



Off the Shelf

Library on Wheels: New Book Bike and Chevy Volt Hit the Road



by Sara Rinne, Head of Adult Services

Picture it: Montrose, 2024. You're cruising along on a smooth-riding, gear-shifting, three-wheeled bicycle, with a whole cargo box full of books loaded up in front of you. The wind is in your hair, and your umbrella is stowed, ready to pop up whenever you get where you're going. Maybe it's Buckley Park? Maybe it's the West Main Trailhead? Maybe it's a community festival, or the Farmers Market, but wherever you're headed, you're catching admiring glances and piquing interest as you cruise by. Sunglasses are lowered so that people can get a better look. You. Are. A. Star.

Does this scenario sound too good to be true? Well for Montrose librarians, it's become a reality. That's right, we have a book bike! Thanks to a partnership with the Friends of the Montrose library, we are ready to pedal.

What is a book bike? It's exactly what it sounds like—a three-wheeled tricycle with the cargo in the front. Ours is painted bright purple and green—two of our favorite colors from our logo—so you can see us coming. We've got the library logo emblazoned on the front, and the Friends of the Library's logo on the back. We can fill up the cargo box with dozens, maybe hundreds, of books, programming materials, library tech — whatever we feel like, and we can ride it out into the community using our own human power. The box opens to reveal a veritable cornucopia of information and entertainment! We can pop up that umbrella, and suddenly the bike has transformed into a mini-library, ready to check out books, make library cards, and share information.



Thank you to the Friends of the Library for funding the library's new Chevy Bolt e-vehicle. This new vehicle will allow for more efficient and environmentally friendly deliveries right to your door.

But wait, there's more! A second Chevy Bolt--which will serve the West End--is on the way!

When we started seeing book bikes cropping up at other libraries—see Denver Public Library's example, it's named Wheelie!—we started experiencing major FOMO, and just had to have one for ourselves. A team of librarians thought of all the ways we could use the bike: storytimes in the park, community festivals, and parades! We brought these ideas to the Friends of the Library, and they thought of all the ways they could use a bike, too. Hello pop-up book sales! A partnership was born and the bike was ordered from a custom manufacturer. Many months and supply chain issues passed, but finally in May of 2023 the bike arrived to much fanfare and excitement!

Folks have definitely been taking advantage of the free books the bike has been handing out, as well as Friends of the Library book sales, but more than anything they like checking out the bike—it is just so cute! I dare anyone to look it over and not leave with a smile. When the bike isn't on the road, it's parked right by the library's main entrance. Take a look the next time you're in the library!

Where should we take the bike next? If you have any ideas about where we should "pedal" our library books (see what I did there?) or if you would like to request that the book bike pay a visit to your event or organization, we'd love to hear about it. Please reach out to me at srinne@montroselibrary.org or to Amy Dickinson at adickinson@montroselibrary.org, and let us know your thoughts. See you out on the bike trail!



Elevate® Grant Funds STEAM Programs

by Tina Meiners,
Head of Youth Services

On International Youth Day in August, Elevate announced six recipients for their Foundations for the Future Grant. The Montrose Regional Library was thrilled to be named one of the six organizations. The basic tenet of this grant is to provide learning opportunities to children in the community to change their lives for the better.



MRLD Youth and Teen Services will be working together to host monthly family STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) programs from December 2023 to July 2024. Each program will encompass a different theme and include subject matter experts in designated career fields that match the program concepts. Families can engage in fun activities while also asking questions of the invited guests about their jobs. Moreover, the grant will provide funds for new circulating kits each month that evolve from the program themes and activities.

With this grant, the library will be able to bring educational programs about plants/pollinators, archaeology/fossils, art/artists, and stop motion animation/filmmaking as well as a STEAM Fair with projects designed by local kids. To finish the grant on a high note, we have invited well-known children’s author Shannon Hale, writer of the Princess in Black chapter books and Friends graphic novel series, to Montrose during the summer reading program to discuss how she became a writer and sign copies of her books. Look for more information about upcoming programs and new kits on the Montrose Regional Library website and social media, or stop by and chat with a Youth Services librarian. Photo courtesy of DMEA/Elevate.

