

Roswell Public Library

August and September 2025

Accomplishments

Building Improvements Plans

Early Childhood Outside Play and Learn Area: We expect the architectural plans for the Outside Early Childhood Play and Learn area to be completed before December 31, 2025. Studio 27 presented the project at the August meeting of the finance committee. They have also presented the 90% completion plans for review. I reviewed the plans and made some changes. The biggest being to have the flower chalk board limited to the inside fence on the west side of the area. The plans have been sent to the Engineer Department for review and the legal department for review. We are in the process of purchasing the musical interments for the project.

Play and Learn Area: We have a quote for the tile work for the children's area. We are using funds from the Roswell Library Foundation to pay for this improvement. This project is scheduled to be completed in the last two weeks of November.

Circulation Desk: We have a purchase order for tile work at the front of the circulation. This work will also be completed the last two weeks of November. We will have the security gate temporarily removed. The library will be closed while the tile work is being done.

Dragon: The dragon will be moved to the lobby while the security gate is relocated.

South Wall: The south wall will be painted while we are closed in November.

Service Improvements

Self-Checkout Station: We have a third self-checkout station which is located in the children's area.

AWE Early Learning Computer: We now have two AWE Early Learning Computers in the children's area.

Yearbooks and City Directories: We sent to Advantage Archive another set of Roswell Highschool yearbooks to be scanned and posted on the online database. We will be rehousing the scanned city directories into archival boxes and putting them in onsite cold storage. This will free up shelf space for more of the Roswell collection.

State Documents: Roswell Public Library is one of 19 State Depository Libraries in New Mexico. The collection has been evaluated and cataloged in Dewey Decimal order. We will be relocating the collection to highlight it.

Programs

Summer Reading Program – by Rocio Ortiz, Youth Services Librarian: The theme for the summer reading program was "Color Our World." We used graphics provided to us from the New Mexico State Library through their membership with a multi-state

summer reading program cooperative, CSLP. The summer reading program consists of two separate, but equally important parts. Part one is encouraging reading and use of the library collection during the months of June and July. The second part is to provide educational and entertaining programs to engage learning while school is not in session.

Encouraging Reading: The goal of the Summer Reading Program is to further the reading skills of children, but more importantly, to encourage a lasting love of reading. It is important that children understand reading can be enjoyed for fun, and not just as a homework assignment.

One way the library encourages reading is by providing incentives. This summer we introduced “Galaxy Bucks”: children earned play money for the books they read and could use it to purchase prizes. Each child decided whether to spend their Bucks immediately or save for a larger prize, giving them ownership of their reading goals.

In addition, participants received a small color palette tracker to mark their weekly participation. Each week, they earned a different color splotch. For some children, completing their palette became the goal, and they stayed motivated to read throughout the entire summer.

Whether through Galaxy Bucks or the palette tracker, this year’s program successfully kept children engaged and actively reading all summer long.

Reading makes learning possible, and learning cannot happen without reading. Any skill requires practice, and the same is true for reading—that is what the Summer Reading Program provides. While children read about *Dog Man*, *Harry Potter*, and dragons, they are expanding their reading comprehension and improving their critical thinking skills. These learning tools are essential for growth and success not only in their academic careers, but they will also be essential parts of their success in adulthood.

Engaging Learning: The second goal of the summer reading program is to provide enriching activities so learning does not stop when school is not in session. During June and July, the children’s service area provided 59 programs to the public (2,138 attended). This includes weekly programs for infants and toddlers (Mother Goose), preschool children (Preschool Storytime), and family movie programs. A volunteer came weekly with her therapy dog for a Read to a Dog program. Each week a special program that delighted the community was offered. The programs included: a live raptor show, two art programs, a magic show, performing dogs, puppets, science fun as well as our Makerspace programs. We continued to offer our monthly chess program, teen gaming program, gardening program, and cooking club.

Plans

- Evaluate the history (900) collection.
- Evaluate the DVD collection.
- Shift the audiobook collection south three sections
- Relocate the UFO collection to the first row of shelves south of the circulation desk

- Evaluate the reference collection and move a majority of the collection to the circulating collection.
- Create a New Mexico collection pulling materials from the reference and nonfiction collection.
- Relocate the shelves on the south wall or put them into storage.
- Create a quilt display in the Bondurant Room.