

Under the Colonnade:

News From Livingston's Historic Depot



Dear friends,

It's been a wonderful first year working with you, and I remain honored to be part of all the great things that go on at the Depot. What a great bunch of volunteers,



trustees, members, and friends. You all make the Depot more than just a building—you create a place to meet, learn, revel, and share in our history and our future.

Our first major project together, as many of you know, is the replacement of our heating and cooling systems. The four boilers that have heated the iconic Livingston Depot for over three decades are in need of replacement. One bit the dust last spring due to a cracked housing—you may have seen it rolled out at the Festival of the Arts, the Roundhouse Roundup, and at the museum entrance. So many people were kind enough to drop a few dollars in the top and help us fund its replacement, thank you!

Our AC cooling tower has also succumbed to Montana's harsh winters, hard water, and year's of use providing respite from the summer heat for the museum's daily visitors and special event guests. With the help of mechanical engineers, Graybeal's All Service, savvy trustees, and NorthWestern Energy, we've come up with safety and sustainability measures to ensure our new equipment lasts another 35 years!

Thanks to all who've contributed so far. We're through the first part of it and fundraising for the tasks that remain. As you'll read here, there are lots of other things going on every time you turn around, but this infrastructure improvement project is the first step to continuing to share the Depot with the community and realizing the future of our cultural center.

I look forward to more great years ahead. Thank you all for your ongoing dedication to keeping the Depot Foundation a great center of activity!

Best regards,
Laura McCarthy Cota



☉ A Gem of a Green Space: Depot-Rotary Park

The Holiday Lights Committee, with the dedicated efforts of Ed O'Donnell and AJ Bowers, has lit more trees to fill the Depot-Rotary Park with cheer. They have also brought out the ever-popular Christmas Train again. It's a very pretty sight by night, especially if you take a stroll through the trees.



Inside, the Depot tree is up and decorated. The wreaths and frosty windows add that touch of winter festivity to our cheery downtown. The many holiday events held here, including the Menorah Lighting in the Park (12/3), the Hospice Tree Ceremony (12/5), the inaugural MRL Christmas Express Train Ride (12/7), Santa has even been known to show up at the Big Brothers Big Sisters Holiday Party, too! We wrap up the season with a non-denominational Christmas Eve community service hosted by Living Hope Church (12/24).



☉ **New Park Picnic Tables!** Coordinated by Mike Gomez and sponsored by the Livingston Rotary, a corps of volunteers from Legacy of Faith Ministries working with Darryl Brunson very kindly constructed ten redwood picnic tables to replace the rusting ones out in the park. They were very well received with people resting during the Festival of the Arts, but just as much with people enjoying a picnic or simply sitting and watching trains.

Members are at the heart of everything we do at the Depot Foundation. Thank you to everyone who joined, who renewed, who encouraged a friend. Keep spreading the word about the Depot!

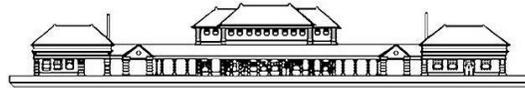
Volunteers make things possible, from an extra hand with special events to museum setup and takedown, to cataloguing, to help with the pie booth (and many thanks to you bakers in the shadows!), to staffing the museum and gift shop. If you're even just curious, pick up the phone and call Laura anytime at 222-2300, we're very happy to answer questions.

2018 Photo Roundup: highlights from an active year

☉ **Something for everyone.** We got off to a busy start with events like the **Chamber of Commerce's** annual meeting, the AAUW **New to You Arts and Antiques Fair**, and the **Depot Railroad Swap Meet**. Before you knew it we were ready to set up for the museum season with our special exhibit. Timber Trails put on another well-attended **Backcountry Film Festival** to benefit Loaves & Fishes and the Park High Livingston Jazz Fest was amazing. We are honored to provide a space for these and other events that benefit our fellow area non-profits like Big Brothers Big Sisters' Perfect Pairings, Aspen's Soup to End the Silence, Montessori Island School's Taste of Livingston, and many more.



☉ **The Depot Festival of the Arts** made its 31st appearance with another remarkable spectrum of fine artists and craftspeople filling out the Park, like this woodworker (left) putting the finishing touches on a table.



☉ **Depot Events** The Depot's annual events are a wonderful way to experience the heart of the Livingston Historic District. Don't miss the Roundhouse Roundup—a delicious chuck wagon dinner and dancing under the stars in late July; the Wine & Beer Tasting in early November where guests can sample some of the best beers Montana has to offer and hand-picked wines from around the world; or the variety of artist receptions for our summer exhibits like the *Pure Quill* exhibit opening where Barbara Van Cleve, recently deemed a "Treasured Montana Artist," shared her life and photographs (right center).



Depot events are a great way to connect with the community, meet new people, catch up with old friends, or strut your stuff on the red carpet (at the recent 16th annual Wine & Beer Tasting).



☉ **Website update!** We're especially pleased to have given the Depot's website a thorough revision this last year. It's been updated with a great collection of photos, is now much more comprehensive, it has links to friends in the area, and it includes a new calendar. Check it out at: LivingstonDepot.org. We are currently adding an online membership option, so you can easily renew, join, or share with your friends how to support the Depot Foundation. You can also Like or Follow us on Facebook for event updates and photos.

☉ **LINKS For Learning: A summer of fun!** A new collaboration with LINKS for Learning helped us bring over 300 students throughout Park County and surrounding rural communities to the Depot. The students discovered things like how trains influenced the agricultural economy for the last 120 years, as well as explored the Depot's architecture through their own photography, and even took selfies in our new dude ranch exhibit. Support for dude ranch exhibit, associated curriculum, and this awesome education project came from the Park County Community Foundation, the Community Closet, Mountain Sky Guest Ranch Fund (now AMB West), and NorthWestern Energy. Thank You!



☉ **Cataloging work.** It's a large task, but updating the Depot Museum's collections inventory got a great start this year with the help of Experience Works staffer Tress Chapin and volunteers Roddy Stanton and Joanne Meacham. It has been fun to rediscover pieces of our history in the rooting and sorting and numbering. Whodathunkit? There's some pretty neat stuff here at the Depot!



☉ **New Partnership with the Livingston Art Community's Newest Member** The nonprofit that operated the Danforth Gallery for over 40 years is in the process of reorganizing into LAM, or the Livingston Art Museum. The Depot is ecstatic to host a sneak peek of the LAM's collection during the summer of 2019. As LAM renovates the Danforth it is designing programming that nurtures the contemporary art ethos of the old Danforth Gallery. So this summer, please help us welcome LAM to this incredibly vibrant cultural community!