Inner Covers: A Book Club About Art

by Amy Dickinson, Head of Teen Services

I love visiting museums, discussing the artistic process, and being exposed to creative thinkers in the art worlds of the past and present, from Artemisia Gentileschi to Frida Kahlo to Andy Goldsworthy. I also am highly intimidated by visual art and possess zero talent in any visual medium. What’s a person like me to do? Join a book club focused on art and artists, of course.

For the past year, the Montrose Regional Library has partnered with Montrose Center for Arts on a collaborative book club, called Inner Covers, which focuses on art and artists, across times, cultures, and mediums. The discussions have been lively and fascinating, particularly for a novice like me. We’ve read books ranging from *The Last Leonardo*, an eye-opening and suspenseful look at the high-end and high-stakes art market, to *1000 Years of Joys and Sorrow*, the memoir of provocative Chinese artist Ai Weiwei that charts both his familial history and recent Chinese history.

Every book and discussion has introduced me to new figures and topics in the wide world of art, which I’ve found wonderfully invigorating, a way to keep learning as an adult about a realm unfamiliar to me. So, whether you are a novice or a long-time art appreciator or practitioner, I highly recommend you join us, especially if you like your discussion accompanied by delicious baked goods and coffee.

Inner Covers meets every other month on second Saturdays, from 10am-11:30am at Montrose Center for Arts (11 S. Park Ave.). On January 13, we’ll read *The Road through Miyama* by Leila Philip; on March 9, *Mexican Muralists: Orozco, Rivera, Siqueiros* by Desmond Rochfort; and on May 11, *My Name Is Red* by Orham Pamuk (a foray into fiction). Questions? Email adickinson@montroselibrary.org.

Youth Services Activity Guide

Weekly Storytimes

(Storytimes will begin the week of January 8)

Baby & Me Storytime
Wednesdays, 10:00-10:30am
Children birth to 18 months.

Toddler Storytime
Wednesdays, 11-11:30am
Children 18-36 months.

Family Storytime*
Thursdays, 10-10:30am
Engage in interactive stories, songs and play for the whole family. All ages welcome.

Weekly Programs

(January 8 through May 9)

Creation Station
Mondays at 4pm
Simple crafts for kids.

Chess Club
Tuesdays at 4pm
Learn and play chess in person. All ages welcome.

LEGO Club
Wednesdays at 4pm
Design, build, and have fun with LEGO building blocks. Limited space. First come, first seated.

Reading to Rover*

Wednesdays at 3:30pm
Visit with a Morningstar Therapy dog to practice reading and social skills. Designed for children 4-11 years old.
*Requires registration—contact a Youth Services Librarian.

Pre-Teen Art Club: Last Thursday of the month at 4:30pm.

Ages 8-12. Learn and apply different techniques in art.

Rainbow Storytime: 1st Saturday of the month at 11am.
An inclusive storytime for all ages/families!

Monthly Programs

Books-n-Bites: (see calendar on page 4)
Ages 9-13. Book club that alternates between graphic novels and chapter books.

Dungeons & Dragons (see calendar on page 4)

Super Saturday at Olathe Community Center

January 13, February 10, March 9, and April 13 at 10am.
Join the Outreach staff for fun activities, snacks, and free books every second Saturday (excluding holidays) at the Olathe Community Center.

Montrose Regional Library District Board of Trustees

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Libraries, Staff and Hours

Montrose Regional Library

320 S. 2nd St., Montrose, CO 81401
voice (970) 249-9656; fax (970) 240-1901
www.montroselibrary.org

Hours
Mon-Thurs: 10-7
Saturday: 10-5

Administration Paul Paladino, Director (970) 964-2550 Ruby Corona, Executive Assistant	Jonathan Heath, Communications Specialist Tom Struble, Systems Administrator
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InterLibrary Loan
(970) 964-2541
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Outreach Services (Bookmobile)
(970) 249-9656 ext 9

Building & Grounds
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Bob Ray
Jennifer Jones
Lauren Martin

Naturita Community Library

107 W. 1st Ave., Box 466, Naturita, CO 81422
voice (970) 787-2270; fax (970) 787-2273

Hours
Mon-Fri 10-6
Saturday 10-3 Sunday: closed

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Cliff Allred
Leslie Ament
Raena Wedel-Grindle

Newsletter Editor: Jonathan Heath
Many thanks to all who contributed!



