

Letter: Libraries foster community; let district keep revenue

Jennifer Jakovich and Charlene Olms 12:08 a.m. MDT October 19, 2016



(Photo: Poudre River Public Library District)

Libraries were an essential part of our youth growing up. We would spend hours browsing the books, and the best part of it was that the library grew with us. Whatever our interest was at the time, there was a book on it. We went from picture books to young adult stories to information on colleges and travel.

Today we are mothers and we recognize the continued importance of having these tools available to us and our kids. Only now the library offers so much more for us. The resources available now through the library are amazing.

Our kids enjoy story time, protected computer access, reading groups for teens, and the library is the perfect place to rush to for those last-minute homework projects. The summer reading program has kept them all

busy trying to reach their goals. In addition, new interests have been discovered and fostered from our kids simply browsing the huge selection of books. They have learned how to care for a new puppy and what makes you sneeze and began their Harry Potter journey.

We couldn't imagine having to limit the numerous programs and activities available through our local libraries. We have become accustomed to checking the monthly calendar for ways to keep our family busy, especially in the summer months when there are fabulous free multicultural programs. Having a variety of offerings, including family friendly weekend Storytime, is important to us, and we know that proper funding is pertinent to make that happen.

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Our Poudre River Public Library District was created in 2006 by a voter-approved mill levy. Over 1 million visits were made to our library in 2015. Since its creation, the Library District opened Council Tree Library in Front Range Village, completed a major renovation and expansion of the Old Town Library, increased hours of operation, and continues to host programs for tens of thousands of children, teens and adults.

But our library is now being threatened by recent interpretations of Colorado tax limitation law (TABOR).

Poudre River Public Library District ballot issue 5F asks voters to reaffirm our support and will resolve potential legal threats. A yes vote will prevent substantial legal expenses and protect future library services.

It is important to note 5F is not a new tax, a change in the existing mill levy or a request for a new funding source for the Library District.

Recent interpretations question the use of dollars raised in excess of original projections.

But it's simple, tax collections grew because local property values increased and so did community demand for library services.

Our Library District responsibly used our tax dollars to increase services and has grown as our families, our neighborhood and community have grown.

Poudre River Public Library District is essential to our community — free computer access, films and lectures, career planning, historical archives, genealogy, digital media, youth summer reading programs, business services, bilingual materials, movies and CDs, periodicals, hundreds of thousands of books, and so much more — all free and open to anyone with a library card. Your vote is needed to protect the future of our library services.

Please join our families in voting yes on 5F for our libraries.

Jennifer Jakovich is a 10-plus-year resident of Fort Collins whose family includes two children who attend Zach Elementary and Preston Middle School. Charlene Olms, Jennifer's sister, is a 12-plus-year resident of Fort Collins whose family includes a preschooler and a Kruse elementary student.

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Letter: Support our libraries with your vote

Julie Lechtanski and Joey Hoefler 11 a.m. MDT October 20, 2016



(Photo: Julie Lechtanski)

We are writing to ask voters and library supporters for a yes vote on ballot measure 5F. As presidents of the two local library advocacy groups, the Poudre River Friends of the Library and the Poudre River Library Trust, we need help in spreading the word about this election and its importance.

Although voters already approved the formation of the Library District and its tax support in 2006, new legal interpretations now threaten library funding. Citizens must vote again to reaffirm that the Library District can keep all collected tax revenues — this ballot measure does not levy any new taxes.

For more info: www.yesforourlibraries.org (<http://www.yesforourlibraries.org/>).

Why? Where can anyone go to find entertainment, answers to questions, help with problems, to learn about anything and everything, to join a group for social and knowledge sharing, or to take their children to learn where to find all these things? The library.

