



LINCOLN

City Libraries

Director's Report for April 2024

- City operational updates:
 - 1) Lincoln's Health Department is working with all city departments in creating an Extreme Heat Response Plan with guidance on heat thresholds for the various National Weather Service-issued stages and coordinated communications. As always, the Library is a cooling center and a source for disseminating information and necessary city communications.
 - 2) Human Resources in coordination with representatives from several departments have created a comprehensive new employee onboarding program to ensure a quality start to someone's employment. Weekly orientation sessions will be provided to all new employees beginning in late June. The Library will follow this with our own "Welcome to the Library" orientation process later this year to ensure staff receive a consistent introduction to the library.
 - 3) As part of its Climate Action Plan, the city is creating a grant-funded "Municipal Building Energy Management Plan," with representatives from each department, with the goal to assess buildings and systems for improving efficiencies and sustainability—with a mission to eventually reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2035. I'm currently serving on the committee and expect future assistance from our building superintendent, too.
- The library currently has several staffing vacancies with positions posted or coming up for announcement. Open Library Service Associate positions are available at Bennet Martin and Gere, and a Librarian position at Bennett Martin will be reposted this summer. The Assistant Director posting ends May 19, and the Youth Services and Outreach Coordinator posting will go live by the week of May 20. The Library Services Supervisor at Walt is on its way to being filled, and overall, many managers and supervisors have been involved in interviewing and soon, training. We have nearly on board all new interns and temporary employees for the summer, too, and we are grateful for the many hours devoted to this important work over the past month!
- LCL is grateful for the Library Foundation and the superb turnout at the annual Wine and Dine fundraiser on April 27. The library has incredible support from so many across Lincoln and Lancaster County who value what happens here, and who know that every dollar is important in providing a great library.
- As usual many hands are on deck in preparing for the Summer Reading Challenge, and we're nearing readiness for the thousands of happy kids, adults, and families who take part every year. Summer is a fun time for patrons and staff—please take some time this summer to not only participate in the challenge, but visit one of the fun activities.

- Virtual Services has recently finished installing new staff computers across the system, and will begin the same for a large number of public-facing stations.
- We are soon replacing our long-standing online calendar software as a service product with a new version, and one that allows for patron self-reservation of many of our spaces. We project it to go live by August.

Monthly Examples of the Strategic Plan in Action in March 2024

Our Vision: The Library Experience—setting a distinctive tone in promoting and providing lifelong education for our entire community

Interactions

- Pam C. [Eiseley/Williams] shared this story from her growing Williams family storytime: On April 25, we had a Seed Storytime at Williams Library. I had 16 children and parents and we read stories and sang songs about planting seeds. After storytime, we went out on the patio and put some dirt in cups and planted bean seeds. We also took a look at the little caterpillars from the butterfly kit. We talked about how they will grow and hatch into butterflies in the next few weeks. The children and parents were excited and really enjoyed themselves!
- Aubrey Shumake shared: “As I was checking out DVDs for someone at the front desk – they were all nature and travel documentaries - the customer told me that she checks the ‘Discoveries – America: Alaska’ DVD out all the time. She guessed she’s probably checked it out a total of 30 times at this point, because she loves to see all of the wild animals they show. She said she shuts the curtains, puts the DVD on, and she has magically traveled to Alaska!”

Collaboration

- Cally O. and Ronda H. hosted Family night at Gere on the 2nd, and also hosted at South on the 18th. Community Crops staff provided the program at Gere and had lots of activities for families. Ronda said one of the most popular was digging in dirt to find things hidden below. They also got to plant seeds in cups and take them home, as well as do some seed identifying and seed matching at a station, too. There were 62 attending.

Community Engagement

- Gere Library had 225 Book Bundles this month with a total of 675 books; and a total of 383 study room users in April.

