

## *The Greatest Gift*

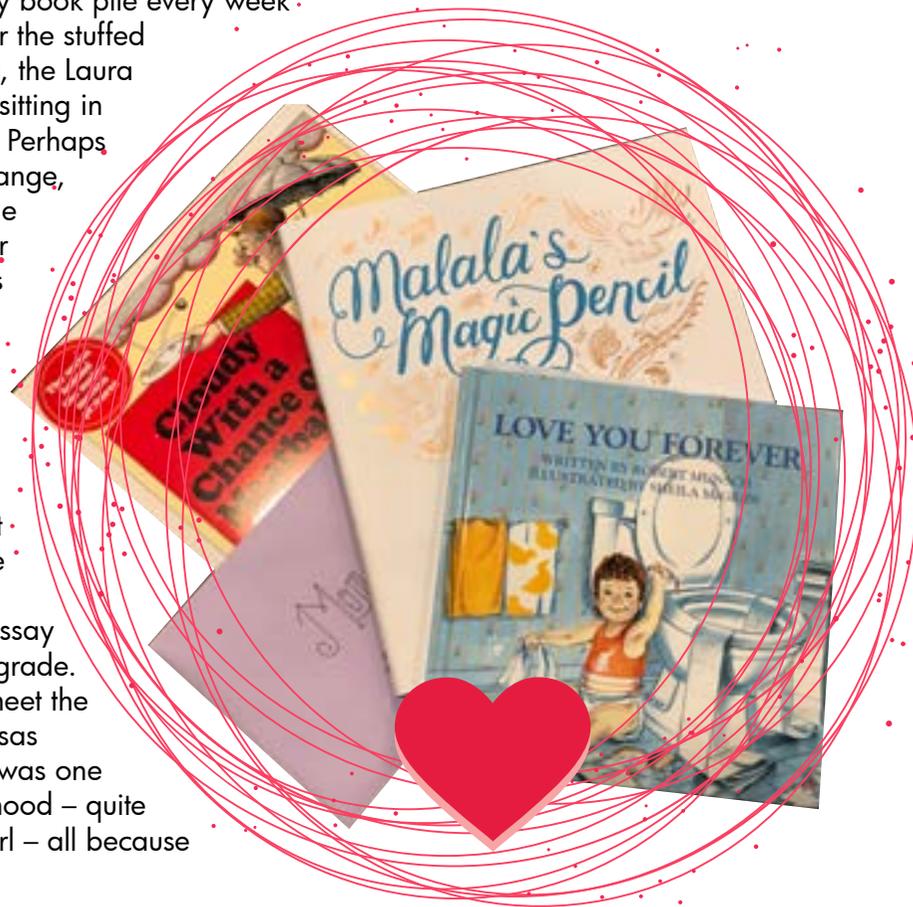
As a college sophomore majoring in English, I was faced with the assignment of writing my reading autobiography. My professor told us to think of the first word we learned to read, or our earliest memory of reading. Even now, 29 years later, all I can think is, “wow” – where to begin?

For as long as I can remember, books, and at a more fundamental level, words, have played an important role in my life. To single out the beginning of something which seems to have always been feels impractical. What I do know is that my oldest sister taught me to read long before I entered kindergarten. We sat in the basement, on the white bench seat pulled from my Dad’s Bronco, her reading stories to me and my sister, and then helping us sound out words. Since then, this central Kansas farmgirl has read millions of words, traveled millions of miles, and learned so many things – all as a result of the power of the written word.

The need for words and stories led me from my basement to my public library, and what a wondrous place it was. Saturday afternoons meant a trip into town for shopping and a stop at the library. We hardly ever missed a Saturday; it became a cherished ritual of my childhood. Curious George, Madeline, Cowboy Sam, and Dorrie the witch were my best friends. The beautiful illustrations on the cover of Beatrix Potter’s works enthralled me and those books were a repeated go-to in my book pile every week.