Think about these quotes from some very smart people:

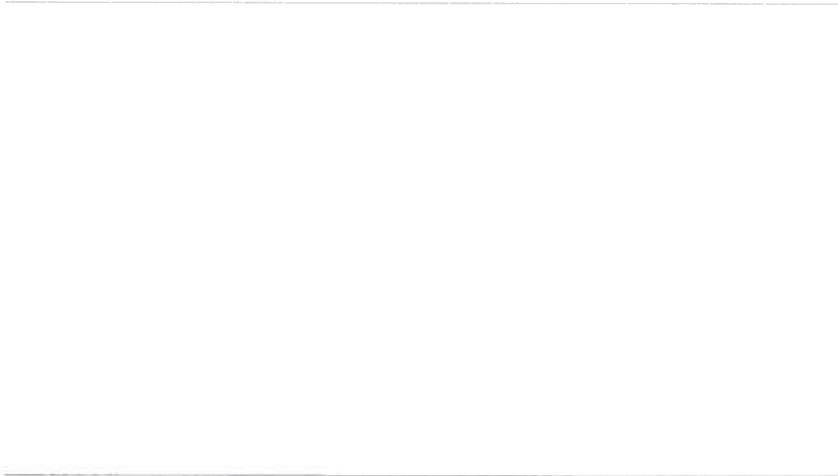
"What is more important in a library than anything else — than everything else — is the fact that it exists." — Archibald MacLeish

"Google can bring you back 100,000 answers, a librarian can bring you back the right one." — Neil Gaiman

"Bad libraries build collections; good libraries build services; great libraries build communities." — R. David Lankes

"The most important asset of any library goes home at night — the library staff." — Timothy Healy

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Vote yes on ballot issue 5F. Vote yes for our libraries.

Julie Lechtanski and Joey Hoefler, Fort Collins

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Letter: Why a fiscal conservative is voting yes on 5F

Fred Colby 5:01 p.m. MDT October 20, 2016



(Photo: Fred Colby)

I am voting yes on 5F to help preserve the ability of our libraries to continue serving our community as they have in the past.

For three decades I've practiced my commitment to fiscal conservatism as a businessman, an elected official and a nonprofit board member. Government agencies must be open and transparent while being good stewards of monies entrusted to them by their taxpayers. For our libraries, this means providing cost-effective and high-quality services which educate, inform and entertain our growing community.

As a fellow resident, recently retired businessman and member of the Poudre River Public Library District Board of Trustees, I can assure you that our district has gone the extra mile in being transparent, in adhering to the laws, and in striving to provide our community with the best and most cost-efficient library services possible with the funds provided by you, the taxpayer.

Recently raised new questions about the statewide tax limitation law (TABOR) pose a threat to library funding, despite the overwhelming approval by voters in 2006 of the current mill levy funding stream.

The revenues raised since 2006 through this mill levy have been properly collected and properly allocated to support our libraries as originally intended by the voters. A yes vote on 5F does not increase taxes, assess a new tax or change a current tax. A yes vote preserves the status quo by confirming that our library district is approved to continue collecting the 3 mill levy as originally authorized in 2006.

5F will help shield the library district from costly legal battles threatened by a single individual, while protecting the primary funding stream of our libraries.

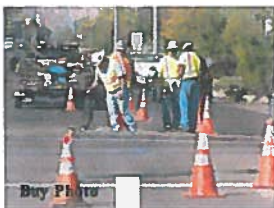
Please vote yes on 5F.

Fred Colby, Chair, Yes For Our Libraries

Read or Share this story: <http://noconow.co/2ey7Ts3>

Groups form to back city and library ballot issues

Kevin Duggan, kevinduggan@coloradoan.com 6:34 p.m. MDT October 8, 2016



(Photo: Coloradoan library)

Two local issues near the bottom of the long November ballot have found advocates for their passage.

Supporters of Issue 2B from the city of Fort Collins and Issue 5F from Poudre River Public Library District have organized to make sure voters know about the measures and to encourage “yes” votes.

The citizen groups – Yes, Again, to Keep Fort Collins Great and Yes For Our Libraries – are gearing up for social media campaigns and get-out-the-vote pushes, organizers said.

“We’re doing what we can to reach out and make people aware it’s on the ballot,” said Diane Jones, chair of Yes, Again ... “We really want to get the word out.”

In both cases, the ballot measures are asking voters to reaffirm what they said years ago by approving tax proposals.

