space, unusable for pro-



The ACPL Large Meeting Room as it currently looks, before scheduled renovation.

grams and activities because the space does not have egress. This formally unusable space will be constructed into a usable space and incorporated into the library's Children's Area as the new ACPL Activity Center.

This portion of the project will be the most extensive, extending the roof and constructing a new closed-in room. The Activity Center will also encompass interior design to ensure that the center follows best practices for early development, inclusive design, and mental health support for young children. This will include flooring, seating, storage, and toys/activities for the space.



Left: The small alcove off the Large Meeting Room is currently used as a coat area with benches. This will be the future home of the kitchenette for the Large Meeting Room.

Right: The exterior patio on the east side of the Laramie Branch will be remodeled as the new ACPL Activity Center for kids and families.



The infrastructure grant provides an incredible opportunity for ACPL to professionally update two spaces and create a new public space. With these updated spaces, ACPL will be able to:

- Provide workforce development classes and resources, as well as professional development across industry sectors
- Address increased demand and requests for private rooms for phone and Zoom interviews and meetings and provide technology education
- Prioritize early education and development, while addressing child care needs in the community
- Offer needed space for mental health counseling and telehealth appointments
- Help underserved and vulnerable populations with health-monitoring needs

ACPL will work with an architect and engineer to develop plans for each space. A contractor will then be hired to start construction. The grant requires that construction begin by October 2024. All three areas must be completed by September 2026. Construction is expected to cause closures for the large meeting room and conference room and will be disruptive at certain times. However, the library is still in the planning process and does not have firm details on a construction timeline. ACPL will work to establish a clear timeline over the next few months and communicate details to the public as the project progresses.

ACPL is one of five Wyoming libraries receiving a portion of the \$12.6 million from American Rescue Plan Act funding for the Wyoming Library Multi-Purpose Community Facility Program. Thanks to the Wyoming State Library and the application committee for approving this grant project! 🌈

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welcome!

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## Deputy Director Joins ACPL Staff

**D**arcy Lipp-Acord is ACPL's new deputy director. Darcy will report to the library director and oversee library services and management. She joined the library staff in January, coming from Campbell County Public Library.

Darcy worked in Youth Services at the Campbell County Library for 18 years. She first worked with teens, and then led the Youth Services Department for the past seven years. While at CCPL, Darcy hosted a visiting author program.

"It's amazing watching an author speak to kids and teens and see them get fired up about books and reading," Darcy said.

Darcy was excited by the opportunity to come to Albany County Public Library. It will help expand



her knowledge of public libraries, and she is looking forward to the challenges of a new role. She has enjoyed how welcoming and inclusive the ACPL staff is and appreciates the teamwork atmosphere.

Darcy has a Masters in Library Information Science and a Bachelor's Degree in English Education. Her background in library science, as well as public education, is helpful in her current role.

Darcy is currently the president of the Wyoming Library Association.

**Favorites in the Library:** Books by Ruta Sepetys, Historical Fiction

**Favorites in Laramie:** Night Heron, Love Joy's, Sugar Mouse Cupcake House

# ACPL Foundation LOVES a February fundraiser

The ACPL Foundation had two successful fundraisers in February. Cupcake Ball, a Valentine’s-themed family dance, saw about 70 people and raised over \$500! Special thanks to our Cupcake Ball sponsor, Meadowlark Pediatrics.

It was also the fourth year for Blind Date with a Book. This fundraiser combines popular trends with great reads and fun gifts to create Valentine’s Day gift packages. In 2024, our themes were Taylor Swift Eras, the Barbie movie, and UP, the animated movie. The gift packages are popular as gifts for a friend or partner, a special treat for your pet, a fun celebration for your kiddos, or date night for a couple.

This year, the ACPL Foundation had 12 different themed-packages and nearly sold out. The fundraiser increased the total number of packages sold in 2024 to 208, an increase of 60+ over last year.

