

## From the Director



Last month saw the first days of the COVID-19 pandemic hit the state. Currently estimates from the IHME suggest that while the nation has passed its projected peak in resource use and daily deaths, Nebraska won't hit our peaks until early May. Please remember, these

projections change very often. In fact, the projections changed three times while I was working on this article, each time moving Nebraska's peaks later into spring and reducing the size of the peaks. [<https://covid19.healthdata.org/united-states-of-america/Nebraska>]

With this in mind, let's talk about what happens after the peaks. First, this doesn't mean we should all go back to business as usual. Those projections are based on social distancing running through the month of May. Based on comments from Governor Ricketts & other state leaders, we will probably see slow increases in allowed crowd sizes, possibly seeing certain types of businesses open before others, and likely those changes being based county by county instead of state wide action.

So in short – at this point if you are not open now, you will probably stay closed well into May.

Many of you have been some wonderful things to serve your community. I would ask you to consider spreading information about these three things to help maintain the health and strength of your community and the people in it.

1. Encourage people to complete the Census. The timeline has been altered due to COVID-19. You can see <https://2020census.gov/en/news-events/>

[operational-adjustments-covid-19.html](#) for more info.

2. Encourage people to register to vote by mail this year. While the polls are still scheduled to be open on May 12, every registered voter should receive or have already received a form in their mail to request a mail-in ballot. While nationally some are making this a partisan issue – in Nebraska voting by mail in this year's primary is being encouraged by leaders in both parties, including Governor Ricketts.
3. Encourage people to check to see if their prescription drugs are currently having shortages or not, and to talk with their doctors about alternate plans. The virus has disrupted global supply chains and prevented the manufacture of many drugs. I had this happen to me with one of my arthritis drugs and could not get one of my prescriptions filled for about a month. Also – when there are COVID-19 treatments developed, it is possible that pharmaceutical companies may focus on producing those instead of other “quality of life” drugs for a short time. The FDA has a website where you can look that up at <https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/drugshortages/>

Many of you are dealing with so much more than just library work. Perhaps you have children at home trying to go through school in a very different manner than they are used to. Maybe you are dealing with a family member (or more) not having a job to go to anymore. I know that there are health concerns going on in many of our lives and with those we care about.

I wish you all strength and patience in the coming weeks.

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# Calendar

**April 16, National Wear Your Pajamas to Work Day**

**April 18, National Animal Crackers Day**

**April 19-25, National Library Week**

**April 21, National Library Workers Day**

**April 22, National Earth Day**

**April 23, National Picnic Day**

**April 24, National Arbor Day (SELS OFFICE CLOSED)**

**April 27, National Tell a Story Day**

**April 28, National Great Poetry Reading Day**

**April 30, Children's Day/Book Day**

**May 1, National Space Day**

**May 2, National Fitness Day**

**May 4, National Star Wars Day**

**May 1-7, Choose Privacy Week**

**May 10, Mother's Day**

**May 14, MARKETING YOUR LIBRARY WITH CANVA, 9:30-12:30 AND 1:30-4:30, online, more information soon!**

**May 22 or later (TBD), GOLDEN SOWER READING DAY**



# Photos of the Month



Central City Public Library staff printed protective face shield parts for medical workers in Nebraska hospitals. More on p. 4.

*Photos by Sara Lee and Jamie Wright*

# Guest Column *by Amanda Sweet*

## Upcoming CASTL Meetings

May 29

Falls City Library & Art Center  
"Kanopy"

June 26

Gilbert Memorial Library  
Friend

July 24

Wahoo Public Library

August 27

Fairbury Public Library

September 25

Bruun Memorial Library  
Humboldt

Not surprisingly, this pandemic is really throwing people for a loop! Many kids are stuck at home with nothing to do and libraries want to help. One option is to send printed activity packs, and digital literacy resource sheets through the mail. Here are the steps to get going fast:

1. Post on your website, or social media, that you have Activity Packs for kids of all ages available through the mail. Or, call around and let people know this is a new offering (for those without computers).
2. Ask these questions:
  - How old is your child, or children?
  - What subjects do they like?
  - What do they like to do for fun?
  - Do you need help monitoring what kids do online? (parents might be a bit more aware of the time their kids spend online when everyone is stuck in the house)
  - Do you have any digital resource questions?
  - How many activities would you like? (Optional, set a maximum)
  - What is your address? What name should I put on the envelope?

