

Roswell Public Library

October 14 – November 14, 2024

Flood

The evening of Saturday, October 19, 2024, 5.78 inches of rain fell, setting a new daily record for rainfall in Roswell and causing flash floods that destroyed property, caused injuries and death. City buildings and homes along the Spring River were damaged including the Golf Course, Adult Center, IT Department, Museum, Civic Center and the Zoo. The Police Department basement was flooded. The Airport was shut down Sunday October 20 until midday on Monday, October 21.

The Roswell Public Library was closed on Sunday, October 20 as staff could not get to the building and Chaves County Emergency Management issued a Shelter-in-Place alert. The library was closed to the public on Monday, October 21. Library staff were called back to work on Monday, October 21, after Enid Costley, Library Director, did an assessment of the outside and inside of the building. October 21 was spent getting the building ready to open to the public. This included drying out carpet in the children's area, and Spanish Language area. Emptying buckets and gathering up towels put around the library by the cleaning crew who were in the building when the roof started leaking.

We had flood waters enter the library at the west outside door of the Bondurant Room which soaked the carpet and then water also climbed the walls on either side of the door. We also had flood waters enter the library through the west door of the library, but did not enter the lobby. The west wall close to the Spanish collection got wet, the walls on both sides of the window in the southwest corner, the south wall by the comic books, the walls, and the book delivery room wall got wet. See attached map of the Library.

The City of Roswell has contracted with Mooring to do mold abatement. This process includes testing for asbestos, setting up dehumidifiers, removing sheetrock, or carpet, spray or paint with product to kill or contain the mold and then repair and a final test. On October 30 the mold abatement was completed. The walls need repairing and flooring needs replacing.

In addition to the damage done to the building, we lost 1 OPAC hard drive, 2 Apple TVs, 13 iPad and 13 cases which were located at the IT Department at the time of the flood, and purchased with General Obligation Bond funds. We lost Library books that were in the library and had rain water fall on them from roof leaks. We also lost items that were checked out of the library and in people's homes that were damaged in the flood. See attached list.

The Library building will be repaired using City Insurance funds. We are waiting for the insurance adjuster to determine what they will pay the City for Library repairs. We also requested clarification on compensation of damage to the library collection that were not on the property (checked out).

Accomplishments

Building Improvements

Our to do list has been put on hold as we wait for more information and allow facilities staff to assist with other departments.

To-Do List

- Fire Sprinkler System – We are required to have the Fire System inspected and citations need addressing. **Required**
- Fire Extinguishers – We are required to have the Fire Extinguisher inspected and we have several extinguishers due to be replaced. **Required**
- HVAC - The HVAC system needs to be tested for heat by Rhodes. This is a test that was delayed until the weather turned cool. **Recommend, but already paid for**
- Lighting - We have several lights that need to have ballast replaced and new light bulbs. **Required**
- Roof – We have a contract and purchase order in place with RoofCare for roof maintenance. We also have several new roof leaks that showed up with the heavy rain that need to be addressed. **Required**
- Repair Walls – We had several places in the Library that drywall was removed due to water that got into the building related to the flood. The walls need to be repaired and painted. **Required, waiting to confirm payment with City Insurance.**
- Flooring – Estimated one-third of the carpet has been removed from the Bondurant Room and replaced with hard cardboard. We would like to have the flooring replaced. **Required, waiting to confirm payment with City Insurance.**
- Stucco – We have stucco on the west side of the building that is pulling away from the building. The stucco needs to be removed and replaced and the building paint matched as well as we are able. The area where the stucco meets the cement pad also needs to be sealed. **Required**
- Flooring – We would like to replace the carpeting in front of the circulation desk and entrance to the children's area with tile. Project was approved and a purchase order created. Project put on hold after the flood. Roswell Library Foundation has purchased the tile from a local vendor. **Recommended**
- West Side of the Building – We have plans to level out the lawn on the west side of the building and replace grass with stone. This would be a cost saving in the library water bill, and also reduce the work on lawn maintenance. No direct costs as stone and labor provided by the City. **Recommended**
- Outside Water Access – We have a water leak in the outside faucet on the east side of the building. This faucet is used by the carpet cleaners and provides water to the Library Park. It has been turned off, but does need to be fixed. **Highly Recommended**

- Hot Water – We do not have hot water in the building. The hot water mixer is damaged and the part has been ordered. **Recommended**
- Replace Dryer – We wash our cleaning clothes and fabric items used in programs. The donated dryer no longer works and we would like a new one. **Recommended**
- Memorial Bricks – The public has donated funds to create a memorial brick area near the entrances of the Library. **Required**
- Duct work – The ductwork needs to be cleaned. No one remembers the last time it was cleaned, so we are estimating that the last time it was cleaned was in 2002 when the Library was remodeled. **Recommended**

Library Projects

Día De Los Muertos: 249 people attended the Día de los Muertos program on November 2. Each year the event and altar is created to honor someone. This year we chose to honor Ricardo “Rudy” Burrola with an exhibit and altar. The program began with Father Lalo offering a service for the departed and blessing. This was followed by dancing by the Asi se Baila Ballet Folklorico. The event also included several simultaneous workshops on, creating an altar and its meanings, skull cookies and sugar skull decoration, creating paper flowers and papel picado, headbands and face painting. The event ended with music by Myrna Ramirez. The event was coordinated by Diana Velazco and done with the assistance of the Roswell Hispano Chamber of Commerce. The program was funded by Friends of the Library, Roswell Library Foundation, LaGrone Funeral Chapel and Crematory, Ballard Funeral Home and Crematory and El Toro Bakery.

Library Funding

State Grants-In- Aid for Public Libraries: We have a signed agreement with the state of New Mexico for \$10,287.08 in funds for the Grants-In-Aid for Public Libraries. These funds may be spent on materials improving the delivery of library service. For example: library collections, professional development, and equipment. Funds will be issued and all funds need to be spent and a check issued by June 30, 2025 or remaining funds need to be returned.

2022 General Obligation Bond: The New Mexico State Library has issued the purchase order to the Roswell Public Library for \$170,832.41. The 2022 General Obligation Bond fund appropriation revision date is June 30, 2026. We have requested \$7,704.10 reimbursement. We have not yet requested reimbursement for the items lost in the flood.

- A book shelving for shelving board books in Spanish. **Reimbursement has been received.**
- Two Apple TV's – **Not yet requested reimbursement – lost in flood.**

- 13 iPads and cases for training the public using AARP Senior Planet. **Not yet requested reimbursement - lost in the flood.**
- Digitalization of City Directories and High School Yearbooks. **We have submitted reimbursement request.**
- Cooling units for the meeting room presentation equipment room. **Have submitted the Notice of Obligation.**
- Equipment for the Play and Learn Area. **Have not submitted the Notice of Obligation.**
- Library computers. **Have not submitted the Notice of Obligation.**

Plans for December - January

- Host a Grinchy Yuletide Festival on December 21
- Host a Noon Year's Eve Celebration
- Submit a Request for Quote for the architectural plans for the Play and Learn Area.