The Library Experience–setting a distinctive tone in promoting and providing lifelong education for our entire community.
Lincoln City Libraries began January 2019 with a big change—the elimination of overdue charges on youth materials. Elimination of overdue charges is a trend throughout the country. Libraries point to restored access for low-income families and fewer barriers to use as key points in changing this policy. Overdue fines had been considered a motivation to return materials on time, but recent studies had noted that they were not especially effective in achieving this basic purpose.

Internally, the library filled two behind-the-scenes positions that directly impact the Library Experience for the community. One of those is a Building Superintendent, as an update to our previous arrangement to contract for facilities maintenance services. Already this change has resulted both in improvements in the condition of our facilities, and in budget efficiencies. The library also hired a Public Information Specialist, an employee with particular responsibility to update the library’s social media presence. More and more members of our community expect to use social media as a timely, accurate, and participatory source of information. The Public Information Specialist is already making a difference in terms of engagement with library posts, and ensuring clarity of information.

The library continued its community campaign under the umbrella of “15 Minutes a Day” to inform the community about the importance of reading aloud to preschoolers. The library was heavily involved in the Read Aloud Lincoln grant to the Lincoln Community Foundation from the federal Institute for Library and Museum Services.

Library Board member Carol Speicher completed her seven-year term on August 31, and Joe Shaw was appointed by the City Council to fill her seat. The Central Library and Branch Library Improvements Project remained a dominant Library Board interest. The Board is on record as interested in building a new Central Library on the current Pershing Center site.

Libraries continue to provide countless resources that relate to literacy, learning, and literature. Technology has changed how people read and learn, but literacy, learning, and literature continue to be pillars of a strong community. The library remains committed to upholding their value to individuals, and to our whole community.

Pat Leach, Library Director