You can [use Google Forms](#) to post a link to a quick, free form online:
3. Go to these websites and find the appropriate resources::
  - [Scholastic: Free Printables for All Ages](#) (categorized by age and subject)
  - [Penguin: Download a Printable Puffin Activity Pack](#) (categorized by age)
  - [TotSchooling: 200+ Free Preschool Printables & Worksheets](#) (categorized by age)
  - [CommonSenseMedia](#): Resources and guides for parents, lesson plans for all ages. Set up a free account to print and send resources. Great for digital literacy, age-appropriate games, reviews, and more.
  - [CommonSenseMedia \(again\)](#): It's worth listing this separately to showcase their Coronavirus Pandemic "Learning at Home and Homework Help" resource set.
4. Print and mail.

## Upcoming

To see the list of upcoming classes, [click here](#). Here's what's coming up next:

<u>Dates of Class</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Registration</u>
May 25—June 12	Intellectual Freedom/Core Values	April 6—May 4
June 8—June 19	Reader's Advisory	May 4—May 29
July 6—July 17	Reference	June 1—June 26

# News Around the System

## Central City Library Staff Print Parts for Protective Face Shields

*By Sara Lee*

As Covid-19 spreads throughout the state, the staff at Central City Public Library quickly answered a call for help, from Nebraska Innovation Studio in Lincoln, NE. On March 28, Innovation Studio indicated on their Facebook page, that they were in need of facilities with 3D printers, to be able to help them print face shield parts for Nebraska hospitals. Shortly after we contacted them, Max Wheeler (shop instructional technician for Innovation Studio) emailed the library two 3D design files that were needed to print the two parts.

Our library has a brand new Ultimaker 3D printer in our Makerspace that we were able to use. We were also able to borrow a MakerBot 3D printer from Central City High School's Manufacturing Class. Library Director Sara Lee and Library Assistant Jamie Wright took turns manning the two 3D printers at the library, over a period of eight days. At the end of the eight days, our library was able to ship forty-six 3D printed pieces to Innovation Studio for assembly. Once assembled with clear plastic shields, this created a total of twenty three face shields. The face shields are distributed to Nebraska hospitals in need.

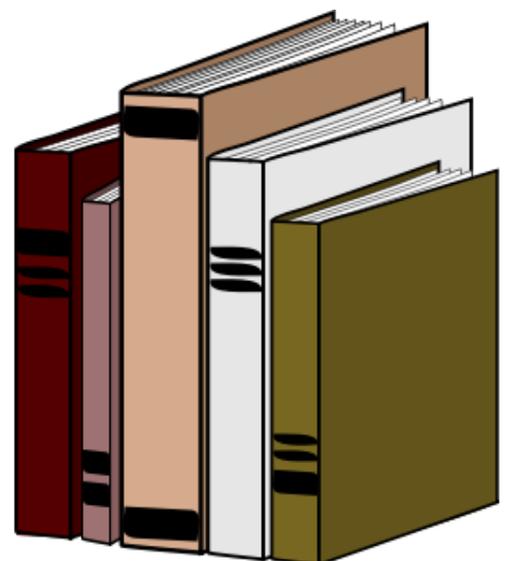
This has been a really special project for our library staff to be involved with. We're so glad that we can provide help to the heroic medical personnel, who are serving in the front lines, during this war that is currently being waged with Covid-19.



## Clarks Public Library Offers Curbside Delivery

*By Barbee Sweet*

At this time the Clarks Public Library is offering curbside deliveries. Patrons are asked to message the library on the library Facebook page with their wish list and a delivery time will be set up. The library is hoping that we will be able to continue with the Summer Reading Program as usual but we will continue to keep everyone up to date on that information



# News Around the System

## Bruning-Davenport Experiences Robotics Competition

*Story and photos by Beth Dolniczek*

Bruning-Davenport students spend most of January, all of February and the first part of March completing different activities in preparation for the Third Annual ESU#5 Robotics Competition on March 11th. All of the different "challenges" the students are given prepared them for driving RC cars via joysticks and switches coded on an iPad. The RC car also had to drive itself based solely upon code and different sensors. The afternoon was filled with Battle Bots (kind of like a demo derby) where points were awarded based upon pushing another robot out of bounds/flipping it over, and staying in the competition the longest. It was fun to compete in Beatrice against other ESU schools. Several students in grades 6-7 participated in the "challenges" but schools are limited in how many competitors they can take due to size constraints of the building. The students pictured are Luisa L. (6), Carolyn O. (7) and Alexis H. (7) with their RC car/robot Mr. Cactus the Awesome Robot.