Programming

- From Kim S.: “Bluey Family Night was the big event at Anderson this month. Bluey seems to be the super-hot topic right now, and we hit the buzz at the exact right time! It was amazing how many people came in costume or Bluey t-shirts (including dads!). We had several stations with crafts and imaginative play. One-hundred and seventy-seven people attended.”
- Saratoga School Night was at South Library on the 12th hosted by Melanie N., Ronda H. and Jenae D. with 50 attending. Staff put out crafts of tissue paper flowers and beaded bracelets. They also had a scavenger hunt to find the different sections and offerings of the library and after completing selected a free book. Then pizza was served to students and their families and information shared on the upcoming Summer Reading Challenge. Melanie said: “At least 8 students used their Library One Cards for the first time and were delighted to take home items, especially from the Graphic Novel Collection.”
- Yoel S. [Eiseley/Williams] has started a new, unique, and fun program—“Laughing Yoga”—that has seen good participation.
- Leanne D. and Melanie N. [Gere] hosted an Indigenous Authors Books Talk at Gere on the 10th with 8 attending. Their selections included YA, youth, and adult fiction and nonfiction, as well as some movies and audiobooks. Authors included Sherman Alexie, Cherie Dimaline, Chelsea Vowel, Louise Erdrich and Tommy Orange – along with others. They had a very receptive audience eager to offer input who also shared their applause for Melanie’s and Leanne’s work at the conclusion.
- From Polley Music Librarian Scott S.: “There were 5 weekends for Polley Library radio programs in April, and featured the following topics: “3 Shades of Blue” about Miles Davis, John Coltrane, and Bill Evans (with a good helping of info on Ornette Coleman as well), the first academic survey of “rock guitar virtuosos,” the book “Transfigured New York” that covers the city’s music in the 1980s, “Musician as Philosopher” which documents NYC music developments in the 60s and 70s, and Ian Brennan’s latest book “Missing Music,” which covers his song collecting travels around the world and the US during the COVID era.
- From Kim S.: “Bluey Family Night was the big event at Anderson this month. Bluey seems to be the super-hot topic right now, and we hit the buzz at the exact right time! It was amazing how many people came in costume or Bluey t-shirts (including dads!). We had several stations with crafts and imaginative play. One-hundred and seventy-seven people attended.”

Outreach

- Nancy E. [NESU] visited the Donald D. Sherrill Education Center on April 23. Within just a couple of short hours, Nancy presented to 92 students. Upon her return from this outreach visit, Nancy commented: “I just returned from Don Sherrill Elementary School after providing information about the Lincoln City Libraries and the 2024 Summer Reading Program. This was such a positive experience for students, teachers and myself. The students were curious and enthusiastic about everything. After participating in some fun activities and listening to my hype on how magnificent our Lincoln Libraries are, they had many great questions to ask about participating in our summer reading program, getting library cards and using their Library OneCards.”

Early Childhood

- At Gere in April: Storytime attendance was 1,644 kids and adults attending 42 programs. Toddler Storytime had 5 sessions with 299 attending, and Music & Movement had 21 sessions with 920 attending.

Building up the Culture of Lincoln**All Students**

- Courtney S. [Eiseley/Williams] provided an Animal Origami program at Williams as part of the Afterschool Special programming.
- From Karrie S.: "On April 29, Anderson hosted a Norwood Park School Night. Twenty-one people came for crafts and a story time. They enjoyed taking home free books and eating cookies. Two kids got new library cards, and most families checked out. After the event, Pam Hale, long-time Norwood Principal, who is retiring this year, said "I just want to thank you for all you've done for us and everything you've done for this community!"
- Walt hosted a Family School Night for the Blessed Sacrament School (K-8) this month. Fifty-five people attended. Vicki Clarke created a Blueey scavenger hunt which led children on a tour of the youth services area (30 children completed).

Celebrating Diversity

- Leanne D. [Gere] shared this interaction: "Helped a patron who did not speak English well print documents from his email; he was very grateful to have been assisted by someone who understood what he was trying to communicate. He expressed that it made him nervous to ask questions when the other person seemed impatient with him and was glad that I took the time to understand him and not rush him."

