Rewind / Fast Forward

As we turn the page on the calendar to begin a new year, we wanted to take a moment to revisit some of the strategic projects that happened in 2021 before looking forward to what you can expect from your libraries in the year ahead.

2021 Rewind

Enhancements to the Digital Experience
During 2021, we worked with Solus to design and launch a new library app, My Poudre Libraries App. The new app offers improved access to your online library account, library catalog search, events calendar and program registration, digital resources and databases, library locations and hours, and other great content. Perhaps most importantly, the app stores your 14-digit library card number and those of your family – for as long as you are logged in.

Children’s Story Stroll and Outdoor Storytimes
Hundreds of families enjoyed Story Strolls around town during 2021. The first one debuted in downtown Fort Collins in February and was quickly followed by versions at Front Range Village Shopping Center, FRGC-Larimer Campus, and other areas around town. The Story Strolls, combined with our many outdoor storytimes at places like the CSU Environmental Learning Center, gave families an opportunity to get outside and read together in a fun, active way.

Promote Workforce Resilience
2021 was the year of the Great Resignation, but that didn’t mean that people weren’t still searching for new jobs and career opportunities. One of the new ways the Library District helped job seekers last year was through the new Digital Roots Navigator program and the Northstar Digital Literacy service. Both are free community resources designed to help individuals’ digital skills and support job searches.

Help Bridge the Digital Divide
The pandemic shined a spotlight on the digital inequity across the U.S. Many of our friends and neighbors do not have access to technology or internet necessary to work and school. At the start of 2021, Poudre Libraries partnered with the City of Fort Collins to provide Chromebooks for check out. These tablets are available through our Gadgets & Things Collection along with other take-home technologies like MiFi Hotspots.

New ESL Mentoring Service
The ESL Mentoring service launched in 2021 and quickly became a popular resource for local newcomers and English language learners. The program provides free mentoring to intermediate adult ESL learners who want to improve their language skills. Mentors help connect learners to the community through partnerships, collaboration, and resource navigation based on learner goals. Learners have gone on to reach goals that include becoming a U.S. citizen, finding new careers and internships, pursuing higher education, and much more.

Improvements to Library Spaces
We are always looking for ways to improve our libraries and make them a welcoming place for our community. During the summer, Harmony Library underwent a remodel of its interior spaces along with a much-needed upgrade to the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system. The project brought more light and open space to public areas.

Old Town Library saw two construction projects in 2021. First, the upgrades to the computer lab area, and then a more extensive refresh, particularly of the lobby and 2nd floor reading area (which we all like to call the “treehouse” for its beautiful windows overlooking Library Park’s trees).

Continued on page 2.

JANUARY 2022 CALENDAR

Welcome to the

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Welcome to the
New Executive Director Begins

Our new executive director, Diane Lapierre, takes the helm starting January 4. She has a long professional history of success in public libraries, most recently as the director of Loveland Public Library. Everyone at the library is excited for this next chapter for our community.

More Improvements to Library Spaces

This year it’s Council Tree Library’s turn for interior updates. The library’s Teen Area will get a face lift in order to support the increased use of the space and meet the changing needs of this group of library users. A beautiful and welcoming Teen Area sends the message that the library values teens by reserving a space in the library where they can take ownership.

Laptop Lending Kiosk

As part of our efforts to help close the digital gap, we’re investigating a new self-service laptop lending kiosk for customers to check out individual laptops for use inside the library. These laptops would be available in addition to the existing public computer stations. This project is just getting underway, so stay tuned for more details.

Enjoy Browsing the Collection

Not only will we continue to add materials to our collection (like new organizations in our Curiosity Pass program and new gadgets), but we’re focusing on improving the browsing experience in the libraries. One of the most enjoyable parts of visiting the library is finding new books and authors on the shelves! This year, look for improved shelving and configurations to provide easier access to materials as you stroll the aisles.

Ongoing EDI Work

Many of you participated in our survey around equity, diversity, and inclusion at the library. Our partners from Think Again will be analyzing the results and sharing with us their recommendations for how we can continue to improve library services to the entire community. We look forward to hearing feedback on how we can make your library programs, services, and collections even better.

Get Back Out into the Community

One of the activities our library staff has missed the most is interacting with the community at local events and programs. We feel optimistic we can return to more in-person activities around town and make your library programs, services, and collections available. We’re hopeful that we can get back out on the Book Bike for storytimes and resume in-person outreach programs. In the meantime, we’ll continue to find innovative ways to deliver programs and services to you.