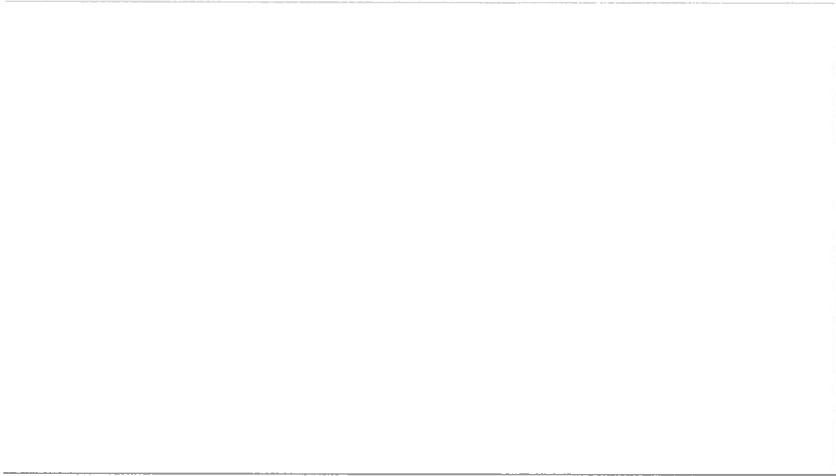
For the library district, it’s the 3 mill property tax approved in 2006 that funds about 95 percent of the district’s budget.

ELECTION 2016: [Area school districts seek \\$790M \(/story/news/2016/10/05/election-2016-area-school-districts-seek-790m/91220820/\)](http://story/news/2016/10/05/election-2016-area-school-districts-seek-790m/91220820/)

For the city of Fort Collins, it's the 0.85 percent Keep Fort Collins Great sales and use tax that has been used to fund street maintenance, police and fire protection, parks maintenance, and other programs since 2011.

The taxes are back before voters because of a little-known provision of the Taxpayer Bill of Rights, or TABOR, amendment to the state constitution.

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The law requires a taxing entity to refund revenue collected during the first year of new a tax that exceeds the amount estimated in the election notice. A second vote is needed for an entity to retain extra revenue.

City and library districts officials believed language in the original voter-approved ballot issues allowed them to keep all revenue from the taxes. But they reconsidered their positions in light of the state and Denver holding secondary TABOR elections last year to deal with higher than expected revenue from marijuana taxes.

They also faced threats of legal action from community activist Eric Sutherland. Rather than pursue potentially long and expensive legal battles, the city and district scrambled to get measures on the November ballot.

The library district has received solid voter support in two elections, including the one that established the district and set the mill levy, said Linda Gabel, president of the district board.

THE CANDIDATES: [Sheriff, Loveland police won't bill Trump for rally visit \(/story/news/2016/10/07/sheriff-loveland-police-wont-bill-trump-rally-visit/91609738/\)](#)

Library advocates plan to drive home the message that Issue 5F is not about a new tax, she said. Supporters also want residents to know the district has served them well and made good use of tax money.

"We don't want to be overconfident about this," she said. "We are trying to do what we can to get the message out."

An outspoken opponent of both ballot issues, Sutherland said he would not campaign against the measures. However, he would likely pursue litigation against the city and library district regardless of the outcome of the elections.

A court decision is needed to clear up ambiguities in the law, Sutherland said, particularly as to whether taxes were collected illegally and whether penalties should apply.

"We do need some direction," he said. "The court needs to come down on one side or the other."

Jones said her group also plans to highlight the benefits the city has received from Keep Fort Collins Great tax revenue. The tax was passed after years of city budget cuts during the Great Recession.

"Voters said 'we want these services,'" she said.

Kevin Duggan is a Coloradoan senior reporter covering local government. Follow him on Twitter, @coloradoan_dugg, and on Facebook at Coloradoan Kevin Duggan.



FOCO BOOK FEST

BREWIN' UP BOOKS

FOCO Book Fest: Saturday, Oct 22nd

The inaugural Fort Collins Books Fest: Brewin' Up Books! is here! Mark your calendars for a free, one-day public literary festival that blends books and authors with craft beer, coffee, and tea! They have all types of brew covered!

