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www.Facebook/RACLibrary

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit registered in New Mexico – owned and operated by volunteers and with donations

April Hours:

Closed due to Pandemic and for Restructuring

DONATE TO OUR BUILDING FUND!
www.GoFundMe.com/RACLibrary



RAC Library Leaves



The Work Has Begun



Between the old librarian retiring, not being able to find a reliable new librarian (the one we had hired passed away unexpectedly) and, mostly, the COVID pandemic, our Rio Abajo Community Library has been closed.

Unforeseen Calamities

We had plumbing issues that flooded everything and meant the loss of books and moving furniture to safety. Our landlords hired a plumber to fix the flooding problem and they moved all the shelves and furnishings around to minimize the damage.

We lost our financial support from the State and have not received support from the County in years. This means our only sources of support are fund raisers and donations. Since no service industry has volunteered to donate their product, we will continue to have to raise sufficient funds to pay telephone, internet, electricity and propane.

With the pandemic, we have been unable to conduct any fund

raisers, so our income is almost nonexistent at the moment.

We had eight months with no telephone service after the water department dug out trenches for new water lines and severed the phone lines. It took forever to get Century Link out to repair the lines, during which time we had to continue to pay for the phone line.

Nonetheless, we are not giving up, but we are definitely going to need YOUR help in order to set things up to be able to open again (hopefully in May).

Good Things Are Happening

We have two people we hope to be able to enlist as potential librarians in April. As soon as they start, things will begin to roll.

The plumbing issue has been repaired, the building has been aired out and dried, and we have the computers up and running again.

Century Link finally repaired our telephone lines, so once we open we can begin offering faxing services again.



Residential & Commercial Services

Two 95 Gal. Trash cans \$23/month

One-Time Pick Up Available Upon Request

Serving northern Socorro County – including La Joya, Veguita, San Acacia, Alamillo, Polvadera, Lemitar, Luis Lopez and San Antonio

Call Today for more Information!

Although we lost a lot of books in the flooding, most of the books are in good condition. Those we lost we are hoping to replace if needed, and once up and running, we can begin accepting book donations again.

Why Support Our Library?

When this Library opened in 1999, our high school graduation rate was at 17%. Only 0.8% of our youth returned to our community after reaching adulthood. Our property rates were lower than that of Arkansas. Government entities rarely, contributed resources and support to northern Socorro County since it was deemed to be a nonfunctional/undeveloped area. Banks had this entire area “red lined” as high-risk and not worthy of investment, so mortgage interest rates were higher than anywhere else in the state.

As of 2028 (latest figures available), our community now boasts 98% graduation rates. Today, an average of 64% of our youth return or remain after graduation from high school or college. The invested tax dollars in our area has reached an all-time high. The community is no longer red-lined.

If officials and agents are asked why the turn-around, the universal response is that this community has shown itself to be involved and pro-active with strong leadership and good coordinating efforts. In fact, the Rio Abajo Community Library was nominated twice (won once) for the award of American Rural Library of the Year in recognition of the Library’s involvement and. Unfortunately, we had to be a fully-paid member of the National

Library Association (\$2,500 in annual dues), so honorary mention was made instead.

How Can You Help?

The most obvious is with cash donations. For those without the extra cash to throw our way, we would sincerely welcome volunteers!

We have furniture to move -- extra hands and muscles would be great. We have to go through and figure out which books were lost, which to replace, and to organize and put the books in their correct shelves.

For those with the gift of words, help in writing relevant articles for the newsletter would be wonderful. If you are willing to solicit advertising from businesses for us, we would be more than appreciative!

We also need people to serve as Board Members. This would mean one meeting each month for about an hour, helping out with our fund raisers (once we can do them again), and we always need brain-power. Everyone is able to provide ideas on ways to improve, have access to resources we could call on, have knowledge on where to find help, or contribute information that the community would benefit by knowing.

Status at the Moment

Although not officially open yet, the library will be getting worked on by our old Library Director (Donna Hernandez) every Tuesday. Feel free to call (505-862-8289) and leave a message when you can come in to volunteer. We have to move furniture, reshelv books, clean, and cut down weeds and debris outside

– and we cannot expect one old lady to do all of this by herself.

Once everything is in some semblance of order and the pandemic is somewhat under control, we can open our doors (on a limited basis) – hopefully in May!

One last note – our newsletter will not have all the news and articles until we are able to finance it. It cost the library a minimum of \$200 each month to produce and distribute the newsletter in the past. We don’t have the funds to support it at this time, so unless you are a subscriber (which entitles you to receive a newsletter each month automatically), or we have a lot of paid advertising (want ads and/or display ads), or we are able to procure sufficient funds to support it, the newsletter will have only one copy posted at key locations, but will be available on-line on our website.

Here’s to hoping we hear from you in the very near future. We are banking on everyone’s support and help in getting our Library up and running again!



SERVICES RAC LIBRARY OFFERS:

- Books, Magazines, Movies & Audio Books to borrow
- Copy services
- Faxing (local area only)
- Help with homework/research
- Job Search assistance
- Free Family Pass to 15 NM museums and historic sites
- Open computers with internet
- Notary Public services
- Snacks & Beverages ✨

Order Form for Ads, Subscriptions and Volunteers

Subscription:

Request an annual subscription (with gifts and extras) to the monthly newsletter (\$15/year minimum donation) to cover the costs of copies and postage (enclose a check or money order made out to Rio Abajo Community Library).

Advertising

I want to run an ad for \$1.50 and am enclosing what I want my ad to say (25 words or less) to include in the next newsletter.

Contact me regarding display advertising.

Volunteering/Donations

I want to volunteer to help out at the library for one hour per week.

I want more information about serving as a Board Member on the Rio Abajo Community Library Board to help direct and advise the Library (one meeting a month for about one hour).

I want to donate goods and/or services for RACL fund-raising efforts.

Make a cash donation of \$_____ (make check or money order: to Rio Abajo Community Library).

Other _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email address: _____

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