COVID-19 has changed our world. In the span of less than a year, nearly everything about our daily lives – from the way we work, shop for groceries, socialize with friends and family, and educate our children – is markedly different from the way it was before this virus struck. One aspect of life that has undergone a particularly important transformation is the way in which we rely on computers and the internet.

Before COVID, many of us relied heavily on internet access for a number of things in our lives, like streaming entertainment, accessing our social networks or ordering goods from online stores. Some of us used the internet for work, or education. But now, during this pandemic, we have come to rely on access to reliable internet for so much more. Applying for jobs or unemployment benefits. Meeting with colleagues. Working from home. Educating our children. For those without reliable internet service in their homes, this new world can feel out of reach.

The Library wants to help.

The Colorado State Library and the Institute of Museum and Library Services are providing funding in the form of grants to Colorado libraries. These funds originate from the federal CARES Act, and are designated to help public libraries respond to challenges that have arisen in response to Coronavirus, specifically by helping to expand access to digital networks across communities.

The Montrose Library has applied for and received $10,000 in grant funding, and we are hard at work developing a program we are calling “Library Link.” In the coming months, the library will partner with organizations in Montrose and Olathe to install three permanent internet hot spots in regions of Montrose and Olathe where ready access to internet and to the main library may be difficult. These access points will be available 24/7 for users to connect to.

Once these hot spots are up and running, the library will be visiting each site once per week to safely deliver information and programming for all ages. While adhering to and being mindful of county Board of Health guidelines, we can help users navigate the state unemployment system, apply for SNAP benefits, provide computer time so that students can complete their assignments, and maybe deliver kids’ activities or book recommendations just for fun!

Keep your eye on the Library’s website for more information about Library Links sites and programs.

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Your Library at Home

by James Stetson, Youth Services Librarian

Since library programming as we used to know it is virtually toast, the Youth Services librarians are adding a little butter and jam to that toast with virtual and take-home programming. Join them for online content including story times, songs, dances and crafts that will be updated every month.

Plus...we’ll have age-specific activity bags for 9-12 year olds one week, then 0-2 year olds the next week, 6-8 year olds following week and 3-5 year olds after that. Yeah, we know, it is not a complete replacement for being at the library, reading stories, seeing friends and playing together, but it’ll hopefully tide us all over until we can meet again. Enjoy the content and thanks for tuning in!

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Young Artists Gallery

Every month starting September 1st, children 12 and under will be able to pick up a themed art activity bag. Each bag will include supplies to make 2 projects, one to keep at home and one to be displayed on our Young Artists Gallery Wall!!

(While supplies last)

In order to be displayed, the projects must be returned to the library by the end of the 3rd week each month. Your art will be on display for everyone in the library to see!

Any time after the first week of the following month, you may return to collect your art.

Contact us at 970-249-9656, Option 2 for more info.

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• Turn to page 3 for more about fall activities for tweens, teens & adults
• Turn to page 4 for more about fall activities for kids
• Turn to page 6 for news from Naturita
A Summer of Virtual Fun, Challenges, & Prizes

by Sara Rinnie, Head of Adult Services

Summer is always such a fun and exciting time in the Library! There are always lots of families in the building looking for books to read or listen to on road trips, and enriching programs for kids and teens, and hordeis of folks at the Reference Desk wanting to register for the Summer Reading Programs, and... Wait... A global pandemic happened and suddenly all of those things were canceled, seemingly overnight.

But that didn’t deter our fearless Adult and Teen Services Librarians! They persevered, and created dynamic programs for adults and teens to help everyone through what seemed like the longest summer ever.

With an influx of books donated by the Friends of the Library, Adult Services Librarian Laura was able to create bags to give away to adult readers who wanted to participate in the Summer Reading Program. No registration was required, and anyone who wanted a bag could pick one up curbside, or have it delivered to their home on the Book Van, or when the library opened in mid-June they could be picked up at the reference desk. The bags contained a free book to keep, bookmarks, coupons for local businesses, and some random bags contained Golden Tickets that were redeemable for prizes! Readers could take home as many bags as they wanted. What a great deal! We ended up distributing 1,555 adult bags over the summer & 51 Golden Tickets!

In addition to the popular adult bags, 63 participants entered an online drawing for two fabulous grand prizes. In all, we had many readers participate in our Adult Summer Reading Program and received lots of gratitude and enthusiasm about the program!

