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The newsletter of Webster Groves Public Library
Vol. 17 no. 5 — January 2022



KIDS' EVENTS

Tuesday Story Time:

A new story time posted to our Facebook page every Tuesday.

January Take 'n' Make Craft:

Cotton Ball Polar Bears! Find them in the Library's foyer (while supplies last)!

Can You Crack The Code?

January 3 to January 31, ages 5 years to adult. Code alphabets will be hidden on all 3 levels of the Library, (with directions on each floor). Multiple puzzles will be available for Kids, Teens, Adults, and bonus prizes. Complete the puzzles to enter your name into a drawing for Amazon Gift Cards. Puzzles will be located at the Children's Desk.



LIBRARY HOURS

Monday - Thursday	9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Friday & Saturday	9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Sunday	2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

The Library will be closed Monday, January 17 for Martin Luther King Day.

STATUS REPORT

The last weeks of December were worrisome here at the Library. Staff members missed work due to exposure to COVID-positive individuals, a few developed what sounded like COVID symptoms and had to be tested, and we even began to wonder if we might have to face an occasional closure when there weren't enough people to staff the Library. We pulled through, but there is still the sense that it's a day-at-a-time proposition.

Our staff members are very thankful that most of our patrons, most of the time, follow our masking rule without making a fuss. With the highly transmissible omicron variant spreading rapidly in most states, it is even more necessary. Sure, we all know that for vaccinated people the omicron variant is less severe. But it still necessitates several missed days of work, and in some instances can lead to hospitalizations. If it is easy to wear a mask and help protect our front-line workers, why not do it?

Our Children's Room is still providing

Take 'n' Make crafts and recording weekly story times that families can watch online. We don't know when we can start in-person story hours and other programming, since most younger children remain unvaccinated.

We have had a few in-person adult programs, which have gone well. Though our meeting room seats 100 people, we have limited attendance to no more than 40, and have required masking. We have also made the meeting room available for smaller groups, with the warning that they must not exceed 40 attendees, wear masks, and serve no refreshments. Quite a few groups have available themselves of this opportunity.

Despite all these challenges, we remain busy. Circulation is steady, both in print materials and online checkouts of e-books and other digital media. We will continue to do our best to serve our community until we can resume full service.

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RFID TAGGING IS HAPPENING NOW!

The Municipal Library Consortium (MLC), of which Webster Groves Public Library is a member, recently got a grant from the Missouri State Library to convert its collection to RFID tags. What this means is that when you check out materials at the Library, we will be scanning a new kind of tag inside the book or movie or CD.

'RFID' stands for Radio Frequency Identification. It is similar to the barcodes that libraries have used for years, but it uses radio frequency instead of a visual scan to record data. It is meant to expedite the checkout process. It also makes inventory, security,

and other things within the Library easier.

It's not an easy process, putting a new tag into every item in the Library. Over the next few months, if you see Library staff walking up and down the book aisles pushing a cart loaded with a scanner and other equipment, they're probably working on the RFID conversion project. This will also be happening at any other MLC library you happen to visit. We have a target date of this spring to start using the new system. Wish us luck!



TOP REQUESTS

1. *The Lincoln Highway*,
by Amor Towles
2. *State of Terror*,
by Hillary Clinton and Louise Penny
3. *Cloud Cuckoo Land*,
by Anthony Doerr
4. *The Judge's List*,
by John Grisham
5. *Apples Never Fall*,
by Liane Moriarty
6. *The Sentence*,
by Louise Erdrich
7. *Game On: Tempting 28*,
by Janet Evanovich
8. *Wish You Were Here*,
by Jodi Picoult
9. *Crossroads*,
by Jonathan Franzen
10. *The Dark Hours*,
by Michael Connelly
11. *Go Tell the Bees That I Am Gone*,
by Diana Gabaldon
12. *Oh William!*,
by Elizabeth Strout

VHS CONVERSION

A few years ago we started a new service converting old VHS tapes to DVDs, or putting them on flash drives.

Many people have old VHS tapes of family events, school pageants, high school sports games, or weddings, but haven't watched them or shared them with anyone in years because they no longer own VHS players.

Now you can bring those tapes to the Library and we will transfer them to DVDs or to a flash drive for you. You can bring your own discs, or purchase them from us for 25 cents apiece.



We generally have a limit of three tapes at a time, but if you have more, we may be able to accept them, if we're not too busy at the time. Call the Reference Department at 314.961.7277 to discuss it.

We can only convert personal, non-copyrighted material. Any old movies or recordings of TV shows cannot be converted.

BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Saturday, February 5 at 2 p.m.

This meeting is scheduled to be held in the Library's Meeting Room. Masks required, and social distancing will be observed. For more information, contact Debbie Ladd at dladd@wgpl.org.



Hamnet,
by Maggie O'Farrell

BOOK CLUB KITS—

Remember that while book discussions at the Library aren't quite back to normal, we do have book club kits available for your home 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 catalogue under the title BOOK CLUB KIT.

CHANGE IN PASSPORT FEES

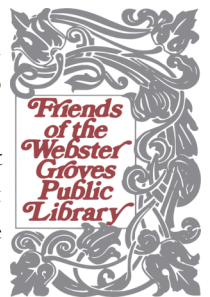
For the past several years, the Library has been a passport acceptance agency. You may bring your application, recent photo, and necessary documents to the Library and we will check everything and submit your application to the State Department for processing. There are fees paid to the State Department, which vary depending on age of the applicant, which products you are ordering, and how quickly you need to receive your passport. There is also a \$35 processing fee paid to the Library as the acceptance agency.

Beginning December 27, the fees payable to the State Department were raised. Adult and children's passport fees went up by \$20, to \$130 and \$100 respectively. If you have been planning to submit an application any time soon, be sure to check the fees. You may find information at the website travel.state.gov. To make an appointment for passport processing, or for more information, call the Reference Department at 314.961.7277.

FRIENDS NEWS

Wishing everyone health, well-being and lots of adventures at the Library in 2022! Membership brochures will arrive soon and we are thankful for the support so many people have given in 2021. Your memberships have allowed the Friends to help build the large print book collection, purchase additional book club kits and support activities for the children's library.

We welcome new Friends officers: President Dorothy Heltibrand, Vice President Laura Wehrenberg, Co-Treasurers Cricket Vandover and Ann Hannan and Secretary Debbie Ladd. We will continue to meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Library (Zoom is also an option). Members are welcome to attend!



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