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DISTRICT DISC@VERY



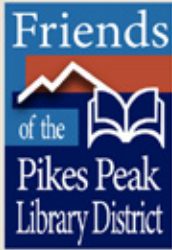
ALL PIKES PEAK
READS

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Join the Friends of PPLD, Support Libraries, and Inspire Young Readers!



JOIN NOW



Letter from the **CEO**

Thank you for picking up the latest edition of District Discovery!

Inside, you will find information on many services Pikes Peak Library District (PPLD) offers, including meeting spaces, programs for all ages, and our annual community reads initiative, All Pikes Peak Reads.

But do you know how the Library budgets the money for these services and where that money comes from?

You can learn more about our budget on page 12. We take pride in being wise stewards of taxpayer funds, and this overview of PPLD's budget process, funding, and allocations will show you some of what goes into that effort.

Financial sustainability is important to us, and we plan to offer our community a wide range of services for many years to come!

Teona Shainidze-Krebs
Chief Executive Officer
Pikes Peak Library District





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If ghosts are on your mind this time of year, you are in good company at Pikes Peak Library District (PPLD). You will find hauntingly good books in our collection and spirited fall programs like Spooky Stacks and Spooky Stroll-a-Story to put you in the seasonal mood. In addition to these offerings, we also have a few ghost stories of our own. Some of our Libraries are said to be haunted.

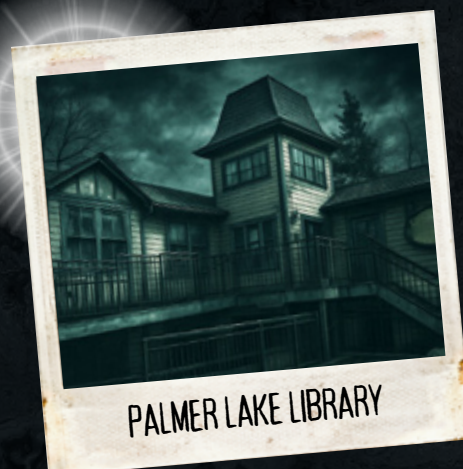


GHOSTS AT THE LIBRARY

by Carla Bamesberger

PALMER LAKE LIBRARY

At Palmer Lake Library hangs a portrait of Lucretia Vaile, a Denver librarian who donated funds that went to the purchase of the building. Staff frequently observe the lights that illuminate the portrait flickering in the evening. The electrical system has been checked for shorts or bad bulbs, but none have been discovered. Perhaps Lucretia is still around enjoying the beautiful views.



OLD COLORADO CITY LIBRARY

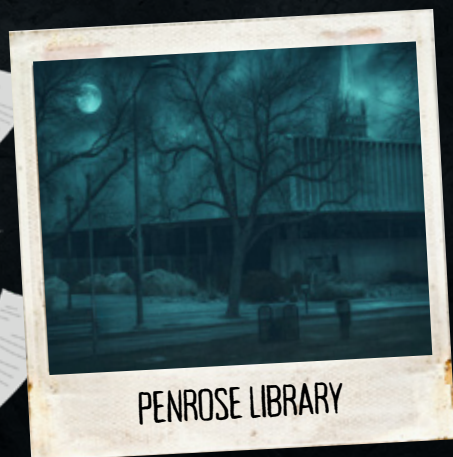
With over 120 years of history under its roof, it may not come as a surprise that Old Colorado City Library is said to have a haunted basement. From time to time, night crews cleaning after hours have heard muffled conversations between two distinct voices floating up the stairs when nobody else should be around. When they investigate, the basement is always empty. Night crews have also mentioned experiencing strange sensations or seeing mysterious shadows moving through the brick-and-stone rooms downstairs.





CALHAN LIBRARY

When you visit Calhan Library, you can see the whole building if you stand in the middle of the room. What you won't see, however, is the mysterious force behind the unexplained happenings that staff frequently deal with. It isn't uncommon for staff to hang flyers for upcoming Library programs only to find them on the floor when they come in the next morning. Clocks have also been known to regularly fall off of the wall, and the doorstop that holds the bathroom door shut occasionally flies into the air for no observable reason. Staff also often hear typing sounds coming from the printer kiosk when nobody is standing near it.



PENROSE LIBRARY

Our historic newspaper archives reveal another mysterious happening at the Library District that has never been solved. In December 1976, The Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph published a story about shelving units in the lower level of Penrose Library that toppled over in the night. An entire section of bookshelves holding 30,000 books fell like dominos. Library staff were puzzled and had no explanation at the time of publication. With no follow-up story in the archives, we may never know if this was the work of vandals, an undiscovered problem with the shelving, or something otherworldly.

Any Library ghosts behind these mysterious phenomena politely keep to themselves during business hours. We are disappointed to report that we have not yet had any ghosts offer to host a program for the community to enjoy. If you are looking for more haunting seasonal fun at the Library, join us for these upcoming programs:

2025 Spooky Stacks

Mon., Oct. 27 and Tue., Oct. 28

Tours begin at 5:30 p.m.

Regional History & Genealogy
Department (at Penrose Library)

Delve into famous deaths in Pikes Peak region history as you wander the dimly lit stacks of the historic Carnegie Library at Penrose Library. Spirits still linger in the items collected here in our Regional History & Genealogy collection. Those under 18 years old must be accompanied by an adult. *Registration required at tiny.pppld.org/spooky-stacks.*

Spooky Stroll-a-Story

Available Oct. 1 – 31

Old Colorado City Library

Take a spooky stroll in Old Colorado City while reading a fall-themed picture book. Each page is located at a different business nearby. When you find a page, head inside – there may be a special treat waiting for kids! *Pick up a map at Old Colorado City Library or print one at ppld.org/stroll-a-story.*

Strange Colorado with Erin Taylor

Sat., Oct. 25 | 2 – 3:30 p.m.

East Library

Sat., Nov. 1 | 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Library 21c

Explore the urban legends of Colorado and discover the odd, spooky, and macabre with author and paranormal investigator Erin Taylor. She will share some of her investigations into state lore, such as the Pikes Peak Highway's Phantom Hitchhiker, Tommyknockers in the mountains, and the aliens of the San Luis Valley.

Moby Dick:

Guy picks fight with whale.

Whale wins.

Is TikTok changing the way we read?