Thanks to our buyers and sponsors, the Blind Date with a Book fundraiser had a record year! In 2023, this fundraiser brought in nearly \$3,000. In 2024, we doubled that amount and raised \$6,725 for ACPL! 🎉



# Thank You

## to our supporters

### Main Fundraiser Sponsor

**Toyota of Laramie**

### Package Sponsors

The Human Bean

Northridge Liquor

The Pedal House

Poppy’s Flower Shop & Women’s Boutique

RNDC

Stage Point FCU

The Still Package Liquor

Windy City Pet Store

### In-Kind Contributors

Ace Hardware

Atmosphere Mountainworks

Bath & Body Works

Big Dipper Ice Cream Shop

Big Hollow Food Co-op

Bond’s Brewing Company

Lisa Brock

The Chocolate Cellar

City of Laramie Recreation Center

Dairy Queen

D&L Music

Jersey Mike’s

Laramie Lanes

Pole Mountain Pharmacy

Rachel Crocker

Regal Fox Theater

True Value of Laramie

Visit Laramie

## Friends of the Library provides RECORD donation to ACPL

The Friends of the Library provided \$62,170 to the Albany County Public Library in 2023. This is a major accomplishment, and the Albany County Public Library thanks the hardworking Friends of the Library board and volunteers. The Friends of the Library raise funds from memberships, book sales, online sales, and the Book Nook. Funding from the Friends of the Library is predominantly used by the ACPL to continue to grow the library's collection of books and other items.

Thanks for shopping with the Friends of the Library and making this donation possible!

### Become a Friends of the Library Member!

Memberships are a simple way to provide extra support to the Friends of the Library. In 2023, Friends of the Library memberships raised \$4,200. Memberships can be purchased anytime during the year, and are valid for one year.

#### Membership Levels:

\$10 for an individual membership

\$15 for a family membership

\*\$50 for a benefactor membership

Memberships include admission to the Friends of the Library Members Only Sales. A benefactor membership includes a family membership and recognition in the library newsletter. Sign up to be a member at: [friends.acplwy.org/membership](https://friends.acplwy.org/membership).

### Attend a Sale!

In 2023, the Friends of the Library made \$28,084.33 from book sales. That is a \$8,000 increase from 2022. Sales are held in the basement of Albany County Public Library. The book sale has an incredible offering of books from every genre. Books are neatly sorted and priced to allow for easy shopping. Follow the Friends of the Library on Facebook to get updates on sale dates. The next sale is in April. More details are on the last page of the newsletter.

### Shop Anytime Online!

The Friends of the Library Amazon storefront has nearly 2,000 materials available for sale. You can shop online at: [friends.acplwy.org/shop](https://friends.acplwy.org/shop). Items sold online are ones that would benefit from a larger sales audience and are priced to be more in line with the high quality,

rarity, and interest of the item. In 2023, the Friends of the Library generated \$20,431.42 from online sales.

### Shop for a Book in the Nook!

The Book Nook is a great option for shopping anytime the library is open. The Friends of the Library Book Nook is located right inside the library's front doors. The space includes a selection of popular books from different genres, as well as many children's books, music, and movies. The Book Nook is another area that generates significant income for the Friends of the Library, earning \$10,644.45 in 2023.

### What Happens To Your Donations?

The Friends of the Library rely heavily on donations of gently used items from the community. When you donate to the Friends of the Library, your items go on to a great new life and support your public library.

Donations are first considered for the ACPL collection. Then, items are moved downstairs to the Friends of the Library area where volunteers sort, label, price, and shelve materials. Materials are sorted based on where each will be sold, whether it is at a book sale, online, or in the Book Nook.

Donations are accepted anytime the library is open. Accepted items are: books, audiobooks, CDs, LPs, DVDs, and Blu-Ray discs. Items that are not accepted are: VHS tapes, magazines, and yard sale items. To make a large donation, contact the Friends of the Library to make arrangements.

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### Community Involvement:

Not every item is appropriate to sell, so the Friends of the Library have an extensive outreach system to provide free books across our community and beyond. Locations interested in receiving books can email: FOL\_Outreach@acplwy.org.

