

*Connection. Collaboration. Creativity.*

## GOOD NEWS: A letter from the WPLF



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### **Businesses support Little Free Library Pilot**

Our mission at the Wichita Public Library Foundation (WPLF) is to provide a Margin of Excellence and to ensure *everyone* has access to Wichita Public Library resources. Because many people in Wichita face barriers to getting to a Library location, WPLF is focused on providing the Library with resources for out-of-building connections.

Thanks to Everyg's and Hutton Construction's generous support, WPLF will provide the Library resources to place 26 Little Free Libraries (LFLs) in District III. The Library will partner with Wichita Literacy Coalition agencies and community leaders to reach and engage people in District III to host LFLs in areas with the lowest childhood literacy.

By distributing board books, literacy activities, and other resources, this pilot project will give children 0 to 5 access and support parents in teaching them numbers and letters. The LFLs will begin to build a relationship between families that are non-traditional library users and reduce their reluctance to visit a Library based on outdated beliefs and attitudes. If children are excited about reading and the Library, their parents are more likely to make time for a Library visit to the Ronald Walters Library (their neighborhood library) and discover the incredible resources available.

### **Summer Reading 2022 a Great Success**



Because of your donations to WPLF, 8,912 kids, teens, and babies participated in reading, learning, and having fun in youth programs this summer. The reading program is a great way for families to commit to a regular reading habit at home and flex their brains to prevent the summer slide. Summer programming increased by 2,412 youth or 37%. Another impressive statistic is that 49% finished the reading program with 135,054 reading days.

### **Branch Updates**

The City of Wichita recently approved its 2023-2030 Capital Improvement Plan budget, which includes more than \$6.38 million in funding to complete the Library Master Plan. In 2019, a steering committee composed of City Council and Library Board members created a master plan for branch libraries and outreach services to guide facility, program, and service decisions over the next decade. Efforts have included:

- Identifying and/or affirming locations for branch libraries that provide equitable access to library services and resident convenience;

- Establishing and enacting service priorities for each facility and outreach service;
- Changing policies/procedures that are barriers to accomplishing priorities; and
- Guiding improvements at Evergreen Community Center and Library, as well as the relocation of Linwood Park, now the Dr. Ronald W Walters Branch, in District III.

Beginning in late 2022, the City of Wichita and the Library will begin an expansion of the Westlink Branch. In 2023, the Alford Regional Library, Maya Angelou Northeast Branch, and Ford Rockwell Branch will also be slated for renovation.

## **Library Programs**

Programming is one area almost entirely underwritten by your financial support of the WPLF. This fall, the Library has increased programming options, totaling 329. A special thanks to the Library staff, who work hard to keep customers safe and engaged. Visit [wichitalibrary.org/events](http://wichitalibrary.org/events) for more programs and information. If you like the variety of the Library's programs, include the WPLF in your end-of-year donations. Your gift will make a difference in the number and quality of programs the Library can provide!

**Cuentos Bilingües /Preschool Storytime**, 10:30-11 a.m. Sept. 14, Sept. 21, Sept. 28, Evergreen Branch. Repeats in October. Enjoy a unique storytime presented in English and Spanish for children ages 3-5.

**Family Pajama Storytime**, 6:30-7 p.m. Sept. 20, Angelou Northeast Branch. Repeats in October. Join us for stories and songs before bedtime. Dress in your jammies and bring your favorite stuffed toy for snuggles and fun!

**Tallgrass Film Festival**, 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Sept. 30, Oct. 1, Advanced Learning Library. Celebrate the Tallgrass Film Festival with these free screenings. Films TBA. To find out more, visit <https://tallgrassfilm.org>.

**Tech Day at the Library**, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Oct 8, Advanced Learning Library. The Library has many new and exciting technologies. Check out our virtual reality devices, 3D printers, digital tablets, and specialized PCs for creating audio and video productions, including demonstrations and hands-on activities.

**Senior Wednesday: Richard Crowson - Prairie Mirth**, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Oct. 12, Advanced Learning Library. Richard Crowson was the Wichita Eagle's first full-time editorial cartoonist from 1986-2020. Over the years, he's held a funhouse mirror to every state and local concern imaginable. Join us for a trek through the highlights of history.

**Fort Hays Mobile Planetarium: Looking at the Night Sky**, in 35-minute time slots on Oct. 24, Oct. 25, and Oct. 26, Advanced Learning Library. Identify and learn about constellations you can see in the October night sky, visit the moon and planets, including Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn, and see an Earth rise from the far side of the moon. Presented by the Kansas Astronomical Observers. Register (required) at 261-8500 or online.

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*The Wichita Public Library Foundation's mission is to fund Library operational needs directly benefiting the public and not covered in the tax-supported budget. The mission directs the Foundation's activities through private fundraising, foundation, individual and corporate grants, and annual endowment distributions to the Library.*