Wishing you and yours a wonderful new year – see you at the library!
Hands-On Tech
Internet Beyond Basics
1:00 – 2:30 PM, Tuesday, January 4, Old Town Library
Registration required. Discover tips and tools for online security and privacy. Learn how to access browser data and privacy settings and discover tips for identifying online scams. Before taking this class, we recommend that you know how to open and use a browser. These skills are covered on our “Hands-On Tech: Internet Basics” class. All equipment is provided, or bring your own device.

Create a Gmail Email Address
1:00 – 2:30 PM, Tuesday, January 11, Old Town Library
Registration required. You have probably discovered an email address is necessary for so many things in the world. In this hands-on class, we will help you create a Gmail account and use Gmail efficiently and effectively. All equipment is provided, or bring your own device.

Library to Go
3:00 – 4:30 PM, Saturday, January 22, Old Town Library
Registration required. If we’ve learned anything over the course of the last year, it’s that so much can be done from home - even checking out library books and movies! In this hands-on class, we will show you how to use the rich resources of the library for use at home or on the go, from downloadable eBooks, audiobooks and movies to databases like LinkedIn Learning (formerly Lynda.com) and CreativeBug. Simply bring your own tablet, phone or laptop and we will show you the rest. Please bring your own devices.

Microsoft Word Basics
1:00 – 2:30 PM, Tuesday, January 25, Old Town Library
Registration required. Learn and practice the basics of Microsoft Word. We will help you create, edit and save documents. All equipment is provided, or you may bring your own device.

Money Matters: Budgeting & Saving Virtual Class
6:00 – 7:00 PM, Wednesday, January 19
Tell your money where to go instead of wondering where it went! Did the pandemic catch you off-guard financially? Using a budget and having emergency savings can help you fight back against life challenges. Pick up the tools and resources at this seminar to get started mastering your money goals, setting spending plans, tracking expenses, and taking control of your financial future. This seminar is part of the Money Matters series of personal financial literacy in collaboration with libraries and credit unions across the Front Range. See the online calendar for registration information.

January Book Clubs
Old Town Virtual Book Club
6:30 – 8:00 PM, Monday, January 17, Zoom
Registration Required. Join us for a discussion of Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine, by Gail Honeyman. Free and open to the public, but you must register to receive an invitation. Once registered, you will receive the Zoom link.

Rekindle the Classics
6:30 - 8:00 PM, Tuesday, January 18, Zoom
Adults. Registration required. Rekindle your love of classic literature with the CSU Department of English and Poudre Libraries! Join CSU graduate students and faculty in lively and informative discussions of literature favorites. This month’s title is: Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass by Frederick Douglass. Presented via Zoom. Meeting link provided via email after online registration.

Book Club for Mortals
3:00 – 4:30 PM, Wednesday, January 19, Zoom
For January’s program, we will be discussing Life in 20 Lessons: What a Funeral Guy Discovered about Life, from Death by Chris Meyer. Join us for a book club focusing on end-of-life themes facilitated by professionals and trained staff in advance care planning from the Health District of Larimer County. To register please email Mindy Rickard at mrickard@healthdistrict.org.

Club de lectura Café de Olla
7:00 – 8:30 PM, Zoom
Adults. Registration required.

Money Matters: Drop-in Job Search Assistance
6:00 – 7:00 PM, Zoom
Adults. Tell your money where to go instead of wondering where it went! Did the pandemic catch you off-guard financially? Using a budget and having emergency savings can help you fight back against life challenges. Pick up the tools and resources at this seminar to get started mastering your money goals, setting spending plans, tracking expenses, and taking control of your financial future. This seminar is part of the Money Matters series of personal financial literacy in collaboration with libraries and credit unions across the Front Range. See the online calendar for registration information.

Club de lectura Café de Olla
7:00 – 8:30 PM, Zoom
Adults. Registration required.
Unete al club de lectura en español Café de Olla y acompañanos a conversar sobre Las cosas que perdimos en el fuego de Mariana Enriquez. Café de Olla se renueva virtualmente de forma bimensual el tercer jueves del mes. Regístrate para recibir el enlace de Zoom y solicitar el libro en caso de necesitarlo. Se proporcionaran copias del libro a las 15 primeras personas que lo soliciten. ¡Preguntas? Llámanos 970-658-3721
This program is offered in Spanish.

Imaginantes: Get Prepped to Get Hired / Prepare para que te contraten
5:30 – 6:30 PM, Zoom
Teens ages 14-18 years. Registration required.
Everyone starts somewhere! Join us in this virtual presentation where you will begin to build your first job. Walk away knowing the tools you need to be successful in your job search which include finding opportunities, what you’ll need to apply, and how to highlight early experiences in a way employers will notice. Sign up to receive Zoom link and free pizza. Interpretation to Spanish available. Presented by Larimer County Economic & Workforce Development’s CareerRise Team. Resumé es una presentación virtual donde aprendas cómo comenzar tu primer trabajo. Para adolescentes de 14 a 18 años. Regístrate para recibir el enlace de Zoom. ¡Pide pizza gratis! Interpretación al español disponible. Presentado por el equipo de Larimer County Economic & Workforce Development’s CareerRise Team.