(a ten-book limit back then!!). I remember the stuffed Paddington Bear and Pippi Longstocking, the Laura Ingalls doll, and the tiger rocking chairs sitting in front of the sand box full of paperbacks. Perhaps, most of all, I remember the huge red, orange, yellow and green pillows that covered the floor along one wall. I would lie there for what seemed like hours and read. It was my own little world.

That world later expanded to include Nancy Drew, the All-of-a-Kind Family series by Sydney Taylor, Laura Ingalls Wilder, the Black Stallion adventures, and Ramona Quimby. Probably the most influential books for me at that time were those written by Jean Little. In turn, all of these stories inspired my prize-winning essay titled “Why I Like to Read” in the fourth grade. I won a trip to the capital in Topeka to meet the governor and witness him signing a Kansas Right to Read Week proclamation. That was one of the most memorable trips of my childhood – quite an adventure for a small-town country girl – all because of my love of reading.



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1-888-861-READ (7323)

## THE GREATEST GIFT (continued)

Two weeks ago, I was back in my hometown with my sisters. We decided to take a trip to the library of our childhood. The pillows and massive card catalogs were gone, and the picture book “pit” was so much smaller than we all remembered, but we spent an hour laughing and reminiscing about the memories that space invoked. The summer reading bubble (large sheets of plastic duct taped together and inflated by a box fan); the canoe that we would stuff with the floor pillows and then pile into with a stack of books to read; the librarians who knew us by name; the summer reading programs full of activities and contests; the hours spent doing reports and projects at the wooden library tables with the World Book Encyclopedias cracked open in front of us....I don’t think Mom ever realized the gift she gave us on those Saturdays; for her it was simply a peaceful hour at the grocery store without four kids tagging along.

Over the years, my love of reading has grown; from the books I got to select from the Scholastic book orders that Mom always found the money for, to the British literature of my college years, to where I am now – a parent reveling in a diverse collection of books that includes just about any genre and author. I am hardly ever without a book. Reading helped me pass the countless hours in the car waiting on my children’s practices to finish, or sporting events to start. Later, as I watched my mom’s health inexplicably decline, I spent many hours “covering the night shift” next to her hospital bed, searching for and reading articles on the Internet and downloading books - looking for answers that weren’t there to be found. Reading then became an escape to pass those dark, quiet hours, watching over the woman who had given me one of the greatest advantages (in my opinion) that a parent can bestow on a child – the love of stories, and the thirst for reading that leads to a never-ending quest for adventures and answers found in the written word. How it troubles me to think of all those who are not able to read, who find it a trial, or in this fast-paced, tech heavy world we live in, choose to turn to television and video games instead of taking those journeys, solving those mysteries, and laughing out loud within the pages of a book.

I owe so much to my mom who took me to the library every week and encouraged me to read, to my oldest sister who taught me to read, to the librarians who knew a little girl by name and opened up worlds I could otherwise never travel, and to my elementary school teachers who read out loud to us every day after recess. Mrs. Helen Evans, my grade school librarian, gifted me *May I Cross Your Golden River* by Paige Dixon, when I was in the sixth grade (I think she got tired of checking it out to me!). I still have it in my night stand today. It is one of my most treasured possessions.

The joy derived from these gifts has no ending. That love of reading has come full circle, and that pile of treasured books continues to grow with a selection my son gifts me every Christmas and Mother’s Day. Each book is symbolic of some memory that we share, a favorite childhood book, or a story that holds meaning for him. One book came with a card in which he wrote,

*“I’ll probably continue to get you these sorts of stories because, growing up, the thing I loved the most was stories...and one day I’ll ask you to share these stories again in a very similar way with someone little that you’ll love just as much.”*

That love of stories is the greatest gift I could give him. I know, because it was first given to me.