Things looked a little different for our Teen readers this summer too. Teen Services Librarian Amy got creative and implemented some truly innovative solutions to the challenges that COVID-19 presented. When teens registered for the Summer Reading Program, online through a link provided on the Library’s website and Facebook, they automatically received a free book! They got to pick up their books curbside, or through Book Van delivery, or inside the library when it reopened. Teen readers got another free book at the end of the program!

In between, teens participated in fun online challenges, like the “Quaran-meme” contest and online trivia competitions via Zoom, and even started a Teen Advisory Board that is continuing even though summer is over. 15 teens participated in Zoom programs, and 56 teens entered virtual contests, and everyone received a prize for participating! In all, 117 teens received free books over the summer, and by all measures that is a success!

Even though we weren’t able to welcome our adult and teen Summer Reading participants into the library for most of the summer, we still had a lot of fun and got lots of books into people’s hands. If you participated, we hope you enjoyed our take on Summer Reading during a pandemic, and that you let books take you away if you were stuck at home!

by Daniel Immerwahr

American Dirt

by Jeanine Cummins

American Dirt

by Jeanine Cummins

Beloved

by Toni Morrison

The Elephant Whisperer

by Lawrence Anthony

How to Hide an Empire

by Lawrence Anthony

Join the Library Book Club – At Home

Are you new to Montrose and are looking for a Book Club to join? Well, as they say, have we got a deal for you. And by we, we mean the Montrose Regional Library District. Come and join us. The Library Book Club currently meets the first Saturday of each month at 9:00am. When you commit to joining, we’ll present the first three new members with a bag of books and a coupon to a local business.

The Library Book Club has a planning meeting each year, when we choose books to read throughout the next eleven months. This facilitates obtaining new or hard-to-find books and keeps us up to date about what is ahead for each month. We hold our planning meetings in early August, and have chosen an outstanding line-up of books to read, from November 2020 through October 2021. Among these books are The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu by Joshua Hammer; American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins and The Elephant Whisperer by Lawrence Anthony.

Look for a flyer at the library that will provide a more detailed description of each book as well as who will lead the discussion.

As you can see from the short list above, the Library Book Club reads some of everything – fiction, non-fiction, fantasy, classics, best sellers, and not-as-well-known books. Members remark over and over again, that the Library Book Club encourages us to read books we would not have picked up on our own.

The Montrose Regional Library District has hosted a Book Club for more than 15 years. It meets just once a month, which means you need to read only one book a month. Most of us readers can do that easy!

Currently our meetings are held on Zoom but we hope to return to in-person meetings in the near future. Don’t let the use of Zoom keep you from joining us. The Library Liaison sets up the meeting, emails the information and members join the meeting using the code provided. Contact the Reference Desk at the Library (970-249-9656 ext. 3) and they will be happy to help you get set up to use Zoom.

Upcoming Selections

October 2020: How to Hide an Empire by Daniel Immerwahr

November 2020: American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins

December 2020: Beloved by Toni Morrison

January 2021: The Elephant Whisperer by Lawrence Anthony
Virtual Events Coming This Fall for Teens, Tweens, & Adults

by Amy Dickinson, Teen Services Librarian

There are certain limitations to participating in online events but there are also certain benefits. Travel time is near non-existent: it takes two minutes to open one’s device and click on the event link. You can wear pajamas. You can crunch snacks – while on mute – and not feel rude. If you’re shy (like I am), typing a question to a presenter induces less anxiety than asking the question aloud in a group, dozens of eyes boring into you.

While these are among the reasons we in Teen and Adult Services eagerly are anticipating the fall line-up of virtual programs, our more fundamental reasons include: who doesn’t want to learn the steps to cooking a chef’s favorite dish from your own home? Who couldn’t use tips on managing debt in trying times? And perhaps now, more than ever, any chance to pause, play a game with family, discuss movies, debate books, compare creations, think about careers, and connect or share resources with others in our community is welcome.

