

2020

LIBRARY

YEAR IN REVIEW

Your help now is more important than ever



Dear Library Patron,

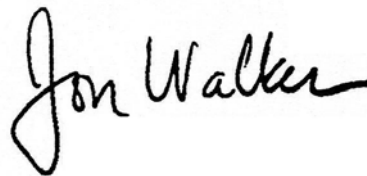
Thank you for supporting the Pueblo City-County Library District (PCCLD). Your help now is more important than ever. 2020 has been a difficult year for all of us, including your public library. This is the single most challenging

year I personally have experienced since beginning my career in public libraries in the late 1970s. The COVID-19 public health crisis has dramatically impacted our libraries as it has nearly everything in our world today. We were knocked off balance by the sudden onset of the pandemic beginning in March and, ever since, the PCCLD team has been striving within the constraints of necessary public health restrictions to fulfill our vital community mission.

We are pleased there have been no COVID-19 virus outbreaks on any library campus to date in Pueblo County. We are equally proud about our ongoing support for local citizens' reading, study and learning needs even in these challenging times. Our libraries have temporarily reshaped services due to the virus. We have innovated by mailing books to patrons' homes, offering curbside checkout of library materials, and providing in-home use of library Internet hotspots and laptops. We even created a fully online and virtual branch library.

We also are looking ahead beyond COVID-19. As medical experts help us get the virus under control, we will return to normal life and public libraries will be one key to ensuring our quality of life. We pride ourselves at PCCLD for providing the best possible public library service for our community. PCCLD has a great reputation and strong support both locally among the members of our community as well as a notable regional and national reputation as a leader in the library industry.

We are asking for your help to continue this great legacy into the future. Please consider a gift of support for PCCLD's ongoing success as a trusted and respected institution providing free and open access to books and library materials, public computing and online services, research and reference materials and services, and public space for people to gather together to study and learn. The new year will be among the most important in memory for PCCLD to fulfill this promise.



Jon Walker
Executive Director

RAWLINGS LIBRARY UPGRADE, SEE INSIDE

PUEBLO CITY-COUNTY
LIBRARY
Ideas · Imagination · Information

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

THE LIBRARY AT HOME

Public health orders issued due to the COVID-19 pandemic, necessitated that the Pueblo City-County Library District's buildings closed to the public on March 13. The library quickly pivoted its services to the community with increased e-resources, development of livestream programming, curbside holds pickup and the take-home craft program Kits2Go.

Per closure, the webpage "Library @ Home" was created as a hub for access to e-resources, virtual programming, at-home learning resources and more.

Patrons were able to easily access e-books, digital magazines, downloadable audiobooks, streaming

movies, music, television shows and online research and learning tools.

In addition to e-resources, the district purchased hardware and software to aid with livestreaming PCCLD programs that normally would have been held in person. Chief among these were the purchase of eight Padcasters, an all-in-one video recording system as well as the livestreaming software StreamYard. Each

of the branches within the district have their own Padcaster and accompanying



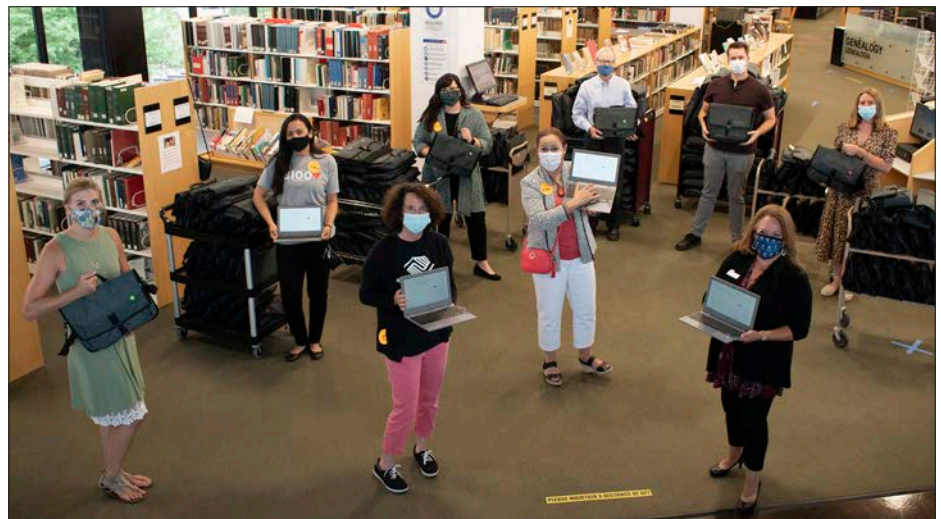
Padcasters are used to livestream the All Pueblo Reads author talk.