# HAMILTUNES

## A LIBRARY REVOLUTION

**MARCH 10 • 2:00-3:30PM**

**CARBON VALLEY REGIONAL LIBRARY**  
**AGES 14+; REGISTRATION REQUIRED**



### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### **ADULTS | GUARDING YOUR PRIVACY**

March 1, 10:00-11:30 am  
Farr Regional Library

Join us for a discussion of tips and tricks on how to maximize your online privacy. We'll provide you with some simple steps and some more advance methods to protect yourself and become more knowledgeable about giving away your data. [Registration required.](#)

#### **CHILDREN | ON THE ROAD TO READING - EARLY LITERACY FAIR**

March 1, 10:30 am-12:30 pm  
Riverside Library

Read, Write, Sing, Talk and Play with your children! Visit any time during our free Early Literacy Fair for lots of fun, interactive learning activities.

#### **ADULTS | THE BASICS: MEMORY LOSS, DEMENTIA AND ALZHEIMER'S**

March 1, 2:00-3:00 pm  
Riverside Library

Alzheimer's disease is not a normal part of aging. If you or someone you know is affected by Alzheimer's disease or dementia, it's time to learn the facts. This program provides information on detection, possible causes and risk factors, stages of the disease, treatment, and much more. Presented by Kelly Osthoff from the Alzheimer's Association Colorado Chapter.

#### **TEENS | 3D PRINTING: FANTASTIC FIDGET SPINNERS**

March 1, 4:00-5:30 pm  
Erie Community Library

Learn how to "print" a working fidget spinner with a 3D printer. Customize your spinner, take it home and then - you know - spin it! [Registration required;](#) Grades 6-12.

#### **FAMILIES | SUESS CELEBRATION**

March 1, 6:00-7:00 pm  
Centennial Park Library

March 2, 10:30-11:30 am  
Farr Regional Library

Dr. Seuss is on the loose! Come join us for a Seuss-  
abration! We'll have a fun story or two, and special craft and other fun Seuss activities!

#### **ADULTS | EBOOKS 101**

March 2, 10:00 am-12:00 pm  
Farr Regional Library

Learn how to download eBooks FREE from the High Plains Library District! We'll show you how to find, check out, download and transfer eBooks and audio eBooks to any device. *Please bring your device with you to class.*

# SPECIAL EVENTS

## CHILDREN | LEAP INTO SCIENCE: CATCH THE WIND!

March 3, 10:30-11:30 am  
Centennial Park Library

Air is all around us, but it is most noticeable in the form of wind. A light breeze barely moves your clothing, while a strong gust blows the hat right off your head. Learn about wind by observing and exploring it as Gilberto does in the story *Gilberto and the Wind*. Build a wind catcher and describe the effects that different wind speeds have on their creations.

## ADULTS | FREE TAX RETURN PREPARATION

Fridays through April 13  
By Appointment Only - 12, 1, 2 or 3 pm  
Erie Community Library

The Erie Community Library is participating with the AARP Tax-Aide program to provide free income tax preparation for tax year 2017. Trained and experienced Tax-Aide volunteers will be available to confidentially review your tax situation and prepare and electronically file both your Federal and State of Colorado returns. Taxpayers with extremely complex tax returns that cannot be prepared by Tax-Aide volunteers will be referred to professional tax preparers. Taxpayers must bring the following documents: picture ID; Social Security cards or other documents with social security numbers for primary taxpayer, spouse and dependents; all IRS documents such as W-2s, 1099-Rs, Social Security statements, investment statements, etc.; record of expenses if itemizing deductions; and copy of last year's tax return is requested, but not required. *To make an appointment, call the library at 1-888-861-7323.*

## ADULTS | CRAIGSLIST 101

March 3, 1:00-3:00 pm  
Centennial Park Library

Learn how to post your own ad and reply to another poster's ad. We'll also tour the various areas of Craigslist and teach you to search safely and strategically. [Registration required.](#)

## CHILDREN | BILINGUAL STORYTIME

March 3, 10 & 31; 2:00-2:30 pm  
Centennial Park Library

March 17 & 24, 2:00-2:30 pm  
Riverside Library

Do you want to hear a storytime in languages other than English? Join us as we begin our journey exploring storytimes in Spanish, Somali, Burmese, and Rohingya. *This project is in partnership with the Buell Foundation and Family Connects - a program on North Range Behavioral Health.*