How to Make Your Resume ROAR
3:00 – 4:30 PM, Old Town Library
Adults. Registration required.
Everyone starts somewhere! Join us in this virtual presentation where you will begin to build your first job. Walk away knowing the tools you need to be successful in your job search which include finding opportunities, what you’ll need to apply, and how to highlight early experiences in a way employers will notice. Sign up to receive Zoom link and free pizza. Interpretation to Spanish available. Presented by Larimer County Economic & Workforce Development’s CareerRise Team. Resumé es una presentación virtual donde aprendas cómo comenzar tu primer trabajo. Para adolescentes de 14 a 18 años. Regístrate para recibir el enlace de Zoom. ¡Pide pizza gratis! Interpretación al español disponible. Presentado por el equipo de Larimer County Economic & Workforce Development’s CareerRise Team.

Drop-in Job Search Assistance
1:00 – 3:00 PM, Old Town Library
Adults. Registration required.

Hands-On Tech: Library to Go
3:00 – 4:30 PM, Old Town Library
Adults. Registration required.
In this hands-on class, we will show you how to use the rich resources of the library for use at home or on the go, from downloadable eBooks, audiobooks and movies to databases like LinkedIn Learning (formerly Lynda.com) and CreativeBug. Simply bring your own tablet, phone or laptop and we will show you the rest. Please bring your own devices.

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**DIY Stories & Songs**

5:00 - 11:30 AM
TUESDAYS – FRIDAYS
Old Town Library
201 Peterson St.

*10:00 - 11:30 AM  WEDNESDAYS
Harmony Library
4616 S. Shields St.
*Beginning January 5

**Drop in to read, sing, play and connect with other humans!**

- Stories
- Songs
- Activities
- Coloring pages

**Program Highlights**

**Nerf Battle for Teens**

7:00 – 8:30 PM, Sunday, January 2

Council Tree Library

Teens are invited to take over the library for a Nerf Battle of epic proportions. We’ll have refreshments, team competitions, target practice, and more. Participants are welcome to bring their own blasters, but we will have blasters for teens who don’t. We’ll also provide everyone with darts. Teens may bring blasters that use darts but please leave personal darts at home. For ages 12 to 18.

**Teen Council**

5:30 – 7:30 PM, Tuesday, January 4

Harmony Library

Calling all teens in grades 6-12! Are you interested in making a difference in your library and community? If so, the Teen Council is the place for you! We’ll meet once a month to plan fun programs, help shape the teen collection, discover exciting volunteer opportunities and more.

**Dungeons & Dragons for Teens**

1:00 – 4:00 PM, Saturday, January 8

Virtual Event

Join our Dungeon Master for a fun-filled game of D&D on Zoom using Roll20. If you’re new to the game, no worries! We will create a character for you and show you the way. Please register with an email address so we can send you the Zoom link on the morning of the game. Grades 6-12

**Yoganna Relax**

5:00 – 6:00 PM, Tuesday, January 11

Old Town Library

Need to take a breather? Come join mindful relaxation and yoga for tweens and teens! As a relaxation aid, please wear loose clothing for moving in. Yoga matts provided, and accompanying movements, and take a moment to breath attuned to your body, build confidence in your yoga, Qigong, Tai Chi, and breathing, that can help you manage life stressors. Become more aware of D&D on Zoom using Roll20.

**Teen Writers**

4:30 – 5:30 PM, Tuesday, January 18

Harmony Library

Registration required. Are you ready to flex your creative brain muscles? Welcome to Teen Writers, a support and critique group for teens who love to write. Short stories, novels, poetry, screenplays - whatever your passion, we’re here to help and encourage. We will have writing exercises, prompts for ideas, and peer editing. Bring a piece you’ve already been working on to share with the group or start something brand new, all teen writers are welcome!

**IMAGINANTES: Get Prepped to Get Hired / Prepárate para que te contraten**

5:30 – 6:30 PM, Tuesday, January 25

Martes 25 de enero

Learn how to land your first job. Sign up to receive the Zoom link. Free pizza! Interpretation to Spanish available. Presented by Larimer County Economic & Workforce Development’s CareerRise Team.


**STORYTIMES**

The library offers a variety of Storytimes, including in-person outdoor, bilingual, telephone, and drop-in formats. See details at www.poudrelibraries.org/events

**GO EXPLORING TOGETHER.**

Read with your kids on Libby, the library reading app.

**TEEN & TWEEN PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

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