Low-Income Families

- During February, numerous citizens utilized the free tax help at Anderson Branch Library provided by the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance [VITA] program. Unfortunately, as is always the case, there is much more demand for the service than sessions available.

Services to our Aging Population

- Aubrey S. [Gere] shared: "I assisted a group of Madonna residents in setting up library cards. Most wanted to get cards set up specifically because they had heard we had some sort of service to provide homebound patrons with books - this was a very rare outing for them as they are all completely bound to the facility. After getting cards set up, I printed them off applications, they were so excited about the service they wanted to get their applications filled out right away! Both the residents of Madonna and the staff who brought them were thrilled to hear about HOM service."
- An elderly patron came to Walt to make copies of materials for taxes. Meagan M. assisted her with how the copier functions, printed her the forms that she needed for both Nebraska and

Kansas. She mentioned that she had moved within the last year, so her tax returns were twice as detailed and frustrating. She thanked Meagan for helping her, mentioning that she felt like she might actually succeed with her tasks given the proper forms.

Ryan Wieber, Library Director

May 17, 2024

**Lincoln City Libraries
April 2024 Use Report**

Location	Loans	Visits	Computer Reservations	Program & Outreach Attendance	April 2024 Total Use	April 2023 Total Use	CHANGE
Bennett Martin Public Library	14,430	11,630	2,256	697	29,013	26,257	10.50%
Anderson Branch	11,715	5,863	855	683	19,116	19,465	-1.79%
Bethany Branch	7,065	2,917	278	220	10,480	11,237	-6.74%
Eiseley Branch	21,872	9,950	1,500	1,090	34,412	35,383	-2.74%
Gere Branch	58,290	19,582	1,262	1,849	80,983	83,204	-2.67%
South Branch	8,868	3,765	461	285	13,379	13,636	-1.88%
Walt Branch	39,703	13,839	1,256	2,201	56,999	55,914	1.94%
Williams Branch	796	710	107	107	1,720	1,913	-10.09%
Lied Bookmobile	1,474	437	0	41	1,952	2,879	-32.20%
InterLibrary Loan	189	0	0	0	189	202	-6.44%
SUBTOTAL	164,402	68,693	7,975	7,173	248,243	250,090	-0.74%
DownloadStream Audio	43,415	0	0	0	43,415	37,018	17.28%
Download/Stream eBooks	30,494	0	0	0	30,494	28,390	7.41%
Stream Video	1,067	0	0	0	1,067	820	30.12%
Download SUBTOTAL	74,976	0	0	0	74,976	66,228	13.21%
TOTAL CIRCULATION	239,378	68,693	7,975	7,173	323,219	316,318	2.18%

WiFi Sessions	131,952	110,878	19.01%
WiFi Users	9,814	9,925	-1.12%
Website Users	101,399	61,392	65.17%
Website Sessions	138,153	115,377	19.74%
Database Use	8,568	11,567	-25.93%

Holdings Report	PRINT		NON PRINT		Total	REGISTRATIONS	2024	2023	Change
	Adult	Youth	Adult	Youth		Purged			
Owned	361,034	315,952	79,420	33,203	789,609	Purged	755	782	-3.45%
Added	2,018	2,533	279	220	5,050	Active			
Withdrawn	-45	-5	0	-2	-52	Resident	147,696	146,640	0.72%
Current	363,007	318,480	79,699	33,421	794,607	ConnectED	48,185	42,698	12.85%
						County	9,028	9,117	-0.98%
						NonResident	934	938	-0.43%
						Reciprocal	489	485	0.82%
						Limited Use	9,665	8,488	13.87%
						Total Active	215,997	208,366	3.66%

