

2020 dawned with high hopes to continue building on the runaway success of the District's first few months in its newly constructed facility that opened to the public in August 2019. The first two and a half months of the year we were on track to exceed our wildest expectations in regards to expanded services and community partnerships. We are all aware of the curve ball that was thrown to us in the form of the novel coronavirus ("COVID-19"). COVID-19 required us to redefine what it would mean to provide library services to our community, a challenge that was enthusiastically accepted by the staff and Trustees.

Programs and Access

The Lyons Regional Library is a gateway to lifelong learning, offering a full spectrum of services, materials, and programming. We strive to provide access to quality resources that serve the cultural, educational, informational, and entertainment needs and interests of people of all ages and backgrounds within the District (and beyond).

We pride ourselves on our position as a community connector and that collaborative nature comes through in our many partnerships. Between January 1 and March 13 we teamed up with Boulder County Open Space to offer a slide show; with the Lyons Arts and Humanities Commission to co-host the opening of Larry Cohan's Neighborhood Retrospective art show; with filmmaker Delaney Ruston to show her documentary, *Screenagers: The Next Chapter*, with more than 70 attendees; and with Lyons' own Wide Spaces Community Initiative to draw residents together through community dinners followed by storytelling and line dancing, suicide prevention and awareness classes, and sing-alongs in our parks. We were also happy to host the Families Can Create series, facilitated by the St. Vrain Valley School District's Mobile Innovation Lab.

Ongoing and in-house programs offered prior to the pandemic included a fly-tying class, book clubs, writing groups, art groups, school-age chess instruction, twice-weekly storytimes, family-friendly crafting, LEGO-based engineering, and technology-focused programs including ebook downloading and basic Excel. Programs that were on the books and cancelled due to the shutdown include a talk by Dorje Dolma, author of *Yak Girl*, a slideshow of Boulder geology with Boulder County Parks and Open Space, the launch of Yoga in the Library, and our inaugural Death Café. We also missed out on being the location of the kickoff event for the Lyons International Film Festival. Our meeting rooms were seeing increased use both for casual gatherings and scheduled meetings by a wide variety of business groups and professionals from the Lyons community and beyond.

Out of an abundance of caution, the District chose to suspend our regular services on the evening of March 12. Not yet understanding likely COVID transmission, we chose to pause our thrice-weekly courier service, a decision eventually made by the courier management team for all libraries in Colorado. Emerging information available from the CDC and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment made us comfortable enough to begin circulating in-house materials beginning on May 4. Additional information concerning the spread and best practices for businesses and office spaces made us confident enough to begin offering services by appointment on July 6. At that point, patrons were able to make 45-minute appointments to use a public computing terminal, browse the collection, and checkout materials. Unfortunately, given rising numbers as we headed into the winter months, we made the prudent decision to

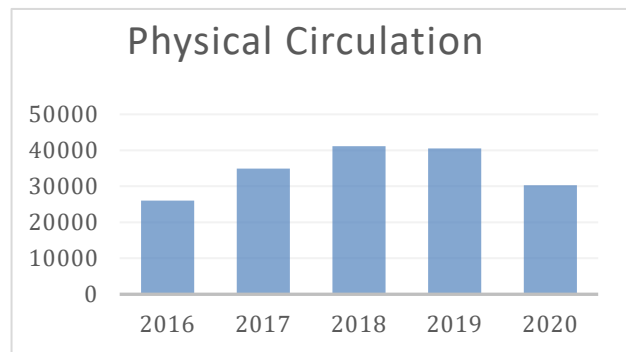
return to curbside-only services on November 16. From that point through the end of the year we were able to offer holds and printout pickup, faxing, take-and-make craft kits, remote technical support, and notary service by appointment.

We enjoyed 1,027 visits between July 6 and November 16 and look forward to offering in-person services as soon as it is safe to do so.