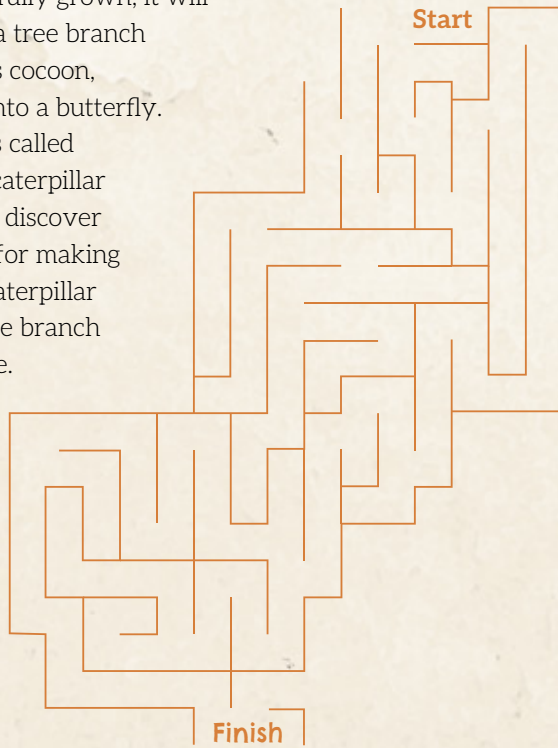
Swipe right to page 16.

Metamorphosis Maze

When a caterpillar is fully grown, it will find a safe space like a tree branch to spin a cocoon. In its cocoon, the caterpillar turns into a butterfly. This transformation is called *metamorphosis*. Our caterpillar friend is on a quest to discover the ideal tree branch for making its cocoon. Help the caterpillar find its way to the tree branch at the end of the maze.



Start



Finish



Find the Shadow

Look closely... Can you match the purple butterfly to its shadow?



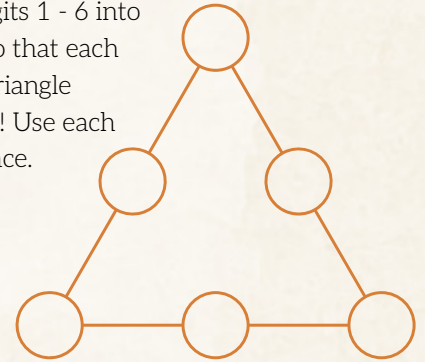
Word Mix

Pair the drawings together to create seven or more new words!



Magic Triangle

Place the digits 1 - 6 into the circles so that each side of the triangle adds up to 9! Use each digit only once.



Nature Is Pretty...Cool!

Remove one letter at a time to create new words! There is more than one right answer.



Answers on p. 19



Rosemary Mosco, author of the All Pikes Peak Reads 2025 title *Butterflies Are Pretty... Gross!*, has been enthralled by nature since she was a little kid growing up in Ottawa, Canada.

"My mom would flip over logs, and we would play with the snakes. She would point out birds," remembers Mosco. "I was a very shy and anxious kid, so I would just run off and hang out in the woods. It was a refuge."

Her love of books and libraries formed at a young age, as well.

"There was a branch of the Ottawa Public Library that was walkable from my house, and I spent many of my weekends there, just reading everything. I would pick a subject that I really liked and try to read every book about it."

Even a massive ice storm in January 1998 couldn't keep Mosco from her beloved library. "I really wanted to get to the library, so I remember sliding on solid ice, just slipping my way there. I think it took an hour to walk to the library."

A pivotal moment came when 8-year-old Mosco was at summer camp. Science educator Michael

Léveillé visited with "this huge pad of paper and all of us sat around. [He was drawing] cartoons of the history of life, doing little voices, and he was so funny. I was just transfixed. I was learning so much. I was like, 'How is this a career option? How do I become this guy?'"

After his presentation, Léveillé let the kids know there were opportunities to volunteer at the Canadian Museum of Nature. "And so I did," remembers Mosco, "It was a hangout spot for dinosaur nerds. It was amazing to talk to adults who continued to be weird and nature-y and doing science communication."

This set Mosco down a path that included getting a bachelor's degree in anthropology and starting a successful web comic called Bird & Moon after her third year of college.

In 2010, soon after earning her Master of Science from the Field Naturalist Program at the University of Vermont, Mosco was diagnosed with stage three breast cancer. While in treatment, Mosco "had this moment of, if I don't have a lot of time, what do I want to do? I realized I didn't want to worry about being serious and smart. I just want to have a good

time and talk about issues that are important to me. I had this real sense of urgency." (Mosco says there are "no signs of cancer at the moment.")

This led to a diversified career in science communication, which for Mosco includes her comics, speaking engagements, and 10 books (and counting) for both adults and children. "I have 50 different things I'm working on at any given time and a zillion spreadsheets."

At the core of her work is making the complex world of nature and science accessible to readers of all ages, with humor as the special ingredient.

"I try to use clear language," says Mosco. "And I have to find some sort of hook that will make it interesting for them, because people are busy. I've also found that if you add a joke to the most boring fact, people remember it."

Several times during the interview for this article, Mosco's eyes and interest were drawn upward to a housefly in her home. Even indoors, Mosco can't help being drawn to nature.

by Jeremiah Walter

Nature Is pretty...

COOL



"I can't turn it off. It's always funny when I'm having a deep conversation with someone and a cool bird flies behind them," says Mosco. "It will be really distracting."

Once a child who found joyful distraction and escape in nature and books, Mosco can now create those opportunities for the readers of her books.

"When I see kids reading my book, I want to cry. It makes me really emotional. It doesn't feel entirely real," explains Mosco. "I want to make kids feel like the world is bigger and better than they thought it was."



ALL PIKES PEAK READS

Pikes Peak Library District's annual community reads program, All Pikes Peak Reads 2025 includes a variety of books and events for all ages that take a look at nature.



Butterflies Are Pretty...Gross!

by Rosemary Mosco

An illustrated kids book that looks at the fascinating (and sometimes gross) world of butterflies.



Rosemary Mosco Author Visit
10 a.m. | Virtual



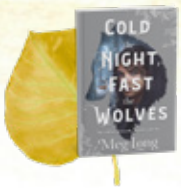
FUZZ

by Mary Roach

A nonfiction investigation into the unpredictable world where wildlife and humans meet.



Mary Roach Author Visit
11 a.m. | Virtual



Cold the Night, Fast the Wolves

by Meg Long

A young adult science fiction novel about a girl determined to survive and a feral wolf she must learn to trust.



Meg Long Author Visit
11 a.m. | East Library



Little Monarchs

by Jonathan Case

A graphic novel that takes an intimate look at the natural world and the secrets hidden within.



