WVPL Saves You Money

We are no longer charging late fines on books and other circulating materials! This is a trend seen in neighboring cities like Philadelphia, Baltimore, and New York City. However, patrons will still need to pay replacement costs for lost materials. After being overdue for 35 days, we consider that item lost. If patrons accrue fees over $29.99, we will block their library card from borrowing additional items.

Fines and fees have been an obstacle to library use among the patrons that need it most. Charging fines doesn’t bring books back faster! Getting rid of fines boosts goodwill and brings former users back to the library. Most people appreciate their library and believe that the library is doing an excellent public service. Removing late fees also lifts a weight from library employees who have to enforce these policies. Arguing about fines doesn’t help build positive relationships and meaningful bonds between patrons and library staff.

So, we decided to rethink our operating procedures because we believe people shouldn’t be punished for doing something we want them to do: borrow and read books.

Library Hours Extended

The library is now open 10AM-8PM Monday through Thursday and 10AM-5PM Friday and Saturday at both libraries. We are so excited to give you more time to read, study, and learn in the library. We were amazed that our circulation only went down 2% last year. This is thanks to all your reading!

In-Person Programs Are Back!

Ms. Erin has restarted her in-person children’s storytimes, and our families love it! They are held weekly at 10:30 AM on the following days: Monday, Ambler ages 2-4; Tuesday, Blue Bell ages 2-4; Thursday, Blue Bell ages 2-4; Friday, Blue Bell ages 0-23 months.

A grandparent who attended a Baby Wiggles program with her daughter and granddaughter thanked us for offering this class because she said it allows the parents to get out of the house and meet other parents. She wasn’t sure how her granddaughter would respond in a group but was happy to see her warming up quickly with a smile on her face, socializing with other babies, something she’s been missing out on throughout the pandemic.

Won’t you help us continue purchasing great books and planning new programs for the community by donating today? You can use the enclosed envelope or go to wvpl.org to donate.
It’s Good to Have Friends

The Blue Bell Friends of the Library donated $2,924 for fundraising software, and to pay for the library’s recycling. The Ambler Friends are donating a much-needed bicycle rack. Both groups manage donations and the selling of books & audiovisual materials. Definitely check out the book sale when you come in, books are added almost daily!

WVPL has a Large Collection of Museum Passes

I bet you’ve been to the Elmwood Park Zoo, but have you been to the Glencairn Museum? The Philadelphia Insectarium? How about the Simeone Auto Museum or the Shofuso Japanese House? The library has 29 Museum passes that you can check out and take the family or a friend on an adventure! To find them go to wvpl.org and click on catalog. You can then type "museum pass" into the keyword search, and you’ll get a list of all the passes.

eMagazines Move from RB Digital to Overdrive’s Libby App

There are 3,700 titles, all with simultaneous use. To search for magazines, go to wvpl.org and click on eLibrary. Then click on Libby by Overdrive. Click ‘visit resource’ then click magazines, and you will see the complete list. If you want a specific magazine, click on search and type in the name of the magazine.

WVPL Thanks Donors

Thank you to everyone that donated through last month’s annual appeal letter! We couldn’t be more grateful for your generous support in this time of great need. Last year, WVPL received $49,447 in donations. Your generosity helped to provide:

- $2,361 provided 47 programs for 470 adults
- $4,723 provided 47 programs for 2,350 kids
- $22,316 provided 1,716 children’s books
- $20,017 provided 1,177 adult books

If you haven’t donated yet this fall, there is still time to make an impact before the end of 2021. You can use the enclosed envelope or go to wvpl.org to donate.

Children’s Reading Incentive Donation

Debbie Goldberg donated a couple hundred children’s reading incentives, including books, games, toys, balls, & other goodies for Ambler children. Thank you, Debbie!

WVPL Awarded STEAM Grant

Thanks to the Library Services and Technology Act, both branches were awarded STEAM Design, Create & Play Tinkering Kits through Pennsylvania’s Out-of-School Time project. This project’s purpose is to enhance, expand, and increase STEAM programming for local youth. Both libraries will develop and run after-school programs for youth ages 8+ to create with the kits. They will use 3D pens, circuitry crafts, Buddha artboards, LED lighting projects, & a digital fabrication software tool for a fun STEAM environment. Each kit holds an approximate value of $3,300!

A Musical Donation

Anthe Capital-Valais donated a bunch of new professional-quality musical instruments and art supplies with funds from her non-profit Ana Project. She has presented many fantastic art & music programs for the library. Here is a list of her generous donations: Acoustic Guitar, Bongos & stand, 4 Nino Egg Shakers, 2 Tambourines, Maracas, Drum, Sleigh Bells, Claves, King Claves, a Guiro, & a Djembe. Plus, easels, art pencils, & drawing pads for art projects. Thank you, Anthe!

