

July Library Events

Library reopens with limited indoor services

By Harriet Halbig

Beginning July 1, the library will reopen with limited indoor services.

The number of patrons will be limited at any given time, and patrons are encouraged to continue to use curbside service for holds.

In keeping with Health Department regulations,

masks will be required.

Computers will be available for a period of 55 minutes, and reservations are recommended because all stations will not be available.

The library will look very different, with much less furniture and signage to indicate safe practices such as social distancing.

The meeting rooms will remain unavailable, and programs will continue to be suspended for now.

We look forward to seeing you during this new phase.

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Palmer Lake Historical Society

100 years: celebrating the story of women's suffrage

By Sharon Williams

As our freedoms are once again celebrated this Fourth of July, we also note the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, enacted in August 1920, giving women the right to vote in the United States.

Proponents were just beginning to organize the first suffrage convention in the Territory of Colorado in January 1876. Later that year, they attempted unsuccessfully to get women's right to vote included in the Colorado Constitution at the time of statehood in Aug. 1, 1876.

The first state referendum on women's suffrage following Colorado statehood was presented to voters on Oct. 2, 1877. Several nationally known suffrage proponents, including Susan B. Anthony and Lucy Stone, campaigned extensively throughout Colorado during 1877 to provide support for passage of the referendum. The Oct. 2 referendum election resulted in a resounding defeat, with Boulder County being the only one in favor of passage.

Their efforts were not successful until passage of a second state referendum on Nov. 7, 1893, with 55% in favor of suffrage and 45% against, declaring victory for women's voting rights in Colorado. Instrumental in Colorado's path toward that moment was Elizabeth Piper Enslay, an African American educator, political activist, and suffragist. Often a hidden figure in the women's movement narrative, she received an induction into the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame on March 18.

After winning their cause, Colorado women turned their sights to national suffrage movements. While this 100-year anniversary is celebratory, it is also a reminder that not all women gained the right to vote in 1920. The same customs and systems that disenfranchised African American men in parts of the country also excluded African American women from voting in 1920. It wasn't

until the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that African American women were included with their male counterparts to have the right to vote.

Native American women were barred from voting because they were not considered citizens due to the sovereign status of their tribes. The 1924 Indian Citizenship Act made some limited provisions for citizenship, but many states nonetheless make laws and policies that prohibit or hinder indigenous peoples from voting. See <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/state-native-american-voting-rights> and <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1694/test?q=%7B%22search%3A%5B%22H.+R.+83%22%5D%7D&r=62&s=1>.

Large settlements of non-English speaking or language minority citizens were excluded from participation in the electoral process. The 1975 Language Minority Provisions amendment of the 1965 Voting Rights Act ordered enforcement of the 14th and 15th amendments necessary to eliminate such discrimination and prescribing remedial devices. See <https://www.justice.gov/crt/about-language-minority-voting-rights>; and <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/08/give-us-the-ballot-expanding-the-voting-rights-act/399128/>.

Therefore, the remembrance of women's suffrage also requires recognition of those who were blocked from this basic right. This historic centennial offers an unparalleled opportunity to commemorate a milestone of democracy and to explore its relevance to the issues of equal rights today.

The Palmer Lake Historical Society has suspended its regular monthly historical program series due to COVID-19. Until these monthly programs resume, Sharon Williams will provide this column with relevant topics to

OCN readers. The Historical Society meets on the third Thursday of the month, 7 p.m., Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Crescent; Lucretia Vaile Museum, closed for now, 66 Lower Glenway St., Palmer Lake. The museum houses items of local historical significance. Special displays rotate every four to six months. Info: 719-559-0837; PLHS@PalmerDivideHistory.org; www.palmerdivide-history.org

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Above: On Nov. 14, 1917, known as "The Night of Terror," women led by activist Alice Paul were arrested, imprisoned, clubbed, beaten, and tortured for silently picketing for the right to vote outside the White House. Photo courtesy of the Bettmann Archive. Caption by Sharon Williams.

High Altitude Nature and Gardening (HANG)

Ethnoecology: traditional knowledge and composting

By Janet Sellers

Ethnoecology, aka traditional human knowledge, is a body of knowledge, belief, and practice that evolves over time and adapts to the times and needs of the people such as food sourcing. Foraging in nature is the harvesting of what nature has prepared over time, and gardening is one form of using those processes, optimizing convenient results.

Knowing how to pluck berries is easy, knowing how to get berries to grow takes understanding and prudent action. And knowing what is safe for food is yet another major factor in both foraging and gardening. Nature composts her leaves and other elements, and the foods thereby created have a cycle that we can accelerate for our own convenience with composting knowledge.

Composting at home is black gold on the ground

Mother Nature takes three months to three years making leaves and debris into soil. We can accelerate the process using compost knowledge: layering straw, dry leaves, sawdust and shredded paper for carbon, kitchen scraps (no meat or oil), freshly cut grass, and prunings and seaweed for nitrogen. Organic activators, homemade (with kitchen scraps) or bought, jump start the process with nitrogen and hungry microorganisms. Kitchen scraps compost has specific food nutrients and microbes optimizing food gardening outcomes.

Just piling up old garden debris won't work, and not all compost is created equal. The pile needs oxygen, usually helped by aerating by lifting and turning the pile with a rake or garden fork (cheapest but needs muscle), or use a tumbler composter (easiest). Lately, using manure for the nitrogen factor is very questionable due to new strains of bacteria concerns, but alfalfa meal is likely safer. The pile needs its nutrients, microbes, oxygen, and water to create compost. It's not hard to do but must be done right or the microbes die,

and you have either a slimy mess or a dried-out pile.

Forest debris is perfect for forests but missing some food garden microbes. Adding helpers like food scraps in small particles breaks down fastest, using a blender for the kitchen scraps and a weed eater for yard debris speeds things up for compost. We can use compost bins sized for a kitchen and outdoor tumbler bins sized for the household.

Did you miss the Friends of Fox Run Park foraging day with Donny Dust in June? Well, then, stay tuned for more summer treks via Friends of Fox Run Park Facebook page.

Janet Sellers is an avid ethnoecologist posing as a lazy gardener enjoying the fruits of nature in the garden and foraging in the wild. janetsellers@ocn.me



Above (left): Julie Dail, left, Tri-Lakes Cares (TLC) volunteer garden coordinator, and Haley Chapin, TLC executive director, show off the victory garden on the south side of the TLC building on June 25. Using the amazing ability of wood chips from local fire mitigation cuttings in the mulching system known as the Back to Eden gardening system, the garden does not require any watering, and the wood chips turn to viable soil in a year or two, all the while keeping out weeds and deterring pests. The wood chips are a foot to 18



inches deep on the ground, keeping rainwater down at the soil level and thereby available to the plants. Plants and seeds were donated from local citizens and include potatoes, tomatoes, green beans, four or more kinds of squash, and brassicas. (right): Dail shows how the deep wood chips keep the water in the ground and optimal for the plants in the Back to Eden wood chip gardening method. It's becoming very popular for victory gardens and community subscription agriculture. Photo by Janet Sellers