## ADULTS | TOTAL WELLNESS: HEALTHY COOKING - IT'S EASIER THAN YOU THINK

March 6, 6:00-7:30 pm  
Erie Community Library

Join Banner Health Community Wellness for a cooking class that will give you ideas for incorporating healthy meal ideas into your busy lifestyle. Learn how easy it is to add healthy foods to your family's mealtimes. Enjoy samples and take recipes home with you. [Registration required.](#)

## NEW AT ERIE COMMUNITY LIBRARY 1ST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH FAMILIES 'N JAMMIES

March 7, 7:00-7:30 pm  
Erie Community Library

Families, jump into your jammies, grab your favorite stuffed animal and head to the library for a special evening storytime. Ages 2-6.

## SMALL BUSINESS BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES: FACEBOOK FOR SMALL BUSINESS & NON-PROFITS

March 8, 11:30 am-1:00 pm  
Riverside Library

Learn to make savvy social media choices that engage supporters and the public at large, earning the maximum results possible. We will cover basic to intermediate paid Facebook campaigns but a majority of this class will be devoted to understanding how Facebook's algorithm works and how to maximize engagement at no cost. Space is limited; Participants must [register](#). Refreshments and dessert will be provided.

# SPECIAL EVENTS

## ADULTS | KEVIN COOK PRESENTS SEARCHING FOR LIFE AT HOME

March 8, 12:00-1:30 pm  
Farr Regional Library

Being home can either stymie or improve your connection to Life. Doing nothing softens your exploratory edge by providing ample time to forget your accomplishments. Eliminate the nightmare of repeatedly finding the same wildlife and improve your wildlife-finding skills by searching for Life at home.

## TEENS | SPHEROS ROBOT OBSTACLE COURSE

March 8, 4:00-6:00 pm  
Lincoln Park Library

What is more awesome than robots or obstacle courses? Robots in obstacle courses, of course! Try your hand at guiding Spheros through a labyrinth of tricks and traps.

## ADULTS | TEAS OF THE WORLD

March 8, 6:30-7:30 pm  
Erie Community Library

Learn about the 5 types of tea: white, green, oolong, black and pu-er. George Grossman from Happy Lucky Tea in Fort Collins will talk about growing area, terroir, and how to brew tea while we enjoy tasting a sample of each. [Registration required.](#)

## TEENS & ADULTS | HAMILTONS: A LIBRARY REVOLUTION

March 10, 2:00-3:30 pm  
Carbon Valley Regional Library

Embrace the Hamilton-mania as it sweeps through Colorado, and come raise a glass to freedom with fellow fans of the Broadway musical! You will compete in a trivia contest on the real history and moments from the show, write like you're "running out of time," and participate in a lyric throwdown to prove you're Alexander Hamilton's biggest fan! Costumes encouraged. [Registration required](#); ages 14+.

## CHILDREN | SPRING CHICKENS AT ERIE

Erie Community Library

### EGGS AT ERIE

March 12, 11:00 am-12:30 pm

Come watch as the incubator is set up and the eggs are placed inside. Learn about the life cycle of a chicken from egg to hatchling.

### CHICK EGG CANDLING

March 19, 3:30-5:00 pm

Experience candling, where we shine a bright light through the eggs to see the embryos. Learn more about the stages of the chicks' growth and how we will know when they're ready to hatch.

### WATCH THE EGGS HATCH

April 2-6

Drop in to see the hatched chicks and learn about caring for the chicks.

*This is a partnership with the CSU Extension Office.*

## CHILDREN | SPRING STEAM - ANIMALS

Monday, March 12 - Friday, March 16  
1:00-2:00 pm  
Centennial Park Library

Come join us for some Spring STEAM during Spring Break! It's all about the science of animals. Grades K-5.

