

Roswell Public Library

September 2026

Accomplishments

Building Improvements Plans

Children's Garden: The expected completion of the project is late October – early November due to shipping of supplies. The decking is currently being worked on. The memorial pavers have been engraved and delivered to the library. We are working on having the sundial painted and a missing gnome purchased or created. This will be done after the brickwork at the base of the sundial has been completed.

Maquettes: The Committee working on the Lest We Forget Statue Project gifted the Roswell Public Library with two maquettes, Pioneer Women and Buffalo Soldier. The two maquettes are on display above the book club books, with the previous gift of the Vaquero maquette.

Lights: The Roswell Public Library is still recovering from two power outages (August 3 and August 17-18). An electrician was called in to replace a contactor and get power on the south side of the library. We then had a contractor begin replacing the burnt-out lights and replacing them with LED lights. During this process it was discovered that the emergency lights were not working. After talking with the Fire Marshal, Facilities Department, contractor and another electrician, the best course of action is to replace the batteries for the emergency lights and convert the fluorescent lights to LED. The Fire Marshal also recommends an annual test of the emergency lights, by turning off the power for 90 minutes.

Fire Extinguishers: We completed our annual fire extinguisher inspection and had two fire extinguishers replaced. We continue to perform monthly checks on the fire extinguishers.

Service Improvements

STEM Kits: A grant from the STEM Innovation Network allowed the Roswell Public Library to purchase materials for teachers and other organizations to check out a Science Technology, Engineering, or Math (STEM) kit to use with a group. The kits have been rehoused, inventory list created and added to the library catalog as Organizational STEM Kit. Before they may be loaned, we will create procedures for checking out and returning items.

OCLC: We are using OCLC to catalog our materials. The Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) provides libraries with catalog records in a standard format called MARC records. OCLC records are the gold standards for library records. We stopped using OCLC due to budget cuts and began using catalog records provided by Ingram. Ingram recently increased the cost of providing catalog records. This is a cost saving.

Missing Books: Books and other items that should be on the shelf and are not, are typically marked as “missing.” We have cleaned up our database by removing the missing items, after doing several searches. If the item is “found” then we will add it back into the collection.

Programs

Special Programs: The Roswell Public Library has planned the following special programs.

September 26, 2026 – National Hispanic American Heritage Program featuring Loteria and Pinata making workshop with the Museum of International Folk Art

October 24, 2026 - Dia de los Muertos event.

TBA opening of the Children’s Garden

December 19, 2026 – Grinchy Christmas

December 31, 2026 – Noon Year’s Eve Balloon Drop

January 23, 2027 – Angelina Ballerina Tea Party

February 27, 2027 – Pete the Cat Event

March 27, 2027 – Touch a Truck

April 24, 2027 – Day of the Child Day of the Book

May is set aside to promote the summer reading program.

June – July 2027 Summer Reading Program with weekly special programs.

August 2027 TBA Stuffed Animal Sleepover

Blackdom: The Book and Bites Book Club brought in a guest speaker, Mareen McGinn for a presentation on Blackdom The community of Blackdom was officially incorporated by 1901. By 1908, the community had 25 families with about 300 people and a number of businesses (including a blacksmith shop, a hotel, a weekly newspaper, and a Baptist church) on 15,000 acres of land. The community was the first solely African-American community in the New Mexico Territory. The book read for the month was Blackdom, New Mexico: The Significance of the Afro-Frontier, 1900–1930 by Timothy Nelson.

Spice Club: The spice of the month for September is dried onion.