

What do you see as the current strengths of the library?

Answered: 34 Skipped: 1

Showing 34 responses

Staffing--great people, who are knowledgeable, generous, friendly. DVD collections. Local information. Hours and accessibility. Community service focus--recognition that the library is as close as our mountain community comes to having a center.

3/4/2020 12:56 PM

Staff, WiFi and hours. They have a nice selection for being a small library.

3/1/2020 8:38 PM

Great community appeal, wide variety of offerings with electronics, hiking gear, videos, great options for young kids.

2/26/2020 10:54 AM

Clean, great selection, involvement in holiday activities (summer and winter), meeting space

2/25/2020 11:22 PM

great service & friendly staff

2/25/2020 10:47 AM

Diverse services. Friendly supportive staff. Children's department. Audio books. Local info.

2/25/2020 8:53 AM

Books in house and able to order from inter-library loan. Saves me a ton of money. Very courteous professional staff. Good emergency spot for wifi (like during the Elkhorn Fire)

2/24/2020 8:26 PM

Tremendous support of the community through many services.

2/24/2020 4:41 PM

Everything...Yeah!

2/24/2020 12:31 PM

What do you see as the current weaknesses of the library?

Answered: 35 Skipped: 0

Showing 35 responses

Stenzel Room as only space for sitting to read and work. Lack of comfortable chairs does not encourage browsing, hanging out, encountering new ideas or people.

3/4/2020 12:56 PM

None

3/1/2020 8:38 PM

Lack of books. Our teenage daughter has been unable to find ANY of more than a dozen classics that she needed for her schooling. Even as an adult, I find it difficult to find any books of interest in non-fiction. Very limited book titles.

2/26/2020 10:54 AM

I have only used internet there once recently. The internet was frustrating. The secured internet was slow and the non password internet stopped working many times an hour. I was using low bandwidth tools like email.

2/25/2020 11:22 PM

no problem

2/25/2020 10:47 AM

None.

2/25/2020 8:53 AM

Can't think of any offhand

2/24/2020 8:26 PM

Sometimes not having the ebook I want to read.

2/24/2020 4:41 PM

Nothing...You all are fantastic!

2/24/2020 12:31 PM

What opportunities do you see for the library?

Answered: 31 Skipped: 4

Showing 31 responses

Branch in Glacier View Meadows, one of the largest populations served.

3/4/2020 12:56 PM

None

3/1/2020 8:38 PM

Better/reliable internet is important. Everything else is A+

2/25/2020 11:22 PM

a good future

2/25/2020 10:47 AM

Would be fantastic if there was a bigger room that could be used for classes...the POA is not always available.

2/24/2020 8:26 PM

Continue with the great programs you have.

2/24/2020 4:41 PM

It is GREAT as it is...

2/24/2020 12:31 PM

What challenges do you see for the library?

Answered: 30 Skipped: 5

Showing 30 responses

Vision: to what extent does the library intend to continue being the community center? What are the implications for space, staffing, programming? How does the library extend its

accessibility to those geographically distant from the central hub? Limited space: as the library continues to grow in its place in our community, where will new space come from for staffing, programming, casual reading? Outreach: what more can the library do to embrace online relationships, with more timely information about the library and the community?

3/4/2020 12:56 PM

None

3/1/2020 8:38 PM

It seemed there is so much content some extra square footage could help in the future.

2/25/2020 11:22 PM

don't see any at this time

2/25/2020 10:47 AM

What do we do if Creed retires? He is really the heart and soul of the Library- & brings his professionalism and expertise to make us a first class Library.

2/24/2020 8:26 PM

Possibly volunteers.

2/24/2020 4:41 PM

Just getting more folks to realize what a GEM it is already!

2/24/2020 12:31 PM

NextDoor unsolicited comments

Creed Kidd

,

4

Library people pay property tax too

On a thought this morning, I've checked on my 2019 property tax statement: \$91.26 assessed for the library. Then, reviewed what I currently have out on my library account: 8 items at a total purchase (not list) price of \$158.00. I figure I'm getting a good deal. Over the course of a year I'm saving thousands of dollars by borrowing instead of buying, and I consider myself a fairly average user.

Consider a family with young kids: through the library they have access to several thousand easy readers, beginning readers, juvenile reading, board books, books on CD, juvenile DVDs (Frozen II coming soon!) games, nature kits, electronic learning kits, learning kits and toys, play food and a play cash register -- and much more.

Now a young family could go broke buying all of this -- or instead come to the library and borrowing this -- already paid for.

No one likes taxes -- but I'd suggest that with the library you're getting a return on your money that savvy Wall Street investors would appreciate.

Consider the library a book/DVD/book on CD/materials and goods co-op, because that what it is. Founded by local folk -- not government -- who had their own and community interests in mind.

