We’re Here for You in New Ways: 2020 Year in Review

It’s tempting to separate the past year into two distinct periods: “then” and “now,” “pre-pandemic” and “pandemic,” even “normal” and “new normal.” Even Library staff occasionally catch themselves waxing poetic about the time “before we had to close the buildings” or referring to the programming era “before Zoom.”

Yet through it all, the Library District has maintained its focus and sought innovative ways to continue serving our community.

As we take a look back on 2020 – with the appropriate jokes about hindsight – the staff would like to thank our customers and community for the continued support shown to us throughout the highs and lows of this year.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY
• Curiosity Pass program launches
• New online events calendar debuts
• Fort Collins Start Up Week takes place
• Census 2020 begins

FEBRUARY
• Library District buildings close due to public health and safety mandates related to COVID-19
• Library pivots to deliver services and expand access in new ways
• New digital resources and educational tools added for customers and students like TumbleMath
• OverDrive Digital “instant access” card made available
• Extended availability and access with Temporary Library Card
• Library YouTube channel debuts Spanish-language resources and informational videos
• Virtual storytime videos available on YouTube

MARCH
• Library Park playground reopens to the public
• Library’s Microfilm Digitization Project launches
• Virtual programs and classes take off with Zoom
• Creativebug online art and craft classes added
• Phone-a-Story service begins
• Curbside Pickup service begins at Old Town and Council Tree Libraries
• In a month period since the building closure, 77,385 digital items were accessed, compared to a monthly average of 54,000 prior to the closure
• During the month of April alone, the Library YouTube channel recorded 22,262 minutes of video content watched
• Virtual Summer Reading Challenge: Summer to Imagine begins
• Media Mentors create and share video tutorials to help customers use computers and technology
• In a month period since the building closure, 77,385 digital items were accessed, compared to a monthly average of 54,000 prior to the closure
• During the month of April alone, the Library YouTube channel recorded 22,262 minutes of video content watched
• Virtual Summer Reading Challenge: Summer to Imagine begins
• Library District begins its phased reopening by opening remote drop boxes to take materials returns, collecting some of the nearly 100,000 items that had been checked out prior to the March closure
• Curbside Pickup service begins at Old Town and Council Tree Libraries
• Phone-a-Story service begins
• Creativbug online art and craft classes added

APRIL
• Read alouds with a community helper debut on YouTube
• Business librarians work with the State Office of Economic Development and International Trade to assist small businesses
• Spanish-language Town Halls cover important topics like COVID-19, health and safety, and more
• Media Mentors create and share video tutorials to help customers use computers and technology
• In a month period since the building closure, 77,385 digital items were accessed, compared to a monthly average of 54,000 prior to the closure

MAY
• Harmony Library joins Curbside Pickup services
• Libraries add free printing to curbside services
• Virtual programs and classes take off with Zoom
• Library’s Microfilm Digitization Project launches
• Library Park playground reopens to the public with newly designed equipment
• Piloted Bag O’Book Service. During June, we filled 482 requests for 862 Bags.
• One parent said, “We are loving the Bag O’ Books! We can’t get enough!”

JUNE
• Library Park playground reopens to the public with newly designed equipment
• Distributed winter reading prizes
• Census 2020 begins
• Fort Collins Start Up Week takes place
• First Day to pick up and Daysi will give you a call the day you’re signed up.

JULY
• Participation in our US citizenship classes that provide guidance with the naturalization process. We will host three weekly virtual sessions. Classes will be in English.
• We plan fun programs, help shape the teen collection, discover exciting volunteer opportunities and more. Join us at our Zoom meeting to share your great ideas!

AUGUST
• Media Mentors create and share video tutorials to help customers use computers and technology
• In a month period since the building closure, 77,385 digital items were accessed, compared to a monthly average of 54,000 prior to the closure

SEPTEMBER
• Library Park playground reopens to the public with newly designed equipment
• Distributed winter reading prizes
• Census 2020 begins
• Fort Collins Start Up Week takes place
• First Day to pick up and Daysi will give you a call the day you’re signed up.

HOURS

CURBSIDE ONLY*
Monday – Friday
9:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Saturday
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Sunday
NOON – 5:00 PM

Check our website for updates.

DECEMBER PROGRAMS

SNAP Assistance
11:00 AM – Noon
Adults. Registration required. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) can help you put food on the table. Register through the online calendar at www.poudrelibraries.org/events and Daysi will give you a call the day you’re signed up.

Conversations in English
7:00 – 8:30 PM
Adults. Registration required. Conversations in English offers a friendly, informal setting for English language learners to practice their English and connect with others. No meetings on December 24 or 31.

