



WASHINGTON TWP PUBLIC LIBRARY



37 East Springtown Road Long Valley, NJ 07853 - 908.876.3596 - www.wtpl.org

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

DEAR FRIENDS,

It certainly was an unusual, unprecedented and difficult year for all of us. Due to the COVID-19 virus, the Board of Trustees closed the library on March 16, at 5:00 p.m.

Patrons were directed to the website to renew material, download digital content and use the library's online databases. We moved our programming online and communicated with both the public and staff virtually. The M.A.I.N. Library Consortium suspended library fines through the end of the year and extended library card expiration dates. The circulation of digital content increased dramatically.

The Library began offering Curbside Pickup of materials on June 17. We re-opened to the public with a modified schedule and modified services on Monday, July 6. While the Library was closed, the restrooms were made touchless, acrylic shields were installed, self checkout stations were set-up as was a free-standing hand sanitizer station. Furniture was removed and rearranged, gloves, masks and cleaning supplies were purchased. I am pleased to say that WTPL was one of the first to offer both Curbside Pickup and in-person access to the library. Both the public and the staff handled the transition expertly.

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



OUR MISSION & VISION

The Washington Township Public Library's mission is to enrich the lives of our residents by encouraging them to connect, discover, learn and create.

CONNECTION TO OUR LONG-RANGE PLAN

SERVICE PRIORITY : BE AN INFORMED CITIZEN: LOCAL, NATIONAL AND WORLD AFFAIRS

Residents will have the information they need to support and promote democracy, to fulfill their civic responsibilities at the local, state, and national levels, and to fully participate in community decision making. Activities this year have included:

- Held a lecture on the Eastern State Penitentiary and the state of prisons today.
- Continued the Great Decisions Foreign Policy group, "America's largest discussion program on world affairs."
- Held a program on climate change, which generated much discussion.
- A Social Justice Book Group was formed which meets monthly.
- The Lifetime Learning series offered the program, "The Perilous Journey to 2020 Amidst a Pandemic".



SERVICE PRIORITY : KNOW YOUR COMMUNITY: COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND SERVICES

Residents will have a central source for information about the wide variety of programs, services, and activities provided by community agencies and organizations, in addition to providing resources to help people understand the history and traditions of the Township. Activities held in order to achieve this goal included:



- The Garden Club of LV hosted a virtual screening of the film "Home Habitat" and a discussion with a native plant expert.
- Held a Summer Camp Expo for residents to find about about camps in Morris County.
- Provided virtual meeting space to local community organizations.
- Held a Spotted Lantern Fly information session.
- The W.T. Ad Hoc Trails Committee held a program on Township trails.
- Held a program entitled "How to Break Free from Cable T.V."



SERVICE PRIORITY : MAKING IMPORTANT DECISIONS AND GETTING FACTS FAST: HEALTH, WEALTH AND OTHER LIFE CHOICES

Residents will find answers to their questions on a wide array of topics of interest as well as the resources they need to identify and analyze risks, benefits, and alternatives before making decisions that affect their lives. This was achieved through:

- A Reference Librarian available virtually to answer questions and provide assistance.
- Continue to hold monthly "Lunch and Learn" sessions on various health topics in conjunction with the Senior Resource Center, including "COVID-19: What Seniors Should Know".
- Held a presentation on Medicare support.
- Provided a series of Qigong and and Meditation classes for resident's well being.



SERVICE PRIORITY : ACCESS TO RESOURCES AND INFORMATION LITERACY

Through the guidance of knowledgeable library staff, an up-to-date collection of professionally selected research materials in many formats, and access to high speed Internet access, residents will be empowered to locate, evaluate and use information. Trained staff will help users develop skills to use information and technology to meet their needs; including instructional programs, one-on-one reference services, and user-friendly technology. This year the the library provided:

- Added Brainfuse HelpNow, which provides online tutoring and virtual learning for patrons.
- Through the NJ State Library, added Axis 360, which provides additional digital content (eBooks and eAudiobooks).
- MAIN developed and made available an app, for all patrons in the consortium.
- WTPL and other MAIN libraries greatly expanded the content offered in Cloud Library.

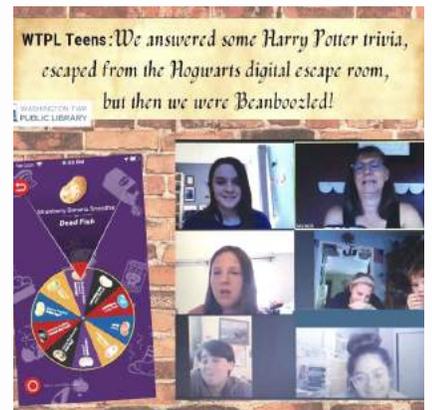


SERVICE PRIORITY : CREATING YOUNG READERS: LITERACY FROM BIRTH TO AGE 18

Children and Young Adults will have materials, services, and programs designed for their age group that stimulate their imagination, encourage learning, and engage them in the world of reading, starting as infants and continuing through high school to help them succeed in school and become lifelong readers.

Some highlights included:

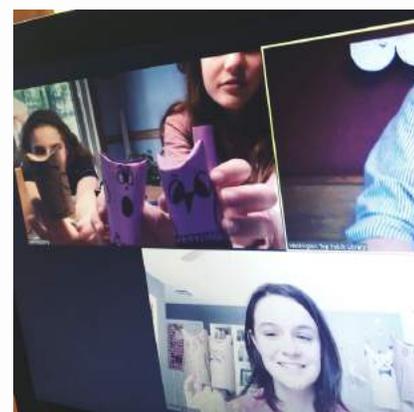
- Ongoing book clubs for all ages, including a very successful Teen Book Club.
- Transitioned Storytime from in-person to online, which has reached a whole new audience while allowing patrons to feel some sense of normalcy.
- Virtual interactive science programs for tots.
- Take home crafts, aimed at virtual learners.
- Completed weeding the Youth Service collection.



SERVICE PRIORITY : SATISFY CURIOSITY AND STIMULATE IMAGINATION: PROVIDING LIBRARY MATERIALS AND PROGRAMS FOR ENTERTAINMENT AND LIFE LONG LEARNING

Residents who want to enhance their leisure time, to explore topics of personal interest and to continue learning throughout their lives will find the resources and programs they want in a wide range of traditional and emerging formats. Highlights this year included:

- Started BookMatch, personally matched online reading recommendations.
- Moved the fall Lifetime Learning series online, with great success. This series is sponsored by the Friend of the Library.
- Held several hands-on virtual craft sessions.
- Our local art group Art Matters, held a virtual exhibit.
- Moved the very popular Summer Reading Club online using READsquared sponsored by the NJSL.
- Held a virtual performance of "The Hobbit" presented by Raconteur Radio.
- Held a well attended Holiday Lights over NYC program.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



2020 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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- Janet Ark
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- Ginger Nathanson, President
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- Marlene Franey, Secretary
- Karen Moll, Treasurer/Membership

The library is grateful for their assistance and dedicated efforts.

VOLUNTEERS

We would like to thank all of the volunteers for their commitment to the library.

Thank you also to all of the community groups, organizations and individuals who have worked together with the library to provide programming enrich the library's offerings to the community.