Teen & Adult Program Calendar

Virtual – Teen Advisory Board (TAB)  
- Meets weekly (if interested, email adickinson@montroselibrary.org)

Teen/Tween Book Club:  
- September 22, 4 PM  
- October 27, 4 PM  
- December 2, 4 PM

Teen Trivia: dates TBA (if interested, email adickinson@montroselibrary.org)

Teen Career Expo:  
- September 23, 4 PM  
Make-up artist Katie Mellinger  
- October 22, 5 PM  
Nurse & poet Andrew Michael Roberts  
- November 12, 4 PM  
Writer RaeAnne Hadley

Teen Takeout: dates TBA  
- October - Origami  
- November - Cooking  
- December - DIY Neon Signs

Kanopy Klub: dates TBA (if interested, email lmclean@montroselibrary.org)

Adult Library Book Club:  
- October 3, 9 AM  
- December 5, 9 AM  
- November 7, 9 AM  
- Jan. 2, 2021, 9 AM

Coming Back from COVID:  
- October 13, 6 PM  
- November 4, 6 PM  
- December 1, 6 PM

Cooking Something Up With the Library:  
- October 21, 6 PM  
- November 18, 6 PM  
- November 5, 6 PM

Cooking the Books:  
- October 14 at 6pm  
Topic: Apple Recipes  
- November 11 at 6pm  
Topic: Favorite Thanksgiving Treats  
- December 9 at 6pm  
Topic: Holiday Deserts

Programs for inquisitive teens and tweens include a monthly Career Expo series, Teen Trivia, and Library Takeaway. Learn about the daily work of a video game development team, test your knowledge of dragons against librarians, take home an introductory origami kit, or do all three. Teen(ish) Career Expo begins in September with make-up artist Katie Mellinger, Teen Trivia returns with a family version in October, and Library Takeaway will be available in October.

Lastly, we know the past months have brought inestimable challenges. As we as a community work together to recover from and overcome the pandemic, a new series, Coming Back from COVID, will address critical areas currently impacting people. In September, Cindy Lehr and Richard Perr of the Montrose Workforce Center gave tips and advice on applying for a job. The Bank of Colorado discusses budgeting, credit, and dealing with debt in October. Brian Byrd of Byrd & Company Real Estate, home inspectors Leonard and Rebecca Dorr, and Academy Mortgage join forces to cover the basics of buying a home in November. Financial planner Daniel Carnes rounds out the series in December with a workshop on investment and net worth.

For more information or to register for programs, call Adult and Teen Services at 970-249-9656, ext. 3, email refdesk@montroselibrary.org, visit the website or Facebook, or stop by the Reference Desk. Not sure you want to use Zoom? We can talk/walk you through that, too.
Programs to Go!
Activity Bags Available For Kids of All Ages

by Tina Meiners, Head of Youth Services

The Montrose Regional Library is once again closing out the Summer Library Adventure and, while it did not look the same as previous summers that does not mean that it was a boring one. Who could have known that nine months ago as we booked performers and prepared programs for kids, teens, and adults that we would have to scrap it all and completely change summer programming in less than a month?

The library was fortunate to have wonderful community collaborators that assisted in assembling the reading and activity bags given out this year. CSU Tri-River STEM agent Stephanie Lamm made hundreds of STEM kits for both Youth and Outreach Services to include in the activity bags for children in the Montrose and Olathe areas. The San Juan Weaver’s Guild provided bags of yarn for a weaving project designed for upper elementary kids. The Ute Indian Museum and the Montrose Botanic Gardens provided handouts and ideas. Over the course of the summer, this amounted to thousands of books and kits delivered to our youngest patrons. Thank you again for making our summer successful and safe for everyone!

As we continue with COVID-19 safety procedures, the Youth Services Department will not be able to provide in-person programming. Instead, each week from September through December the Youth Services librarians will focus on one age group and provide a bag of activities specifically designed for those children. Think of it as a “program-to-go” in a bag. The activity bags will be available in the Youth Services Department, or by request via curbside and home delivery.

We will also have the Young Artists Gallery. Every month starting September 1, children 12 and under will be able to pick up a themed art activity bag. Each bag will include supplies to make 2 projects, one to keep at home and one to be displayed on our Young Artists Gallery Wall! In order to be displayed, the projects must be returned to the library by the end of the 3rd week each month. Your art will be on display for everyone in the library to see!

• Week 1: Children Ages 9 to 12 yrs old
• Week 2: Children Ages 0 to 2 yrs old
• Week 3: Children Ages 6 to 8 yrs old
• Week 4: Children Ages 3 to 5 yrs old

We will also have the Young Artists Gallery. Every month starting September 1, children 12 and under will be able to pick up a themed art activity bag. Each bag will include supplies to make 2 projects, one to keep at home and one to be displayed on our Young Artists Gallery Wall! In order to be displayed, the projects must be returned to the library by the end of the 3rd week each month. Your art will be on display for everyone in the library to see!