## LPS Library Services Creates Learning Challenges

*Provided by Joy Harvey*

LPS Library Services created activities for PreK-12 students to learn and create while out of school. <https://lms.lps.libguides.com/LearningChallenges>



# News Around the System

## Dealing with COVID-19 at Stromsburg Public Library

*By Monica Ticyman, photos by Monica Tidyman*

The Stromsburg Public Library closed to the public on March 20, 2020. We have been doing pickup of materials in our entryway, quarantining returned materials in boxes for five days and taking “orders” by phone, email, or Facebook Messenger. We’ve been pleased with the continued use of the library.

Even though some tasks take longer than they used to I’m still finding myself with some extra time on my hands some days. During that time I’ve been working on weeding the library in preparation for moving over to the Apollo Library System.



## COVID-19 Pandemic Information for Nebraskans and Nebraska Libraries from the Nebraska Library Commission

[What about my business?](#)

[What about my library?](#)

[What about my health?](#)

[Where can I apply for unemployment?](#)

[Where can I get financial help?](#)

[What can I read at home for free?](#)

[What can I teach my kids at home?](#)

[What can I do for fun?](#)

[What about copyright for books online right now?](#)

# News Around the System

## Library Reaches Out to Seward Community

*By Charlotte Baldinger, photo by Olivia Garske*

“We are not bored!” is the library staff response to the current health crisis. As more and more restrictions cause doors to close, Seward Memorial Library is initiating ways to keep patrons safe and busy outside of the library building. Zoom has become an essential resource. Preschool children and their siblings are welcome to join in the weekly Story Time sessions. Elementary school children can listen to a Read Aloud book four afternoons each week by meeting on the computer. Several library book groups are also taking advantage of this resource to continue their book discussions and have some literary fellowship.

The library has expanded their use of social media with information changing daily. The community will be challenged to participate in a Virtual Scavenger Hunt in April. Using the online catalog, individuals will search for answers to a list of questions and submit them for prizes supplied by the Friends of Seward Library.

The newest magazine issues are now immediately available for checkout with no reading room delay. Book deliveries to the nursing home and retirement centers continue, with bags left in the facility lobbies and their staff assisting with delivery to individual rooms. The Fit4Seward outdoor game collection was released earlier than usual this year. Hold limits were raised so more items could be reserved during this time. A grace period was implemented to ease minds and decrease pressure for trips outside the home. The library drive-up window has been a treasure during this time! Just as each day broadcasts new concerns, the library is discovering new ways to lighten daily stress loads and spread some joy to our patrons. We smiled as one of them called through the window, “You are a godsend!”



## New Bulletin Board at Hebron Secret Library

*Photo by Judy Kassenbaum*

# GOLDEN SOWER READING DAY

FRIDAY, MAY 22 or later (TBD), 9-12:30

SEWARD MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
233 SOUTH 5TH STREET, SEWARD, NE

COME AND JOIN US! GET ACQUAINTED WITH 2021-2022 POTENTIAL PICTURE BOOK  
NOMINEES. WE WILL HAVE ALL OF THEM AVAILABLE FOR YOU TO READ!

Register at <http://bit.ly/2020GSower>



THE NEBRASKA  
*Golden Sower Award*





University of Missouri–Columbia  
School of Information Science and  
Learning Technologies (SISLT)

Nebraska & Iowa  
Virtual Open House

Saturday April 25, 2020  
10-11:30 am

Zoom (<https://mizzou.zoom.us/j/971992218>)

Join us for an open house and learn about the opportunity  
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## System Spotlight

# SELS WEBSITE

Looking for some information about Southeast Library System or its services? Google us from your phone, computer, or tablet. Usually the simple search “sels ne” brings us up as the first result.

When you land on our homepage, you will see blogposts. Usually the first is about an upcoming event.

You can also access a page that conveniently lists upcoming events and meetings, a page with information about each of our book kits, as well as current and previous newsletters, information about the journal article request service, and the details about SELS scholarships. If you haven't already, check out our website at <http://libraries.ne.gov/SELS/>



## Southeast Library System

<http://libraries.ne.gov/SELS/>

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Otoe • Pawnee • Polk • Richardson • Saline • Saunders • Seward • Thayer • York

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