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!

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.

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 on 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.

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.

Monthly Programs
Books-n-Bites: (see calendar on page 4)
Ages 4-11. Book club that alternates between graphic novels and chapter books.

Dungeons & Dragons (see calendar on page 4)
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 eras, 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 Sorrows, 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 Rochford; and on May 11, My Name Is Red by Orhan Pamuk (a foray into fiction). Questions? Email adickinson@montroselibrary.org.

Off the Shelf

Inner Covers: A Book Club About Art

by Amy Dickinson, Head of Teen Services

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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!

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.
Great Decisions Returns February 6
by Sara Rinne
Head of Adult Services

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 in the past four years of facilitating this program, never once have I encountered disrespect from any participant. That says as much as 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 nineties.

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 Latinx businesses to truly offer something for everyone. Of course, we hope to bring back crowd favorites such as coffee, donuts 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!
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**Program Key**
- For Kids
- For Teens (12-18)
- For Adults
- For Everyone

For more information on these programs visit our website at www.montroslibrary.org or like us on Facebook: montroseregionallibrary or Twitter: @MontroseLibrary

Follow us on social media!