**Monday** - Animal Art using mixed media.

**Tuesday** - Animal Coding: make a sphero rat run a rat maze.

**Wednesday** - Animal Homes: try to build an animal home

**Thursday** - Animal Jeopardy: test your knowledge of the animal kingdom.

**Friday** - Raptor Tools with Rocky Mountain Raptors: Raptors have some amazing tools or adaptations that help them to survive in the harsh wild world. Explore the different species that encompass raptors and see what each of them have for these "tools" of survival. Live raptors will be in attendance! [Registration opens 2/18.](#)

# SPECIAL EVENTS

## TEENS | NATIONAL FANNY PACK DAY

March 12, 2:00-3:00 pm  
Riverside Library

Come celebrate the glorious Fanny Pack on National Fanny Pack Day! We will have customizable fanny packs with the opportunity to create your own flair. Limited to the first 20 teens.

## ADULTS | MONEY MATTERS: DO THE (SIDE) HUSTLE

March 12, 6:00-7:00 pm  
Riverside Library

March 20, 6:00-7:00 pm  
Carbon Valley Regional Library

March 20, 6:00-7:00 pm  
Centennial Park Library

Learn all the right steps and moves if you are considering a side job for extra income. Want to join the gig economy, turn a hobby into extra cash, or leave the cubicle to start your own business? We'll talk honestly about the opportunities and challenges of being your own boss. Learn about the many resources available to help make the experience a smooth move.

## ADULTS | "THE CLOUD" FOR BEGINNERS

March 13, 6:00-7:30 pm  
Farr Regional Library

What is the cloud and how can you use it to access your documents, photos, and other files from almost anywhere? From your tablet, to your phone, to your desktop - you can easily sync and share your files across devices. We will teach you the basics of backing up your data to the cloud and discuss some popular options for storage. [Registration required.](#)

## ADULTS | PHOTOGRAPHY BASICS AND BEYOND

March 13, 6:00-7:30 pm  
Centennial Park Library

This class will help you move from snapshots to strong images you'll be proud to share. Photography instructor Bob Dean will teach camera basics, image capture, basic composition, light, and some advanced composition guidelines. *Bring your camera and camera manual so Bob can help you make the most of its features.* [Registration required.](#)

## TEENS & ADULTS | TABLETOP THURSDAY

March 15, 6:30-8:30 pm  
Farr Regional Library

Looking for a co-op Pandemic experience? Need some fellow settlers to help you out in Catan? Come to our casual tabletop gaming night! We'll provide games, but feel free to bring your own tabletop, role-playing, card-based, or any strategy-based games. Roll some dice, make some friends! All skill levels welcome. Typical gaming challenge level along the lines of The Settlers of Catan, Ticket to Ride, King of Tokyo, Pandemic, Boss Monster, etc.

## ADULTS | LOCAL HISTORY SERIES: SISTERS OF COURAGE

March 15, 7:00-8:00 pm  
Erie Community Center, 450 Powers Street

Celebrate Women's History Month as historian Dave Lively follows one family through the turmoil of The Civil War, Westward Expansion, and the Panic of 1893. These well-known historical events take on new meaning with this story of Grand Lake homesteaders Annie and Kittie Harbison, sisters who operate a dairy ranch to supply fresh milk to the expanding Grand Lake population.

## ALL AGES | CARBON VALLEY REGIONAL LIBRARY'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

March 16, 3:00-8:00 pm  
Carbon Valley Regional Library

Help us celebrate a decade of growing together as we commemorate our first ten years and look forward to the future.

**3:00-5:00 pm:** Activities for the whole family including face painting, making a birthday card, crown and a clown face for children; sticker-making, photo booth and button-maker for teens\*; and a simple scavenger hunt for families

**3:00-3:30 pm:** cookies and juice for kids

**3:30-4:15 pm:** storytimes with the local mayors

**5:00 pm:** cake cutting and music provided by *Summerland Sun*

\*Teen activities will continue until 8:00 pm.

# SPECIAL EVENTS

## STITCHES & STORIES LITTLE QUILT SHOW

March 19 - April 30  
Lincoln Park Library

March is National Quilting Month, and in celebration of quilts (and the stories behind them) Lincoln Park Library and Sew Downtown are showcasing the entries from the quilt contest.