One week each month an activity bag will be available for a specific age group of children and include literacy and hands-on activities designed just for them.

One bag per child during their designated week while supplies last.

Bags available in the Youth Services Department and through curbside and home delivery. Please call 970-249-9656, option 2 for curbside and delivery requests.

WEEK 1: CHILDREN AGES 9 TO 12YRS OLD

Look for bags first week of each month for kids ages 9 to 12 years old:

Hobby Bags: Each activity bag will contain the necessary tools to take the first step starting a new hobby.

• August 31 to September 5
• October 5 to October 10
• November 2 to November 7
• November 30 to December 5

WEEK 2: CHILDREN AGES 0 TO 2YRS OLD

Look for bags second week of each month for kids ages 0 to 2 years old:

Baby and Me @ Home: Pick up an activity bag for your 0-2 year old! Each bag will contain 1-2 activities to do along with your baby, a song list, and reading suggestions.

• September 8 to September 12 (Closed Sept 7/Labor Day)
• October 12 to October 17
• November 9 to November 14 (Closed Nov 11/Veterans’ Day)
• December 7 to December 12

WEEK 3: CHILDREN AGES 6 TO 8YRS OLD

Look for bags third week of each month for kids ages 6 to 8 years old:

STREAM @ Home: A different science and art topic every month with suggested books, related activities, and online links for more fun.

• September 14 to September 19
• October 19 to October 24
• November 16 to November 21
• December 14 to December 19

WEEK 4: CHILDREN AGES 3 TO 5YRS OLD

Look for bags fourth week of each month for kids ages 3 to 5 years old:

Just READ It: No one wants to be defeated, especially in helping children grow as lifelong learners, and coronavirus won’t defeat the library’s goal to help kids love literacy. Join Mr. James for online story times and activities that will happen monthly, virtually. Let’s beat the heat, beat the pandemic, beat the boredom and just read it!

• September 21 to September 26
• October 26 to October 31
• November 23 to November 28 (Closed Nov 26/Thanksgiving Day)
• December 21 to December 26 (Closed Dec 24 & 25/Christmas Eve & Day)
What do you do when months of planning for summer programming get upended by a pandemic? You make new plans!

While we here in the Outreach Department were disappointed to see all of our original summer plans get shut down by COVID, we didn’t let that stop us from getting out there and serving our communities in need.

In a very short time, Outreach was able to put together a new Summer Reading Program. Every Monday in June and July, the outreach team went to Olathe Town Park, Northbrook Villas, and River Meadows communities to drop off activity bags for kids and teens. The bags had a book, craft, and 5 pre-packaged meals provided by a grant from the Food Bank of the Rockies. We also offered bags with a book for adults, thanks to our Adult Services Department.

In Olathe Town Park we offered a drive-up service, and in Northbrook Villas and River Meadows we dropped off the bags at the main office, after which the office managers distributed them to families in their communities.

Of course, when making plans on such short notice, certain things are bound not to turn out as you expected. In our case, we estimated we’d be distributing about 175 bags per week. As it turned out, we averaged nearly 300 bags a week! We gave away more than 2,000 books for people of all ages to add to their own libraries, and more than 10,000 meals to kids and teens. We were overwhelmed by the gratitude of kids and parents alike.

“Everything about this program is appreciated. Thank you for giving my family something to look forward to each week!” said one parent at the end of the program.

When we weren’t delivering activity bags as part of our Summer Reading Program, the Outreach team was out on the road delivering items requested by patrons as part of the new Montrose Library Delive-ery service. Wearing matching Hawaiian shirts, we were joined by members of all the library’s departments and even the Director himself as we drove around Montrose and Olathe making deliveries.

Here too, we were moved by the gratitude of those who thanked us for providing this service. One young patron even made us a colorful sign and hung it in the window with her words of thanks and encouragement. As of the time of this writing, we’ve made more than 750 deliveries since we started in April.

Reflecting on this summer as it comes to a close, we’d like to thank everyone who partici-pated in our summer program-ming. From the parents, kids and office managers at our Sum-mer Reading Program stops, to the patrons who requested items for delivery, to our colleagues in other departments here at the library, these programs would not have been possible without you. Keep an eye on our website for updates on future program-ming, and until then, know that we’re hard at work making new plans!

