

Roseburg Library Receives National Grant for Small and Rural Libraries
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Roseburg Public Library

Roseburg Public Library has been selected as one of 300 libraries to participate in round three of Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities, an American Library Association (ALA) initiative that provides community engagement and accessibility resources to small and rural libraries to help them better serve people with disabilities.

The competitive award comes with a \$10,000 grant that will help the library deliver services to adults with intellectual and physical disabilities.

Congratulations to our neighbors at Oakland Public Library and Friends of Myrtle Creek Library, who also were awarded this grant.

Roseburg's goals for the yearlong project include enhancing the library's welcoming space for conversation and learning; providing programming opportunities; evaluating and updating the materials collection; and encouraging participants to develop lasting connections with the library and staff.

As part of the grant, I will take an online course in how to lead conversations, a skill vital to library work today. I then will host conversations with adult patrons with disabilities about why they visit the library and how the library can serve them.

I have scheduled community conversations at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 3 and 6 p.m. Thursday, June 19. I'll bring pizza, and I ask patrons to bring their enthusiasm and ideas. If you are interested in attending, please contact me at kwiley@roseburgor.gov or 541-492-7051. Caregivers are welcome.

Note that I have reached out to several local nonprofit organizations who serve people with disabilities for additional conversations. If I have not contacted your group, please contact me, and I will schedule a meeting specifically for your clients.

Following those discussions, I will finalize the details for our project, which will launch in late summer and continue through April 2026. My hope is it's so successful the programs become a regular feature beyond the grant period.

Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities is an initiative of the ALA in collaboration with the Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL).

Library Closed Wednesday, April 23

A reminder that the library will be closed Wednesday, April 23 so the entire staff can attend training at the Oregon Library Association Conference in Eugene.

The book returns located in the parking lot and the library's lobby will be locked that day. Please hang onto items until the library reopens Thursday, April 24. The library does not assess late fees.

Next week's library event

Thursday, April 24, 6:30 p.m. – Silent Book Group