

NEWSLETTER

Westchester Public Library

Published for the Residents of Westchester

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Community Room Update

We are pleased to announce the Community Room is back in operation! A special concert is scheduled for June 23 featuring "Small Potatoes" (details inside) to celebrate the completion of what became a nearly year-long project following the flooding in July 2010.

The replacement of damaged dry wall and testing for mold was completed last fall and, during the winter, repairs were made in the delivery dock area to close off vulnerable openings for water by extending a ventilation shaft above ground and installing new doors that seal tight on closing.

This spring, to protect patrons and staff from the dust and debris, the Library closed an hour early for three days in April so removal of tile in the Community Room and staircases could be accomplished after hours. The replacement of tile on the main and youth levels required closing the Library for six days and dismantling the youth computers until the floor project was complete. While we were closed, staff continued to process materials returned in the book drop and from the delivery service, and extended pickup dates so patrons wouldn't lose their turn to borrow popular titles when the Library reopened. As this issue goes to press, the Library anticipates staying open regular hours during the week of May 23 but the youth level will be closed for carpet installation.

The board and staff appreciate the patience and understanding of our patrons during this period of major repairs and renovations. Thank you!

Library Survey Results

We received 324 responses to the Library Survey published in the Spring newsletter. The majority of respondents had a WPL library card (96%), with 38% visiting the Library at least once a week, 47% visiting the Library at least once a month, and 39% noting they also use other libraries in the area. Of the 121 parents and caregivers of young children, 85% agreed the Library's programs and services foster a love of books, reading and learning.

Responses were split over offering laptops for personal use (36% "yes," 48% "no") and providing ebook devices for loan (48% "yes," 40% "no"). Not surprisingly, books (95%) and feature films on DVD (62%) continue to be the most popular formats, with magazines (35%) and music CDs (31%) next in popularity. The top three sources for information about the Library were the Library's newslet-

ter (85%), the village newspaper (52%) and the Library's website (34%). More computers and more popular literature and media were common recommendations added at the end of the surveys. Of those responding to the survey, 55% were 60 or older, 17% age 50-59, 11% age 40-49, 10% age 30-39, and 6% under the age of 30.

Evaluating Resources

As Illinois legislators wrestle with the state's financial crisis and library systems merge to reduce costs and safeguard services, our staff has had to trim our database and periodical subscriptions to fit within this year's budget. We were sorry to drop CQ Researcher, Learning Express and AtoZ Maps, but utilization statistics haven't justified the expenditures. Periodical subscriptions have been reduced as well, with emphasis on retaining the most widely used titles. As some titles disappear in the coming months, patrons will find many of their articles online in full-text through our periodical databases.

Board Update

In April, Phyllis Kastle, Allison Muzal, Celestine T. Reda and Carol E. Levy were elected to the Library's board of trustees and took the oath of office in May. Congratulations to all.

In welcoming these new members to the board, we also say farewell to those who served their community with grace and distinction. We are grateful for the time, talents and commitment of the following trustees who retired in May: Jennifer Boyle (2001-2011), Patrick Kane (2003-2011), Kathleen Schultz (1998-2011) and Frank Perry (2009-2011), who was elected to the village board. We thank them for their dedicated service to the Library and the valuable counsel they provided in the review and approval of policies and practices to support quality library service for all patrons.

Staff News

In April, library director Ruth McCrank announced her retirement effective July 1 after nearly 40 years in the library profession. Assistant director Bonnie Schwanz will serve as acting director until a new director is hired. (See story inside)

Congratulations to Ryan Flores, adult reference assistant, on receiving his masters' degree in library and information science at Dominican University this spring.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Please register in advance so we can plan for adequate seating. Call 708-562-3573 or stop by the Adult Reference Desk.

Music Concerts at Ravinia

Ravinia's Words & Music program for public libraries is back with free lawn passes for concerts at the world famous music festival in Highland Park. We will hold a drawing in early June to distribute the available tickets. Watch for notices in the lobby.

