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The newsletter of Webster Groves Public Library
Vol. 15 no. 8 — April 2020



UPCOMING EVENTS

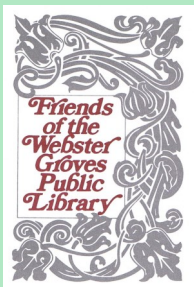
All upcoming events have been cancelled until further notice. This includes meetings in our meeting room, book discussions, children's story hours, and gallery exhibits.

We plan to evaluate the situation the week of April 13 and make decisions about whether our event calendar will open in May.

When we do reopen, our book discussion groups will probably pick up where they left off, with the last suggested books being the ones that we will discuss next. That would be *Awakenings* by Oliver Sachs for the Saturday Afternoon Book Club (though we no longer expect a visit from the Opera Theatre of St. Louis), and *The Beginning of Spring* by Penelope Fitzgerald for the Classics Book Club. Watch for dates to be announced.

FRIENDS NEWS

The Friends of the Library are planning to hold a book sale on May 29 and 30. That is late enough that there is a good chance it will happen. Let's keep our fingers crossed.



LIBRARY HOURS

The library is closed until further notice.

CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY EDITION

Here we are in the third week of closures for most things, local libraries included. Everyone's predictions about how long we'll be closed keep getting blown out of the water, and uncertainty abounds.

In the first week, most of the full-time staff continued to come in to work to take care of various projects that are always being put off because we're so busy. But in the second week of closures, St. Louis County tightened restrictions on which businesses can be open, and everyone started staying home. A few of us come in for a few hours each day to receive deliveries, check on the building, pay bills and such. It is quiet and kind of lonely.

All of the Municipal Library Consortium (MLC) libraries are in close touch. We also have regular communications from Kristen Sorth at County Library. She told us just this morning that County Library has decided to cancel all scheduled meetings and events at their locations for May. Even if they open by May, it might just be for regular library service, with no special events for a while. We haven't made that decision at Webster Groves Public Library yet, but it might just be a matter of time.

We are working to offer what services we can. Our Children's Room has been recording online stories, which many people seem to be watching and enjoying. Our online providers of e-media, such as OverDrive and Hoopla are very busy. We just increased the number of monthly checkouts per patron from 8 to 12 for Hoopla. Questions about how to get a card and how to use these e-media continue to come in from the Website, and are answered regularly. All items

that are checked out are renewed indefinitely, at least until we reopen.

Anything you requested that was already being held will be held for you until we reopen. Anything you have requested since will not be processed until we reopen. There are no deliveries now, nothing being sent between the libraries.

I hear frequently from staff members. They all miss work, miss each other, and miss our library patrons.

We hope you are all taking care of yourselves and staying safe out there. See you soon!

tcooper@wgpl.org

PEEPS DIORAMA CONTEST

We are holding our Peeps Diorama Contest as an online event this year.

Create a diorama using Peeps candies. The diorama must be book-based, and every character in the scene must be played by a Peep. (If you can't get Peeps, a drawing will do!) Take a photograph of your diorama and email it to dladd@wgpl.org. Include your name, the category, and the name of the book that inspired your scene.

Winners in three categories will receive a Webster Groves Gift Certificate: Child, Family, and Adult. They will be posted on Facebook and other social media.