First Day to pick up Winter Reading Prizes
www.poudrelibraries.org/winter

Teen take-and-Make: Create a Comic
December 1 - December 30
Grades 4-12
Create your own comic books with this take home kit from the Teen Librarians. The kits include templates and tips on how to write and draw your own comic book. Available at all three libraries while supplies last.

Teen Council
5:30 – 6:30 PM
Grades 6-12. Registration required. We plan fun programs, help shape the teen collection, discover exciting volunteer opportunities and more. Join us at our Zoom meeting to share your great ideas! Registration is required with an email address to receive a meeting invitation.

Citizenship Class
6:30 - 8:00 PM
Adults. Registration required. Participate in our US citizenship classes that provide guidance with the naturalization process. We will host three weekly virtual sessions. Classes will be in English. Register online at www.poudrelibraries.org/events or by phone at 970-658-3721.

Code for Fort Collins
6:30 – 8:00 PM
Adults, all ages.
Join Code for Fort Collins online (https://meet.google.com/hum-eqpk-bcg) to apply both coding and non-coding skills to different community projects. Find out more at http://codefortcoco.org/about/.

Free, Virtual Legal Clinic
2:00 - 3:30 PM
Adults. Registration required, 970-772-0442. Participants can have a short appointment with an attorney via phone call. To sign up, call beginning 2 weeks before the session and leave a message. The first 6 callers will get an appointment.

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As we turn toward the new year, the Library looks forward to new possibilities for innovating our services as we continue to serve our community. We welcome your suggestions and feedback for how to better meet your needs during the ongoing ups-and-downs related to the pandemic.

Here’s to a great 2021! Thank you for your support this past year.

**JULY**
- Grab-and-Go service begins providing in-person browsing and reference help
- Library responds to social justice concerns with virtual programs like “Showing Up for Racial Justice”
- New York Times Online available

**AUGUST**
- Libraries partner with PSD to support students and teachers in remote learning
- Push for K-12 students to sign up for library cards for remote access to resources. Between August and September, over 5,000 new physical or digital cards were requested, an increase of 300 cards compared to the same time last year.

**SEPTEMBER**
- Library re-visions its strategic plan to focus on K-12 Learning, Economic Recovery, Healthy Communities, and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
- Voter information and resources available on the website
- Washington Post Online available

**OCTOBER**
- Libraries expand their Grab-and-Go hours, make limited computer use available
- 5th annual Fort Collins Books Fest takes place virtually
- District eliminates overdue and extended-use fines on all library materials
- Council Tree Library serves as a voter service and polling center on Election Day
- Libraries return to Curbside Service only due to increased concern of COVID-19
- First ever Winter Reading Challenge starts
- Bundle o’ Books services launches

**NOVEMBER**
- District wide programs like “Showing Up for Racial Justice” have been archived on the channel so individuals can take part in the learning at their own convenience.
- Library staff continue to create entertaining and informational videos that help answer frequently asked questions about library resources, walk you through library services, and provide fun family activities at home. Videos are available in English and Spanish.

**Library Playlists on YouTube**

**The Library District’s YouTube channel has become a popular platform for the community to continue to experience storytimes and to keep up with technology tips and tutorials. Virtual programs like “Showing Up for Racial Justice” have been archived on the channel so individuals can take part in the learning at their own convenience.**

Library staff continue to create entertaining and informational videos that help answer frequently asked questions about library resources, walk you through library services, and provide fun family activities at home. Videos are available in English and Spanish.

Check out the video playlists available on the Library’s YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/constructpubliclibrary. Videos are uploaded frequently, so subscribe to the channel and don’t miss any.

The Library’s latest playlists feature:
- Virtual Storytime
- K-12 Learning & School-at-Home Resources
- How Do It Library Tutorials
- Family Fun
- Teen Life
- Tech Tips
- Digital Literacy & Computer Classes
- Career Development & Job Search
- Servicios y Recursos para la Comunidad
- Recursos para Negocios
- Dia de Muertos

**Library District's YouTube Channel Has Become a Popular Platform for the Community to Continue to Experience Storytimes and to Keep Up with Technology Tips and Tutorials. Library Staff Continue to Create Entertaining and Informational Videos That Help Answer Frequently Asked Questions About Library Resources, Walk You Through Library Services, and Provide Fun Family Activities at Home. Videos Are Available in English and Spanish.**

As we turn toward the new year, the Library looks forward to new possibilities for innovating our services as we continue to serve our community. We welcome your suggestions and feedback for how to better meet your needs during the ongoing ups-and-downs related to the pandemic.

Here’s to a great 2021! Thank you for your support this past year.
Citizenship Class

Wednesdays, December 2, 9 & 16, 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Our US citizenship classes provide guidance and help with the naturalization process. We will host three weekly virtual sessions in English. Register online or call 970-659-3721.