Biblioteca Móvil de Montrose

Alondra Ramirez, Asistente de servicios externos

He visto muchas cosas en los 5 años en que he trabajado aquí en la biblioteca. ¡Y he visto a muchos de ustedes! Como parte del equipo del Bookmobile, he tenido la suerte de conocer a muchos usuarios de la biblioteca pública. Ya sea en nuestra parada en Olathe, o en los eventos en Montrose, es muy probable que nos hemos mirado y que hemos llegado a conocernos a lo largo de los años.

Tener esas relaciones con los miembros de nuestras comunidades es una de mis partes favoritas de mi trabajo. Y dada la situación en que nos encontramos, es la parte que más echo de menos. Pero, aunque no podemos mirarnos en el Bookmobile ahora mismo, seguimos trabajando para mantener nuestra conexión con ustedes. Ofrecemos entrega a domicilio gratis a cualquiera en Montrose y Olathe. ¡Use nuestro catálogo de libros en línea o llámenos y pida sus libros, películas, y música, y se los llevamos directamente a la puerta! Mire nuestro sitio web y el boletín informativo para las noticias sobre la programación sucediendo en otoño. Y quiero que sepan que estamos contando los días para poder verlos de nuevo en el Bookmobile. Hasta entonces, esperamos mirarlos mientras hacemos una entrega a su casa. ¡Esté pendiente por nuestra gran furgoneta anaranjada!

La Biblioteca de Montrose ya ofrece dos formas de recibir artículos que han sido reservados desde el catálogo. Usuarios pueden elegir entre “MRLD Montrose Delivery” para pedir que sus artículos sean entregados mediante nuestra biblioteca móvil, o “MRLD Montrose Curbside” para recoger sus artículos aquí en la banqueta afuera de la biblioteca. Si usted tiene preguntas sobre nuestros servicios de biblioteca móvil o de recogida en la banqueta, por favor contáctese con la Biblioteca de Montrose en 970-249-9656 o circ@montroselibrary.org.

Biblioteca Regional de Montrose

970/249-9656 (voz)  
970/240-1901 (fax)  
320 S 2nd Street  
Montrose, Colorado 81401  
www.montroselibrary.org

Horario
Lunes a miércoles de 2-6  
Jueves a Viernes 11-2  
(Personals mayores 10-11)  
Sábado 10-2  
Domingo - Cerrado

Biblioteca de Natura

970/787-2270 (voz)  
970/787-2273 (fax)  
107 West 1st Avenue  
P.O. Box 466  
Naturita, CO 81422

Horario
Lunes a Viernes 10-2  
Sábado - Cerrado  
Domingo - Cerrado  
www.montroselibrary.org
News from Naturita: Business Unusual
by Susan Rice, Naturita Branch Manager

Making the best of a very unusual year is a library’s specialty and our library is no exception. The Montrose Regional Library District board and our Director, Paul Paladino are keeping our staff and library patrons as safe as possible and for that we are eternally grateful. Naturita Library is open Monday through Friday from 10am to 2pm and we continue to take borrowed books in our book drop. Thank you to all our supportive patrons.

This fall we will continue our programming in a bag. Summer was a complete success. We distributed 275 activity bags to adults and children. Now until the end of the year we plan to continue our success with an activity bag for those who sign up or call the library to reserve a bag. Children’s bags will be age appropriate with both crafts and steam projects. One grandma told us, “Thanks so much for making up the activity bags this summer. It gave me the opportunity to spend quality time with my grandkids.” Another Mom asked us, “Please keep this up. My kids really miss the library and this gives us a chance to be part of a program without having to risk safety.”

The adult programs will not disappoint, with the first project learning about fermentation and experimenting with the equipment to ferment. Following this will be holiday table decorations and a month of December filled with various projects pertaining to the holiday.

When you come in to our community library, please remember to welcome our new employee, Cliff Allred. Cliff is a local who left for awhile and has come back to contribute to our community in many ways. He comes with a science background. We are looking forward to the day we are able to have in-house programming with Cliff.

We at Naturita Library are here to be of service to our community. It may be “Business Unusual” but the staff at Naturita is willing and able to take care of all your library needs.

“Outstanding Bookmobile Librarian” Receives Award, Grant

Congratulations to Jeri Gilham, Head of Outreach Services, and winner of the 2020 Outstanding Bookmobile Librarian Award sponsored by the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services.