The desire is to create a venue for regionally and nationally known authors to speak to our community about unique topics, meet with festival attendees, provide literary programs and workshops, and focus attention on libraries, books, and the literary arts in Fort Collins.

For more information visit: FOCO Book Fest (<http://www.focobookfest.org/>)



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FoCo Book Fest to celebrate books and brews in Old Town

October 15, 2016 By Matthew Smith — 0 Comments

Over the decades, a brewing culture has been developing in Fort Collins. From the New Belgium headquarters in Old Town to tea startup Happy Lucky's Teahouse, FoCo has a lot to offer in the beverage department. But, there is also a vibrant literary community of prolific poets and novelists.

The upcoming FoCo Book Fest, an idea five years in the making, will be a combination of both aspects of our local culture, a celebration of Fort Collins' passion for books and brews.

From 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Oct. 22, over 50 presenters will discuss, teach and enjoy the arts of writing and brewing at 40 free sessions spread out over Old Town, all within walking distance of each other. Events will occur at Old Firehouse Books, the Downtown Artery, Wolverine Farm, Bas Bleu Theatre, New Belgium Breweries, Bean Cycle Roasters, Happy Lucky's Teahouse and the Old Town Library. The festival is sponsored by the CSU Morgan Library and New Belgium Brewing.

Independent from the festival but closely associated will be a presentation by Colorado Governor Hickenlooper titled "Beer and Politics" at 3:30 p.m. at the Bas Bleu Theatre. Hickenlooper will share his life story, from his ownership of a craft brewery in Denver to his successful foray into politics. This event will have limited access, so hurry and get free tickets at the Old Town Library while they last. There will be a signing of his new book "The Opposite of Woe" at 4:30 p.m. also at the Bas Bleu Theatre that is open to the public.

The festival will be headlined by the panel "The Books that Made Me" at New Belgium Brewery, attended by my Horst Dornbusch, a world renowned brew expert and author, and Fort Collins writers Mark Pendergrast and Katrina Roberts.

Katie Auman, FoCo Book Fest promoter and planner, said this panel will be about influential books.

"It will be a nice blend of different ideas and really a celebration of the books that influence us throughout our lives," Auman said.

Another panel will be "The Muses: Beverages that Inspire Writing" at the Downtown Artery. Local writers, lead by CSU English Professor Camille Dungy, will delve into their sources of creativity and the drinks which stir them up.

Throughout the day, there will be presentations at Wolverine Farm and New Belgium Brewery covering brewing practices and issues. Industry professionals will discuss the ethics of brewing as it relates to water conservation and fair trade, as well as malting and wood infusing techniques.

Stop by Happy Lucky's Teahouse in the morning to write some haikus while sampling their global tea collection. Later, learn how to brew a nice cup of Kombucha tea for yourself. Then, walk over to Bean Cycle Roasters for some coffee brewing demos.

There will be book signings at Old Firehouse Books and other venues at all times of the day. Look through the list of featured writers on the [FoCo Book Fest website](#) to see which local writers you want to go visit.

Interactive writing workshops will be ongoing throughout the day for avid writers or anyone interested in improving their writing skills. Held by local professionals and CSU's own Camilla Dungy, these workshops are free but limited. Some of the workshops require pre-registration, so check the [FoCo Book Fest schedule](#) online beforehand.

Brew expert Horst Dornbusch will host his own panel titled "Beer, Books, and What Makes us Human" at the Downtown Artery. In it, Dornbusch will talk about what he enjoys in life and also about how beverages

stretch across different cultural lines, according to Auman.

The festival will also have its own beverages. New Belgium, Bean Cycle and Happy Lucky's will all create their own limited edition beer, coffee and tea just for the occasion. These custom brews will be in high demand and short supply, so get them while they last.

Fort Collins is a culture with its own stories, and the FoCo Book Fest is a celebration of those stories.

Auman said she wants it to be "an engaging opportunity for people from all sorts of backgrounds to come and intersect with each other."