Today, you can go down to the library and borrow (along with books, books on CD, DVDs, Blu-Ray, magazines) Colorado State Park passes, a child carrier, snowshoes, a humane critter trap, a DVD and Blu-Ray player, a laptop, computer tablet, book-loaded e-reader, and much more. We're scratching the surface.

If you currently don't hold a library card, come on down and check us out. We think you'll like what you see. And, you'll save money.

25 Feb · 5 neighborhoods in General

B

B

, Glacier View Meadows

thank you Creed!!!! i love love love our library and the staff. glad you put this out here because i bet a lot of folks have no idea what all IS available through our beautiful gem in the mountains!!!!

25 Feb

M

M

, Red Feather Lakes Village

Yep. And I'd much rather invest in people, young and old, knowledge and understanding, music and culture, adventures near and far, music and cuisine... than a pile of shiny gold that doesn't really do anyone much good.

25 Feb

E

E

, Crystal Lakes

You provide a wonderful service for a large surrounding area. Your library has a great atmosphere, assortment, and organized location. I've found so many books in excellent condition to check out and to purchase over the years. The outside area is also a terrific addition for all. Thank you for all you do for the surrounding communities.

25 Feb

A

A

, Glacier View Meadows

Now that I am fully retired, it is a good way to avoid buying all of the e-books I did when I was traveling for work. Between the Red Feather Lakes and Poudre Library systems it's a good deal, but only if you use it.

25 Feb

J

J

, Crystal Lakes

We LOVE our library! It is an amazing value for the money and a fantastic investment in our community! ❤️

25 Feb

D

D

, Glacier View Meadows

Thanks Creed

25 Feb

P

P

, Red Feather Lakes Village

The library has so many wonderful programs, my kids love the library! I can't imagine life up here without it, and it gets better and better ever year. We had to make 2 trips this weekend alone since my daughter found a bunch of new books she liked and went through them so fast she needed more:) we are so grateful, they've got an impressive dvd collection too

25 Feb

W

W

, Red Feather Lakes Village

Love the Library at RFL, we come by for movies and books every time we visit our home there.

25 Feb

L

L

, Crystal Lakes

What a great resource for our little mountain communities!

25 Feb

RL

RL

, Crystal Lakes

Yes, many wonderful resources and equally important a pivotal part of our community!

25 Feb

KG

KG

, Glacier View Meadows

We LOVE RFL library! We are there often and truly enjoy all that you have to offer and then some!

25 Feb

DS

DS

, Glacier View Meadows

Diversity! Shouldn't there always be at least one contrarian...one that doesn't run with the herd?

Clearly, many have found diverse “treasures” at the RFL Community Library. I don't doubt the appreciation and genuine praise for the “beautiful gem.”

It appears the library provides a literal cornucopia of entertainment and related items, extensively listed by Mr. Kidd. I never knew it was so diverse.

Some even choose to characterize the library in terms of savings and “investment,” calculating their personal high return (ROI). I don't doubt that's the case for some.

However, I have a question. Since when was “founded by local folk” using the mechanism of property tax assessments—NOT government? Common sense leads me to understand that as an exercise in “local government.” Am I wrong?

It would be interesting to know precisely how many property owners, as a percentage of the total, use the library and how often? Fair question? In this age of computers and technology, I bet those numbers may be available somewhere.

Don't misunderstand, my wife and I are bibliophiles and we've done a great amount of reading since childhood. We're firm believers in “life-long learning.” However, many of the books we desire to read can't be found in smaller or even larger public libraries for various reasons.

Over the past 50 years, I've gone to local libraries to see if a title/author was available and the answer was “No,” a huge percentage of the time. I gave up. Someone will respond, “Well, you should have filled out a request for the library to purchase what you want.” That seems reasonable enough, but think about it.

Libraries have budget constraints (dollars are not unlimited, while some users and librarians might wish that wasn't the case) and the library staff acts as a type of filter for the process of deciding which requests and acquisitions have priority over others. Correct?

Consequently, we faced an early dilemma. Wait for the library to order (or not) a book we're specifically interested in reading OR search to purchase that specific book USED, or new if need be. I suspect authors appreciate that kind of decision due to what's called "royalties"—often the author's source of income. As you may or may not imagine, we own sizable personal libraries paid for with our own dollars. Pro-choice.

I'll end with a story you may find interesting. Several years ago, my wife and I listened to a fascinating radio interview between the host and a retired professor, who has authored several books. I won't mention his name. His subject(s) were controversial and from a point-of-view, a majority in today's world would classify "politically incorrect."

I was understandably skeptical I'd find this author at any local library. I did find a nice used copy (rare at the time) on Amazon for only \$5 plus shipping, a striking 3% of the new price at that time.