Jonathan Case Author Visit
11 a.m. | Library 21c

Learn more at
ppld.org/APPR



LIBRARY

MEETING ROOMS

**AVAILABLE
TO USE FREE
OF CHARGE!**

by Jeanne Davant

When Kate hosted a party for her son Rory's first birthday, she booked the Venue at Library 21c, a space with plenty of room to set up tables, a small ball pit, and a play area.

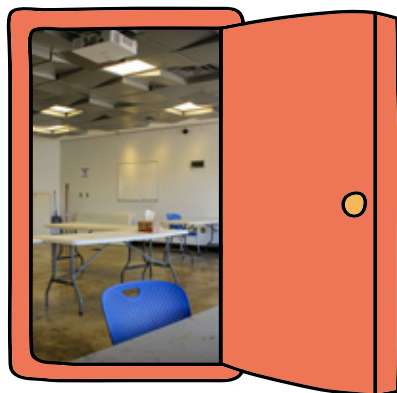
"The Venue at Library 21c is great for the kids, because it's so big, and they like to run around," she says. "It's a lot more space than we have at home."

Kate reserved the room for four hours, allowing two hours for the party, plus an hour prior for setup and an hour afterward for cleanup.

She knew many of the Libraries that are part of Pikes Peak Library District (PPLD) have event, meeting, and study rooms available for patrons to use at no cost. She attended a moms' group that met in a smaller meeting space at East Library and also went with her son to Baby Time, an interactive program for families with babies from birth to 12 months, during which they experience language through songs, rhymes, and stories. Although East Library is closer to Kate's home and has a large meeting space, she chose to book the spacious room at Library 21c for Rory's birthday party.

PPLD has nearly 60 event spaces, meeting rooms, and study rooms in Libraries across the District that are available for public use by reservation. There is no cost to reserve and use a room, but you must be a library cardholder to make a reservation.

In 2024, more than 170,000 people took advantage of these Library facilities. Based on the median rental cost for comparable spaces in the area, the District estimates that these users saved about \$1.2 million in rental fees.



The spaces are available for a wide variety of events and purposes, including personal milestones like birthday parties, baby showers, and celebrations; group get-togethers like Dungeons & Dragons sessions, craft clubs, and study sessions; and organizational events such as Scout meetings and presentations. They are also used by businesses to conduct client meetings, trainings, and other business events.

Carla, Pikes Peak Library District's public relations & marketing manager, remembers attending meetings at East Library when she was a teenager preparing to take an international trip in 2005 hosted, chaperoned, and guided by the People to People Student Ambassador Program. For several months prior to their departure, the 30 or so students who would be traveling to England and France and their parents met several times a month with People to People representatives to learn about the countries, go over travel safety, and review the rules and procedures they would be expected to follow. At one meeting, she says, the students were assigned to research one of the cultural sites they would visit; hers was The Louvre. Meeting at the Library made it convenient for them to conduct research for the assignment. At the final meeting, the students were given information packets and passports for their three-week journey. And it all happened at the Library!

Carla participated in the program again the next summer on a trip to Japan and again attended preparatory meetings at East Library.

"I remember I was surprised to find out that you could just use the rooms at the Library," she says. "I thought it was pretty cool that the Library had those spaces available."

The Library's large event spaces include the Venue at Library 21c (up to 350 people); the Community Room at East Library (up to 100 or 160 people); and the Columbine A and Columbine B rooms at Penrose Library (up to 92 or 184 people), all of which are ideal for sizeable gatherings



and events. These large rooms can be reserved up to six months in advance. Due to their popularity, early reservations are recommended.

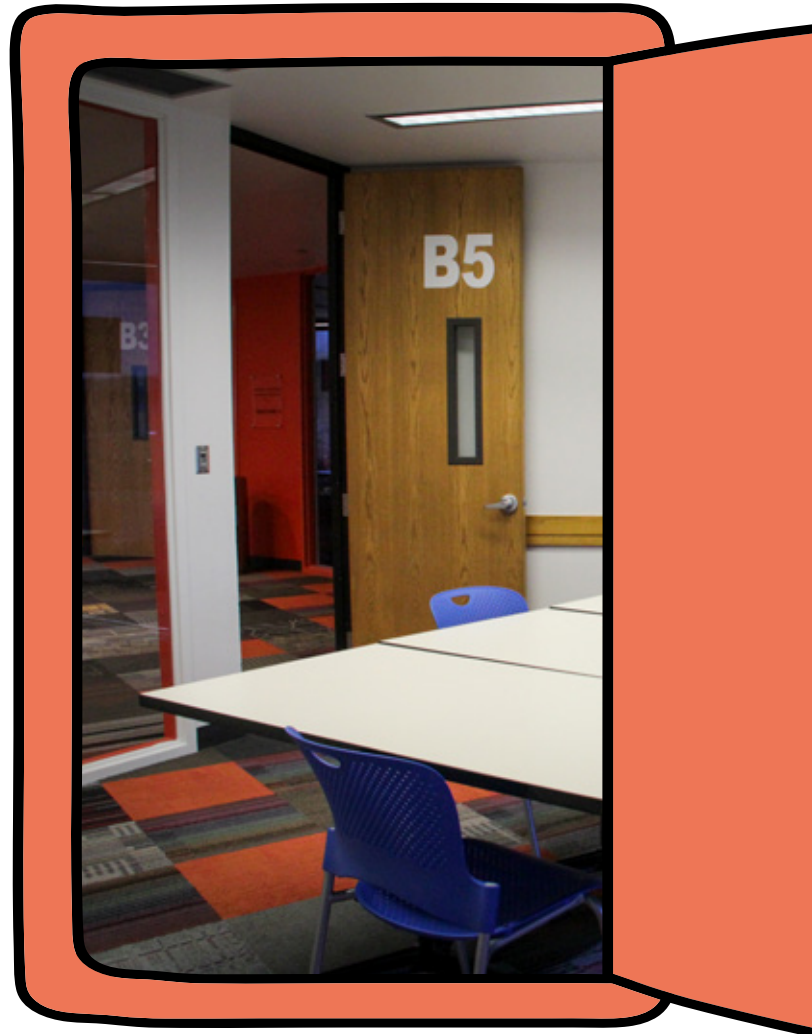
Also available at many Library locations are meeting rooms

of various capacities that may have technology such as computers, projectors, or sound systems. Although Library staff does not operate equipment or provide technical support, patrons may schedule time to test audio-visual equipment ahead of their reservations. These rooms can be reserved up to three months in advance.

