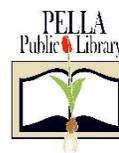


Welcome to the Pella Public Library! We invite you to use this self-guided walking tour to learn about our library, its resources, and the items and artwork displayed throughout the building.



This library building opened in October 2000. The new building was prompted by the 57,952 volumes overflowing the old Carnegie-Viersen Public Library on the Pella square. During construction, the library switched to a computerized catalog and circulation system. The Pella Public Library now houses 81,156 items as of 2018, including books, DVDs, CDs, art prints, cake pans, babysitter kits & A/V equipment.

Take a moment to stand near the front desk and look in all directions. Many eyes are drawn upward to the high ceiling (approximately 45 feet!) and the wooden beams that support it. In the distance, the windmill (in keeping with our Dutch heritage) might catch your eye. It serves as a cozy reading spot, and a good landmark for directing patrons to materials in that area.



If you keep looking up, but back toward the entrance, you'll see a stained glass window. It was part of the old Second Reformed Church and was donated to the City of Pella after a new church was built.

Just below the window, and to the right, are display cases available to individuals and organizations. These displays can be fun or educational. Themes have included water safety, Pella history, information about local groups, and someone sharing a fun collection of Legos or Star Wars memorabilia or their own craft.



If you turn around, go past the main desk, and look way up to the right, there is a textile with whimsical animals embroidered on it. This is a Hmong quilt, referred to as a "Story Cloth." These often depict the history of the Hmong people of Laos. The label on the back states, "The embroidery and designs of the quilt were done by Hmong women in a Thailand camp. It was given to the library by a Pella family."

Continuing on, you'll pass the self-checkout machine, and the copy and print center. Copying and printing can be done here for a small per-page charge. Items can be sent to the printer from our public computers, a personal device, or even from home.



As you turn the corner, public computers and study carrels are on the left, and study rooms are on the right. Our 5 study rooms, seating 2-4 people, are available to use with a library card or ID.

Just past the three study rooms is the Heritage Room. This room was set aside to house an ever-growing collection of genealogy materials and Pella history. It contains family histories, immigration records, city directories and yearbooks from our schools and Central College. There's even a Dutch Language collection. It's also a quiet place to sit and read.



We recently added an Ellison Die Cut machine to the Heritage Room with more than 70 dies (including numbers, letters, shapes and holiday themes) to choose from. Simply bring your own paper and create!

Heading out of the Heritage Room, you'll pass through the Teen area where the Young Adult books are housed. There are inviting booths, a technology table with stools, and a craft table, where there's always a container of colored pencils and bookmarks to color.



Wind your way left through our adult nonfiction stacks. Along the way are framed art prints leaning against most of the walls and shelves. Patrons can borrow this artwork for two months at a time. Some use them to periodically change the look of a room or office, while others use them until they decide on a permanent decorating scheme. This service was started in 1973 with 10 prints loaned from the regional library system in Des Moines. Today the collection numbers 132 pieces.

You'll come to an open area with our magazine and newspaper section of approximately 150 titles including local, state and national selections. In this area are three displays pertaining to the history of Pella and the library. A necklace and clay tile are in a case above the newspapers. The necklace belonged to Siebertje H. Viersen, who donated the land and funds to buy books for the first dedicated public library in Pella, The Carnegie-Viersen Public Library. A nearby framed, engraving also commemorates her contribution.



The clay tile was unearthed from the ancient town of Pella in present-day Greece. When translated, the inscription reads "Pella."

The mosaic on the ledge above the magazines is a replica of one discovered in the ruins of the city of Pella, Greece and is a bust of Alexander the Great. This mosaic and the "Pella" tile were presented as gifts to the City of Pella in 1963 by Greek dignitaries.



As you've been exploring, you may have already heard the chirping and singing of birds. Head toward the windmill and you'll see our indoor aviary. Sit awhile in the easy chairs nearby and observe the colorful birds as they build nests, perch and eat. A binder on the table between the nearby chairs describes each type of bird. The aviary was donated by Howard and Ethel Jaarsma in 2012, and the periodic maintenance is funded by Friends of the Pella Library.

From the aviary, walk along the shelves of DVDs, and you'll see a table tucked away under many framed pieces of art from Ed LeCocq. Mr. LeCocq was a Pella native famous for his political cartoons which appeared in the *Des Moines Register*, as well as many national and international publications such as *The Saturday Evening Post* and the *London Times*. This collection includes the presidents from William McKinley (who became president the year LeCocq was born) through Bill Clinton.



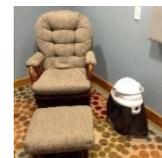
Walking toward the brick façade which houses our Story Time room, you'll see the inviting children's area where there are books for babies through children in middle school. Bright puzzles on the tables invite children to sit down and play, and there is an imaginative play area with a kitchen, dress-up station and train tracks to set up. The Story Time room is used for library programs but is also available for families who want a place to read, or to play with the many puppets who live in this room.

Artwork in this area includes clay tile mosaics created by the children of Pella at the Pella Art Center. Children wrote stories, drew pictures based on their stories, then translated these into the three clay mosaics you see. The large wooden cutouts were made by employees of the City of Pella Parks and Recreation Department and spent a summer in the flower beds at Central Park before coming to brighten up the children's section.



Heading into the far corner, you'll find relaxing cushions, puppets and book bags to check out, and our selection of cake pans, which help you make cakes in a variety of shapes, from regular round or square to a fire truck, princess, and more. Back in this corner, kids or adults can also watch a DVD or VHS tape on the TV or listen to a cassette or CD on the provided player.

As you make your way back to the front desk, there is a door on the right labeled, "Quiet Room." This room contains a glider rocker, diaper pail, changing table and some board books. Parents with hungry babies or fussy children are invited to use this room as an oasis when some calm is needed amidst the busy library.



Behind the desk is a framed artwork depicting a woman holding a plant. This work is a lithographic reproduction of a print based on an original Grant Wood painting, *Woman with Plants*. The model for the painting is said to be Grant Wood's mother. The painting was originally created in 1929 in Wood's distinctive Regionalism style, using oil on upson board. This lithograph was donated from the estate of Muriel "Murt" Kooi.

The American flag behind the desk was given to the library staff by the Russel Bossard family as a token of appreciation for the library's efforts to support Sheila (a former library employee) while Russ was deployed to Afghanistan. The flag was flown over Forward Operating Base Lion where Russ was stationed. The coins in the display were designed and made in coordination with the NATO and Afghan Forces in the region to represent the security partnership and history of Panjshir, Afghanistan.



Thank you for taking our tour – please return this laminated page to the desk.