Westchester patrons who borrow library materials are eligible to enter the drawing. Winners will be notified by phone the day of the drawing, with ticket selections on a first-come, first-serve basis. If you are a lucky winner, bring your calendar along to help in your concert selection. Lawn passes can be upgraded to pavilion seats at Ravinia's box office.



Getting Up to Speed: Basic Skills for Job Hunting on the Internet

Registration for Westchester cardholders begins on the 1st day of the month in which the class is held—non-residents can register *the day after*.

Tuesday	Jun 14	2:00 pm
Tuesday	Jul 12	2:00 pm
Tuesday	Aug 16	2:00 pm

INTERNET CLASSES

- All classes meet Wednesdays at 1:30 pm.
- You must have a valid library card to register.
- Registration for Westchester cardholders begins on the 1st day of the month in which the class is held—non-residents can register *the day after*.
- Students in the Beginner's Class must know how to use a mouse.

June - Registration begins June 1

Mouse Mania	Jun 8
Beginner's Internet	Jun 15
Email Class*	Jun 22

July - Registration begins July 1

Mouse Mania	Jul 6
Beginner's Internet	Jul 13
Email Class*	Jul 20

August - Registration begins August 1

Beginner's Internet	Aug 3
Email Class*	Aug 10
Intermediate Class*	Aug 17

* indicates classes in Conference Room

If you are unable to attend our classes, stop by the Adult Reference Desk to learn how you can get started with tutorials on our website www.westchesterpl.org.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The Group meets monthly on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm during the summer.

Jun 16	<i>Winter Garden</i> by Kristin Hannah
Jul 21	<i>When the Emperor Was Divine</i> by Julie Otsuka
Aug	<i>no meeting in August</i>

Incentive To Read More This Summer

Rev up your summer reading by joining the Page Turners Club, a reading club for adults and high school students. Stop by the adult reference desk to register and receive a log for tracking your reading this summer. The goal for adults is six books and three books for high school students. Members who meet their goal and turn in their reading logs by Saturday, August 6, will be eligible for the prizes in a drawing held in August and winners will be notified and also announced on the website. Just like last year, winners will receive gift certificates to Borders.

In past years, we have held a concert in August, but this year, we moved the concert date up to June 23 to celebrate the reopening of the Community Room! We are pleased to rebook the musical duo "Small Potatoes" for this event, especially since their concert scheduled for last August was cancelled due to the flood. See below.

*Everyone is invited to an evening of
eclectic folk music ranging
from Celtic to Cowboy!*



Small Potatoes

**Thursday, June 23
7:00 pm**

With light refreshments

Funded by Friends of the Library

A Fond Farewell

This November, director Ruth McCrank would have celebrated her ninth anniversary at the Westchester Public Library. Instead, she is retiring on July 1 after nearly 40 years in the library profession. When this native of North Dakota arrived, she had already “shopped” the Library on several occasions to experience the Library from a patron’s point of view. Armed with these first impressions and her vast experience working in libraries around the country, she targeted several areas ready for improvement.

Inviting the Friends of the Library to donate a dishwasher for the staff kitchen won early allegiance from staff and led the way to a reorganization of the Circulation Department to streamline the workflow. Installing the SAM computer management system eliminated lines of patrons at the circulation desk waiting to sign up for a computer while the redesign of the Library’s website made it easier for patrons to use the Library’s online resources from home or school.

The disaster plan she developed proved invaluable when facing the challenges of an aging building vulnerable to flooding and roof leaks. She initiated a strategic planning process that yielded useful feedback from patron satisfaction surveys and focus groups of patrons and community leaders. Introducing color when the Library interior was painted, updating internal procedures and organizational policies, installing surveillance cameras, having Library signs posted on Mannheim and Wolf Roads, and providing Youth and Adult Departments with new service desks are among the many enhancements she initiated.

