



## KIDS' EVENTS

### SANTA'S EXPRESS!

The Library will host **Santa's Express**, a holiday candy and craft bag drive-thru, on December 5th from 5 - 6 p.m. with Santa Claus!

**Please stay in your vehicle** and pull through our parking lot up to the back entrance. Do not park in a space. Your family will have a chance to briefly greet Santa Claus while safely distanced from your car. A small treat bag filled with candy, a craft, and a small toy will be provided for all youth 18 and under inside each vehicle, **while supplies last**. We plan to hand out 200 bags. Allergy free/non-candy bags will be available upon request.

Similar to our curbside pick-up process, we ask that you please roll down your back window or open your trunk/hatch and a Library staff member or volunteer will safely place the bags in your vehicle. Masks are strongly encouraged for all participants and will be worn by Library staff and volunteers.



## LIBRARY HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
Friday & Saturday 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

The Library will be closed Thursday & Friday, Dec. 24 & 25, for Christmas and Thursday & Friday, Dec. 31 & Jan. 1, for New Year's.

## LIBRARY BOARD ZOOM MEETINGS

In November, Pfizer Pharmaceuticals announced that a COVID-19 vaccine they had been testing had shown promising results. That day, three publicly-traded stocks took a nosedive: Amazon, because during the pandemic, everyone has gotten everything from Amazon; Netflix, because during the pandemic everyone has killed time by binge-watching whatever was available on the streaming giant; and Zoom, because since mid-March of this year, every meeting on Earth has been held via Zoom.

I will be glad to watch the decline and fall of Zoom. My Zoom arc has likely been the same as everyone's. First there was the nervousness about scheduling and hosting a meeting, how to attend, when to speak so as not to talk over others in the meeting. Then there was the novelty of it, people doing clever things like adding creative backgrounds, or staging books on shelves behind themselves that made them look wise and well-read. Finally, there was the 'honeymoon is over' stage, where all we want is a normal, face-to-face meeting with physical humans, not re-

mote avatars of our friends, family, and work associates. I am in the last phase.

The Library Board has met via Zoom since spring. Leading up to the last meeting, there was a discussion of whether it's time to meet in person again. While there was some talk of doing so, a solid majority of trustees felt the time was not right, while cases of COVID-19 were skyrocketing nationwide.

The problem is, our meetings are supposed to be open forums where the public can attend and make comments. Being on Zoom makes this harder, but not impossible.

Our meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of every month except December. If you would like to attend one of our Zoom meetings, contact me at the email address below, or call 314.961.3784, and I will make sure you get the link to attend.

In the meantime, in the interest of learning how you feel about our response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have put together a survey for you to take. See more about that below.

[tcooper@wgpl.org](mailto:tcooper@wgpl.org)

## PANDEMIC RESPONSE SURVEY

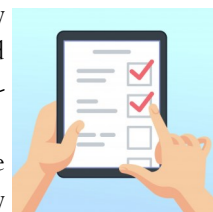
The Library's current five-year strategic plan expires this year. With that in mind, the Advance Planning Committee of the Board of Trustees began meeting earlier this year, to begin work on a new plan.

The problem they came to realize they had is that any good strategic plan begins with a community-wide survey that elicits opinions from library users *and* from people who do not use the library, even those who have never had a library card. But since we have been in crisis mode for the past eight months, responses to such a survey would not be about our services in normal times, but

about these emergency times, and thus not good at all for long-term planning.

We decided to fill the gap by issuing a survey soliciting opinions about how our response to the pandemic has been going. We hope many of you will take this short survey, and anyone who completes it may enter their name to win a drawing for one of two \$25 Webster Groves gift cards.

Follow [this link](#) to the survey, or find it at our website at [www.wgpl.org](http://www.wgpl.org).



## TOP REQUESTS

1. *A Time for Mercy*,  
by John Grisham
2. *A Promised Land*,  
by Barack Obama
3. *Anxious People*,  
by Fredrick Backman
4. *The Searcher*,  
by Tana French
5. *The Vanishing Half*,  
by Brit Bennett
6. *The Sentinel*,  
by Lee Child
7. *One by One*,  
by Ruth Ware
8. *Caste*,  
by Isabel Wilkerson
9. *The Law of Innocence*,  
by Michael Connelly
10. *Leave the World Behind*,  
by Rumaan Alam
11. *The Guest List*,  
by Lucy Foley
12. *The Evening and the Morning*,  
by Ken Follett

## REFERENCE SERVICES DURING COVID-19

Though we are currently closed to people entering our building and offering curbside-only service, our Reference Department is still making a variety of other services available. Most of these services are made available via curbside, and you must call the Reference Department at 314.961.7277 to make arrangements.

- **VHS Conversion:** If you have old VHS or VHS-C tapes that you would like converted to DVD or flash drive, call us to arrange this free service.
- **Scanning, printing, faxing:** If you have documents you need scanned, print jobs, or items to fax, we can print up to 25 pages or fax up to 10 pages with no fee.
- **Assistance downloading e-resources** such as e-books, audiobooks, e-magazines, and streaming movies via services such as OverDrive, Hoopla, and Kanopy.
- **Assistance getting a library card:** For a card to be able to use these resources, call the same number.

## BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Saturday, January 2, at 2 p.m.



*The Giver of Stars*,  
by Jojo Moyes

This meeting will be held via Zoom. For more information, or to get the Zoom link, contact Debbie Ladd at [dladd@wgpl.org](mailto:dladd@wgpl.org).



## BOOK CLUB KITS

Remember that while the Library is currently hosting only one online book discussion per month, we do have book club kits available for hosting your own group. Kits include 10 copies of the book and a discussion guide, and can be checked out for 6 weeks.

Look them up in our catalog under the title BOOK CLUB KIT.

## BUSY CURBSIDE SERVICE

It seems like everyone has gotten used to curbside service. In the summer, when we first offered it, takers were a little sparse. Now, it is busy most hours that we're open. Mondays and Saturdays are usually the busiest. On Saturday, November 28, for instance, we delivered books and materials to people in 96 cars. The number for Monday, November 23, was 101.

People roll up in their cars, but they also come by on their bicycles and on foot, and we have gotten used to seeing visitors with their dogs, who stop by during their walks.

We have two phone lines we answer to serve curbside customers, and it is not unusual for them to both be busy. If you get a busy signal, just wait a bit and call again. We're here. Library staff members are certainly getting all their steps in.

## FRIENDS NEWS

The Friends Board is using Zoom to conduct our meetings. Even though there aren't lots of activities, we are supporting Santa's Express, hosted by the Children's Library on December 5. If you are in search of a gift for your favorite reader, we'd like to suggest that you consider the gift of a paver in the Reading Garden. It's the landscaped area in front of the Library, with a low bench for sitting outside on sunny days. The pavers can be ordered in 6 in. x 9 in. (\$75), 6 in. x 12 in. (\$150) and 12 in. x 12 in. (\$300) and are "In Honor Of" or "In Memory Of" or can simply list names that you want to remember. The order form is available at [www.wgpl.org](http://www.wgpl.org) or you can e-mail [lwehrenberg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lwehrenberg@sbcglobal.net) for information.



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