In combining both the local literary and brewing spheres, it will "try to encompass a lot of what our community is passionate about," said Auman.

There is going to be something for everyone at the FoCo Book Fest. Be you a brewing enthusiast, a poet or just someone who loves Kombucha, you will be guaranteed to see something you are passionate about.

Filed Under: [Arts and Culture](#), [Local Events](#)



About Matthew Smith

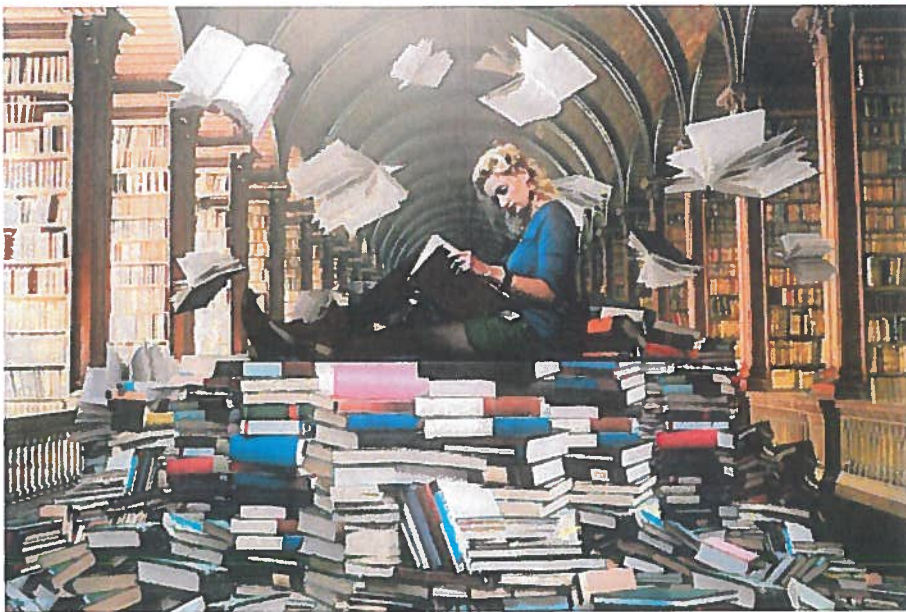
Fort Collins Book Fest Blending Craft Brew and Books



By Kama August 25, 2016 11:19 AM

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Getty Images

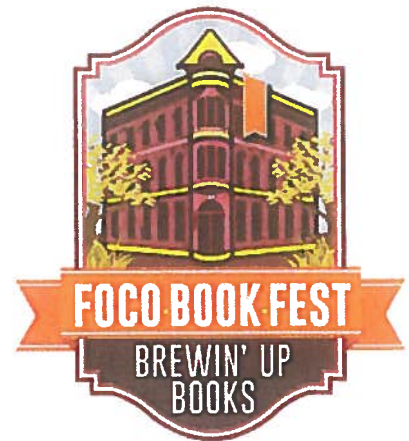
of Woe: My Life in Beer and Politics.

There will also be **workshops and events** at other various venues around Old Town Fort Collins.

Books are adventure and knowledge. In Fort Collins we have a super awesome library system. They are gearing up for the **Fort Collins Books Fest: Brewin' Up Books** on Saturday, Oct. 22, 2016.

This is a **FREE** literary festival put on by **Poudre River Public Library District** and **CSU's Morgan Library** that blends books and authors with craft beer, coffee, and tea. Hence, the reason that Brewin' Up Books is this year's theme.

Several respected authors will read from their books and discuss their love of crafted brew including, Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper who will be discussing his recent book, *The Opposite*



LATEST FROM ALANA LYNN



Longmont Emergency Sirens Sound By Accident this Morning



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Lunchables Issue Recall for Product Mislabeling



FoCo Book Fest attracts Colorado Gov., award-winning authors and international beer expert

October 24, 2016 By [Matthew Smith](#) — [Leave a Comment](#)

The FoCo Book Fest took place in Old Town over the weekend, attracting book and brew-lovers from all around the state.

