



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Pleasanton Library Launches New Take-Home Laptop Lending Service** *Grant and Friends Funded Devices Allow Internet Access from Anywhere*

**Pleasanton, Calif.** – Starting March 16, the Pleasanton Library’s new Take-Home Laptop Lending service will give community members the ability to check out LTE-enabled Chromebooks from the library’s Sidewalk Service, providing internet access anywhere a cellular signal is present.

Access to the internet and technology has been one of the biggest equity gaps for library users to emerge from the COVID-19 library facility closure. Prior to the closure, 17 public PCs were highly relied upon by individuals needing to use computers and the internet throughout the library’s 62 open hours per week. Library staff have reported an uptick in the number of phone calls requesting internet access these past few months. Callers report needing to look for new jobs, apply for unemployment, and seek applicable resources, yet the inability to pay for access to technology also looms large with callers, even those who have not actually lost their job or those who have been able to receive unemployment benefits.

An initial \$5,000 Innovation and Technology grant application written by library staff was accepted by the Pacific Library Partnership in late 2020. Additional funding for data plans, storage, and maintenance will be provided by generous funding from the Friends of the Pleasanton Library for at least the next two years.

To learn how to check out a laptop, please visit [pleasantonlibrary.org](http://pleasantonlibrary.org) or follow us on Twitter @pleasantonca and Facebook at [www.facebook.com/CityofPleasanton](https://www.facebook.com/CityofPleasanton).

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