Study rooms, which do not have technical equipment, can accommodate one to five people, depending on the location, and can be reserved up to one week in advance. Reservations can be made for a maximum of two hours per day.

Study rooms played important roles in education for Library users Seraphim and her husband Ahrah (identified by pseudonyms for this story).

Seraphim used study rooms at East Library and Library 21c as a way to focus her mind and organize materials for concurrent enrollment classes. She also used study rooms later for personal writing. During his undergraduate studies, Ahrah used the study rooms about a dozen times for group projects and meetings. He also utilized the Library for research and as a quiet place to write papers.



Both Seraphim and Ahrah found it easy to make reservations for the rooms on the District's website. Seraphim adds that she often was able to use one of the study rooms on a walk-in basis when nobody else was using them and there were no scheduled reservations.

Patrons who want to reserve a space should check with their preferred Library location for availability. Library-sponsored events also make use of the meeting rooms, so it is important to plan ahead. For example, the Venue at Library 21c is not available during large, District-wide programs like Mountain of Authors and All Pikes Peak Reads.

Library cardholders can read meeting room policies and then make a reservation request online at ppld.librarymarket.com/reserve-room.



GUIDE TO THE PIKES PEAK LIBRARY DISTRICT BUDGET

Due to the complex nature of Pikes Peak Library District's budget, the Library District is providing this guide to help the community better understand the Library's budgeting process as PPLD is committed to full transparency of the budget and its processes. PPLD is considered a "Library District," which is a separate legal entity, and was created through Colorado State Statute (C.R.S. 24-90-110) to provide library services within a specific, voter-approved geographic area. The District is an independent, tax-exempt local government entity and is not considered a component unit of any other government entity or municipality, including El Paso County, Colorado, and is financially, managerially, and operationally independent.

BUDGET TIMELINE

During the third and fourth quarters of each year, PPLD staff and Leadership Team officially begin to prepare the Library District's budget for the next year. While the formal work starts in June, the process begins with the new fiscal year.

- JANUARY**
Staff start to keep track of their expenses and what they need to create a wish list for the next year's budget.
- JUNE**
Staff starts to tally their numbers, forecast activities, prepare events and programs, determine the needs of the collection, pinpoint needed repairs and maintenance, identify necessary security upgrades, craft communication and promotional strategies, and establish how they can best meet the needs of the whole community.
- JULY**
Each department submits their budget requests to the Finance Department. It is then reviewed, discussed, and revised by PPLD's Leadership Team. The budget is updated until the team is ready to present it to the Board of Trustees.
- OCTOBER**
PPLD's Leadership Team presents the preliminary balanced budget per Colorado Revised Statute § 29-1-105.
- DECEMBER**
After answering the Board's questions and incorporating its suggested revisions, Leadership Team presents the balanced budget to the Board for approval per Local Government Budget Law, § 29-1-108, C.R.S.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?

Budgets are blueprints that explain where money comes from, how we will use it, and why it matters.

El Paso County is the most populous county in Colorado, containing the second most populous city in the state – Colorado Springs.

El Paso County boasts a population of nearly 750,000, and PPLD's legal service area covers nearly 700,000 of those individuals, as Security/Widefield is not in PPLD's official service area. The Library's legal service area contains roughly 286,000 households, of which 66.7% have an active PPLD library card. The number of library cards increases monthly as more people move to the Pikes Peak region.



WHAT ITEMS AFFECT THE BUDGET USED TO SERVE THE PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY?

Approximately 95% of our budget comes from a portion of collected property tax and specific ownership tax. Based on a diagram from El Paso County's 2025 Adopted Budget Book, a home with a market value of \$500,000 would have paid \$3,008.24 in property tax. At a mill levy rate of 3.14 for this property, PPLD would have received \$93 of the total property taxes paid, which accounts for 3.11% of the taxes on this property. Using a dollar bill, below is an illustration of just how much PPLD received of the property taxes paid by homeowners in Colorado Springs in 2025.



46.66%	School District	3.11%	Library District
45.13%	Metro District	0.74%	Water Districts
6.92%	El Paso County (EPC)	0.16%	EPC Roads & Bridges
3.52%	City of Colorado Springs (CS)	0.16%	City of CS Roads & Bridges

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM? CONTINUED

MILL LEVY

The mill levy rate is the percentage of the property taxes the Library receives each year. In 1986, voters approved that PPLD can collect up to 4.000 mills (a mill is a unit of currency representing one one-thousandth of a dollar [\$0.001]). However, due to Colorado's Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR) restrictions on growth, if collecting four mills of the property taxes increases PPLD's income growth by more than the TABOR limits allow, the Library District cannot collect the full amount. Overall in 2025, PPLD assessed a mill levy of 3.14. We issued a temporary credit to be in compliance with our TABOR limit.

INFLATION

Like our personal budgets, inflation affects all parts of the District's budget: from what money the Library receives from property taxes to the costs of programming, books, databases, personnel, benefits, operation costs, and capital projects. The cost of all of these increases each year.

Keeping these items in mind while putting together our budget ensures we can continue to offer great services, materials, technology, and spaces for our patrons.



TABOR - WHAT IS IT?

- Colorado law limits how much tax money the Library can keep.
- If local growth would result in the Library District being able to collect an increased amount of property taxes, TABOR requires PPLD to refund any amounts above the limit.

State law caps government entities' income growth at 5.5% or the Consumer Price Index (whichever is

lower) over the previous year. This means that even if property values rise dramatically, the Library District can only collect a maximum of 5.5% more in taxes than it did the prior year.

For example, suppose you are making \$100 a week and you get a 25% raise, but the law says it cannot be more than 5.5%, instead of getting the \$125 your boss wants to give you, the law limits your weekly salary to only \$105.50.