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WVPL is now a part of the Racial Equity Learning Community (RELC) developing in Bucks and Montgomery counties. The goal is to advance racial equity through organizational learning and community building. What is Racial Equity? It is the condition that equity would be achieved if one’s racial identity no longer predicted the opportunities and barriers that one experiences. RELC was developed by the Bucks-Mont Collaborative, the Interagency Council of Norristown & the Tri-County Community Network. Over the course of a year, we will set a racial equity action plan. What that means for the library is that we will strive to have our staff, board, & volunteers look more like our community. They have more diverse programming that celebrates the culture and provides equitable opportunities for all. One hundred nineteen people from 31 non-profit organizations have joined the first cohort. Ambler has started a 5 part series for library patrons called Building Racial Understanding. Its timeliness has drawn more than 160 people across the country to participate in the online programs. We are excited to partner with the human relations commissions and other organizations in our community! Our beautiful presenters, Serita Lachesis, Megnot Toggia, Jalil Pines, and John Mould, donate their time, knowledge, and experiences to this critical topic.

**WVPL Joins RELC**

1. If you could be in the book of your choice, what book would you choose and what character would you play? The Last Wish, Geralt of Rivia
2. If you were stranded on a desert island, what three items would you want to have with you? A copy of Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince, a gallon of 50 SPF, and a lighter
3. If you were to create a slogan for your life, what would it be? I can do all things through an Iced Oat Milk Chai Latte
4. If you could go back and visit any time period, what time would you travel to and why? I would go back to January 24th, 1594 to watch the first performance of Shakespeare’s Titus Andronicus and to celebrate my -402 birthday
5. What was the best day of your life and why? The best day of my life so far was when I adopted my dog, Luna. She’s my best friend and sidekick!
6. Who is on the guest list for your ideal dinner party? Maya Angelou, Hermione Granger, and Mac Miller
7. What’s rocking your work world today? All of the kind and helpful people that I get to work with, and the delicious goodies they bring into work with them. Yum!

**What You’re Reading: Top Ten Titles**

1. The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah
2. The Last Thing He Told Me by Laura Dave
3. Apples Never Fall by Liane Moriarty
4. The Paper Palace by Miranda Cowley Heller
5. The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles
6. The Madness of Crowds by Louise Penny
7. The Lost Apothecary by Sarah Penner
8. A Slow Fire Burning by Paula Hawkins
9. The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict
10. American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins

**WVPL Awarded $16,500 in Grants**

We wish to thank the VNA Foundation of Greater North Penn, which gave WVPL $12,600 in three grants, the Montgomery County Foundation who gave $2,500, and the state who created the Pennsylvania Cares Act, which granted $1,400. These grants all helped our operating budget immensely during a rough time. Some monies continue to be spent on COVID-related safety items.

**New Staff Member Bobbie Foster**

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### Children Events

- **Ambler Read & Play**
  - Mondays at 10:30 AM

- **Blue Bell Read & Play**
  - Tuesdays & Thursdays at 10:30 AM

- **Ambler Guitar Story Time**
  - Tuesdays at 10:30 AM

- **Blue Bell Guitar Story Time**
  - Wednesdays at 10:30 AM

- **Blue Bell Baby Wiggles**
  - Fridays at 10:30 AM

- **Take & Make Craft Bags**
  - Each month for the kiddos!

### Adult Events

- **Virtual ESL Group**
  - Mondays at 10:30 AM

- **Ambler Beading Group**
  - 1st & 3rd Mondays at 1 PM

- **Blue Bell Chess Club**
  - Mondays at 5 PM

- **Blue Bell Knitters**
  - Tuesdays at 10 AM

- **Memoir Writer's Group**
  - 3rd Tuesdays at 3PM, online

- **Blue Bell Book Club**
  - 1st Wednesdays at 10 AM

- **Ambler Book Club**
  - 2nd Thursdays at 2:30 PM

- **Ambler Yarn Café**
  - Tuesdays at 6:30 PM & Fridays at 10:30 AM

- **Blue Bell Mahjong Group**
  - Fridays at 1:30 PM

- **Mystery Book Group**
  - 3rd Saturdays at 1:30 PM

### Programs & Events

**HOURS AND SERVICES**

**Masks Required for Entry**

**Blue Bell & Ambler**

- Monday through Thursday
  - Open for Browsing
  - 10 AM to 8 PM
- Friday & Saturday
  - 10 AM to 5 PM
- Sunday CLOSED

**Library Grab Bag Service**

Specially-curated book bags books just for you!

**Reference Services**

*Have a question for a librarian?* Call us at:
- Blue Bell (215) 643-1320
- Ambler (215) 646-1072

Visit us online at: www.wvpl.org

Wissahickon Valley Public Library - We're here to serve you!

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*Sign-up required

Go to www.wvpl.org/evnts for details on library programs, services & more unique events!