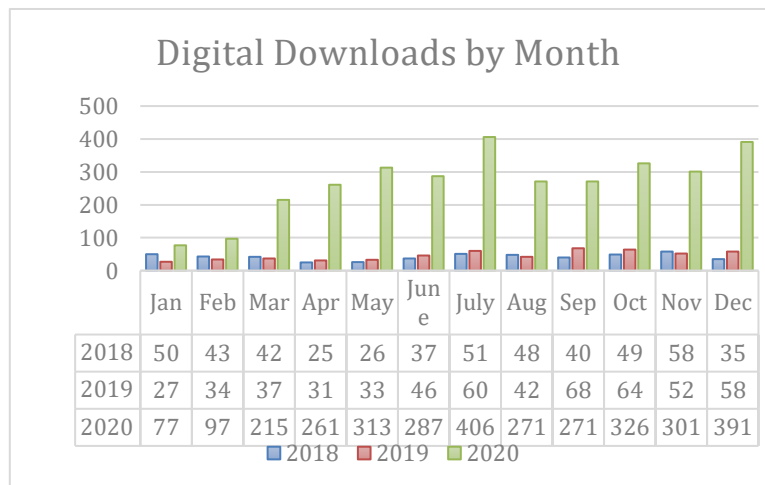
While closed to the public and unable to provide in-person programming, the staff pivoted to entirely virtual offerings. We hosted a successful Summer Reading Program using the Friends of the Library-sponsored Beanstack software and almost all prizes were sourced from local businesses. We continued to provide weekly storytime and craft sessions, author talks (including our single most successful program in District history, an evening with Pam Houston, that saw over 100 folks jump on the Zoom session), writing groups, book clubs, in-depth readers' advisory, Italian conversation sessions, take-and-make crafts kits for children and adults, and a host of mental health-focused programs provided through our partnership with Wide Spaces Community Initiative.

Circulation and Downloads

With the pause button hit on statewide courier service, physical circulation was limited to only in-house materials for over five months. Even with the inability to receive our thrice-weekly deliveries (deliveries that brought in an average of 400 items each month in 2019), circulation numbers held at 75% of 2019's numbers. We were reconnected to Colorado's other libraries with the resumption of courier service on August 17.



While the circulation of physical materials slowed due to the pandemic, we were still able to offer both informative and educational materials to our patrons via digital downloads. The Library has enjoyed access to the CloudLibrary through our AspenCat membership for years and had seen moderate success with those selections. The District, seeing the increasing popularity of such materials, joined the Across Colorado Digital Consortium at the beginning of 2020. Serendipitously, our "go live" date with ACDC, which gave our patrons access to the common OverDrive/Libby platform, coincided with the day we shut down to the public in March. Since then, patrons have enjoyed 1,627 circulations via OverDrive. Between our two downloadable platforms, we enjoyed an incredible 484% increase in downloads in 2020 from 2019!



Technology and Facilities

Mid-year, we added a wireless signal booster to extend our 24-hour Wi-Fi access even further from the building, including both patios and the parking lot where community members were frequently found enjoying socially distanced remote work opportunities. We also began offering circulating hotspots and Chromebooks for patrons to check out. We report 3,432 individual computing sessions on Library computers and 10,474 individual wireless sessions. Additionally, our website saw nearly 20,000 visits.

The Library took advantage of the pandemic closure to make progress on a handful of “Phase 2” building projects. The Town planning and building departments issued a permit for the “Lyons Community Library” sign on the west side of the building and collaborated on the design of a patio fence on the east side to ensure it meets the Town design standards. The LAHC spearheaded the artistic painting of a transformer cabinet at the corner of 4th and Broadway and worked with the Library District to approve an Anita Miller bear sculpture for the corner of 4th and Railroad Ave. The Town also partnered with the Library to make it the home of the Lyons Gratitude Wall for people to share their love and support during the pandemic closure. Thank you, Town of Lyons! The District would also like to express appreciation and thanks to the Lyons Garden Club for the lovely annual flowers in the front porch planters and the Lyons Volunteers for assembling new outdoor furniture.



