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The newsletter of Webster Groves Public Library  
Vol. 18 no. 5 — January 2023



## KIDS' EVENTS

### Cooking with Caitlin

Saturday, January 7, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

We will be mixing up and baking mini muffins using the Library's Charlie Cart, a portable kitchen unit. For children ages 8 and up. Parents are welcome to stay, especially with younger children.

### Story Time with Miss Margaret

January 10, 14, & 17, 10 – 10:30 a.m.

Story & Activity Time, recommended for ages 2 and up. This event will be held in the story time area of our children's department.

### Story Time with Miss Margaret

Tuesday, January 17, 10 – 10:30 a.m.

Story & Activity Time, recommended for ages infant to age 2. This event will be held in the story time area of our children's department.

### Video Game Day

Saturday, January 21, 2 – 4 p.m.

Nintendo Switch gaming on the Meeting Room's projection wall. Suggested Ages: 8 and up

### Legos at the Library

Saturday, January 28, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Legos are back! Join us for some fun Lego free play. Ages 5 and up.

## 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 16, for Martin Luther King Day.

## 56 IN WEBSTER GROVES

On a fateful February evening in 1966, families in Webster Groves gathered around their televisions, anticipating a great event in the city's history. CBS News was about to air a documentary it had filmed almost wholly at Webster Groves High School, which they called *16 in Webster Groves*. Even the Library closed early that afternoon.

An hour later, people throughout the city were deflated, angry, and puzzled. Why would CBS present our town—our young people—in such a callous and unkind way? The gist of the whole piece was that Webster Groves was a town whose residents were materialistic, unimaginative, grasping for things like cars and houses, unlikely to do anything of significance. These values and messages were of course rendered to our kids, who were presented as nothing more than the next generation of crass, sad, and bourgeois citizens.

The anger was little assuaged when CBS tried to mend bridges with a second film, *Webster Groves Revisited*.

For a long time, the Library has had VHS copies of both films. People used to check them out when they still owned VCRs.

For a few years now, the Library has had the equipment to transfer VHS recordings to DVD, but we had not transferred *16 in Webster Groves* because we feared there were copyright issues.

But recently a patron called and asked if we could do just that. He had never seen the film, but like most people no longer had a VCR. We decided we would go ahead. There is still some worry that it may not be strictly legal. But it's a 56-year-old documentary that likely means little or nothing to people outside of Webster Groves. One doubts anyone at CBS News cares anymore—Charles Kuralt, the 'reporter' for the piece, died 25 years ago. So if anyone from CBS News is worried about it, they'll just have to let us know.

In the meantime, it is available to check out.

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

## CELEBRATING TEN YEARS IN THE NEW BUILDING

Many of us know the story, how in October 2010 the Library moved into rented space in the old Seiler Instrument Company Building while our building, originally dedicated in 1950, received a complete renovation and significant expansion. How the original

builder defaulted on the contract and left us to seek out a new contractor to finish the project, causing the work to take nearly twice as long as planned. But we finally moved into the new building in December 2012. Hard to believe it's been ten years already!

Since then thousands of library users have come through our doors and hundreds of groups have used our new Meeting Room.

On Saturday, December 17, we celebrated our ten-year anniversary. There were refreshments for library visitors, a photo display of the ongoing construction, and live music provided by the Buckhannon Brothers.



## TOP REQUESTS

1. *A World of Curiosities*,  
by Louise Penny
2. *Demon Copperhead*,  
by Barbara Kingsolver
3. *Desert Star*,  
by Michael Connelly
4. *The Boys from Biloxi*,  
by John Grisham
5. *Lessons in Chemistry*,  
by Bonnie Garmus
6. *Our Missing Hearts*,  
by Celeste Ng
7. *Lucy by the Sea*,  
by Elizabeth Strout
8. *The Light We Carry*,  
by Michelle Obama
9. *It Starts with Us*,  
by Colleen Hoover
10. *A Dangerous Business*,  
by Jane Smiley
11. *Mad Honey*,  
by Jodi Picoult
12. *The Winners*,  
by Fredrik Backman

## PAINTING THE GALLERY

Since 2014, the Library has had an art gallery. At first it was just the hallway that led to the Meeting Room, but soon we added gallery lighting, and it really took off as a place to display the work of local and regional artists of all sorts.

We have had displays from groups such as Webster Arts, Women in Focus, and the Virtual Watercolor Artists, as well as scores of individual painters and photographers.

It has gotten to the point that when one exhibit comes down at the end of a month and a few days pass before the next one goes up, we hear from people upset that there's no art to look at.

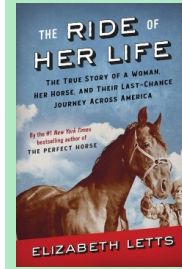
This January we may hear a lot of that. We have not scheduled a display, because we need to have the gallery painted. Years of people taping labels to the walls have left quite a few little divots in the paint, and it's time. We will resume with a new exhibit in February.

In the meantime, if you or someone you know would like to hang their work in the Library's gallery, there are a few months still available in 2023. Ask for an application at the front desk.



## BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Saturday, February 4 at 2 p.m.



*The Ride of Her Life*,  
by Elizabeth Letts

## BIG WINTER READ



*Anna Karenina*,  
by Leo Tolstoy

Our Classics Book Club will have its last discussion of this classic of Russian literature at 6 p.m. on January 31.

## TAX FORMS KERFUFFLE!

For years (decades really), libraries have made tax forms available to our patrons at tax time. Over the past several years, that has changed greatly due to what forms the federal and state governments choose to make available and the time frame they get them to us. This year is the worst in that developing trend. We suspect that this is a tactic for urging more people to e-file rather than filling out paper forms; but we also understand that many people are not ready to make that change.

Note that the state of Missouri has not sent us forms for years. We do not have any pre-printed state tax forms and will not in the future.

The federal government did not even make the form to order tax forms available until late December, and what we ordered will not be here until mid- to late January. What we can order is only a small assortment of the most standard forms. More complicated schedules, and especially business-related forms, will need to be found online.

If you would like to print out your own forms at home, you can find federal forms at [irs.gov](https://www.irs.gov), and Missouri forms at [dor.mo.gov](https://dor.mo.gov). As always, we can assist you in finding and printing the forms you need at our Reference Desk. There is a \$0.10 per page fee for this service.

## FRIENDS NEWS

Happy New Year! The Friends Paver Program is back! We are pleased to again offer pavers in our Reading Garden to honor and remember friends and family members—brochures are available at the Library, you can visit the Friends Page at [wgpl.org](https://wgpl.org) or e-mail the Friends at [friendsofwgpl@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofwgpl@gmail.com) for more details.

Look for your membership mailing early in January. The Friends now have a PayPal account so you can renew online, as well. We are grateful for the support of our nearly 300 members and hope that you will continue your generous support of our wonderful library!



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