## ADULTS | TECNOGUÍA: INTRO A INTERNET

March 19, 7:00-8:00 pm  
Centennial Park Library

Venga y aprenda todo sobre el Internet - o en realidad, la Red! Aprenda como usar los navegadores, motores de búsqueda, buscando en la red y como los sitios funcionan. También le mostraremos como interpretar los resultados de búsqueda y evitar los anuncios. [Registracion es requerida.](#)

## CHILDREN | LEAP INTO SCIENCE: THE MYSTERY OF THE MONSTER BUG'S SHADOW

March 21, 4:00-5:00 pm  
Erie Community Library

How are shadows created? What does light have to do with it? Join us for an enLIGHTening and hands-on exploration of shadows as we read and do fun activities related to "Monster Bug" by Linda Hayward. [Registration opens 2/25](#); Grades K-2.

## ADULTS | INTRO TO INSTAGRAM

March 22, 10:00-11:30 am  
Farr Regional Library

Want to share photos with friends and relatives? Try Instagram! This easy to use app allows you use filters, animations and to find your crowd. This is a beginner-level class for those who have not tried Instagram. You will need an email address and you'll need to bring your smartphone with you to class. [Registration opens 2/20.](#)

## ADULTS | SPRING BIRDING SERIES: THE BASICS OF BIRDS

March 22, 6:00-7:30 pm  
Erie Community Library

Have you ever wondered how birds know when to migrate? Which of those migrants will pass through our area? How to attract diverse species to your bird feeders? Join us to learn bird watching tips, migratory species patterns, and how to attract more birds to your backyard.

Join us on April 21 for Part 2 in the series: Bird Watching at Erie Lake.

## TEENS | MARCH OF THE ZOMBIES

March 23, 5:30-7:00 pm  
Carbon Valley Regional Library  
[Registration opens 2/23.](#)

March 23, 5:30-7:00 pm  
Erie Community Library  
[Registration opens 2/23.](#)

Grab your gear and survive the zombie apocalypse! Join us for an after-hours lock-in featuring a zombies vs. humans nerf gun battle and apocalyptic activities. Feel free to dress in an undead fashion! BYONG (Bring Your Own Nerf Gun) Grades 6-12 ONLY.

## CHILDREN | WE ARE ALL COMPOSERS

March 27, 1:30-3:00 pm  
Erie Community Library

Everyone is musical! Join us and learn the ins and outs of being a music producer and performer. Explore your creative process and learn elements of songwriting through activities using musical instruments, sounds, and self expression. [Registration required](#); Grades 1-5.

# SPECIAL EVENTS

## TEENS | 2ND ANNUAL MARIO KART TOURNAMENT

March 27, 2:00-3:30 pm  
Carbon Valley Regional Library

Who will stand at the top of the podium this time around? Compete to be crowned the Mario Kart champion of Carbon Valley Regional Library as you drop banana peels, dodge shells and try to outmaneuver your fellow racers. Snacks and refreshments will be served and prizes awarded for top spots! [Registration required](#); Grades 6-12.

## ADULTS | SBDC START-UP SEMINARS

March 27, 6:00-7:45 pm  
Erie Community Library

This free comprehensive program is a starting place for anyone who is considering jumping into business for the first (or second) time. This seminar will provide you with a Colorado Start-Up Guide, free library resources to support your business and websites, as well as a general overview of the things to consider when starting a business. [Registration required](#).

## ADULTS | FACEBOOK FOR BEGINNERS

March 28, 9:30-11:30 am  
Riverside Library

Facebook can be a big plunge into the social networking world. In this class, we will cover your profile, newsfeed, adding friends and messaging. We'll answer all your questions about security settings, privacy, and who can see what you share. *Bring your device (optional), existing Facebook account info (preferred) or email account info.*

## CHILDREN | MOVIE AND A CRAFT: COCO

March 28, 1:00-3:00 pm  
Erie Community Library

Come spend part of your spring break at the library! We will be watching *Coco* and then making a fun craft to take home. We'll provide the craft supplies and popcorn; feel free to bring your own water bottle or other snacks. This film is rated PG. [Registration opens 2/28](#); Grades K-8.