During the final week of 2020, the District received funds originally awarded by the Boulder County Worthy Cause grant in 2018. We are grateful to the to the Town and the District Foundation for their assistance in receiving those funds. The District plans to use the funds to realize an early Building Committee goal of installing a solar array, a decision supported by the American Library Association and Colorado Association of Libraries, both of which recognize the power of libraries as advocates for sustainable environmental change and stewardship.

Revenue and Expenditures

As 2020 was the first full year in the new building, we anticipated the year being a baseline for building operating expenses; however, the pandemic called for closures and then limited openings, so our budgeted expense items remained largely the same as 2019. We were able to maintain our staffing through remote and limited in-person work dynamics so staffing expenses remain close to what was initially projected for the 2020 budget. We paid a total debt service in the amount of \$84,000 in 2020. Overall, we managed to come in almost 20% under budget., savings which will allow us to achieve another goal of building an operating reserve.

Revenue – Overall property values in the District have steadied with property tax revenue received from Boulder and Larimer Counties at \$524,098 in 2020. Additional Specific Ownership Tax revenue for 2020 was \$27,331. The District will likely enjoy a more stabilized budget in future cycles thanks to the repeal of the Gallagher Amendment.

The District was also awarded a \$5,000 grant from the State of Colorado's Department of Education for the purchase of materials for youth as well as \$5,200 from the Town's Goodwill Grant Fund. Since programming did not take place as planned, the District was happy to return \$995.84 that could then be transferred to the good folks at the Lyons Emergency Assistance Fund.

Board, Support, Staff

LRLD Board of Trustees

Janet Corson-Rikert, President
Sandy Banta, Vice President/Secretary
Erin Biesiada, Treasurer
Ryan Chiachiere, Member-at-Large

Bill Palmer, Member-at-Large
David Selden, Member-at-Large
Leigh Williams, Member-at-Large

Shirley Sullivan served as Secretary until she departed the Board in September after serving for one year. Sandy Banta served as Secretary as well as Vice President for the remainder of the year until, sadly, Sandy departed in December when her second three-year term expired. Ryan Chiachiere and Leigh Williams received approval of their Trustee applications from Town and both sets of county commissioners in August and we welcomed David Selden to the Board in December

Six working committees exist (Building, Finance, Human Resources, Communications, Policy, and By-Laws) per Colorado State Library standards.

Kara Bauman, Director, serves as the staff liaison to the Board of Trustees.

Friends of the LRLD

Leslie Reynolds, President
Pam Browning, Vice President
Sara Erikson, Secretary
Christina Wells, Treasurer

Kate Kerr, Member-at-Large
Suzanne Milani, Member-at-Large
Lisa Sobieniak, Member-at-Large

The Friends of the Lyons Regional Library is a nonprofit organization of volunteers supporting the library by fostering public awareness, sharing enthusiasm for learning, and enhancing the library's service to the community. The Friends sponsored the Fireplace in the Quiet Reading Room and manage our ongoing used book sale and donation processes. At their annual business meeting in early October, Bonnie DiSalvo, Elaine Powell, and Vasi Smith all departed the Board and Sara Erikson, Kate Kerr, and Suzanne Milani joined.

LRLD Foundation

Connie Eyster, President
Leigh Williams, Treasurer
Julia Boelte, Member-at-Large

Bill Palmer served as the Board liaison to the Foundation until Leigh Williams joined the District Board in August. The Foundation was established to raise funds for capital projects, including construction of the new building. It will continue to serve that purpose for the foreseeable future.

Staff

Jenny Abernathy, Circulation Assistant
Kara Bauman, Director
B.J. Campbell, Assistant Librarian

Dana Petersen, Technology Coordinator
Vicky Reinold, Adult Programming and
Communications Librarian

Sadly, long-time Youth Services Librarian McCourt Thomas departed in August so that she might attend to homeschooling her son. The District still seeks a suitable replacement to continue building our world-class collection of materials and services. The District also seeks at least one additional paraprofessional position moving into 2021 with the departure of Library Associate Michelle Visser.