Facebook and YouTube pages with which to livestream all programs.

BUILDING DIGITAL EQUITY

Thanks to a generous grant, nearly 300 school kids throughout Pueblo County received Google Chromebooks. Pueblo City-County Library District was awarded a grant from the Sperry S. and Ella Graber Packard Fund for Colorado to purchase the devices and other materials. Selection of the students was made by community partners: the Boys & Girls Club of Pueblo County, CASA of Pueblo, Posada of Pueblo and Pueblo Department of Social Services; selection was based on the level of need of the kids within each respective program.

Starting in July, recipients picked up their Chromebook school kit through the district's curbside pickup service. In addition to a Chromebook, each recipient got: an age appropriate book, two craft kits, a computer bag, automatic enrollment in partnering agencies virtual programs and enrollment in PCCLD's Summer Reading program.



Community partners pose in Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library with the 275 Chromebook school kits that are slated to be given to area students. Front row, from left: Courtney Seder, Posada; Becky Medina Boys and Girls Club of Pueblo County; Tammy Prutch, CASA. Middle row, from left: Dr. Velia Rincon, Advisory board, Sperry S. and Ella Graber Packard Fund for Pueblo; Angela Giron, Boys and Girls Club of Pueblo County; Melanie Bravo, Program Director, Sperry S. and Ella Graber Packard Fund for Pueblo. Back row, from left: Jon Walker, PCCLD; Nick Potter, PCCLD and Bree Pappan, PCCLD.

In addition handing out more than 100 internet hotspots during the first round, in August the district gave out an additional 300 hotspots to families in both Pueblo School District 60 and Pueblo County School District 70. While a majority of students in both school districts now had access to digital devices, internet access remained and still remains an issue.

According to the website BroadbandNow.com, Pueblo County is currently the 60th most connected city in Colorado while being the 10th most populated county in the state. Approximately 2,000 household in Pueblo County do not have access to wired internet and approximately 11,000 households do not have access to 25 Mbps wired broadband.

2020 ALL PUEBLO READS

The 2020 NEA Big Read All Pueblo Reads literacy project was unlike any other. This year's selection was Pulitzer Prize finalist novel, *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien. For younger readers, the companion book was *What Was the Vietnam War* by Jim O'Connor.

Due to the pandemic precautions, the month-long literacy program was nearly an all virtual affair. This also included the annual Booklovers Ball. This year's Pueblo Library Foundation fundraiser raised more than \$20,000 and was supported by 21 generous sponsors. In lieu of an in-person gala, ticket buyers were able to have a ball at home with a Booklovers Ball in a Box as well as have exclusive online access to Tim O'Brien.

Both events featuring the APR authors were livestreamed on the district's Facebook and YouTube pages. Both authors spoke to students in Pueblo School District 60 and Pueblo County



Nearly 800 veterans and their families from throughout southeastern Colorado were aided during the Veterans Food Distribution sponsored by The Center for American Values and hosted by PCCLD.



NEA Big Read All Pueblo Reads author Tim O'Brien delivered his Booklovers Ball presentation from his home in Austin, Texas.

School District 70. O'Brien wrapped up All Pueblo Reads with a livestreamed public author talk on November 6.

The October 2nd kickoff was the only in-person event. It was held in the Rawlings Library parking lot and featured a live concert by local band The Blue Pepper Trio and a drive-in movie, co-sponsored by the Pueblo Parks and Recreation Department.

Nearly 120 programs were scheduled for the month-long literacy project. Among the featured programs were: Kathryn Clark Childers, a Pueblo



Kathryn Clark Childers

native and one of the first women to serve in the Secret Service, a veteran food distribution that aided nearly 800 veterans and their families from throughout the southeastern Colorado area and a Vietnamese language storytime.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

It may be hard to believe but the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library is almost 20 years old. In that time, the building has served millions of patrons and seen much change in technology, community needs, and library services.

Beginning mid-2021, the Rawlings Library will undergo a fundamental renovation to provide library services that meet community needs now and

into the future. A few of the improvements that will take place include an expanded youth services area, creation of a mobility plaza to create better access to the building, and an increased fourth floor event space.



Architectural rendering of the renovated entrance to Rawlings Library





FOUR WAYS TO YOUR LIBRARY

Libraries are important cornerstones of a healthy community.

The Pueblo City-County Library District is an award-winning library that gives people the opportunity to find employment, explore research, experience new ideas, get lost in wonderful stories, while at the same time providing a sense of place for gathering.

Libraries are a unique and valuable resource. It is a lifeline to the world and all the information in it.

Please consider a donation to PCCLD to ensure that Pueblo's libraries continue to improve lives in countless ways.

**Year-End
Donation**



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