Great Decisions Returns February 6

by Sara Rinne
Head of Adult Services

How much do you know about the United States’ foreign policy? This is not a trick question - I would fully expect most answers to fall in the “not much” to “a little” range. Maybe I should re-frame the question to ask, “Do you think it’s important, in a pluralistic society, to have an understanding of United States foreign policy issues?” Or even better, “Would you like to have a better understanding of how the United States is influential on a global scale?” If your answer to either of these questions is YES, then you should definitely come to Great Decisions.



Great Decisions is a discussion group that the library hosts in late winter every year. Using materials produced by the Foreign Policy Institute, we read, watch, and listen to lectures, and discuss pressing global issues that affect the United States. This year, participants can look forward to learning about realignment in the Middle East, trade rivalry between the U.S. and China, the future of NATO, and the High Seas Treaty, among other fascinating subjects. The materials are rich in context, and the lectures (we watch them on DVD) provide significant understanding about these complex issues. The discussion questions provide opportunities for participants to make connections and talk about their own opinions and experiences within the context of each issue. Every week, I learn so much about our country, the world, and my fellow community members who attend these programs.

One of the things I appreciate most about Great Decisions is that the materials are presented in an unbiased and nonpartisan way. Facts are delivered, context is offered, questions are asked - free of politics or partisanship. Participants come to Great Decisions from across the political and ideological spectrum, yet I have never attended one of these discussions that turned rancorous or disrespectful. Attendees are encouraged to offer opinions that are rooted in their own political ideologies - this is a democracy, after all! But in the past four years of facilitating this program, never once have I encountered disrespect from any participant. That says as much about our community as it does about the quality of the program materials.

If you would like to attend Great Decisions, programs will be held in the library’s meeting room on Tuesday evenings from 5:30-7pm beginning in February. Check the newsletter calendar for exact dates - programs will not be held every single Tuesday. There are eight discussion topics. The briefing books containing the reading material for each topic will be available for purchase at the library for \$20, or can be checked out from the library with your library card. A Zoom link will be available for those who wish to attend virtually, but in-person attendance is encouraged, as it makes for a richer discussion! All ages are welcome to attend.

If you would like to learn more about the Foreign Policy Association broadly, or Great Decisions specifically, you can visit www.fpa.org. I hope to see many new faces at the library this winter for this enriching program!

Read It! 90s Version

by Laura McLean,
Adult Services Librarian

Hold onto your seat, I have some exciting news to share! Read It!, our wildly successful adult reading program based on the nostalgic Book It! program from the 80s is coming back! Everything that you know and love about the program is also returning. The coveted Read It! button, submitting your book review on old-school check-out cards, reading or listening to books to earn gift cards from a plethora of local businesses, and even our Community Read!



From January 11th through March 31st, be sure to join us for a slate of activities, in addition to reading and logging books. This time around, to change things up just a bit, Read It! will have a 1990s theme! So, break out your grunge or preppy outfits, dust off your Discman, wake up your Tamagotchi, and prepare to join us for several months of reading, just because it’s fun (and rewarding)!

Also returning this year is our trivia night. This year, Bluecorn Café & Mercantile will be hosting the event the evening of January 11th. Check our social media and website for more details. We can promise it will be a night of brain-twisting trivia and another amazing trophy, though how could we ever top the infamous GOAT trophy? So, start gathering your friends, family, and colleagues, brush up on random facts and nuggets of information, and be prepared to battle it out over several rounds of trivia, including questions about the nifty 90s.

In keeping with the theme, we will also be hosting another movie night! Again this year, we will be asking patrons to vote for their favorite nostalgic 90s flick. Could it be *The Sandlot*, *Clueless*, or maybe *Edward Scissorhands*? Stay tuned for more details!

Our Community Read (Everyone Read It!) will begin in February. We chose *Solito* by Javier Zamora this year. This is a memoir about the author who makes the harrowing 3,000-mile journey to the United States from a small town in El Salvador. We will have 40 copies in English and 5 in Spanish to give away. We will all read together and then gather in the library’s meeting room for a lively discussion on March 14th.