With a management style rooted in teamwork, her most notable accomplishment has been fostering the friendly and helpful customer service patrons experience when they visit the Library — and reflected in a 34% increase in circulation of the Library’s materials since she began in 2002.



Ruth McCrank (left) and business manager LaChondra Davis reviewing budget figures



Young Poets Honored

Congratulations to the winners of the Library’s 2011 Annual Poetry Contest! This spring, Roberta Conrad, head of the Youth Department, presented ribbons to the winners in front of teachers and classmates at their respective schools. Winning entries will be added to the Library’s collection. See photos at www.westchesterpl.org and click on the “Kids” tab.

1st Place

Grade 2 Zachary Thomas - DP

Grade 3 Grace Olen - DI

Grade 4 Kelly Murray - WIS

Grade 5 Sid Medjo-Me-Zengue - DI

Grade 6 Makayla Lee - WMS

Grade 7 Stephanie Kostohryz - WMS

Grade 8 Joseph Genova - DI

2nd Place

Anthony Milano - DP

Daniela Murillo - WIS

Jocelyn Alamazon - WIS

Sarah Busa - DP

Katay Prear - WMS

Antonio T. Williams - WMS

Akin Oyetayo - DI

3rd Place

Jacob Mejino - DP

C. J. Twomey - DP

Amber Lewis - DP

Casey Kristie - DP

Frankie Burns - WMS

Amelia Castillo - DI

Lizzette Enorme - DI

4th Place

Kayla Johnston - WIS

Liam Boyle - DI

Dominic Milano - DP

Aniya Burks - DI

Taylor Ann Dorband - WMS

WP - Westchester Primary, WI - Westchester Intermediate, WM - Westchester Middle, DI - Divine Infant, DP - Divine Providence

Reminder to parents and caregivers: please remain with your children under the age of nine whenever in the Library.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Registration for Youth programs begins June 1.
Stop by the Youth Department to register.



SUMMER READING CLUBS

Earn prizes just for reading! Read a few books. Read a few more books. Read dozens of books. Read hundreds of books. Choose the club that is right for you so you can earn fun stuff as you read!

READ-TO-ME CLUB

For little kids who can't read on their own. They get credit for listening to books read to them.

BEGINNING READERS CLUB

For kids who are just getting the hang of reading on their own.

READERS CLUB

For kids who can handle the chapter books.

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

Saturday, July 30, is the last day to turn in your reading log for prizes.

Bonus: As a summer reading club member, you can help pick a theme for next year's Write-A-Book and Poetry contests!

ONE WORLD, MANY STORIES

This summer, the Youth Department is hosting a series of multimedia storytelling programs for the entire family to attend. Each program will be held on a Tuesday afternoon and a Thursday evening, giving parents and children an opportunity to attend programs convenient for the entire family.



OPENING PROGRAM:

Dave Dinaso's Traveling World of Reptiles*

Monday, June 13
2:00-3:00 pm

Wisdom Stories from Around the World

Multimedia program for all ages

Tuesday June 21 or Thursday, June 30
2:00-3:00 pm 6:00-7:00 pm

Stories and Authors from Down Under

Multimedia program for all ages

Tuesday July 5 or Thursday, July 14
2:00-3:00 pm 6:00-7:00 pm

Island Stories

Multimedia program for all ages

Tuesday July 19 or Thursday, July 28
2:00-3:00 pm 6:00-7:00 pm

**Funded by the Friends of the Library*



FAMILY FILM NIGHT

Wednesday nights at 5:00 pm

Jun 15	How to Train Your Dragon	98 min
Jun 22	Diary of a Wimpy Kid	94 min
Jun 29	Despicable Me	95 min
Jul 6	Voyage of the Dawn Treader	113 min
Jul 13	Harry Potter & the Deathly Hallows/pt1	146 min
Jul 20	Toy Story 3	103 min
Jul 27	Megamind	96 min

MONDAY MATINEES

Monday afternoons 2:00 - 3:00 pm

Jun 20	Way Out West
Jun 27	Joyful Noise
Jul 11	Don't Know Much About History
Jul 18	Giant-sized Fun
Jul 25	Globe Trotter



Friends of the Library

Seeing is Believing

The Friends are especially grateful to have access to the Community Room again. Attendance at their Chess & Scrabble Club meetings dwindled when they relocated to the village hall. Having lost their inventory of donated books in the flood, they had to reschedule their book sale for September 22, 23 and 24 and held off accepting donations during the winter and spring since there was no storage room available.

