November 22, 2004

AZTEC TO GET NEW LIBRARY

After seven years of seeking ways to get a new library building and exploring various funding packages, the City of Aztec is breaking ground on a new $1.86 million library facility. The City will use $75,000 in a match with a state appropriation for $84,000. Other funding sources will provide the balance. There will be $90,000 from a federal appropriation supported by US Senator Tom Udall and additional state money from a 2003 appropriation of $120,000 to San Juan College. Because Aztec Public Library will be providing service to the College’s East Branch and the library facility will be located in the same Family Center Complex, sharing space with the Aztec Alternative High School, the funding from the 2003 appropriation can be applied to the library project. This same complex includes the Aztec Boys & Girls Club. In January 2004 Aztec held a special election and the citizen’s voted to increase the Gross Receipts Tax to fund the majority of the library project, as well as a new reservoir. This will bring $1.5 million into the coffers. The City has secured a loan through the New Mexico Finance Authority and pledged the GRT increase as the revenue stream to make the loan payments. So all funding is now in place, design is done, and construction bids are out.

BRIEFINGS

News from Mora. The David Cargo Public Library (DCPL) in Mora has had its ups and downs recently (see HH #1561), but the latest word is that the old library building will soon be demolished in order to make way for a new library/community center. In the recent election a county G.O. Bond passed for $2,650,000 for a new library and county administration building.

Newsletter for library boards. Board Cafe™ is a newsletter that your library boards may find interesting and helpful. Short enough to read over a cup of coffee, Board Cafe™ offers a menu of ideas, opinion, news, and resources to help board members give and get the most out of board service. A ready-to-print version can be found at http://www.boardcafe.org.

NMLA award nominations sought. Only four weeks remain to nominate candidates and gather letters of support for the New Mexico Library Association’s 2004-2005 awards. The categories are:

- Community Achievement: for outstanding library service or achievement at the local level;
- Honorary Life Membership: for a history of outstanding contributions to NMLA and/or libraries;
- Legislator of the Year: for a state legislator who has worked to advance libraries throughout the state;
- Library Amigo: for an individual (not a certified librarian) who has worked on the behalf of a local library;
- New Mexico Library Leadership: for librarians who have rendered outstanding service beyond the local community.

Nominations forms can be found online by clicking on the name of the award at the NMLA web site at http://www.nmla.org/membership.php. Dinah Lea Jentgen is the Awards Committee Chair.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Online MLIS. The University of Pittsburgh has announced openings in the fifth cohort of the University’s
Online MLIS Program. Currently, 18 states are repre-
sented in this distance education program. The 1999
*U.S. News and World Report* ranked the University of
Pittsburgh’s MLIS program third in the country. Applica-
tions for the next cohort are due by February 14, 2005
and classes begin on May 9.

The University of Pittsburgh’s FastTrack MLIS
Program (FT/MLIS) is designed for adult students who
cannot attend the on-campus program in Pittsburgh.
The ALA-accredited degree program is Web-based, and
the courses are taught by faculty from the on-campus
program. FastTrack students are admitted once a year
(starting their classes in the summer term) as part of a
cohort of peers that move through the program together.

The FT/MLIS Program is delivered to students
using at least four methods of instruction: Web-based
asynchronous course delivery; CD-ROM delivery of
course-and-program-related materials; synchronized,
real-time conferencing for interactive sessions between
instructor and students and among students; and an
on-campus learning experience each term the student is
registered for classes. Asynchronous course delivery via
the World Wide Web using Blackboard’s CourseWeb is
the primary method of delivering instruction in the Fast-
Track MLIS Program.

FT/MLIS students complete two courses each
term for six consecutive terms, completing their degree
in two years. During the first summer term, FastTrack
students are required to come to Pittsburgh for five days
in July to complete course requirements, receive hands-
on computer training, and become acquainted with each
other, the School’s faculty and staff, and FastTrack
students from another cohort. In each of the subsequent
five terms, FastTrack students are required to come to
campus for a weekend.

The FT/MLIS program offers three tracks. The
first track is for individuals seeking a career in school li-
brarianship as a certified school library media specialist.
The second track is for those pursuing a career in medi-
cal librarianship/medical informatics. The third track
is a more general approach to library and information
science, designed primarily for individuals who want to
pursue careers in public, academic, or special libraries.
Prospective students may go directly to the web site at
http://fasttrack.sis.pitt.edu or they may contact the Uni-
versity toll-free 1-800-672-9435, or e-mail ftinfo@mail.
sis.pitt.edu.

**Nation of Learners grant.** The Corporation for Public
Broadcasting (CPB) and the Institute of Museum and
Library Services (IMLS) have announced the creation
of a broad initiative to spark collaboration among local
public broadcasters, museums, and libraries, harness-
ing community educational resources in new and more
meaningful ways to use community assets in creating
pathways to learning, discovery, and exploration. Part-
nership for a Nation of Learners, a multiyear, $3 million
initiative, will provide resources to bring together librar-
ies, public pathways to learning, discovery, and explo-
reration. The initiative will offer competitive grants to
support existing collaborations and create new ones, en-
courage professional development, and conduct project
evaluations to measure effectiveness. Grant application
guidelines and more information about the initiative
will be available at http://www.cpb.org/partners.

**Help to attend ALA.** Have you always wanted to at-
tend an ALA Conference, but are not sure where to get
the funds? Here are several options that might get you
there.