**April 2024 Use Compared to April 2023
Lincoln City Libraries**

Location	Print Checkouts		Print Loan	Non-Print Checkouts		Non-Print	Total Checkouts		Total Loan
	2024	2023	Change	2024	2023	Loan Change	2024	2023	Change
BMPL	11,732	9,886	18.67%	2,698	2,444	10.39%	14,430	12,330	17.03%
Anderson	9,647	10,147	-4.93%	2,068	2,300	-10.09%	11,715	12,447	-5.88%
Bethany	6,255	6,790	-7.88%	810	992	-18.35%	7,065	7,782	-9.21%
Eiseley	19,273	19,542	-1.38%	2,599	3,343	-22.26%	21,872	22,885	-4.43%
Gere	51,171	54,747	-6.53%	7,119	7,425	-4.12%	58,290	62,172	-6.24%
South	7,861	8,056	-2.42%	1,007	1,226	-17.86%	8,868	9,282	-4.46%
Walt	34,725	36,231	-4.16%	4,978	4,885	1.90%	39,703	41,116	-3.44%
Williams	605	589	2.72%	191	240	-20.42%	796	829	-3.98%
Lied Bookmobile	1,317	1,297	1.54%	157	165	-4.85%	1,474	1,462	0.82%
InterLibrary Loan	189	202	-6.44%	0	0	0.00%	189	202	-6.44%
Subtotal Checkouts	142,775	147,487	-3.19%	21,627	23,020	-6.05%	164,402	170,507	-3.58%
Download/Stream Audio	0	0	0.00%	43,415	37,018	17.28%	43,415	37,018	17.28%
Download/Stream eBook	0	0	0.00%	30,494	28,390	7.41%	30,494	28,390	7.41%
Stream Video	0	0	0.00%	1,067	820	30.12%	1,067	820	30.12%
TOTAL CHECKOUTS	142,775	147,487	-3.19%	96,603	89,248	8.24%	239,378	236,735	1.12%

Location	Youth Checkouts		Youth Loan	Adult Checkouts		Adult Loan	Visits	Visits	Visits
	2024	2023	Change	2024	2023	Change	2024	2023	Change
BMPL	5,219	4,519	15.49%	9,211	7,811	17.92%	11,630	10,648	9.22%
Anderson	5,797	6,394	-9.34%	5,918	6,053	-2.23%	5,863	5,827	0.62%
Bethany	4,074	4,618	-11.78%	2,991	3,164	-5.47%	2,917	2,920	-0.10%
Eiseley	13,966	14,975	-6.74%	7,906	7,910	-0.05%	9,950	9,302	6.97%
Gere	33,614	35,996	-6.62%	24,676	26,176	-5.73%	19,582	18,643	5.04%
South	4,990	5,248	-4.92%	3,878	4,034	-3.87%	3,765	3,495	7.73%
Walt	26,877	28,582	-5.97%	12,826	12,534	2.33%	13,839	12,510	10.62%
Williams	518	586	-11.60%	278	243	14.40%	710	761	-6.70%
Lied Bookmobile	937	1,010	-7.23%	537	452	18.81%	437	647	-32.46%
InterLibrary Loan	0	0	0.00%	189	202	-6.44%	0	0	0.00%
Subtotal Checkouts	95,992	101,928	-5.82%	68,410	68,579	-0.25%	68,693	64,753	6.08%
Download/Stream Audio	6,210	5,142	20.77%	37,205	31,876	16.72%	0	0	0.00%
Download/Stream eBook	5,374	4,295	25.12%	25,120	24,095	4.25%	0	0	0.00%
Stream Video	0	0	0.00%	1,067	820	30.12%	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL CHECKOUTS	107,576	111,365	-3.40%	131,802	125,370	5.13%	68,693	64,753	6.08%

Location	Program & Outreach Attendance - Youth		P&O Att - Youth	Program & Outreach Attendance - Adult		P&O Att - Adult	Computer Use		Computer
	2024	2023	Change	2024	2023	Change	2024	2023	Change
BMPL	481	719	-33.10%	216	324	-33.33%	2,256	2,236	0.89%
Anderson	676	427	58.31%	7	0	0.00%	855	764	11.91%
Bethany	194	254	-23.62%	26	34	-23.53%	278	247	12.55%
Eiseley	1,057	1,874	-43.60%	33	6	450.00%	1,500	1,316	13.98%
Gere	1,783	1,200	48.58%	66	9	633.33%	1,262	1,180	6.95%
South	280	366	-23.50%	5	10	-50.00%	461	483	-4.55%
Walt	1,910	1,009	89.30%	291	93	212.90%	1,256	1,186	5.90%
Williams	92	228	-59.65%	15	0	0.00%	107	95	12.63%
Lied Bookmobile	0	729	-100.00%	41	41	0.00%	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL	6,473	6,806	-4.89%	700	517	35.40%	7,975	7,507	6.23%