Since variety is the spice of life, we are expanding our outreach to businesses for the 90s edition. We hope to branch out to include venues that provide goods other than food and drink as well as to some Latine businesses to truly offer something for everyone. Of course, we hope to bring back crowd favorites such as coffee destinations and yummy pizza. Upon completing three and five book reviews, Read It! participants will have a variety of choices, all in support of great Montrose businesses.

The Adult Services team is super excited to bring back this patron favorite program. We are hoping for record-breaking participation. Be sure to check our website and social media platforms to keep up to speed on all of the various events and happenings!

Mark Your Calendars! Friends of the Library Book Sale, April 25-28

FOL Members Only

Thursday, April 25: 4-7 PM

Open to the public:

Friday, April 26: 10 AM - 6 PM

Saturday, April 27: 10 AM - 5 PM

Sunday, April 28: 1-3 PM
(\$5 bag sale on Sunday Only)

To learn more about the Friends or become a member, visit

<http://www.montroselibrary.org/support-mrld/>





Program Schedule

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Library closed	1 January Library closed	2 Outreach Delivery	3	4	5	6 Library Book Club, 9am Rainbow Storytime, 11-11:30
7	8 Board of Trustees Meeting, 3-5 Creation Station, 4-5	9 Outreach Delivery Chess Club, 4-5	10 Baby & Me Storytime, 10-10:30 Toddler Storytime 11-11:30 Reading to Rover, 3:30-4:30 LEGO Club, 4-5 Teen Advisory Board, 6-7pm	11 Family Storytime, 10-10:30 Crafternoon, 11-1 Books-n-Bites, 4:30-5:30 Unity Social Club, 4-5pm	12	13 Inner Covers, 10am Super Saturdays @ Olathe Community Center, 10am SafeSitter Grandparents, 9am
14	15 Creation Station. 4-5 Family STEAM Program, 2pm	16 Outreach Delivery Chess Club, 4-5	17 Baby & Me Storytime, 10-10:30 Toddler Storytime 11-11:30 Reading to Rover, 3:30-4:30 LEGO Club, 4-5	18 Family Storytime, 10-10:30 Crafternoon, 11-1 Teen(ish) Game Night, 4-6pm	19 Dungeons & Dragons at the library, 4-6	20
21	22 Creation Station. 4-5	23 Outreach Delivery Chess Club, 4-5 Teen(ish) Book Club, 4:30pm	24 Baby & Me Storytime, 10-10:30 Toddler Storytime 11-11:30 Reading to Rover, 3:30-4:30 LEGO Club, 4-5 Teen Advisory Board, 6-7pm	25 Family Storytime, 10-10:30 Crafternoon, 11-1 Pre-Teen Art Club, 4:30-5:30	26	27
28	29 Creation Station. 4-5	30 Outreach Delivery Chess Club, 4-5	31 Baby & Me Storytime, 10-10:30 Toddler Storytime 11-11:30 Reading to Rover, 3:30-4:30 LEGO Club, 4-5	1 February Family Storytime, 10-10:30 Crafternoon, 11-1 Teen(ish) Maker Series, 4-5:30pm	2	3 Library Book Club, 9am Rainbow Storytime, 10-10:30
4	5 Creation Station. 4-5 Board of Trustees Meeting, 3-5	6 Outreach Delivery Chess Club, 4-5 Great Decisions, 6pm	7 Baby & Me Storytime, 10-10:30 Toddler Storytime 11-11:30 Reading to Rover, 3:30-4:30 LEGO Club, 4-5 Teen Advisory Board, 6-7pm Teen(ish) Trivia, 7:15-8:15	8 Family Storytime, 10-10:30 Crafternoon, 11-1 Unity Social Club, 4-5pm	9 Dungeons & Dragons at the library, 4-6	10 Super Saturdays @ Olathe Community Center, 10am Family STEAM Fair, 12pm
