RETURING TO NORMAL AT THE LIBRARIES

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It was one year ago this month that our libraries were among the first in the state to open our doors so that we could serve our communities who needed us. And this month ends with the lifting of the face covering mandate for fully vaccinated library patrons and staff. We will now be allowed to start library programming and book sales in person, warmly welcome each patron into the library with a fully visible smile, and put all of the furniture back into place!

It will take time to plan in person programming, and the rollout will be gradual as we all adjust to this new ‘normal’ which is still not quite normal. We have learned so many things this past year, and we will keep some of the new methods of providing service, including online programming and activities, curbside book delivery for those who need it, and Zoom meetings for better communication between branches.

We have also learned this past year just how incredibly resilient and creative our library staff are, and that we are willing and able to provide services beyond our traditional roles. Our Summer Reading Programs are in full swing, with activities ranging from terrarium making to building bird feeders, to weekly animal storytimes, to poetry workshops.

We have a Book to Action book club and writing workshop with our local author Julie Samrick focusing on mental health and resiliency. Our teens are engaging in online platforms together and our little ones are in educational cohorts with their parents that meet in person with our Early Childhood Literacy Specialists at the library.

Create El Dorado is one of the grants that we received from the California State Library (it allows us to work with local businesses) and it is going so well! High Mountain Greenery is teaching how to make terrariums, Sierra Quilters is teaching how to make sewing projects, and a local music studio is going to teach how to play the ukulele! It has been wonderful to be able to give back to our businesses that have been so generous to our libraries and communities for so many years, and we will definitely keep these relationships and programs going.

Our libraries will be welcoming three new employees as we have been allocated three Community Health Advocate positions so that we may expand our Community Hub Services to all ages. Generous support and funding from First 5 El Dorado and from our Board of Supervisors have made this possible, and it will be vital as the county moves into the economic recovery stage of the pandemic. We will be here to support our community members find housing, jobs, and food right in their own communities.

Our libraries are also migrating to the county IT network, and that has provided a host of challenges as well. The public will have their own network which will allow for better safety and privacy protocols. We are also exploring options for credit and ATM card use for patrons when paying fines and fees. Our newest Strategic Plan continues to be relevant and on target as we move to provide better customer service and resources.

The California State Library will be rolling out many new grant opportunities this year to support public libraries and we are looking forward to creatively enhancing our library services with them. Each day is a new adventure, and with our Friends by our side, we are ready to get out there and get going!

So ready to have our families back in the library to learn with us!
In Person Programming, here we come...

As we plan library programs for August and September, book sales and FOL events may also resume...what will it all look like as we return to normal?

Did you know?

We do food and diaper delivery for families in need at Cameron Park Community Hub

Our Community Partners have helped provide so many resources and food for our families, here is a partial list:

- Cameron Park Hub 2 Team
- First 5 El Dorado
- Placer Food Bank and Feed El Dorado
- El Dorado County Office of Education and Early Care and Education Planning Council and Child Abuse Prevention Council
- El Dorado County Senior Services
- El Dorado County Health and Human Services Agency’s Maternal Child and Adolescent Health Program and Mental Health Services Act
- Placerville Kiwanis

Creating mindfulness with the arts

Children’s Activities

Animal storytimes are held every week and focus on our Summer Reading Program theme, “Tales and Tails”.

Teens

Using their creativity during the summer, teens are making macramé, nature journals, dream catchers, and hedgehogs made out of old books!

Adults

A new virtual program series includes making jewelry, painting rocks, learning fiber arts, and playing the ukulele!

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Did you know? Summer Reading Program is in full swing with activities offered almost every single day! Visit our website calendar: eldoradolibrary.org