

## **A Brief History of the Soldotna Public Library**

The Soldotna library was originally built in 1972. In 1962, Juneau approved an appeal to incorporate a library into the town of Soldotna. Mrs. Joyce Carver was elected as the first president of the library board. The library was housed in one room of the old clinic building and was run by volunteers.

Upon Mrs. Carver's death in 1966, a memorial fund was established for the building of a new library. The property was donated by Dr. Paul Isaac, Dr. Elmer Gaede, and Burton Carver.

In 1972, the new library was formally dedicated to the memory of Joyce K. Carver and was opened to the public.

Expansions and renovations were made in 1977, 1990, and 2013. The Joyce K Carver Memorial Library expansion project was completed in 2013 with a Grand Opening on January 18, 2014. The new building is 9,800 square feet larger than the previous space bringing the total to 21,000 square feet.

The completed building meets ADA accessibility requirements and the needs of our growing community. A teen space, community room, conference rooms, and a fireplace are some of the new features visitors can enjoy.

The basement was finished in 2017. It took an earthquake, a grant, and a generous donation from the Soldotna Library Friends to make this happen. The Soldotna Library Friends is thrilled to have a permanent location to hold monthly book sales and special events, all in support of our library.