When the hardbound copy arrived, it was in good shape except for the big red letters "WITHDRAWN," stamped on the inside title page and all three edges. Clearly, strong psychological and emotional forces were at work to censor the book from the library's shelves.

My point is that even the most broad-minded of librarians have biases (subjective preferences) that filter the selection and disposal of books purchased with taxpayer's dollars for "public" consumption. I prefer the liberty to choose my reading material rather than have it pre-filtered by those who might think they know what's best for me to read. Sometimes things aren't what they seem.

Attachment with no description

Edited 26 Feb

WC

WC

, Red Feather Lakes Village

Ever heard of interlibrary loan? You can borrow books from other libraries and have them sent to RFL. Just ask a librarian for help.

26 Feb

Creed Kidd

Creed Kidd

, Red Feather Lakes Village

Well, thank you, Dan, being contrarian leads at times to interesting, level discussions that often work well for everyone. Diversity is a valued factor in our community as well as on library shelves. We're not aware of any herds locally in any fashion.

I'm going to try to assist with some of your questions, likely in snippets to avoid hard-to-read lengthy posts.

There are some differences in terminology. We normally refer to the library cornucopia rather as being user and community responsive.

Certainly there's no cost-savings if a service isn't used. That's a personal choice. There are any number of items built into each Larimer County tax year assessment that I have little interest in and don't use. That in itself doesn't mean that funding or a given project isn't worthwhile or valuable to other residents.

Users. We tally use monthly. As of Feb. 1, there were 771 registered cards in zip 80545 and 583 in zip 80536 or 1354 altogether. At last calculation (2018) the Colorado State Library pegs District population at 1810.

However, a card doesn't necessarily mean one user. Some husbands and wives share a card: registered to Joe and Joan Blow. Some families rely on a single card for the whole family and some families rely on adult cards held by Dad and Mom.

So, there's variables in cards and card use.

With overall library use we counted 22,105 individuals using the building in 2019, excluding from that count staff and volunteers and folks in and out during a short period. Dividing that figure by the 356 days we were open in 2019 gives a pretty good average of daily count.

26 Feb

DR

DR

, Glacier View Meadows

The library's a great community resource and community meeting place. My wife and I borrow books and DVDs frequently. We have found that the library can get nearly everything that we want to read or view with a short wait. Over the last two years, I have only had to buy two books (esoteric, small press publications) that I couldn't get from the library. We have accounts at Red Feather, Poudre, and the CSU library--all great resources.

26 Feb

JS

JS

, Crystal Lakes

Dan Smedra have u requested books from rfl? We have and have been very pleasantly surprised at how many have been purchased!

26 Feb

JG

JG

, Glacier View Meadows

I love our library!! Better than Fort Collins! Great resource for Families!!!

26 Feb

WS

WS

, Glacier View Meadows

Well said, Creed. There seems to be an unfortunate sentiment of "if it doesn't benefit me directly i don't want anyone having it" I've seen in many recent community discussions on here.

As a young family where parents are commuting into the city to work and have young kids, our personal enjoyment and benefit from the library cannot be understated.

All that can be borrowed (much of what was mentioned i didn't even know about) is very appreciated. Albums to enjoy on the long drive and movie rentals that save us ~\$4.99 cost each are a huge help to our budgeting.

My input here is not to fuel a fued, only to remind everyone that if you don't use the library, maybe go check it out more since there's really something for everyone. But beyond that please remember that everyone is in a different situation and trying to enjoy the mountain life no matter our personal circumstances.

Change is always constant, it's up to each of us to embrace and shape our community's growth in a way that supports the greater good rather than subjective grumblings.

26 Feb

DS

DS

, Glacier View Meadows

They... "don't want anyone having it." That's false W, a mis-characterization of the discussion. The core issue is how it's funded and operated. I think everyone is smart enough to understand that.

Question. If a group here on the mountain were to propose a community gun range, built and operated with additional property tax assessments, by 51% voter approval, would you and yours be ok with that? How about those in the community who don't own firearms, hunt, etc? Will it be fair to characterize those who opposed the gun range as "you don't want anyone having it?"

26 Feb

JG

JG

, Glacier View Meadows

Sorry about the face. When I am reading sometimes I catch one of the faces. Again sorry.

26 Feb

SK

SK

, Glacier View Meadows

Jeannette Gaiter I've done that before.

26 Feb

Z

Z

, Crystal Lakes

JG fyi, any of the "thank" emotes can be changed/removed. Just touch it again.

26 Feb

JG

JG

, Glacier View Meadows

Z thank you!

28 Feb

Creed Kidd

Add a reply...

LC

LC

, Crystal Lakes

Libraries are worth every cent for what they give!

27 Feb