visit

166,770 total visits
751 new library cards

learn

14,201 people attended 799 programs

check out

73,666 items circulated
20,191 E-materials downloaded
connect

- Public computer uses: 26,632
- Public wifi logins: 61,320

help

- Volunteer hours: 3,604
- Support from the Friends of the Library and our community: $30,395

grow

- New books: 2,281
- New dvds: 351
- New audiobooks: 126
The Pine River Library plays a crucial role in our community by offering services that are indispensable to the majority of our residents. In 2018, the library had 166,770 visits or 471 visits a day! With an average of eight staff members on duty over the eight hours we are open, that means each staff member works with an average of 38 patrons every day in addition to ordering materials, cataloging, shelving, updating computers, helping with faxes, passports, scanning, providing youth, teen and adult programs and a myriad of other tasks.

In January of 2017 the Library’s balanced budget was devastated due to falling revenue from oil and gas production. Library revenues were reduced by $164,000 at the same time that health insurance prices rose by an average of 21% nationally. Thanks to great foresight over many years, the Board saved for such a shortfall and the reserve fund was able to balance our budget for that year by covering the operations shortfall and helping with the never-ending task of keeping our computers updated. In 2018, revenues remained flat and in January 2018 the Board chose again to infuse reserve fund cash in order to keep our services at a level the community was accustomed to.

In August 2018, the Board looked at three options:
(1) Continue the current service level by subsidizing with the Library’s reserve fund. (Available subsidies from the reserve fund will be exhausted by 2022 based on current predictions.) (2) Cut staff and services significantly; (3) Ask our district residents to cover the shortfall and plan for the future with an additional levy – the first in 19 years. The Board decided to ask residents to cover the shortfall with a small tax increase ($3.60/month for a $300,000 home), but the November ballot issue failed by 9 votes.
It was an exciting Election Day, and I want to thank all of our supporters. For those residents in the community who have come to love our library, we will continue to live up to the high standards we set for ourselves. We were recognized as the “Best Small Library in the Country” for a good reason! We also want to recognize those of you who decided not to vote for the initiative. I want to assure you that the library will do its best to continue to serve everyone in the community by following our vision – “Connecting People with Possibilities.” The staff at the library is dedicated to providing the best service possible and helping with any of your informational, recreational and intellectual needs. If you don’t know about the vast amount of services the library offers, please take the time to stop by. Let us know if we fall short at any time so we can always be the best.

Due to the election results of the vote last year, the library took the first steps to address the revenue shortfall and extend the remaining reserve fund balance as long as possible. Starting January 1, 2019, the Library closed on Sundays and shortened its Saturday and weekday hours reducing the total hours open from 61 to 45. The Board also instituted additional cost saving measures including reduced health insurance benefits, programming budget cuts, cost of living and raises stopped and staff furloughs.

Total cuts for this first phase of budgeting equal $64,428. More cuts are necessary to make up the additional $135,000 in revenue shortfalls to balance the budget this year. Until those cuts are decided upon, the Board will use the diminishing reserve fund for operating expenses. The Library staff apologizes for any inconvenience these cuts may cause to those residents who so steadfastly support our library. The Library will continue to do the best it can with the resources available.

On a positive note, an exciting development in 2018 was the first season of Pine River Arts—a community arts and cultural initiative. Partners in this endeavor included Bayfield School District, Bayfield PTSA, BeFrank, Billy Goat Saloon, Durango Arts Center, Fort Lewis Community Concert Hall, KSUT, Music in the Mountains, Rocky Mountain Uke Fest, San Juan Symphony, and Stillwater Music.

On another positive note, we still have foundations—like GOCO and the Colorado Health Foundation—who financed 85% of the park next to the library, and the Ballantine Family Fund, who gave $10,000 to the Library for operational costs in 2019. We are optimistic that we can continue to provide excellent service because of the amazing staff members who are forever finding ways to cut expenses, keep a smile on their face, and be the professional information gatherers that they are. We love what we do to help spark curiosity and connect our community through literacy and learning. There’s no greater democratic institution than the Public Library.

And, we cannot forget the consistent support from the Friends of the Library under Susan Miller’s great leadership. Others to thank include the many community members who support us in so many ways.
Services Delivered
The Pine River Public Library District (PRL) serves its community by “connecting people with possibilities.” PRL offers a facility that allows for our residents to meet, study, create, learn, connect and have fun! In 2018 PRL offered 799 programs that brought in over 15,130 people. Our 17,000 square foot community garden allows for community members to grow their own food and share with other community organizations that serve those in need. Our collection of materials and books matches any in rural libraries, and our technology is rich and complex. We enhance our access to materials by partnering with 38 libraries to share resources that are delivered by courier. The one-acre Bayfield Library Park, a grant-funded partnership with the Town of Bayfield on library property to the west of the library, serves our children and families throughout the year. PRL asked the voters for a two-mill tax increase in 2018, but the initiative was turned down by nine votes. This required an immediate round of cuts to work toward a balanced budget. The District has savings set aside to supplement the revenues until 2022. At that point the funds will be exhausted and service and staff will be drastically cut unless a new means of revenue can be secured. The Pine River Public Library District recognizes the importance of being transparent with the funds secured through community tax dollars. The Board of Trustees and the Director welcome any questions or comments. A formal audit is performed every year and is available to the public. Details are provided below.

