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GOOD NEWS: A letter from the WPLF



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Remembering loved ones

As we return from the Memorial Day holiday honoring our veterans, I find it impossible not to dwell on those who have lost their lives to COVID-19 and the challenges we all face due to the pandemic. The Wichita Public Library Foundation continues to appreciate those on the front lines of the COVID-19 battle. Thank you for taking risks daily to ensure we have essential services to live our lives with some normalcy. We also commend people for staying home, washing their hands, checking on a neighbor, volunteering, remaining positive, and helping as they can. We are all making a difference in some way to make Wichita a safer and more enjoyable place to live.

*"Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment
until it becomes a memory." -- Dr. Seuss*

The Library continues to be a vital resource during closures

Although Wichita Public Library buildings closed to the public in mid-March, the Library remained open for business. New and existing customers became more familiar with the resources available in the Library's "virtual branch" and responded with excitement at the addition of new services such as Flipster, the online magazine collection.

Special appreciation is due Library staff for their diligent work. Dedicated Library staff answered 142,686 phone and email requests during April. Staff continues to provide essential services to the community throughout Library closures.

Beginning May 26, most library buildings reopened for limited public service. The exception is the Linwood Branch, which will reopen beginning June 1. During the initial opening phase, direct customer access to materials collections will be restricted, but staff will be happy to retrieve your title requests as well as any items being held for you. Public computing, WiFi, printing, copying and faxing services will also be available. Book a Librarian service will be available by

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appointment at the Advanced Learning Library. All visitors above the age of 2 will be required to wear masks while in Library facilities, and all buildings will have temporarily reduced occupancy limits to facilitate social distancing. As Libraries restore in-person service, some of the online resources that were temporarily available will be ending. These include Ancestry Library Edition and Foundation Directory Online, both currently scheduled to end remote access on May 31. Curbside and window materials pickup and telephone reference services remain in place and are recommended options for customers who do not need to conduct in-Library business. Updates are at wichitalibrary.org/covid-19.

Fundraising update

Because of you, the Foundation has raised more than \$31,000 since April 1 to provide child literacy resources and to cover unbudgeted expenses the Library has faced as a result of COVID-19. Thanks to the Friends of the Wichita Library's \$2,000 match and your donations, \$11,000 will underwrite early childhood literacy resources. With public demand for Library e-resources high, your generous contributions of \$20,000 covered the unbudgeted costs incurred to provide additional e-books, e-audio books, and other resources through our virtual branch.

We need to hear from you

As we work on updating our records, we need your help. Please go to supportwichitalibraries.org/myinfo to update your contact information. We will follow up on this request with a mailing in a few weeks.

Your support helps kids' Summer Reading Program

Celebrate Wichita's 150th birthday and explore the city's rich history with the Library's Summer Reading Program, "150 Years of Stories," in honor of the sesquicentennial. Designed to support literacy and exploration during summer months, the program offers activities and resources for ages 0-17. Registration is ongoing at wichitalibrary.org/summerreading. There are two age categories.

Baby Bookworm (0-3): Explore the five early literacy practices that create young readers. Complete 15 of the activities to redeem special prizes.

Kids and Teens (3-17): Read 1,000 minutes. Use Beanstack or the online reading tracking sheet to start counting minutes you've read. Bonus challenge: Read 1,500 minutes and become a master reader for a chance at a big grand prize.

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