UNDERSTANDING LIBRARY FUNDS AND FUNDING

Think of PPLD’s funds like different jars of money. Each fund is created with a specific purpose in mind. Currently, the Library has one major fund and several non-major funds. We will focus on the top three funds of PPLD:

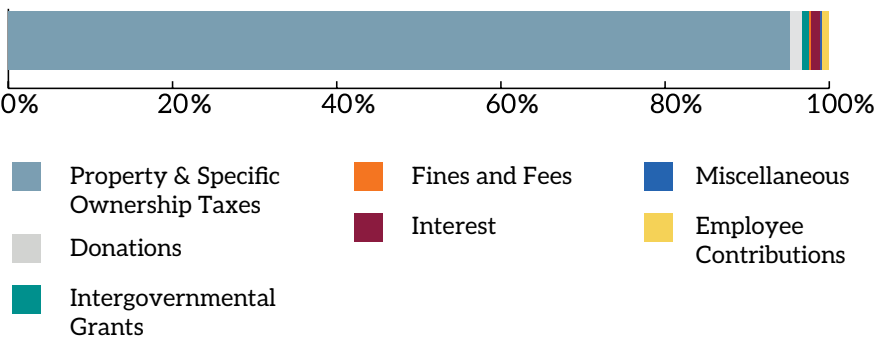
GENERAL FUND (MAJOR FUND)

The General Fund is made up of revenue/ money we use to support the Library’s daily operations. There are three sources of revenue for the District’s General Fund. The largest portion comes from property taxes and specific ownership taxes (taxes on vehicles such as vehicle registrations) and makes up roughly 95% of the budgeted revenue each year.

The second source of operating revenue consists of revenue from intergovernmental grants, donations through the PPLD Foundation, and miscellaneous revenue generated from fines, fees, paid parking lot collections, and copy and printing fees, contributing 3.8% to the General Fund.

The final revenue source comes from employee contributions toward their health care costs.

Below is a visual breakdown of the revenues for the 2025 General Fund:



2025 REVENUES	AMOUNT	% OF FUNDING
Property & Specific Ownership Taxes	\$40,123,322	95.19%
Donations	\$605,000	1.44%
Intergovernmental Grants	\$360,784	0.86%
Fines and Fees	\$90,000	0.21%
Interest	\$500,000	1.19%
Miscellaneous	\$73,962	0.18%
Employee Contributions	\$393,533	0.93%
TOTAL	\$42,146,601	100%

CAPITAL FUND (NON-MAJOR FUND)

Capital Fund money is set aside for the large, one-time purchases that will last the District a long time, such as buildings, computers, and roofs.

SELF-INSURANCE FUND (NON-MAJOR FUND)

The Self-Insurance Fund is a specific fund that is set aside to pay employee health insurance.

UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE

As a government institution, PPLD’s Unassigned Fund Balance refers to the portion of the General Fund that has not been classified as restricted, committed, non-spendable, or assigned for a specific purpose. Below is the breakdown of PPLD’s Unassigned Fund Balance:

UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE	
End of year 2024 unassigned balance	\$18,565,212
(Less) Operating Reserves	(\$ 8,376,047)*
Remaining Balance Available	\$10,189,166
2025 Capital Fund Spend	(\$3,977,745)
Other Tax Revenue (SB22-238 and SB23B-001)	(\$2,086,606)
2025 AVAILABLE UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE	\$ 4,124,815**

*The operating reserves included in this chart represent the Board’s mandated three months of reserves to cover PPLD’s operating expenses in the event of an economic crisis.

**The remaining unassigned fund balance for the District in 2025 is \$4,124,815. These funds can only be accessed with the approval of the Board of Trustees and are used to cover large purchases, such as building or land purchases. This money is not available to cover operational expenses such as rent, personnel needs, or costs.

HOW DOES PPLD SPEND ITS MONEY?

Expenses tell you where the Library District spends its revenue and can be broken down into three main categories:

PERSONNEL

This includes staff salaries and benefits. It makes up the largest category of the Library's overall budget at 60% and is an ongoing expense.

OPERATING EXPENSES

These ongoing expenses make up 31%* of the budget. Items included here are rents, utilities, supplies, software, collection materials (physical materials and eLibrary materials), vehicles, maintenance and building materials, mileage, business memberships, and contract services.

**Due to an inadvertent error, this number was updated on Fri., September 26, 2025.*

CAPITAL PROJECTS

This group makes up 9% of the annual budget and can include upgrades to buildings, parking lots, fences, new equipment, signs, and IT improvements. Capital projects are one-time expenses. For the 2025 budget, PPLD's Facilities department received \$3.1 million, and IT received \$866,000 for capital projects.

Here is a 2025 breakdown of PPLD's expenses:

EXPENSES	AMOUNT
Maintenance	\$2,868,485
Capital Funds	\$3,977,344
Collection Management Materials	\$4,844,359
Contract Services	\$2,572,130
Employee Salaries & Benefits	\$26,605,518
Mileage, Training, Memberships	\$721,630
Programming	\$350,390
Telecommunications & Software	\$1,236,263
Supplies	\$1,207,352
GRAND TOTAL	\$44,383,471



This guide is meant to be a general overview of PPLD's budgeting process, providing insight into what affects the amount of money the Library District can receive, as well as an explanation of how the District allocates this money to serve its ever-growing community.

For the complete 2025 budget, visit PPLD's website at ppld.org/financial-annual-reports



Are you addicted to your smart device? If you have ever picked up your phone and suddenly lost hours to an endless stream of content, you might be!

This technology, in conjunction with social media apps, has changed the way we consume information, mostly in the form of short, addictive bursts. The price of this shift? For one thing, our attention spans are getting shorter, and it would seem our interest in weighty tomes has gone the way of the dodo. A 2021 study showed that books on the New York Times Best-Selling List had shrunk in length by more than 50 pages in the last decade, and the likelihood of a longer book (400+ pages) getting on the best-seller list fell by nearly 30%.

Apps like TikTok are being blamed for a decline in reading overall, and this trend has forced the publishing industry to change tactics. Modern writers are using the tricks of digital media and psychology to connect with readers whose attention is constantly under siege. These techniques can include writing shorter sentences and chapters, as well as teasing major plot points up front. It seems many writers no longer feel they have the luxury of easing into the story with a long, slow preamble. And shorter chapters written in bingeable chunks give their reader a sense of accomplishment they wouldn't experience stopping mid-chapter. Shorter sentences, lean paragraphs, a streamlined structure, and quick hooks seem to be the fashion these days.

The online world of Fandom is also an alluring target for authors. Online groups like BookTok offer the ability for authors to interact directly with their readers and adapt to trends that tend to increase commercial success. You too can sell lots of books (if you just give the people what they are literally telling you they want)!

Of course, authors are human too, and although some of these changes may stem from the more cynical desire to sell books, others may simply be a result of the author's own changing tastes and consumption. After all, surely, we write what we like?

However your tastes may have evolved, Pikes Peak Library District has bite-sized page turners, timeless classics, and everything in between for you. You can easily browse reviews, explore local authors, and discover a reading list that matches your tastes at ppld.org. Let us help you find your next great read... no pressure, no judgement—just books that may make you forget about that phone for a moment!