- 3M Library Systems continues its partnership
  with ALA’s New Members Round Table (NMRT) in
  sponsoring the annual Professional Development Grant
  program. The grant provides funding to cover the cost
  of registration fees, airfare, lodging, and some inciden-
tal expenses for three individuals to attend the ALA
  Annual Conference in Chicago on June 2005. You must
  be a current personal member of both ALA and NMRT
  to apply. The application deadline is December 15.
  The selection of grant recipients will take place at the
  ALA Midwinter meeting in January 2005. To apply for
  the grant and for more information, go to the NMRT
  website at http://www.ala.org/ala/nmrt/applyforfunds/
  3mawardinformation.htm, or contact Jeannette Ho,
  Chair, 3M/NMRT Professional Development Grant
  Committee, Texas A&M University Libraries, 5000
  TAMU College Station, TX 77843-5000; (979) 845-
  5438 Fax (979) 862-1166, or e-mail jaho@tamu.edu.

- The Association for Library Collections & Tech-
nical Services (ALCTS) has established a Support Staff
  Grant. Underwritten by a contribution from Sage Pub-
llications, the Support Staff Grant will make it possible
for an eligible individual (or individuals) to attend ALA
Annual in Chicago in June 2005. Requirements are
current employment in a full time support staff position; minimum of three years of experience in an area of technical services (acquisitions, cataloging, collection development/management, preservation of library materials, serials); and no previous attendance at an ALA annual meeting. Successful candidates will be required to submit a brief report describing their experiences at the annual conference. This report will be published in the post-conference issue of the ALCTS Newsletter Online and will also be shared with the sponsor. Applicants need not be members of ALCTS or ALA. The grant will cover conference registration, three nights hotel, and transportation. The ALCTS Membership Committee will provide mentoring support for each candidate. Send a cover letter, résumé and a brief essay (ca. 250 words) summarizing the reasons why attending the 2005 Annual Meeting of the American Library Association would be beneficial. A letter of reference from the applicant’s supervisor, indicating the employer’s support for the application is also required. Applications should be sent by December 1 to Dale Swensen, e-mail Dale_Swensen@byu.edu. Successful applicants will be notified in January. All necessary travel arrangements will be handled by ALCTS. See more details on the web site at http://www.ala.org/ala/alcts/alctsawards/supportstaff.htm.

**JOBS**

**Contractor wanted.** The New Mexico Library Association seeks an independent contractor to provide part time logistical, membership, and conference planning services including exhibitor support, volunteer training, and printer liaison services. The person holding this post will do regular bookkeeping, attend meetings, and maintain website and e-list for the 600 member non-profit library educational association. Needs a strong knowledge of MS Office, Quicken, and web design/maintenance software. Term is for 16 months commencing on March 1, 2005, and terminating on June 30, 2006. Contract may be renewed. Compensation is $16,000 for 16 months, to be paid at $1,000 per month. Thereafter contract will be for twelve months payable at $1,000 per month commencing July 1, 2006 and terminating June 30, 2007. See a complete job description on the NMLA web site at http://www.nmla.org. Send résumé to Heather Gallegos-Rex, NMLA President, c/o New Mexico State Library, 1209 Camino Carlos Rey, Santa Fe, NM 87507 by December 31.

**Librarian.** The City of Rio Rancho has a position available for Librarian (Homework Center). This is a full-time position with a salary of $13.92 - $19.28 (mid point). The incumbent’s duties are to develop, maintain, and weed the Power Library print and non-print collections, while staying within budget guidelines; provide reference services and readers’ advisory services to young adults and children, and serve on the adult services reference desk as assigned; plan and imple-
ment Power Library Programs for young adults and children, coordinate with the recreation center staff on cooperative programs; recruit, schedule, train, and evaluate volunteer homework helpers and Homework Center Clerk; stay current with the latest issues, authors, trends, and genres for young adults; participate in maintaining and planning physical space designated for young adults; establish a good working relationship with area schools and youth organizations to promote library use and partnership activities; participate in professional activities, meetings, and workshops, and share expertise with other professionals on the statewide level; troubleshoot and maintain Homework Center’s Internet access, PC’s, and other equipment; and serve as needed for emergency response and recovery. Applicant must be at least 18 years of age with a Bachelor’s degree from an accredited four-year college or university and more than one year related experience in library services, or an equivalent combination of education and relevant experience, required; in lieu of a degree, the incumbent must possess sufficient prior work experience in progressively more responsible positions during which the skills and abilities to perform all the essential functions have been amply demonstrated at a consistently competent level. Other requirements include the ability to operate a personal computer to access Internet libraries and use word processing and spreadsheet applications; ability to write reports, business correspondence, and procedure manuals; ability to effectively present information and respond to questions from groups of managers, customers, and the general public; good written and verbal communication and public relations skills. A New Mexico Library Certificate is required, and a valid New Mexico driver’s license and an insurable driving record. Preferred qualifications include a Master’s degree in Library Science, and experience with working with groups of youth ages 10 to 14 in a library setting. The position is open until filled. To apply go to the City of Rio Rancho website for contact information and for an application at http://www.ci.rio-rancho.nm.us or contact Human Resources, 1900 Southern Blvd. Rio Rancho, NM 87124; Fax (505) 891-9183. Offers of employment are contingent upon successful results of a drug screen and criminal records check, and if appropriate, a physical examination and verification of an insurable driving record.