Jeri Gilham is the epitome of outreach services. Spanning a career of over 40 years, she has striven to bring literacy to the young and old, meeting patrons and their needs where they are. From driving a bookmobile in Detroit more than 20 years ago to the past 13 years at the Montrose Regional Library, Jeri has never stopped putting the community first.

At the main branch library she helped design and implement the Outreach Services Department which now has both a 32 foot bookmobile for children’s services and a 24 foot Sprinter van donated for the use in senior/late literacy and accessing community organizations the bookmobile cannot reach. Jeri’s mantra is collaboration; whether that is inside the library with staff, between departments, or out in the community, she will utilize and bring together any and every valued opportunity to give to the patrons she serve.

The library has ties with a myriad of organizations such as the Migrant Headstart, Early Childhood Centers, the Montrose Botanic Gardens, the Boys and Girls Club, the Cities of Montrose and Olathe, Haven House (temporary housing), and the Mental Health Center due to Jeri’s efforts to connect library services to those most in need via the outreach vehicles.

Her biggest library project each year is the summer reading program. Every summer Jeri will plan, promote, and carry out the Summer Library Adventure, to bring books to hundreds of children in underserved and impoverished neighborhoods, primarily Hispanic communities. This summer, due to COVID-19, Jeri received a grant from the Food Bank of the Rockies which enabled the Outreach Department to reach even more children. Through the use of the book van, Jeri and her team delivered over 2,200 books with STEM and literacy kits to children along with more than 10,000 food packets throughout June and July.

The day after summer programming finished, she said “What’s next? Who can we help now?” The next outreach adventure will be through another grant she helped write to provide digital and information access to those in need in three locations throughout our community. This grant will involve taking both vehicles to designated community collaborative stops to provide internet and computer access, staff expertise, collection materials, and educational assistance to parents and teachers in the district. Jeri never stops, she perseveres and provides, and she does it with a smile and unflagging energy.
Celebrating A Century of Suffrage

by Sara Rinne, Head of Adult Services

The Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution formally extended the right to vote to women, after a hard-fought campaign that began, according to some historians, even as our country was founded. The hard work and sacrifices by American Suffragists (just don’t call them Suffragettes) came to fruition in 1920, one hundred years ago last month. On August 18th, 1920, Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the 19th Amendment, by one vote, which assured its adoption into law. And then, on August 26th, 1920, Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby certified that the 19th Amendment had become part of the United States Constitution.

I sat down with Nancy Ball from our local chapter of the League of Women Voters to talk about this important historical milestone, and how the LWV is celebrating the Centennial this year.

Then, in 1918 there was a flu epidemic! Still, despite these challenges, the movement continued state by state. Wyoming was the first state to give women voting rights, and Colorado was the first to have the right voted in. All states were different, and had different regulations.

It’s important to understand that with the 19th Amendment, women gained the equal right to vote and to run for office. Here in Montrose, one of our County Commissioners, our Mayor, Treasurer, Clerk, and County Attorney are all offices held by women! There are lots of similarities between 1920 and 2020. Both years saw epidemics, and presidential elections. Both years saw protests at the White House, among other places. The Suffragists, and they preferred that term over the diminutive “Suffragettes,” were the first group ever to picket the White House! Men saw their protests and began counter-protesting, but only the Suffragists were arrested. Some of the women were even beaten and force-fed while in police custody.

But, their efforts were rewarded when 36 states ratified the 19th Amendment and it became law. Mississippi didn’t ratify the 19th Amendment until 1984! The entire amendment is only 39 words long.

How is the LWV planning on celebrating this milestone this year?

Because of COVID, there will be no in-person celebration. There will be displays around town, like at the Elections Office in the Montrose County Courthouse and at the library. [LWV hosted a march on August 26th in period costume and signs, from the county courthouse to Main Street.]

We are also sponsoring an essay contest and a poster contest for Teens and Young Adults ages 16-21 with cash prizes! The only requirement is that participants must live in Montrose, Delta, or Ouray Counties. The theme of the contest is “Why is it important to vote and what voting means to me.” Essays must be no longer that 500 words, and must be submitted double spaced in 12 point Arial font. Posters must be no larger than 2’ x 3’ and submitted via screenshot or .jpg file. The deadline for submission is midnight, September 25, 2020. There will be prizes for both the Essay and Poster contests. First prize is $125, Second prize is $75 and Third prize is $50. Prizes will be awarded October 15, 2020. Entries should be submitted via email to votemontrose@gmail.com.

