DEAR FRIENDS,

Whereas 2020 was unusual and unprecedented, 2021 was a year of gradual transitions. In March, the Governor increased the occupancy status to 35%, which meant that 25 people, including staff could be in the library at one time. This curtailed the amount of services that we could offer and did not allow the library to run any in-person programs. We expanded library hours gradually, staying open until 7:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

In April the occupancy status in the State increased to 50%, which brought the library occupancy up to 36 people. The meeting rooms continued to remain closed.

As the weather improved, the Friends of the Library purchased a canopy, to allow programs to be held outdoors. MAIN introduced Click & Collect. This version of curbside service gave patrons and staff the ability to communicate through the MAIN app.

In June, with the announcement of Executive Order #242, we returned the furniture that was stored in the meeting rooms and made all of the public computers available. We reduced the number of quarantine days first to 2 days and then to zero. Staff continued to wear masks and the acrylic shields and self-checkout set-up were kept in place. Needless to say, it has been quite a year and the staff and the residents handled it expertly.
The strange circumstances of 2020-2021 gave the staff an opportunity to rethink the library's interior and the way it serves the residents of Washington Township. The idea of open space, less barriers and more light have been the trend in libraries for several years. Within an existing footprint it presented some challenges, but the library staff were up for the task. Several areas were re-thought and re-designed this year at a minimum of cost.

- **Additional meeting space** - The library had an under-used computer room and many demands for free meeting space. Most residents use their own devices and our robust wireless network when visiting the library, which is even more common now that there is concern about shared devices. This doesn't include everyone, we still have public computers available for use. We removed the computers, which were relocated and/or donated to the Township depending on age. The counters were removed and disposed of, thanks to the DPW and the room was re-painted. The area is now a Quiet Study, where people can work in relative peace, away from the rest of the building. The previous Quiet Study is now a small meeting room, which can be reserved for local non-profit organizations. A flat-screen television was installed for use during presentations.

- **Reference desk** - Reference desks have become a thing of the past, fortunately Reference Librarians have not. The physical desk was relocated to the front of the building. This allows Librarians to work on their laptops and assist the circulation staff in addition to being more visible to patrons as they enter the building.

- **Open space** - The future of libraries is focused on more open space, or the appearance of space. Moving the reference desk opened up floor space in the adult area. We also did an overhaul of the adult library stacks, keeping to a regular collection maintenance schedule. This allows the shelves to remain at a manageable level for optimal browsing. We began with our plan is to leave an empty shelf in each bookcase, consistent across all of the shelving units. This "windowing", allows for more face-out display space and opens up the library stacks.

- **Increased storage space** - The library was built without adequate storage space. Although staff have pared down and organized numerous areas of the library, storage space still remained in short supply. With this in mind, we redesigned the existing storage areas. One excellent example of this is the small storage room within the meeting room. This area included a kitchen unit complete with stovetop, sink, refrigerator, microwave, cabinets and a countertop. The only item that was used was the sink, for cleanup after programs. Thanks to the DPW this kitchen unit was removed. A plumber installed a utility sink, the room was painted and additional shelving was installed.

- **Expanding the Youth Services** - The biggest changes this year were made in this department. Previously Youth Services occupied almost, but not quite half of the library. The area outside of the meeting room was where media and then magazines were located. Both of these collections were moved to another area of the library. The goal was to incorporate that area into Youth Services. There were two main reasons for this; to increase the physical space of the Teen area and to increase the visibility of new children's content. Several steps were taken to accomplish this and are ongoing into 2022. These included: collection maintenance, in order to expand shelving space for high circulating and expanding collections. Relocating the Youth Services Librarian's desk, to make it more visible as patrons enter the department. Repainting the wall outside of the meeting room, in the same color as used in the rest of the YS area. Purchasing tiered display shelving, to highlight new material.
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.

ENRICH@WTPL

- Virtual qigong, yoga and meditation sessions to promote health and well being.
- Daily Recipe for Peace - program with activities to help symptoms of depression and anxiety
- Lunch n' Learn - monthly health topics for seniors, sponsored by the Senior Resource Center
- Art Matters virtual display
- Virtual jazz concert

CONNECT@WTPL

- cloudLibrary - digital eBooks and eAudiobooks
- PressReader - digital magazines and newspapers
- BrainFuse - real-time, virtual, one-on-one tutoring
- Ancestry LibraryEdition - online family history resource
- Rosetta Stone - immersive language-learning platform,
- Consumer Reports - online access with expanded information for consumers
- MAIN app - search, renew, reserve items and connect to WTPL's resources
- TumbleBooks - a curated database of interactive children’s e-books
- Book clubs - library run book clubs for all ages and genres
- Great Decisions - discussion program on world affairs
DISCOVER@WTPL