11	12 Creation Station. 4-5	13 Outreach Delivery Chess Club, 4-5	14 Baby & Me Storytime, 10-10:30 Toddler Storytime 11-11:30 Reading to Rover, 3:30-4:30 LEGO Club, 4-5 Safe@Home, 5pm	15 Family Storytime, 10-10:30 Crafternoon, 11-1	16	17 SafeSitter Babysitting Training, 9-4
18	19	20 Outreach Delivery Great Decisions, 6pm	21 Teen Advisory Board, 6-7pm	22 Books-n-Bites Book Club, 4:30-5:30pm	23	24
25	26 Creation Station. 4-5	27 Outreach Delivery Chess Club, 4-5 Great Decisions, 6pm	28 Baby & Me Storytime, 10-10:30 Toddler Storytime 11-11:30 Reading to Rover, 3:30-4:30 LEGO Club, 4-5	29 Family Storytime, 10-10:30 Crafternoon, 11-1 Pre-Teen Art Club, 4:30-5:30	1 March	2 Library Book Club, 9am Rainbow Storytime, 11-11:30
3	4 Board of Trustees Meeting, 3-5 Creation Station. 4-5	5 Outreach Delivery Chess Club, 4-5 Great Decisions, 6pm	6 Baby & Me Storytime, 10-10:30 Toddler Storytime 11-11:30 Reading to Rover, 3:30-4:30 LEGO Club, 4-5 Teen Advisory Board, 6-7pm	7 Family Storytime, 10-10:30 Crafternoon, 11-1 Teen(ish) Book Club, 4:30pm	8 Family STEAM Program, 10am	9 Inner Covers, 10am Super Saturdays @ Olathe Community Center, 10am
10	11 Creation Station. 4-5	12 Outreach Delivery Chess Club, 4-5	13 Baby & Me Storytime, 10 Toddler Storytime 11-11:30 Reading to Rover, 3:30-4:30 LEGO Club, 4-5 Safe@Home, 5pm	14 Family Storytime, 10am Crafternoon, 11-1 Books-n-Bites, 4:30-5:30 Unity Social Club, 4-5pm Community Read	15 Dungeons & Dragons at the library, 4-5:30	16 SafeSitter Babysitting Training, 9-4
17	18 Creation Station. 4-5	19 Outreach Delivery Chess Club, 4-5 Great Decisions, 6pm	20 Baby & Me Storytime, 10-10:30 Toddler Storytime 11-11:30 Reading to Rover, 3:30-4:30 LEGO Club, 4-5 Teen Advisory Board, 6-7pm	21 Family Storytime, 10-10:30 Crafternoon, 11-1	22	23
24	25 Creation Station. 4-5	26 Outreach Delivery Chess Club, 4-5 Great Decisions, 6pm	27 Baby & Me Storytime, 10-10:30 Toddler Storytime 11-11:30 Reading to Rover, 3:30-4:30 LEGO Club, 4-5	28 Family Storytime, 10-10:30 Crafternoon, 11-1 Pre-Teen Art Club, 4:30-5:30pm	29	30 Planetarium Show, 11am-4pm
31 Closed Easter Sunday	1 April Creation Station, 4-5 Board of Trustees Meeting, 3-5	2 Outreach Delivery Chess Club, 4-5 Great Decisions, 6pm	3 Baby & Me Storytime, 10-10:30 Toddler Storytime 11-11:30 Reading to Rover, 3:30-4:30 LEGO Club, 4-5 Teen Advisory Board, 6-7pm	4 Family Storytime, 10-10:30 Crafternoon, 11-1 Books-n-Bites Book Club, 4:30pm	5 Dungeons & Dragons at the library, 4-6	6 Rainbow Storytime, 11am Family STEAM Program, 11:30am

Program Key

For Kids

For Teens (12-18)

For Adults

For Everyone

For more information on these programs visit our website at www.montroselibrary.org or like us on Facebook: [montroseregionallibrary](https://www.facebook.com/montroseregionallibrary) or Twitter: [@MontroseLibrary](https://twitter.com/MontroseLibrary)

For children’s events call 970-249-9656 ext. 2. For teen events call 970-249-9656 ext. 3.

For adult events call 970-249-9656, ext 3. For Outreach Services call 970-249-9656, ext 9.

For Naturita Community Library call 970-787-2273 www.facebook.com/NaturitaLibrary

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