Some of the festival's biggest names included Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper, New Belgium Brew Master Peter Bouckaert, international beer expert and author Horst Dornbusch and award-winning poet Katrina Roberts.

The majority of the day's speakers were CSU faculty members like Andrew Altschul or local writers like Sarah Hahn Campbell.

At stands across Old Town, Happy Lucky's Teahouse served their unique brew "Free Verse Cinnaplum," a plum oolong tea that cultivates the essence of harvest time and bonfires. Bean Cycle Roaster's also created a festival drink called "Book Buzz 641.3373," paying homage to the Dewey decimal classification for coffee. Fruity and nutty, this craft roast invoked the distinctive smell and feel of an old book.

One of the first events of the day was the panel called How Books are Brewed at the Downtown Artery, moderated by CSU Creative Writing Professor Camille Dungy and attended by Roberts and Eleni Sikelianos. The panelists read from some of their recent work while explaining their processes of putting ideas to paper.

Roberts described the technique of "found poetry," where the entirety of a poem's language is taken directly from another source, such as a New York Times article about squalor in Afghanistan.

"I wouldn't be the poet I am without my family," explained Sikelianos. Her mother, a rough and tumble rock hound in the Mojave dessert, and her great grandfather Angelos Sikelianos, twice nominated for the Nobel prize in Literature, are some of Sikelianos' biggest influences.

At the New Brews panel, writers from CSU's Creative Writing Department shared some of their tales of inspiration, humor and action.

Andrew Altschul, author of Deus Ex Machina, read from his short story "y=mx+b." A unidentified man with a vague career tries to survive the day while undergoing a crippling existential crisis. The man tells himself "a beer, a cig, a ballgame will make you feel better," but nothing can.

Assistant Professor Todd Mitchell read for the first time the first chapter of his newest book "The Last Panther," a story about an 11-year-old Floridian on a brave mission to save her state's last panther from poachers.

An impressive group of essayists, poets and fiction writers talked about the drinks that inspire their writing at the panel The Muses.

Richard Keller said he depends on coffee for his writing, not to inspire himself but to inspire others. His book "Coffee Cup Tales" is a collection of overheard conversations at coffee shops. Keller explained that coffee lets out people's angst, revealing what they worry about most.

Fiction writer Laura Resau uses hot chocolate to break through her writer's block. She claimed that some of the chemicals in cocoa serve to boost creativity and awareness.

In between swigs from a hip flask, O. Henry said he uses alcohol in his writing, not to think up new ideas with but to cut himself off at the point when he becomes physically incapable of continuing. The famed short story writer actually died in 1910, and his appearance Saturday was a performance by O. Henry specialist Dennis Elkins.

At the event Beer & Politics, Hickenlooper gave a personal and interactive speech on his journey from being the owner of a Denver brewpub to becoming governor of Colorado. After his small business took off, Hickenlooper started having higher aspirations.

Hickenlooper said that when he looked at Denver, he thought that "the council members are bums, that congressional representative is a bum, every elected official is a bum," and he could do a better job. And so he ran for mayor as a dark horse candidate and won against all odds.

The governor explained the title of his new book "The Opposite of Woe: My Life in Beer and Politics." Hickenlooper was in a public speaking class at the University of Wyoming when his professor was giving a lecture on the importance of creating opposites. The professor asked "what is the opposite of despair?" A student responded with "joy." Then the professor asked "what is the opposite of woe?" Someone way in the back yelled "giddy up!" Hickenlooper took this joke to be representative of his life. He finds purpose in hard work and determination.

Hickenlooper also read a few passages from "The Opposite of Woe." He had just gotten back from college and his mother was excited to spend the evening talking, but he had already made plans to see a movie with a friend. Realizing his mother's disappointment, Hickenlooper offered to take her with him, not knowing what the movie was. As it turned out, it was the controversial X-rated film "Deep Throat," now considered the most explicit movie to ever be played in conventional theaters. Too awkward to ask to leave or do anything else, they watched the entire thing in stunned silence.