2018 Budget Overview
Property taxes are the most significant source of general revenues for the Library. Property taxes ($531,482) accounted for 84% of total revenues ($635,218) in 2018. Between 2016 and 2018, assessed property values within the Library’s special tax district have decreased or remained flat. Specific ownership taxes ($58,705) were also a significant source of revenue, accounting for about 9% of total revenues. Grants and donations ($10,441) made up 1.6% of the District’s budget and the remaining funds came from investment interest and collection revenues. The Library’s Board of Trustees is committed to continuing to offer the highest level of service and thus supplemented the operating budget in 2018 by $199,487 (unaudited).

Financial Analysis of the Library’s Funds

The Library uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. Library revenues over the past eight years reflect the decreased property values due to the recession and oil and gas reductions. The highest revenues were in 2010 ($1,238,175). In 2018, the total revenues were $635,218.
Library Expenditures – 2018

The Library’s General Fund expenditures consist primarily of personnel costs (wages, employee benefits, taxes and staff development, etc.) The following pie chart excludes capital outlay and depreciation expenses.

2019 Budget Overview

Beginning Fund Balance (unaudited) (Reserve and General) in 2019: $1,039,091
The Beginning Fund Balance figure is a projected amount, pending the completion of the certified external financial audit. The 2018 beginning fund balance decreased by $251,487 to $1,039,091 from the 2018 beginning balance of $1,290,578, due to the need to cover falling revenues. Capital expenses in 2018 included a partial xeriscape of the front of our property. The La Plata County Treasurer projects continued decreases in property tax revenue over the next few years due to falling oil and gas revenues and mandatory property tax rebalancing due to the Gallagher Amendment. As a result, the reserve fund balance is expected to continue to fall over the next few years. In 2019, the reserve fund will supplement the operations budget by $105,000 after $64,428 in cuts. Additional expenses from the reserve fund will include some technology updates for 2009–2013 computers. Looking to the future, the Board projects that our available reserve fund can help to support current services until 2022. Board policy requires a reserve fund balance that will cover TABOR requirements and a six-month operating coverage – about $450,000.

2019 Ending Fund Balance (Reserve and General) (projected): $904,091
The ending balance for the district is expected to drop by $135,000 in order to cover revenue shortfalls and necessary capital improvements. The district has cut service hours and one staff member in addition to significant healthcare cost reductions to work toward a balanced budget.

2019 Revenues: $675,718 (projected)
Revenue projections will increase slightly because of a $10,000 unsolicited grant from the Ballantine Family Fund although property taxes remained basically flat. Revenue in 2020 is expected to drop due to mandatory tax rebalancing due to the Gallagher Amendment.

2019 Expenditures (projected)
Salaries and benefits represent 67% of the 2019 budget. The District has the equivalent of 10 FTE (full-time employees). The budget for Books and Materials totals $67,786 or 8.6% of the budget. Repairs and Maintenance projections total $65,000 or 8% of the budget.

Request for Information
Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to: Shelley Walchak, Director, Pine River Library District, P.O. Box 227, Bayfield, CO 8112, or you may call 970-884-2222.
“I now live in Trinidad, Colorado, and I try not to say, “The Bayfield Library too many times”! But there are just so many great things about your library, starting with your head librarian and all the AWESOME staff you have!! They are truly a community center. I particularly miss the Bookmarks group, the fantastic circulation, and the wonderful friendships I made as a volunteer. If you haven’t availed yourself of their programs, it’s your loss!!”
-Lynne Chambers Walters

I am originally from Durango, but now live in Tempe, Arizona. I sometimes spend my summers and vacations back in the area to visit family and friends whenever I can and one of the places I always look to for family fun events is the library... Thank for everything you do! You are a gem of the community.”
-Candice Reeve

“The toddler classes at the library are how I finally found local mom friends and a great support network!“
-Karen Nollet

“My family loves our BEST LITTLE LIBRARY! As a Mama to three children we have been involved with the Library since we moved here from Florida in 2004. Summer reading programs every summer, Craftsmoons, Classic Movie Mondays, movies outside, borrowing books for school book reports, personal reading, borrowing audio books, mp3 players, laptops, music! We’ve gotten help with making resumes and advice on which tablet to buy. We’ve attended fun teen events like Hunger Games, Harry Potter, Divergent parties and card and craft making events. Most of all the library is a safe place for teens to go after school and be with their friends to hang out, study, play games, decompress...and where I go to collect and give hugs! I love my library and all the friends I’ve made there!
-Teri Lerch Funke
The Pine River Library wants to thank all our donors last year. Your help contributed to alleviating our revenue shortfalls. Although a shortage of $135,000 remains for 2019, the Library has begun to institute a variety of spending cuts. Special thanks to the Ballantine Family Fund, who awarded PRL an unsolicited $10,000 grant to help us create "a vibrant and healthy community" and "reach new potential." In 2018 other notable donors of $1000+ include the Town of Bayfield, Vallecito Service Club, Jeannie Gillette, Friends of the Pine River Library, Susan & Steve Miller and First National Bank (now TBK).

And of course we couldn’t do it without the support of the Friends of the Library members!

**Major Sponsors ($1,000 plus)**
- Ballantine Family Fund
- First National Bank of Durango
- Friends of the Library
- Jeannie Gillette
- Steve & Susan Miller
- Town of Bayfield

**Supporters ($500 plus)**
- Bob & Carol Fabrey
- Pine River Valley Centennial
- Rotary Club
- San Juan Regional Medical Center

**Supporters ($100 plus)**
- American Legion
- Audrey & Charles Camarata
- Bayberry Market
- Robin Cole
- Siobhan & Granville Conway
- Fran N Evans
- Ellie Flake
- Declan, Max & Sarah Goldman
- Gaye & Dick Grossman
- Growing Spaces
- Caroline Hamilton
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