

Red Feather Lakes Library
Darlene Kilpatrick
Library Board Report
October 2025

Programs and Events

- **Walk and Talk Series**

We wrapped up the season with two excellent Walk and Talk programs:

- *Birding Basics* — Led by two birders from the Northern Colorado Bird Alliance (NCBA). They did an outstanding job teaching birding fundamentals and inspiring participants to continue learning. Several attendees expressed interest in future birding programs, and NCBA is eager to partner with us again.
- *Geology and Mining* — Ben led this program at Dowdy Lake, teaching about local geology and mining history. The class was well received, and participants appreciated learning more about our area's natural features and historical context.

- **Paint and Pour**

We hosted our first Paint and Pour class with 12 participants, including adults and kids. The event was relaxed, creative, and fun—participants completed paintings with ease and enthusiasm. Several requested weekend sessions, and we are planning future dates.

- **SEEC Programs**

We held the SEEC board meeting to close out the year and plan for supply storage.

- **Special Presentation: Cash, the K9 Detective**

Brock led a weekend workshop featuring Cash, his trained dog who detects poachers. The event drew both adults and families and was well received for its engaging, hands-on learning.

- **Stargazing Nights**

Ross, Ken, and Charlie hosted their final stargazing program of the season with a strong turnout. Unfortunately, their last scheduled event was canceled due to weather and cloud cover. They plan to resume in summer.

- **Afterschool** This week marks the start of our afterschool programs. Art class begins Wednesday, and STEM class will start next Thursday once school resumes.
- Halloween planning is underway for **November 1, 1:00–3:00 PM**. This year, we expanded collaboration to include businesses on the east side of town. The Tavern generously offered to transport families on a hayride between the library and the east side, tying both locations together. The event begins at the library with a scavenger hunt, continuing to the Tavern for more fun. The theme, *Dark Fairy Tales*, was developed by Ben and Kylie. Let us know if you want to help out—this event is always a community favorite.
- **Future Program Development**
We are exploring yoga classes with Coco for the fall and have had requests for chair yoga. We are also coordinating with Susan O’Connell on an indoor painting class for the winter season.

North 40 Mountain Alliance

- **Current Operations**
The pantry continues to operate regularly, though with reduced food variety due to a refrigeration failure at the Food Bank’s warehouse. Repairs will take about a month. We are adapting to the shortage while preparing for Thanksgiving—one of our largest distribution days of the year. Funding constraints may limit our ability to provide the usual special holiday food.
- **Community Support and Collaboration**
Mountain Ministries’ continued financial support for one of our contractors has been critical to sustaining Friday operations. I recently met with **County Commissioner John Kefalas** and **Lorenda** to discuss long-term sustainability for the pantry. They are helping identify county and state resources to stabilize our operations. I am also meeting with **Jo and Joann** to apply for a grant that has been successfully used in other county programs. The level of engagement and support from the county has been very encouraging. **Jo Buckley** continues her monthly pop-up tents at the pantry, offering direct connections to social services and resources. She is assisting one patron in a vulnerable living situation, and Annie and I are actively collaborating with her on solutions.

Grants and Partnerships

- **Colorado Blueprint Grant**

Awaiting notification on our submitted application to purchase food for the pantry.

- **County Commissioner Meeting & USDA Resources**

I attended a County Commissioners meeting covering home insurance and USDA funding. USDA programs may support infrastructure projects such as buildings or vehicles through a combination of loans and grants—potentially valuable for future development. Workforce development may also be an avenue to strengthen North 40 operations.

- **NextFifty Grant**

I am working with **Strategic Solutions** to apply for a grant to hire them as consultants to create a sustainability plan for North 40. Their work will include strategies to strengthen our operations and may also explore a **long-term vision for a multi-use community building**—potentially housing a larger library, the food pantry, a clinic, child and adult day care, and an event center. This project could lay the groundwork for greater community resilience and shared services.

- **Buckeye Grant**

I am in the process of applying for this grant with Janet Gibbs help. We have been awarded 4 years through them and hope to be successful again.

- **Interim Grant**

This is a new grant that Jo and Joann will be helping me to write and apply for the grant.

- **Caring for Colorado**

This is a new possible grant source for kids programming. The grants are very competitive and I may apply this year to get funding for programming.