

*Connection. Collaboration. Creativity.*

## GOOD NEWS: A letter from the WPLF



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### **What we got right**

Few years have brought as many challenges as 2020. Due to the Wichita Public Library's hard-working and committed staff and the WPLF's dedicated donors, we balanced our budget and provided essential services to the public through programs and collections.

Thank you for your support during a time when so many needed so much. Your support provided resources to refigure the Library's website to increase online content, earning its nickname as the new "Virtual Library Branch." You helped preschoolers acquire reading skills through the fun online programming for "Groovy Joe: Ice Cream and Dinosaurs" and helped many out-of-work individuals update resumes, apply for jobs online, and return to the workforce.



As a young adult, if reading isn't convenient, it's so hard to make it happen. Now whenever I get a book recommended to me, I just borrow it on my library app. The best emails I get these days are when I'm notified my book is ready to download to my phone! I've been able to read dozens of books these past two years thanks to the convenience!

- Andrea

**#NationalLoveYourLibraryMonth**

To access the online resources Andrea uses, visit the Library's Virtual Branch (website) at [wichitalibrary.org](http://wichitalibrary.org). These resources are for all ages and enjoyed by many!

### **Did you know?**

The Friends of the Wichita Public Library's mission is also to support the Library. As the other support organization for the Library, they offer memberships to become a Friend. For only \$25, you can become a Gold Member and receive unique benefits at the Library, such as previews to their book sales, a grace period of three calendar days on the return of Wichita Public Library materials, and freeholds for Library materials! To become a member, visit [wichitalibraryfriends.org](http://wichitalibraryfriends.org).

Like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/WichitaPublicLibraryFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/WichitaPublicLibraryFoundation)

## Your virtual Library programs

The Library continues to adapt to keep customers safe and engaged during COVID-19. Your financial support of the WPLF makes this possible.

**Tuesday Topics: Public Health in Sedgwick County**, Tuesday, March 23; noon-1 p.m. online via Zoom. Since 2005, the Sedgwick County Commission has served as the final say on public health in the county. Pete Meitzner, Sedgwick County Commission, and Phillip Brownlee, Medical Society of Sedgwick County, will discuss how public health might best be served in a more coordinated fashion. Co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters Wichita-Metro.

**Black Oscars: From Mammy to Minny**, Tuesday, April 6; 6-7:30 p.m. online via Zoom. For the Library's 35th Academy Award Short Film season, Dr. Frederick Gooding from Texas Christian University will discuss his new book, "Black Oscars: From Mammy to Minny, What the Academy Awards Tell Us About African Americans," a critical analysis of nominated and winning roles for Black actors since the Academy's inception. Join us for a look into the complicated relationship between race and Hollywood.

**Senior Wednesday: Music Theatre Wichita**, Wednesday, April 14; 1:30-2:30 p.m. online via Zoom. Music Theatre Wichita is celebrating its 50th year of providing Broadway-scale musical theater. Producing Director Wayne Bryan will take us on a journey through the past, present and future. Besides producing musicals, MTW conducts a specialized training program for young Midwesterners, and can point to young alumni onstage or backstage at almost every Broadway musical currently running, and most national tours.

Visit [www.wichitalibrary.org/events](http://www.wichitalibrary.org/events) for more programs and information.

## Branch Library updates

The **Dr. Ronald W. Walters Branch Library**, 4195 E. Harry St., opened for curbside service Feb. 1. Walters, an American author, speaker and scholar of African American politics, organized the 1958 Dockum Drugstore Sit-In in Wichita, one of the first lunch counter sit-ins of the civil rights movement.

The **Evergreen Branch Library** is operating temporarily at the Evergreen Recreation Center, 2700 N. Woodland, while its original building is being renovated to house additional city departments and area agencies to support the historic north-end neighborhood.

The **Rockwell** and **Westlink** branches created a drive-through service in their respective parking lots to meet the high volume of customers borrowing materials and using print and copy services through curbside. This new system allows customers to be helped in the order they arrive.

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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.*