### Want to Volunteer?

The Friends of the Library run entirely on volunteers and is overseen by a board of directors. The volunteer-run organization has about 60 volunteers. Email FOL\_Volunteercoordinator@acplwy.org for information and an application. 🌈

Learn more online at [friends.acplwy.org](https://friends.acplwy.org).

## Thank you 2023 Friends of the Library Benefactor Members!

Rollin & Carolyn  
Abernethy

Mark & Jennifer  
Andersen

Elsa Barnes

Edith Barthelmes

Brandon Handeland &  
Billie Chapman

Arthur & Antoinette  
Denison

John & Sue Dowd

Gail Hankin

Burmma & Robert Hardy

Chris Podlesnik & Shari  
Hashimoto

Ed Koncel & Lynn Jones

Rawson Langlois

Bill & Lisa Mackey

Keli & James Malm

Micah Richardson &  
Rich Miles

David & Deborah Miller

Richard & Betsy Moore

Linda Nydahl

Marty & Erik Oblasser

Don & Nancy Potter

George & Rebecca  
Roberts

Pam Shuster

Kryssi Soule

Charles Van Heule

Craig & Deisy Vaske

Christel & David Walrath

Steve Williams

Mary Winger

## Thank you to these grant supporters!

### GUTHRIE FAMILY FOUNDATION

\$20,000 for programming,  
materials & supplies



\$3,500 for technology & materials



\$1,500 for the Bookmobile

# WALMART

\$400 for technology

## For Connection, For Growth, For Community, Think ACPL!

# What's New Around ACPL

- The Rock River Branch Library is in the process of receiving technology upgrades, thanks to the Wyoming Community Foundation and Grid United. The project will update staff technology, install new public terminals, and increase virtual programming access.
- ALBY, our bookmobile, is at the shop for the winter working on upgrades to safety and accessibility. Stay tuned for info on where the bookmobile will be over the summer!
- The second year of the Young Writers Program was a great success! The program was a weekly workshop with a storyteller or writer, followed by individual writing time. Youth ages 7–17 were able to participate, and this year was another great turnout. **Thanks to the Wyoming Humanities Council for funding this series!**
- Watch the ACPL Facebook or Instagram pages or visit the ACPL website (acplwy.org) for information on upcoming programs. 🌈

# Updated library hours through May 5

One of the best resources Albany County Public Library offers to patrons is a friendly, expert staff. A well-trained staff can help with information and technology questions, curate a balanced collection of resources, and provide interesting, informative programs for all ages.

Recently, ACPL hired several new staff members, and have said goodbye to a few experienced ones. While the library is confident the new staff members will be awesome in their jobs, these staff members need time to learn and to train on the front desk.

The ACPL Board of Directors has approved a temporary reduction in public hours for the Laramie Branch of ACPL to ensure the staff has time to train and provide our patrons with exemplary service. The reduced hours started in mid-February and will continue through Sunday, May 5, 2024. The reduced hours affect hours on Sundays and Mondays. All other public library hours will remain the same.

ACPL appreciates your understanding and patience as staff train. 🌈



Albany County Public Library  
LARAMIE • CENTENNIAL • ROCK RIVER

## Library Hours

February 18 - May 5

Sunday: 1pm-5pm <b>NEW</b>	Thursday: 10am-6pm
Monday: 1pm-5pm <b>NEW</b>	Friday: 10am-6pm
Tuesday: 10am-6pm	Saturday: 10am-6pm
Wednesday: CLOSED	

acplwy.org  info@acplwy.org  307-721-2580



Albany County Public Library

# Foundation

## Friends of the Library

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Laramie, WY 82070  
307-721-2580

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Visit us at [acplwy.org](http://acplwy.org)

**Friends of the Library**  
**Spring**  
2024  
**BOOK SALE**

**Members Only**

- **Friday, April 26**  
2:30pm - 5:30pm

**All Are Welcome:**

- **Saturday, April 27**  
10:00am - 5:30pm
- **Sunday, April 28**  
1:00pm - 4:30pm
- **Monday, April 29**  
1:00pm - 4:30pm
- **Tuesday, April 30**  
10:00am - 5:30pm

Friends of the Albany County  
Public Library  
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<https://friends.acplwy.org/>