Finally, the City of Montrose and Montrose County have issued proclamations declaring August 26th as “19th Amendment Day!”

What can we expect from LWV before and during the 2020 election?

Ballot issues pamphlets will be available at the library, the elections office, and throughout the community.

Normally we would hold candidate and ballot issues forums, but this year, due to COVID, that might not happen in person. Those forums may happen via Zoom. Be sure to check lwvmontrose.org for updates and more information. Other chapters, such as the Grand Junction chapter or Fort Lewis College may host the candidate forums.

Thank you for speaking to me Nancy!
Happy Trails to You...
Liz Wobeter Retires After 18 Years

“To describe Liz in a few words will be easy, because each word will say so much... welcoming, engaging, thorough, professional, trustworthy and a smile and laugh that lit up the library! Patrons and library staff will miss so much about Liz but I am happy to visualize her on a beach with a good book, sand beneath her feet and a huge Flamingo balloon towering over her, reminding her of all her zany library co-workers.” -Jeri Gilham

“Saying hello to Liz every day and seeing her smile was the highlight of my day and always set a happy and welcoming tone to everything else that followed.” -Tina Meiners

“I am grateful to have known Liz over the years. Her warm demeanor and huge smile helped make Montrose Library the wonderful place to work that it is! Thank you for the friendship and kindness that you shared. Happy trails Liz, until we meet again.” -James Stetson

“I have worked with Liz for years. She is such a positive person, and so much fun. Good luck to you Liz – I’ll certainly miss you!” -Joanne Hanna

“When I moved back to Montrose in 2008, before I worked at the library, I came to use the library as a patron, and Liz was the very first staff member I encountered. She was so friendly and helpful, and made me feel immediately welcome. When I applied for a librarian position I was very excited and encouraged by my interactions with Liz because I felt that it would be a great experience to work with such friendly and helpful teammates - and it has been! Liz has been a constant example of positivity, helpfulness, hard work, and collegiality in all the years I have worked with her, and she will be greatly missed. Thank you Liz for making my first impression of our library such a warm one!” - Sara Raine

“Thank you Liz for welcoming me to the library, helping me navigate Sierra, and for our chats in the stacks!” -Laura McLean

“Liz was just such a great presence on our team. I’m going to miss Liz’s cheerful acceptance of anything I asked of her. Including all the times I asked her to fill in on the schedule when someone was out sick. Even on Sundays and Holidays!” - Kirsten Seger

“Liz was always a pleasure to see at work. Even though neither of us are morning people, I will miss Liz’s sunny smile and genuine, delight filled laughter.” - Paul Paladino

“One of the reasons I switched to day shifts was to hear Liz laugh. It was my goal to get her to crack up at least once a day. I am totally addict-ed to her laugh. I won’t miss it because I’m going to call her every day whether she likes it or not.” - Kathleen Chambers

Interested in Giving Back?

Since 2008, the Libraries of Montrose County Foundation has provided critical support to our libraries through Permanent Book Funds. Last year, thanks to these generous donors, over 1,100 items were added to our library collections.

Babs Schmerler established the Permanent Book Fund in Memory of Bernie Schmerler to honor her late father:

“My father was an avid reader and encouraged my reading when I was growing up. It amazes me now how he recalled the classics I had to read in English literature classes in high school. He could actually discuss these books with me, because he could still recall what they were about. He always read before going to asleep at night, usually some novel, and subscribed to Newsweek, which he read cover to cover. Although our tastes in literature were different, as an adult, he and I would sometimes trade books we thought might interest the other. Even after he died, if I ran out of reading material while visiting my mother, I could always find some cast off novel of his that she still had lying around.

“As my father loved reading, I thought that establishing a book fund in his name would be a nice way to honor his memory. The fund is a ‘whatever the library needs’ fund, as I think he would just want a book to catch someone’s eye and help them gain a love of reading. Reading was a lifetime passion for him, and I like to think that he would want me to pass that passion on.”

If you would like to learn more about how you can support our libraries through Permanent Book Funds or the newly created Literature for Life Scholarship, contact Paul Paladino at 970-249-9656, email foundation@montroselibrary.org, or stop by the library and ask for a brochure.