

## What are your emergency plans?

By Lisa Hatfield



**Above:** "The time is now. Prepare now," said Robb Davidson of Woodland Park to the Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church Emergency Preparedness group. He told about his experiences evacuating for fires, saying, "It's not just being ready to evacuate; you want to be able to bring hope to your community in times of stress." He emphasized the need for prioritizing and thinking ahead "while life is normal." *Photo by Lisa Hatfield.*

What did you do when you got the call to evacuate your neighborhood in the middle of the night because of danger from a leaking railroad car? When nearby wildfires put you under pre-evacuation, did you stand lost in the middle of your living room wondering what to pack? Or did you already have a personal action plan in place that told you exactly what to do?

"Be open to the idea that something can happen," said Kathy Russell, emergency preparedness planner for El Paso County, at an emergency planning workshop at the Monument Branch Library in September 2012. She recommended that people plan ahead for the disasters that are possible in our area, such as wildfires, blizzards, toxic chemical spills, and tornadoes.

"Preparedness takes 'disaster' and turns it into 'inconvenience,'" said Russell.

Robb Davidson of Woodland Park would agree. He shared his multiple evacuation experiences with the Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church Emergency Preparedness group on March 2, noting:

- The things you really need are the people you're going to drive out of the driveway with.
- It takes some time to get that yard work done. It's not just trees. Keep the grass short. Clear out the vegetation.
- Plan with your family now, so that when emergencies do occur, you are not arguing or fearful. You're prepared.
- A close-knit community starts with your family, and then you can reach out to the folks in your community and bring them hope too; you want to give them 100 percent.

Your plan to grab photo albums and mementos will not work if you aren't home when the emergency happens. What's the evacuation plan if you are at home on vacation or at work?

- Reverse 911 only goes automatically to "land-lines." You must register your cell phone to receive Reverse 911 notifications. To register, see <https://elptc911.onthealert.com>. Or call 719-785-1971.
- Are you signed up for your child's school district emergency text or email system? Update your emergency contact information whenever it changes so schools can notify you how they are safeguarding your children in a crisis. Do not just drive to the school if there's a rumor of a problem.
- Do you have a disabled person in your home that should be registered with your local fire protection district?
- Do you have printed copies of neighbors' phone numbers to help you if you're far from home during a crisis?
- Do you have a family communication plan explaining how and where to reunite if disaster strikes? Don't count on cell phone coverage; your family needs to already know the plan.
- Does each family member (and pet) have a "bug-out bag" packed with essentials in case you have to leave in a hurry?

For more emergency preparedness ideas and "bug-out bag" lists, see: [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) and [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).

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### March and April library events

## Monument Library hours will change beginning in April

By Harriet Halbig

In response to a recent survey of library patrons, beginning April 15, the hours of the Monument Library will change as follows:

- Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Thanks to the patrons for their input. The library hopes in this way to provide better customer service.

Despite some cancellations due to severe weather, March was a busy and exciting month at the library, with many taking advantage of the special Spring Break programming and more than 20 teens learning to knit.

### Family programs for April

April's Family Fun program on Saturday, **April 13**, from 1:30 to 3 p.m. will be *Digging Sea Turtles* with the Traveling Sea. Come learn about FeeBee, the star of the movie *Turtle: the Incredible Journey*. The Traveling Sea will tell you all you want to know about sea turtles. You will pretend to rescue a sea turtle, dig a sea turtle nest, act like a hatchling, and make one to take home. Discover sea turtles through real artifacts.

The monthly meeting of the Lego club will be on **April 20** from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Legos enthusiasts of all ages are welcome to create with their favorite building materials. Please do not bring your own Legos, because all pieces used remain the property of the library district. We are currently asking for donation of much-needed Legos for future use. Any donations are tax deductible, and we appreciate your support.

On Saturday, **April 27**, at 1:30, enjoy a visit with Pikes Peak Poet Laureate Price Strobridge. His readings will celebrate the joy of the spoken word and the power of poetry in our lives.

AfterMath free math tutoring continues each Monday from 3:30 to 7 p.m. through April. All ages are welcome to sit down with our volunteer tutors to clarify those trouble spots. No appointment is necessary; just drop by!

### Teen and Tween programs

April's Crafty Teens program on Friday, **April 5**, from 3:30 to 5 p.m., will be *Learn to Knit* for ages 12 and up. Experienced knitters will get you started on your first knitting project. All materials are provided, but bring your own needles (size 8 or 9) if you have them. Snacks will be offered. Registration is encouraged so we can plan our supplies. For those who attended last month's session,

this is a chance to ask further questions and learn a new stitch.

A representative from the Pikes Peak Workforce Center will come to the library from 3:30 to 5 **April 11** to speak to those aged 14 to 21 on the subject of dressing for success and interviewing. Hiring managers make a first impression about a candidate in the first 30 seconds. By dressing sharp, those 30 seconds can make a positive impression that will help you land the job! Do some research on professional dress and come to the workshop in your best interview attire! No registration.

### Adult programs

Come to the library on Saturday, **April 6**, from 10:30 to 11:30 to learn about boosting your immune system. Everyone knows that the best way to stay healthy and feel great is to have a strong immune system. Dr. Victoria Wirtz from 100% Chiropractic Monument is filled with inspiring ideas to help you feel your best. Learn which vitamins will give you the most benefits to kick start your immune system and get the most out of our Colorado lifestyle.

*Living Gluten Free* is the subject of a program from 10:30 to 11:30 on Saturday, **April 13**. Facing a gluten-free lifestyle does not mean the end of all things delicious! Learn some of the health benefits, how to adapt recipes, and tips for shopping from Taste of Life experts Annie and Donna. You'll leave with fresh ideas, inspiration, and samples!

The Leadership Team of the Pikes Peak Library District invites you to a meet-and-greet to celebrate National Library Week. Enjoy treats compliments of our Friends of the Library and tell us what you think about your library and its future. The reception will be on Tuesday, **April 16**, from 3 to 5.

The AARP Drivers Safety program will be offered on Thursday, **April 18**, from 1 to 5 p.m. This is a classroom driver refresher course for motorists age 50 and older. Graduates may present their course completion certificate to their insurance agent for a discount. Class size is limited and registration is required. Charge for the four-hour course is \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for nonmembers.

The Monumental Readers book club will meet at 10 a.m. on Friday, **April 19**, to discuss *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak. All patrons are welcome to attend.

A program is scheduled for Friday, **May 3**, from 10 to

11:30 about creating a family legacy with information on such elements as expressing your wishes regarding financial assets, personal possessions of emotional value, and passing on your values and life lessons.

On Saturday, **May 4**, from 4 to 5:30, gain confidence in pairing wine with your favorite foods while learning about the six Colorado wine regions.

On the walls in April will be acrylics on the theme of wildlife by Nancy Cavins. In the display case will be a miniature German village.

### Palmer Lake Library events

Come to the library to read with our Paws to Read dog, Misty the Sheltie, on Thursday, **April 11**, from 4:30 to 5:30. Read to Misty and select a prize.

April's Family Fun program will be *Ducks Everywhere!* Laura Foye will introduce you to real ducks in the library, and you can make your own duck to take home. This program will be on Saturday, April 20, beginning at 10:30.

The Palmer Lake Book Group meets at 9 a.m. on the first Friday of each month. New members are always wel-

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