“I THINK AVERAGE READERS ARE LESS LIKELY TO COMMIT TO A LONGER BOOK; RATHER, THEY CHOOSE SOMETHING THEY CONSIDER MORE INTERESTING AND THAT’S REALISTIC TO COMPLETE.”

- Dimitrije Curcic, Research Director, Words Rated



REGIONAL HISTORY & GENEALOGY PROGRAMS



Discover more at
ppld.org/regional-history-genealogy



Spooky Stacks

Mon., Oct. 27 and Tue., Oct. 28
Tours run from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Get ready to explore the eerie side of history with Spooky Stacks 2025! This year, Regional History & Genealogy invites you to delve into the chilling tales of famous deaths from the Pikes Peak region. Wander through our dimly lit stacks and encounter the spirits that still linger, each with a haunting story to tell. Please note that this is a low-light event, adding to the spooky ambiance—perfect for those who dare to discover the darker corners of our region's past. Tours will begin on a first-come basis, with the last tour starting at 6:30 p.m. Those under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.

Registration required at

tiny.ppld.org/Spooky-Stacks



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PPLD.ORG/BACK-TO-SCHOOL

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ADULT PROGRAMS



Find dates, times, and locations at
ppld.org/adults

Pan-tastic Magnetic Boards

Get crafty with us as we transform a pizza pan into a personalized and decorated magnet board for your home. These magnet boards are perfect for organizing your space or adding a personal touch to your home decor. Choose from a variety of decorative materials to make your board truly your own. *All supplies will be provided. Registration required.*



Pregnancy and New Parent Classes

Are you pregnant or a new parent and with so many questions? Join Pikes Peak Library District and Nurse-Family Partnership for a six-week series of classes for expecting and new parents. These virtual classes take place every Wednesday at noon. Each week, we will explore a different topic, followed by a Q&A session. *Registration required.*

Autumn Wreaths

Join us for a fun and festive crafting session as we create unique and beautiful wreaths. We can't wait to celebrate the autumn season with you! *All supplies will be provided. Registration required.*

Protect Yourself: Understanding and Preventing Fraud

Mon., Oct. 6 | noon - 1 p.m.
High Prairie Library

Fraud is everywhere—whether it is cryptocurrency schemes like FTX, healthcare scams, romance fraud, or Social Security fraud. Stay informed with this class as we explore current fraud trends, teach you how to identify scams, and help you recognize key warning signs. Discover practical strategies to protect your personal information and finances, such as enabling account alerts, updating passwords, and more. We will also cover essential steps to take if you become a victim of fraud. In this class, we will cover the following topics:

- Common types of fraud
- Current fraud trends
- Identifying scams and warning signs
- Strategies to protect yourself
- What to do if you are a victim

Laser Classes

Start here if you are new to graphic design! Use Inkscape to design custom coasters and boxes, then make them out of wood with PPLD's laser cutters/engravers. After the first class, you will be able to use the lasers on your own.

Repair Café

Toss it? No Way! Fix it at Repair Café! Together with our Repair Café volunteers, you will disassemble, troubleshoot, and possibly repair your broken items. Save money, help the environment, and learn repair skills with your local community!



Winter Makerspace Open House

Drop by our makerspaces to create some fun winter crafts and explore what the makerspaces have to offer! Experiment with different crafting projects to give as a gift or keep for yourself. *All ages welcome and all materials provided.*

Cocoa Blend Workshop

Learn about and experiment with different types of cocoa and other ingredients to create personalized cocoa blends. Take your custom blends home to enjoy yourself or create a special gift for a friend. *Registration required.*



Infinity Mirrors

Have you ever looked into a mirror and felt like there is an endless expanse just beyond the glass? If so, you are probably looking at an infinity mirror. Join us as we create a light-up mirror that has an optical illusion inside! Using LED lights, soldering irons, and electronics, we will create a mirror that stretches into infinity! *Registration required.*

3D Printing Classes

Create and print 3D objects using Tinkercad, a free and easy-to-learn modeling software. After taking the first class, you will be ready to use the printers in PPLD's makerspaces on your own.

3D Printer Badging and Modeling: Level 1

Start your 3D printing and designing journey with PPLD! Learn your way around the Prusa 3D printers available in the PPLD makerspaces and find out how to create and print custom projects using Printables, a free online 3D design resource. *No previous 3D printer experience required. Basic computer skills needed.*



After completing this badging class, you will be able to use the 3D printers on your own during makerspace open hours at East and Sand Creek libraries, as well as Library 21c.

Sewing Classes

Learn the basics of machine sewing while creating a project you will be able to take home with you. If you have never used a sewing machine before, this is a great place to start!

Sewing for Seniors: Level 1

Fri., Nov. 14 | 2 - 5 p.m.

Library 21c

If you are sewing for the first time or for the first time in a long time, come learn or relearn the basics of sewing on the sewing machines in the PPLD makerspaces. We can also help you learn how to use a computerized machine. Gain a new skill, get a refresher on a skill you already have, or test out a new machine as you learn the basics. Create a simple project by using machines that can be reserved at one of the three PPLD makerspace locations. *No previous experience required. All supplies will be provided. This is a Senior program.*

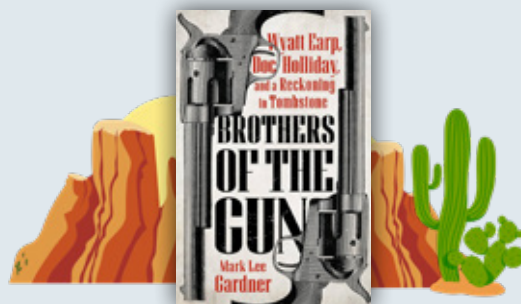


Author Talk: Mark Lee Gardner

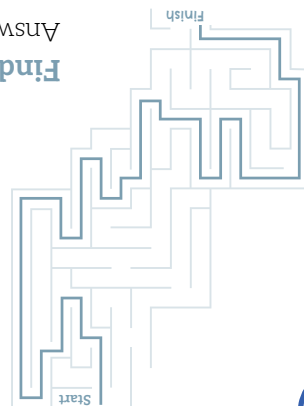
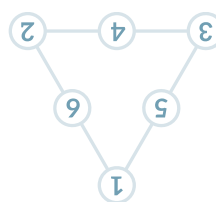
Tue., Nov. 11 | 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

East Library

Join Pikes Peak Library District as we welcome local author Mark Lee Gardner to celebrate the launch of his new book *Brothers of the Gun: Wyatt Earp, Doc Holliday, and a Reckoning in Tombstone*. Following the talk, Gardner will host an audience Q&A session and will be available for book signing. Copies of his book will be available to purchase from Poor Richard's Bookstore during the event. *Registration is suggested, but not required.*