Along with Tim Kaine, Hickenlooper was vetted to be Hillary Clinton's running mate. When asked how he felt about the loss, the governor said "Luckily, I didn't get chosen. I was blessed."

Overall, the FoCo Book Fest was an entertaining success. Event Coordinator and Business Librarian at Poudre River Libraries Anne Macdonald said, "It really worked to have the mixture of literature and craft brewing."

The festival's organizing committee looks to growing it into a premier annual event in the future.

Filed Under: **Arts and Culture, Culture and Community, Featured, Local Events**

Friday, October 21, 2016



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http://www.wyomingnews.com/entertainment/foco-book-festival-celebrates-brew-culture/article_f14e05b8-9584-11e6-b36a-13780bcf1150.html

FoCo book festival celebrates brew culture

By Ellen Fike, Wyoming Tribune Eagle 8 hrs ago

The idea for the FoCo Book Fest was planted four years ago, but it wasn't until late 2015 that started to blossom.

"The whole reason for the festival was to not only celebrate libraries, literature and learning, but to tie those together with Fort Collins' social and cultural interests – especially brewing," said Katie Auman, Communications Assistant with the Poudre River Public Library District. "That's where we got the theme, 'Brewin' Up Books.' "

The first ever Fort Collins, Colorado literary festival will be held in the Old Town district tomorrow from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Fifty authors will be featured including a mix from Colorado and around the country. They represent a variety of genres including poetry, fiction and nonfiction. Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper will make an appearance during the festival, participating in a book signing at 4:30 p.m., which is open to the public.

The festival is free, but you can purchase books, beer or other refreshments.

The FoCo Book Fest is set up like a pub crawl, with eight businesses and organizations, including the Old Town Library and New Belgium Brewery, participating. All are within a short walking distance of each other.

There will be writing workshops, panels and book signings with the authors at the stops. Anyone interested in participating in the workshops should register on the festival's website.

One panel Auman was excited about is "The Books That Made Me," a discussion with Odell Brewing founder Doug Odell, scholar and author Mark Pendergrast, poet Katrina Roberts and brewer Horst Dornbusch. They will discuss literature, how it's affected them and their works, both personally and professionally.

Since brewing is a major theme of the festival, three Old Town locations are making special drinks for the event. New Belgium Brewing will offer a small batch of a Belgian Golden beer brewed with honey and orange peels tentatively named "FoCo Book Fest Read My Lips," which will be available in their tasting room. Happy Lucky's Teahouse will offer a plum oolong tea, described as a "celebration of dead leaves turning," called "Free Verse Cinnaplum" and will be available at the teahouse and various locations at the festival. Finally, Bean Cycle Roasters' will sell a Costa Rican roast called "Book Buzz 641.3373." It will be available at the coffee shop and Wolverine Farm Letterpress and Publick House as a single cup or as whole beans in a 12-ounce package.

So far, Auman said the response for the festival has been overwhelmingly positive, which makes the volunteers and organizers excited about going forward with it next year.

"We do want to grow this into a premier regional literary arts festival," she said. "The city's embrace of this event really shows the energy around the reading community."

If You Go

If you go

What: The first literary themed festival in Fort Collins, the FoCo Book Fest, featuring dozens of writers, book signings and writing workshops.

When: Oct. 22, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

Cost: Free

Online: www.focobookfest.org

Participating locations

- Old Town Library, 201 Peterson St., Fort Collins
- Bean Cycle Roasters, 144 N. College Ave., Fort Collins
- Happy Lucky's Teahouse, 236 Walnut St., Fort Collins
- Downtown Artery, 254 Linden St., Fort Collins
- Old Firehouse Books, 232 Walnut St., Fort Collins
- Wolverine Farm Letterpress and Publick House, 316 Willow St., Fort Collins
- Bas Bleu Theatre, 401 Pine St., Fort Collins
- New Belgium Brewery, 500 Linden St., Fort Collins

Ellen Fike

Ellen Fike is the Wyoming Tribune Eagle's features reporter. She can be reached at efike@wyomingnews.com or 307-633-3135. Follow her on Twitter [@EllenLFike](https://twitter.com/EllenLFike)