- Explorer's Club - discovery science club for grades K-2
- Tails & Tales Summer Reading Club - for all ages
- Kid's Treasure Hunt - explore new places in the library
- Museum Pass Collection - sponsored by the Friends of the Library
- Wonders of the Night Sky - Liberty Science Center program which explored our stars and beyond
- Hidden Treasures from Museum of Early Trades & Craft's Permanent Collection - a pop-up museum featuring a selection of objects and archival material
- Nature & American Art: From the NY Historical Society’s permanent collection - discover the natural beauty of the U.S. through the eyes of artists in NYHS's collection.

LEARN@WTPL

- Very Ready Reading - revamped for at-home learners
- Lifetime Learning - adult continuing education series underwritten by the Friends of WTPL
- Presentations on historic figures including Eleanor Roosevelt, Mark Twain, Louis Comfort Tiffany, Abraham Lincoln, Audrey Hepburn, The Dalai Lama, Ruth Bader Ginsburg
- Decoding the Mysteries of Cats - presented by a feline behaviorist
- Revenge of the Toxic Robot - Earth Day program to learn about the science behind reduce, reuse and recycle
- Science Tots - simple science experiments and a craft for preschoolers
- Rare Coin Appraisal - local appraiser educated and gave individual appraisals
CREATE@WTPL

- Weekly take home craft kids
- Monthly cooking program
- Maker's Day for all ages
- Cookie decorating, glass painting, decoupage, pottery, tile painting, virtual Paint & Sip, macramé and more
- Teen DIY crafts and Teen Make
- Kid's monthly Make and Take
- Kid's monthly in-person crafts
- Teen Writing Club
- Writing Critique Group

COMMUNITY@WTPL

- Morris County Master Gardeners - Secret of Orchids, Pruning or Ruining, Raised Bed Gardening, A Year of Blooming Bulbs
- WT Trails Committee - Rail Trails in Northwestern New Jersey
- WTHS - Schooley's Mountain Springs, Villages and Hamlets of Washington Township
- WT Historic Preservation Commission - Our Township's Historic Preservation
- Rutgers Cooperative Extension - Green Infrastructure Presentation
- Garden Club of Long Valley - Spring Flower Arranging
- MVCA - Teen Babysitting Workshop
- Hunterdon County Division of Parks & Recreation - Magic of Cicadas, Bird Walk
- NJ Audubon Society - Wildflower Folklore, Soar with the Birds
**AT A GLANCE@WTPL**

<table>
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<th><strong>Items circulated</strong></th>
<th><strong>Electronic items circulated</strong></th>
<th><strong>Take Home Crafts</strong></th>
<th><strong>Programs for Adults</strong></th>
<th><strong>Programs for Children</strong></th>
<th><strong>Community groups met in the library</strong></th>
<th><strong>Attendance at Adult Programs</strong></th>
<th><strong>Attendance at Children's Programs</strong></th>
<th><strong>Attendance at community meetings</strong></th>
<th><strong>Days Read Through Children's SRC</strong></th>
<th><strong>Reference Interactions</strong></th>
<th><strong>Physical items added to the collection</strong></th>
<th><strong>In-library wireless users</strong></th>
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<td>21,184</td>
<td>1168</td>
<td>383</td>
<td>366</td>
<td>40</td>
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<td>8,443</td>
<td>2942</td>
<td>4432</td>
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**2021 BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

- Kathleen McGroarty, President
- Vincent Grayson, Vice President
- Patricia McCarty, Secretary, Superintendent of Schools Alternate
- Mary Grant, Treasurer
- Janet Ark
- Edward Carpenito
- Eileen Jankunis
- Leah Kacic
- Bill Roehrich, Mayor’s Alternate

**2021 FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

- Ginger Nathanson, President
- Dorothy Prisco, Vice President
- Marlene Franey, Secretary
- Karen Moll, Treasurer/Membership

**2021 STAFF**

Thank you to the staff for successfully transitioning throughout the year.

Several staff members left the library this year, we said goodbye to:
- Claire Bertone, Nancy San George
- William Haggis.

We welcome Barbara Patire and Dylan Vetter.

Thank you to the community groups, organizations, local businesses and individuals who have worked together with the library to provide programming and enrich the library’s offerings to the community.