Find the Shadow
Answer: 3



TEEN PROGRAMS



Find dates, times, and locations at
ppld.org/teens



Social Media Painting Relay

Have you ever been browsing social media, then stopped to watch a painting tutorial and thought, I want to try that? Now is the time! Join us as we explore four of the most popular painting trends from social media in a relay style painting program. This is an opportunity to try four different painting techniques/tutorials. We will provide all the supplies. Who knows, you may find a new style of art you never knew about! *Ages 13 - 18.*

Coding: Game Development

Learn the basics of Python or JavaScript while playing and building your own video game! Move through the levels collecting gems while exploring coding basics during this standalone hour-long event. Already a pro at coding? Intermediate and Advanced versions will also be available at other times. Can you beat all the levels? *Ages 9 - 15.*

Build Your Own Miniature Library

Do you love books? Do you love tiny things? Combine your two loves and join us for a pint-sized program! Using metal tins and wood veneer, we will craft a personalized miniature bookshelf full of tiny versions of all your favorite books! *Ages 13 - 18.*

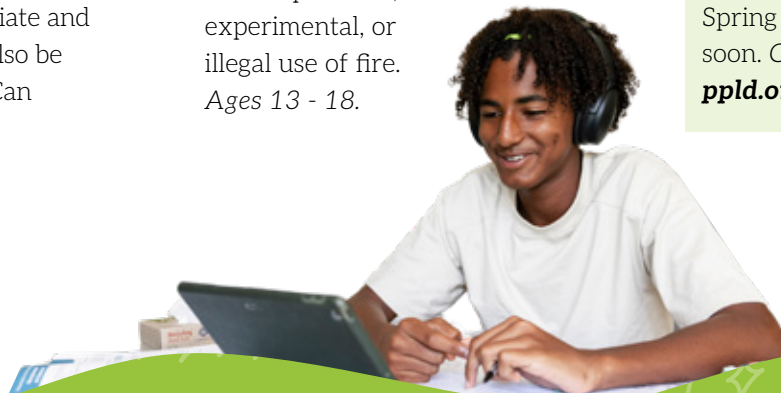
Graffiti Tees

Have you ever seen tie-dye on a black t-shirt? Join us to learn reverse tie-dye techniques while creating a colorful t-shirt to take home for yourself or a friend! A single black shirt will be provided for each participant (S - XXL), but feel free to bring a shirt from home. *Ages 13 - 18.*



Fire Prevention for Teens

Join the Colorado Springs Fire Department and their FireFactor program where teens will engage in hands-on activities, interactive polls, and videos to learn about fire in our community and the consequences of unsupervised, experimental, or illegal use of fire. *Ages 13 - 18.*



Escape Room: ChronoShift Reality Rewritten

A simple joke gone wrong—an AI-generated post meant for laughs spirals into a real-life disaster, derailing your friend's hopes to be elected to the student council. Your mission? Travel back in time, change the flow of information, and fix the mistake. Can you undo the damage and repair your friendship? You will need to track down the AI-generated materials before they cause mayhem for your friend! *Created by Loki's Loop, a project of the University of Washington Center for an Informed Public. Ages 13 - 18.*



Teen Art Contest

The Teen Art Contest returns in Spring 2026! More details are coming soon. Check back on our website at ppld.org starting in December.



FAMILY & CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS



Find dates, times, and locations at
ppld.org/kids

TWEEN

Tween: Candy Sushi

Become a candy sushi chef by designing and assembling your very own candy sushi rolls! We will use sweet goodies such as marshmallow treats, fruit leathers, and gummy candies to shape your culinary creations. *Ages 9 - 12.*

Tween: Nature Wands

Turn nature into art by designing a handcrafted nature wand! Young artists will weave, wrap, and decorate their project using a variety of natural and man-made materials. *Ages 9 - 12.*



Tween: Fall Sensory Bottles

Engage your senses this season by creating a themed sensory bottle. In this hands-on activity, tweens will create a seasonal sensory bottle capturing soothing sights, colors, and movements in a mesmerizing display. *Ages 9 - 12.*

Tween: Escape Room: A Power Up Puzzle

Solve puzzles and open locks to win a prize in this video game-themed puzzle escape room! You are stuck, and unless you can figure out how to restart, you will be trapped in a permanent cooldown. Remember, battery life is crucial when playing video games, and while we know there will be occasional glitch or lag along the way, work together to restart and beat the game together! Can you escape in time? *Ages 9 - 12. Registration required and space is limited.*

STEAM

Idea Lab: Stack It Up! Engineering Challenge

Thu., Oct. 2 | 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.
Library 21c

Can you build a structure using just one cube as a base? What about with a single cup? Put your creativity to the test with our interactive engineering challenges! Join us for fun and hands-on activities where you will collaborate, innovate, and see what amazing structures you can create using minimal materials. *Ages 5 - 12.*

Idea Lab: Andy Warhol's Recycled Tray Prints

Join us for an exciting workshop where you will create your own Pop Art masterpiece inspired by Andy Warhol's iconic screen prints. Learn simple printmaking techniques and unleash your creativity! *Ages 5 - 12.*

Idea Lab: Fairy Tale Science

Can you build a house that will survive the Big Bad Wolf's huffing and puffing? Come to this hands-on Three Little Pigs challenge to find out. *Ages 5 - 12.*



Idea Lab: Marshmallow Warfare

Put your engineering skills to the test as you design, build, and improve your best catapult! Start with a basic model, then level up your launcher to see how far your marshmallows can fly! *Ages 5 - 12.*



FAMILY & CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS



Find dates, times, and locations at
ppld.org/kids

HOMESCHOOL

Homeschool Science: Science Fair Made Simple

Fri., Oct. 3 | 1 - 2:30 p.m.
East Library

Are you ready to up your science fair game? This interactive workshop will help homeschool students work through the steps of turning a general idea into a science project, from topic selection, to formulating a testable question or design goal, to collecting data to analyze. Get a jump on planning for the Homeschool Science Fair in February 2026. This workshop is presented by the Pikes Peak Regional Science and Engineering Fair. *Ages 7 and up. Registration required. Please register each student who will be attending.*

Homeschool Science: Super Cold Science

Fri., Oct. 17 | 1 - 2 p.m.
East Library

Enjoy really cool demonstrations of one of the coldest materials you will ever feel. Afterwards, we will use the same material to make a cold treat! Presented by Cool Science. *Ages 5 and up. No registration required.*



