



## *Montgomery Town Library*

*Librarian's Report for February 2021*  
*Submitted to Board of Trustees March 8th, 2021*  
*Marlene S. Hambleton*

- The month of **February** resulted in 15 patron visits.
- Total of 250 Circulation Transactions took place, 16 DVDs, 66 Adult Books, 4 Children's Books, 13 YA and Juvenile books. 40 E-books and 90 Audiobooks were checked out through OverDrive. There were 15 movies streamed through Kanopy. 6 pairs of snowshoes were borrowed from Jay Cloud Cyclery Shop.
- Donations Y-D is \$ 5,320
- Books, DVDS & Subscription Y-D is 6,155.13
- Programming Y-D is \$335.66
  
- During the month of **February** the library did not host any programs or meetings.

### *News and Activities:*

#### ***Vermont Community Foundation Technology grant:***

I am excited to announce that we applied for and received a grant for Vermont Public Libraries! The Vermont Community Foundation (VCF), in partnership with the Vermont Department of Libraries offered a grant for "Internet Connectivity Supports for Rural Libraries." Though named for internet connectivity, this grant can be used for a range of things that improve patron access to the internet and computers – public computers, COVID computer accommodations, network upgrades, and more. VCF granted the Montgomery Town Library \$1,500. Public libraries located within a Communication Union District or study area were eligible. Applications were scored based on town poverty, connectivity, and rural location.

#### *What can we do with this grant?*

Anything that improves connectivity or computer options for patrons. Examples include wireless or wired network upgrades, additional public computers (in the library, or lendable), extending subscriptions for 4G hotspots or wireless access points, productivity or usability software for patrons, improvements for patron printing options, and physical accommodations to improve computer use inside or outside the building (such as exterior electrical outlets, porch canopies, portable air purifiers, or space heaters) - but there are certainly other related possibilities. Amounts include installation and setup.

### *How Will We Use This Grant Money?*

We will use some of this money to purchase another subscription to *Deep Freeze*, by Feronics, This is a *reboot to software* application that will be installed on 6 of our computers, 5 patron computers and the computer used by volunteers at the librarians' desk. This application allows system administrators to protect the core operating system and configuration files on a workstation by restoring a computer back to the saved configuration, each time the computer is restarted.

Deep Freeze protects a computer from harmful malware, since it automatically deletes (or rather, no longer "sees") downloaded files when the computer is restarted. The advantage of using Deep Freeze is that it uses very few system resources, and thus does not slow down computer performance greatly. The disadvantage is that it does not provide real-time protection, therefore an infected computer would have to be restarted in order to remove malware. After we close for the day, each computer will need to be shut down and rebooted each day. Once the computer is rebooted, the computer would return to its original operating state, malware free. In order to update and install software to the computers, Deep Freeze has to be disabled, then re-enabled once the upgrade has been installed. Deep Freeze does offer the option of having their own IT folks update our operating systems automatically. We have never had the budget to go with this option before, and we are now in the process of negotiating a price for a three year contract to have that opportunity to be a part of their service to us. We would be able to reduce the cost of having someone come to the library quarterly to manually do updates for us.

### *Changes to our Overdrive Account for Patrons:*

Patrons with barcode numbers over 950 were not able to access Overdrive. I made a request to have the permissions set to 2,000. Overdrive is no longer supporting EZproxy for the libraries that are on VOKAL, which means patrons can no longer access their account by simply typing in the last 3 digits of their patron barcode number. Patrons will be moved to SIP2 authentication, meaning that they will need to enter their entire barcode number to access Overdrive. I went ahead and updated the barcode range so that our patrons can use Overdrive while we transition to SIP2.

Once we have migrated our library to SIP2 authentication on April 6th, our patrons will connect to Overdrive using the same login credentials they use in Koha (patron card number and Koha password). This will help ensure that patrons don't accidentally sign into Overdrive with the wrong account. It will also ensure that patrons who have expired accounts or are restricted no longer have access to Overdrive. As it stands today, a patron may access Overdrive even if their accounts have expired, or they have long overdue books.

Since our patrons who are currently using Overdrive simply use a 3 or 4 digit number rather than their full barcode to login, holds, circulation checkouts, and history for these patrons cannot be automatically matched up with the full barcode. However, we only have a small number of patrons who are using Overdrive right now (48 or so in the last 6 months). And Overdrive has a tool for merging accounts with patron cards. I will be able to use a list of your users, and then will match them with their full barcodes. I expect that Overdrive and Libby might be down for patrons on April 6<sup>th</sup>, but the process of matching patrons to their barcodes should be completed within 24 hours of the switch over.

### *Collaboration With The Jay Cloud Cyclery, and The Montgomery Recreation Department:*

For the winter season of 2021, the library's snowshoes are being checked out through the The Jay Cloud Cyclery shop, located at 91 Main Street. In the month of February, the snowshoes on loan went out 6 times! The Jay Cloud Cyclery shop hosting the library's snowshoes has been well received by the

public. Patrons have been able to easily access the snowshoes to grab shoes and hit the trails.

***Mango Languages Learning App now available:***

The Montgomery Town Library is now being offering a new and exciting language learning app to our patrons. Mango for libraries offers over 70 world language courses expertly designed to adapt to a diverse range of learning needs, styles, and backgrounds. We are giving our community the benefits of lifelong learning and the confidence needed to communicate in a new language. Their award winning language-learning program is built to support library patrons as they gain the global perspective that comes with knowing a second – or fifth – language. Mango combines the latest in online learning technology with proven language acquisition methodology to give learners of every age and background the skills they need to communicate with confidence. The link to the library account set up for patrons is up and running on our website. There is also a link on our Facebook page as well.

***Curbside Pickup:***

Curbside pickup continues to be a popular and well used service. Here is how curbside pickup works. Once a patron has chosen an item they would like to borrow, they contact us. Patrons often use voicemail, email, and messenger apps to request items, those requests are most often are answered outside our Open hours. Once we receive the request, we check the item out, place it in a brown paper bag, then inside a two gallon sealable plastic bag to weatherproof the package. Once the bag is ready to go, it is placed on the book cart, outside the building door, right next to the book drop box. Patrons can locate items in our catalog by visiting <https://montgomery.kohavt.org/>. Patrons can search for items by title, author, subject, or keyword. We are open Monday through Friday, 4:00 pm - 8:00pm.

***Library Re-opening:***

The library will re-open to patrons on a By Appointment Basis, when the building has been cleared to re-open to the public in general. The Clerks Office is not open to the public as of yet. We will wait until they are given the go ahead to open their doors to the public and we will join them in welcoming the public back to our shared building.

Respectfully submitted,