Good things come to those who wait and beginning in June, the Friends are once again hosting their Chess & Scrabble Club each month and they have begun accepting donations for their book sale. They are also funding the concert in June and the opening event for the Youth Department's summer reading program.

Patrons attending programs in the Community Room will notice new, light-weight fiberglass tables purchased by the Friends last fall to replace the old "cafeteria" tables damaged in the flood. (Thank you, Friends!)

Donations for Friends' Book Sale

First, a note of thanks to the many people who regularly donate books to the book sale. Your ongoing support of the book sale and book rack are critical to the Friends' fund raising efforts.

The Friends welcome your donations of gently-used books, videos, DVDs, CDs, cassettes and recent popular magazines. Textbooks must be relatively new (2007 or newer) in order to sell. Patrons may drop off items at the Circulation Desk, but please call ahead if you have a quantity of items to bring (562-3573).

Summer Dates for Chess & Scrabble Club

With the Community Room available for programs and events, the Friends are pleased to announce the return of the Chess & Scrabble Club! Participation is free to members of the Friends of the Library. A membership table is available on meeting nights for those who wish to join the Friends (\$5 per individual or \$10 for a family).

Summer meetings will begin at 5:45 pm in the Community Room:

Mon, June 6

Tues, June 21

Tues, July 12

Mon, August 1

Tues, August 16

Getting Involved

Are you curious to learn more about the Friends? Interested in helping coordinate a fundraising event for the Friends? Jean Klotter, president of the Friends of the Library, would love to hear from you. You can reach her by email at wfolpresident@gmail.com.

Book Sale

Mark your calendar for
September 22, 23 & 24





Westchester Public Library
 10700 Canterbury
 Westchester, IL 60154

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 BELLWOOD, IL 60104

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 WESTCHESTER, IL 60154**

Making Life a Little Easier

Summer Hours In Effect. During the summer, the Library will be closed on Sundays and will close at 8:00 pm Mondays through Thursdays. Parents, please remember the change in hours when you pick up your children at the Library

Come See the New Carpeting and Tile. We invite you to stop by the Library this summer to see how much better the Library looks with new carpeting in the Youth Department and the new tile installed on the main floor, youth level and basement.

Safety Reminders for Everyone. Please remember to park bikes, strollers and wagons away from sidewalk areas serving the Library's entrance to avoid blocking fire exits, handicapped parking and access to the book drops.

Easy Vacation Options. Here are some websites so you can have a great vacation and support local business in the state at the same time:

- www.enjoyillinois.com IL Dept of Tourism
- www.explorechicago.org Chicago Dept of Tourism
- chicago.metromix.com Chicago area events calendar

★ **Watch for the Library** ★
in the 4th of July Parade!
 ★

Visit us on the web at www.westchesterpl.org

Library SUMMER Hours 
 Memorial Day - Labor Day Weekend

Monday – Thursday	9:30 am – 8:00 pm
Friday	9:30 am – 6:00 pm
Saturday	9:30 am – 5:00 pm
Sunday	Closed

Special Closings

July 4 Monday	Closed for Independence Day
August 5 Friday	Closed until noon for staff training
September 4-5 Sunday - Monday	Closed for Labor Day

Library programs are open to the public and we welcome patrons with disabilities. Please call (562-3573 or TTY/TDD 562-9364), visit or write us to discuss accommodations at least five (5) working days prior to a scheduled program.