Old Town Virtual Book Club

Monday, December 7, 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Join us for the Old Town Virtual Book Club discussion of Virgin Wonder, written by Leif Enger. Register online to receive an invitation. The Zoom link will be sent the day before the event.

International Night - Iraq

Tuesday, December 8, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

The presentation will break down the complexities of Iraq's internal tensions between ethnic groups and religious sects, demographic pressures and oil dependency, and international relations with its neighbors and the USA. Zoom meeting information will be provided by email to registered participants.

Rekindle the Classics

Tuesday, December 15, 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Rekindle your love of classic literature with the CSU Department of English and Poudre Libraries! Join graduate students and faculty in lively and informative discussions of literature favorites. December title: White Teeth by Zadie Smith. Please see online calendar for event location.

Book Club for Mortals

Wednesday, December 16, 3:00 - 4:30 PM

Join us for a book club focusing on end-of-life themes facilitated by trained staff in advance care planning from the Health District of Larimer County. December title: When My Time Comes by Dianne Rehm. The conversation will center on decisions about the right for those dying to determine when life should end. To register for this Zoom meeting please email Mindy Rickard, Project Coordinator, at mrickard@healthdistrict.org.

Teen Council

Tuesday, December 1, 5:30 - 6:30 PM

Are you interested in making a difference in your library and community? We plan programs, help shape teen collection, discover volunteer opportunities, and more. Registration is required to join the Zoom meeting.

Teen Take-and-Make: Create a Comic

December 1 - 30, All Libraries

Create your own comic books with this take home kit from the Teen Librarians. The kits will be available while supplies last. Each kit will include templates for page layouts and tips on how to write and draw your own comic book. Grades 4 - 12.

Study Tips from the Teen Librarians

Every Friday the Teen Librarians from the Poudre River Public Library District will be providing study tips to help you make it through this crazy school year. From explanations of what databases are (and what they are good for) to suggestions on thrilling books to read, we've got you covered. You can find the videos at http://bit.ly/LibraryTeenLife.

Bake Café de Olla Infused Tres Leches Cake

Tuesday, December 8, 5:30 - 8:00 PM

In this hands-on virtual baking class, taught by renowned baker Elicio Lara, you’ll learn how to make Café de Olla infused tres leches cake. Elicio will guide us step by step from his kitchen in Mexico City. This class will be bilingual. Participants must provide their own ingredients and tools and have access to an oven. All ages. Space is limited. Sign up to receive the list of ingredients and the Zoom link.

Better than Takeout

Wednesday, December 16, 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Presented by Sapna Von Reich. Cooking at home instead of settling for takeout is the healthier option for you, your wallet, and your time. The best way to start eating at home is to learn some techniques and recipes to help you plan out your meals. So, we call all chefs who are looking for the inspiration to get rid of your takeaway menus and begin cooking for yourself. For participants ages 16-25. Registration is required to receive a Zoom meeting link.
Introducing the New Bundle o’ Books Service

After a successful pilot during the summer, the former Bag o’ Books service has been expanded, enhanced, and relaunched as Bundle o’ Books. This popular service offers quick checkout of a “bundle” of picture books, board books, or beginning reader books with just a few clicks of the button.

The Bundle o’ Books online service makes it convenient for parents and caregivers to provide a fresh selection of age-appropriate books to their young readers. It is available at all three libraries, even during Curbside Pickup hours.

A new online reservation system

When you reserve a Bundle o’ Books using our online reservation system (powered by KitKeeper), you can explore availability by library or by date and choose the type of bundle you’d like to reserve. Use your Poudre Libraries card to make your bundle reservation and pick it up from your library on your chosen date.

Our Bundle o’ Books webpage includes a link to the reservation system. From there you can browse availability, reserve your bundles, and review the “Help” guide.

Curated selection of quality children’s books

Each Bundle is picked by a librarian to present a variety of content, themes, and styles, expressing ethnic, cultural, and geographic diversity. Book selections are sure to engage and delight young readers.

English and Spanish-language book bundles are available

You can choose whether you’d like your Bundle to be filled with English or Spanish-language picture books, board books, or beginning reader books. Picture books and beginning reader books are available in bundles of 10; board books are available in bundles of 5.

What You Need to Know

• A Poudre River Public Library District library card and an email address are required.
• Two (2) Bundles may be reserved within a 21-day period.
• Bundles must be picked up on the chosen reservation date.
• Pick up your Bundle at the library indicated in the Bundle description. Bundles will not be transferred between library buildings.
• An email notification will be sent when the Bundle is ready to be picked up.
• Books in the bundle are checked out separately and may be renewed or returned separately.

Visit www.poudrelibraries.org and select the large button to access the Bundle o’ Books webpage and get started. If you have any questions about the Bundle o’ Books service or need help reserving your bundle, please call the Answer Center at 970-221-6740.