Homeschool Science: Nature After Dark

Fri., Nov. 14 | 1 - 2 p.m.
East Library

Join Nature's Educators and their animal ambassadors to learn about nocturnal and crepuscular animals, which have different features and behaviors to help them be active at night. Children will meet an owl and a few creepy-crawly critters to help show off their amazing adaptations! *Ages 5 and up. No registration required.*



Homeschool Science: Estes Rockets: Flawless Flight Paths

Thu., Oct. 16 | 9 a.m. - noon
East Library

Students in grades 6 - 8 will examine rocket flight paths, explore a real space artifact, tackle the engineering design behind rocket recovery systems, and compete in a landing zone contest with model rockets they build and launch in small groups. They will also receive their own take-home activity booklet of space-themed activities! *Grades 6 - 8 only. Registration required.*

Homeschool Science: Estes Rockets: Astronaut Training Camp



Thu., Oct. 23 | 9 a.m. - noon
East Library

Students in grades 3 - 5 will explore a space artifact, complete astronaut training camp, explore the forces of flight, and work in groups to build and launch model rockets. They will also receive their own take-home activity booklet of space-themed activities! *Grades 3 - 5 only. Registration required.*

Homeschool Science: Estes Rockets: Planet Party

Thu., Oct. 30 | 10 a.m. - noon
East Library

Students in grades K - 2 will explore a real space artifact, learn about planets and play a Planet Space Run game, design their very own planet, and participate in a group rocket building activity and launch. They will also receive their own take-home activity booklet of space-themed activities! *Grades K - 2 only. Registration required.*



Homeschool Make-a-Masterpiece: Pumpkins, Polka Dots, and Patterns

Explore the magical works of Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama, easily spotted for her use of polka dots! Design organic, whimsical pumpkins balanced by a contrasting geometric background as you sketch, print, and collage your way to a pop-art masterpiece. *Ages 8 - 13. Registration required.*

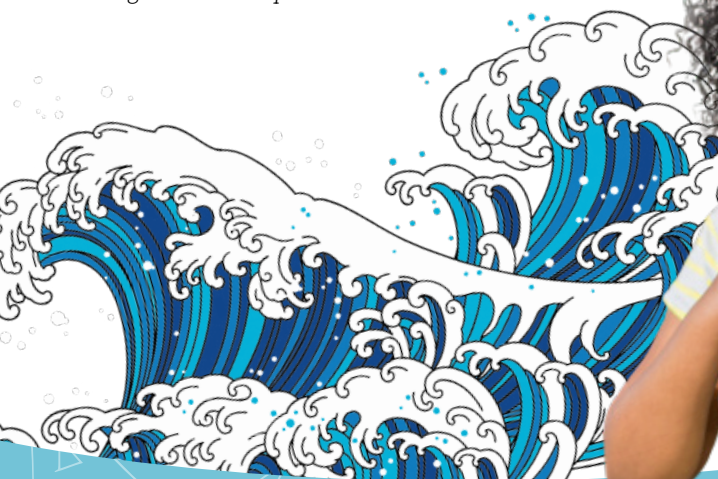
Homeschool Make-a-Masterpiece: Ted Harrison's Abstract Landscapes

Discover Canadian painter Ted Harrison and explore how to apply fluid, organic lines and bright colors to achieve a distinctive northern landscape. Create layered land, water, and sky forms, then apply rich hues of color to bring a piece of the Canadian Yukon to life in your vibrant masterpiece!. *Ages 8 - 13. Registration required.*



Homeschool Make-a-Masterpiece: The Great Wave with a POP!

Capture the drama of Katsushika Hokusai's iconic woodblock print, "The Great Wave Off Kanagawa," creating form with line and mood with color, then adding an unexpected element to make your waterscape POP! Layers of water and foam in cool colors will give you a masterpiece full of movement and surprise. *Ages 8 - 13. Registration required.*



Homeschool Book Blast

Fri., Dec. 19 | 1 - 2 p.m.
East Library

Tell the world about your favorite book! Prepare a creative book report at home and present it informally to other families during this event. You can make a diorama, design a game based on the plot and characters, or make a poster for the movie version. You can even create a book in a bag, make a clothes hanger mobile, or retell the story in comic book format. The possibilities are endless! Projects will be presented in a science fair type format. *Grades K - 12. Registration is required if you want to present. Please register each student who will participate or come browse the projects and discover your next favorite book!*



Calhan Library

600 Bank St., Calhan, CO 80808
(719) 531-6333, x7013

Cheyenne Mountain Library

1785 S. 8th St. #100, Colo. Spgs., CO 80905
(719) 531-6333, x7001

East Library

5550 N. Union Blvd., Colo. Spgs., CO 80918
(719) 531-6333, x7014

Fountain Library

230 S. Main St., Fountain, CO 80817
(719) 531-6333, x7002

High Prairie Library

7035 Old Meridian Rd., Peyton, CO 80831
(719) 531-6333, x7003

Library 21c

1175 Chapel Hills Dr., Colo. Spgs., CO 80920
(719) 531-6333, x7012

Manitou Springs Library

701 Manitou Ave., Manitou Spgs., CO 80829
(719) 531-6333, x7004

Mobile Library Services

(719) 531-6333, x7702

Monument Library

1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr., Monument, CO 80132
(719) 531-6333, x7005

Old Colorado City Library

2418 W. Pikes Peak Ave., Colo. Spgs., CO 80904
(719) 531-6333, x7006

Palmer Lake Library

66 Lower Glenway St., Palmer Lake, CO 80133
(719) 531-6333, x7007

Penrose Library

20 N. Cascade Ave., Colo. Spgs., CO 80903
(719) 531-6333, x7015

Ruth Holley Library

685 N. Murray Blvd., Colo. Spgs., CO 80915
(719) 531-6333, x7009

Sand Creek Library

1821 S. Academy Blvd., Colo. Spgs., CO 80916
(719) 531-6333, x7018

Ute Pass Library

8010 Severy Rd., Cascade, CO 80809
(719) 531-6333, x7011

District Discovery

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Pikes Peak Library District (PPLD) provides everyone with access to resources and opportunities so people can thrive and connect. The Library cultivates spaces for belonging, personal growth, and strong communities via 14 facilities, mobile library services, and a large online hub of resources. It is an internationally recognized system of public libraries serving a population of nearly 700,000 across 2,070 square miles in El Paso County, Colo. Learn more at ppld.org.



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