Lincoln City Libraries
April 2024 Fiscal Year To Date Use Report

Location	Loans			Visits			Computer Reservations			Program & Outreach Attendance			Total Use		
	FY 23-24 YTD	FY 22-23 YTD	YTD Change	FY 23-24 YTD	FY 22-23 YTD	YTD Change	FY 23-24 YTD	FY 22-23 YTD	YTD Change	FY 23-24 YTD	FY 22-23 YTD	YTD Change	FY 22-23 YTD	FY 21-22 YTD	YTD CHANGE
Bennett Martin Public Library	110,844	103,486	7.11%	86,530	84,748	2.10%	17,774	19,043	-6.66%	6,355	6,270	1.36%	221,503	213,547	3.73%
Anderson Branch	90,128	91,568	-1.57%	42,654	39,841	7.06%	5,908	5,525	6.93%	5,511	5,475	0.66%	144,201	142,409	1.26%
Bethany Branch	58,724	65,981	-11.00%	23,007	23,196	-0.81%	1,999	1,857	7.65%	1,905	2,182	-12.69%	85,635	93,216	-8.13%
Eiseley Branch	177,455	187,969	-5.59%	72,935	68,227	6.90%	10,691	9,169	16.60%	10,849	12,249	-11.43%	271,930	277,614	-2.05%
Gere Branch	458,627	494,683	-7.29%	146,978	139,619	5.27%	8,622	9,915	-13.04%	11,529	10,075	14.43%	625,756	654,292	-4.36%
South Branch	72,238	74,593	-3.16%	27,771	26,688	4.06%	3,534	3,579	-1.26%	1,589	2,056	-22.71%	105,132	106,916	-1.67%
Walt Branch	313,338	318,625	-1.66%	99,247	93,134	6.56%	8,286	8,000	3.58%	10,000	8,140	22.85%	430,871	427,899	0.69%
Williams Branch	7,609	6,201	22.71%	13,161	5,269	149.78%	1,026	477	115.09%	969	823	17.74%	22,765	12,770	78.27%
Lied Bookmobile	11,343	13,318	-14.83%	2,390	3,503	-31.77%	0	0	0.00%	918	2,580	-64.42%	14,651	19,401	-24.48%
InterLibrary Loan	1,218	1,618	-24.72%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	1,218	1,618	-24.72%
SUBTOTAL	1,301,524	1,358,042	-4.16%	514,673	484,225	6.29%	57,840	57,565	0.48%	49,625	49,850	-0.45%	1,923,662	1,949,682	-1.33%
DownloadStream Audio	335,348	285,122	17.62%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	335,348	285,122	17.62%
Download/Stream eBooks	251,478	225,467	11.54%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	251,478	225,467	11.54%
Stream Video	7,246	6,804	6.50%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	7,246	6,804	6.50%
	594,072	517,393	14.82%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	594,072	517,393	14.82%
TOTAL LOANS	1,895,596	1,875,435	1.08%	514,673	484,225	6.29%	57,840	57,565	0.48%	49,625	49,850	-0.45%	2,517,734	2,467,075	2.05%

	FY 23-24 YTD	FY 22-23 YTD	YTD Change
Online Registrations	909	0	0.00%
Overall Registrations	7394	7053	4.83%

WiFi Sessions	970,923	925,373	4.92%
WiFi Users	75,772	87,900	-13.80%
Website Users	686,195	487,044	40.89%
Website Sessions	920,539	954,219	-3.53%
Database Use	65,410	99,794	-34.45%