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FUTURE FIREFIGHTERS



Ashley Morck, 13, helps her younger brother Anthony Morck, 2, carry a fire hose as part of the Pueblo Fire Department's Fire Fit Kids collaboration with the Pueblo City-County Library Books in the Park event at Ray Aguilera Park, formerly Bessemer Park, on Wednesday. CHIEFTAIN PHOTO/ZACHARY ALLEN

FOX 21 NEWS **RIGHT NOW**

LOCAL

\$12.5 million renovation for Rawling Library starts Aug. 16

by: [Dani Birzer](#)

Posted: Aug 9, 2021 / 05:38 PM MDT / Updated: Aug 9, 2021 / 05:38 PM MDT

PUEBLO, Colo. — The \$12.5 million renovation project for the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library will start on Monday, Aug. 16. During the renovations, the library will remain open.

Furniture, flooring, fixtures, HVAC equipment and other features will be updated and/or replaced, and an outdoor event space and mobility plaza will be added to the location.

The library's executive director Jon Walker said, "The Rawlings Library is a key amenity in Pueblo, and I am pleased that after nearly two decades of heavy public use, we are revitalizing this library so it remains a key community asset for many years to come."

The renovations will be executed by Denver-based Anderson Mason Dale Architects and HBM Architects of Cleveland, Ohio.

The president of HBM Architects, Peter Bolek, said, "The Rawlings Library, originally created by Antoine Predock and AMD, is a treasured and important piece of architecture in Pueblo. The relationship between HBM and AMD allows our team to provide a progressive, future-focused library design for the Pueblo community rooted in HBM's decades of experience working with libraries combined with AMD's direct intimate knowledge of the original design and creative vision."

Construction will occur according to the following calendar:

- Phase 1: Site work and First floor to take place during the Summer/Fall 2021
- Phase 2: Second floor, to take place during the Winter/Spring 2022
- Phase 3: Third floor, Spring 2022
- Phase 4: Fourth floor, Summer 2022

Fredrick Quintana, president and member of the Pueblo City-County Library District, said, "As we look to the future of PCCLD, this update and refresh will keep Rawlings on the cutting edge of library services and continue to be forward-thinking as we work to exceed the expectations of our community."

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By: [Andy Koen](#)
Posted at 6:20 PM, Aug 12, 2021
and last updated 2021-08-12 20:20:51-04

PUEBLO, Colorado — Pueblo's million-dollar summer reading giveaway is about halfway through. Local students who participate in the [Reading Pops program](#) can earn \$100 as a reward for checking out and reading 10 books from the library this summer through the end of September.

The money comes from federal stimulus funds distributed to the City of Pueblo and Pueblo County through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA.)

Jon Walker, Executive Director of the Pueblo Library District, said summer reading programs prevent learning loss between the school years.

"With this special disruption that happened this last school year, we know that that is sort of redoubled," he explained.

"You had sort of a disrupted school year, some of the kids didn't get their full educational interaction, and then the idea was well, they'll have even more with the summer."

When students finish reading their books, they must submit proof to the librarian. That can be a book report, a short essay, a drawing, or a video.

Walker is impressed with the creativity students have shown in their videos. For example, pair of brothers who checked out 10 cookbooks recorded themselves reading recipes and preparing dishes from the books.

"Their mom went along with it, I know she had a little clean-up to do after all of that," Walker said.

The library district has already given out \$350,000 worth of certificates for kids to take to the bank to earn their cash reward.

Walker said many of the students opted to put their reward money in savings for college. Others have cashed in to go shopping.

He wants to encourage all of the children who are participating this summer to finish their books.

[Click here to learn more about Pueblo's Million Dollar Reading Challenge](#)

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Site Search...

by: [Dani Birzer](#)

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PUEBLO, Colo. — The Pueblo Library network announced on Twitter today that effective on Wednesday, Sept. 1, all Pueblo Library locations will require both patrons and staff to wear face masks, regardless of vaccination status.

Executive director of Pueblo City-County Library District Jon Walker, said, "It is important for us to put into place, for now, a masking requirement for everyone entering local libraries given the current mounting increase of COVID-19 transmission locally. This aligns local libraries with the recent health order regarding schools and daycares, and it is consistent with the actions of other local public institutions to help address this problem."

The library said that for those who are unable to wear a mask services such as curbside pickup of materials, curbside printing, online reference assistance and more are available.

To stay up to date, [visit their website here](#).