## ADULTS | MAKE YOUR OWN WEBSITE

March 29, 6:00-7:45 pm  
Erie Community Library

Starting a website is much easier and cheaper today than it used to be. There are a wide variety of user-friendly, DIY web builders that a start-up business can now choose from such as Wix, SiteBuilders, GoDaddy, and Weebly. This seminar will help you decide which web builder is best for your business as well as provide a basic understanding about how to build your website. [Registration opens 2/27](#).

Nantes Library



## LIBRARIES [www.MyLibrary.us/locations-and-hours](http://www.MyLibrary.us/locations-and-hours)

### **Administration & Support Services**

2650 West 29th Street, Greeley, CO 80631  
1-888-861-READ(7323)

### **Carbon Valley Regional Library**

7 Park Avenue, Firestone, CO 80504  
1-888-861-READ(7323)

### **Centennial Park Library**

2227 23rd Avenue, Greeley, CO 80634  
1-888-861-READ(7323)

### **Eaton Public Library**

132 Maple Avenue, Eaton, CO 80615  
(970) 454-2189

### **Erie Community Library**

400 Powers Street, Erie, CO 80516  
1-888-861-READ(7323)

### **Farr Regional Library**

1939 61st Avenue, Greeley, CO 80634  
1-888-861-READ(7323)

### **Fort Lupton Public & School Library**

425 S. Denver Avenue, Fort Lupton, CO 80621  
(303) 857-7180

### **Glenn A. Jones, M.D. Memorial Library**

400 S. Parish Avenue, Johnstown, CO 80534  
(970) 587-2459

### **Hudson Public Library**

100 S. Beech Street, Hudson, CO 80642  
(303) 536-4550

### **Kersey Library**

415 1st Street, Kersey, CO 80644  
1-888-861-READ(7323)

### **Lincoln Park Library**

1012 11th Street Suite B, Greeley, CO 80631  
1-888-861-READ(7323)

### **Nantes Library**

703 Birch Street, Gilcrest, CO 80623  
(970) 737-1035

### **Northern Plains Public Library**

216 2nd Street, Ault, CO 80610  
(970) 834-1259

### **Outreach**

2650 W. 29th Street, Greeley, CO 80631  
1-888-861-READ(7323)

### **Platteville Public Library**

504 Marion Avenue, Platteville, CO 80651  
(970) 785-2231

### **Riverside Library & Cultural Center**

3700 Golden Street, Evans, CO 80620  
1-888-861-READ(7323)

# PUBLIC COMPUTER CENTERS

## **Evans (Community Complex)**

1100 37th Street, Evans, CO 80620  
(970) 475-1125

## **Lochbuie (Senior Center)**

501 Willow Drive, Lochbuie, CO 80603  
(303) 659-8262

## **Milliken**

1109 Broad Street, Milliken, CO 80543  
(970) 660-5045

## **Nunn (Town Hall/Community Center)**

185 Lincoln Avenue, Nunn, CO 80648  
(970) 897-2385

# AFFILIATED LOCATIONS

## **Hazel E. Johnson Research Center at the City of Greeley Museum**

714 8th Street, Greeley, CO 80631  
(970) 350-9220

## **Poudre Learning Center**

8313 West F Street, Greeley, CO 80631  
(970) 352-1267

# BOOK DEPOSITS

## **Briggsdale Library**

42089 WCR 70  
Briggsdale, CO 80611

## **Hill & Park Senior Center**

4205 Yosemite Dr.  
Greeley, CO 80634

## **Milliken Senior Center**

1101 Broad Street  
Milliken, CO 80543

## **Pierce Senior Center**

321 Main  
Pierce, CO 80650

## **Prairie View Senior Center**

1151 Main St.  
Hudson, CO 80632

ONLY BY **GIVING** *are you able to*  
RECEIVE MORE **THAN YOU ALREADY HAVE.**

- Jim Rohn



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