



NEWS FROM WISSAHICKON VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Renovation Update



Thanks to your generosity, we have successfully completed the long-awaited renovation of our Main Library's roof, ensuring that our library remains a safe and welcoming place for everyone in our community. But as we celebrate this milestone, we also look forward with excitement to the next chapter in our library's journey. Our mission to provide a vibrant, inclusive space for learning, collaboration, and community engagement is far from over. With the roof renovation behind us, we are now turning our attention to the Main Library's exterior and interior where several important upgrades are needed to serve our patrons. Here's what we're envisioning for the next phase of our renovation:

Improved Parking Lot: To make our library more accessible, we will be upgrading our parking lot, enhancing both its safety and convenience.

Updated Bathrooms: We understand the importance of accessibility and comfort. Renovating our bathrooms will ensure they meet contemporary standards and are welcoming for everyone who visits.

Expanded Study Rooms and Conference Spaces: To accommodate the growing needs of students, professionals, and community groups, we plan to build additional study rooms and modern conference spaces. These areas will provide a quiet, comfortable environment for focused work, group collaboration, and community meetings.

We are excited about the potential these upgrades will bring, but we can't do it alone. Your continued support is vital in bringing these plans to fruition. Every contribution, no matter the size, will directly impact the quality of services and resources we can offer to our community. To help us move forward, please consider making a donation to our annual appeal.

You can make a donation online at www.wvpl.org or by mailing a check to WVPL, 650 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422. For more information or to discuss other ways you might support our efforts, please don't hesitate to contact us at 215-643-1320 or afrank@wvpl.org.



At the heart of the library are people like you! You are our partner in the library mission to be the place where everyone is welcome

Cheers to 100 Years



Kate Harper, Linda Kennedy and Linda Gerhard

We thank all the wonderful people who helped make our Anniversary Fundraiser a success. The library made \$28,000 at the event which goes towards the renovation of the library. We thank our wonderful sponsors: Mary Claghorn, Rotary Club of Ambler, Dick and Kathy Target, Caddick Utilities, Haverford Trust, R.S. Hillas, Diane Schuler, Elliot-Lewis, and Levine Funeral Home. We also thank all the wonderful people who attended and donated money or items for the Silent Auction. A special thank you goes out to Caroline Frank, who donated the majority of the art, the baskets, most of the items in the baskets, as well as spending her time wrapping them all. Our community is lucky to have people like you who care so much about others.

Juneteenth Visitor

The library was honored to host Pennsylvania's Secretary of Education, Dr. Khalid Mumin at the Ambler Branch this year. He stopped by to read *CROWN: An Ode to the Fresh Cut* by Derrick Barnes to the children at our Juneteenth celebration. Thank you for being a library supporter Dr. Mumin.



Dr. Khalid Mumin, Secretary of Education

FREE ESL Classes at WVPL

- Beginner ESL Afternoon Group : Wednesdays at 3 pm Ambler Branch
- Beginner ESL Evening Group : Mondays at 6:30 pm Ambler Branch
- ESL Conversation Group: Wednesdays at 10:00 am Ambler Branch
- Intermediate Conversation Level: Mondays at 10:30 am on Zoom

Registration is required for all. Contact Anne Hall ahall@wvpl.org or call 215-646-1072

Most Popular Adult Non-Fiction

- *The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness* by Jonathan Haidt
- *The Demon of Unrest: A Saga of Hubris, Heartbreak, and Heroism at the Dawn of the Civil War* by Erik Larson
- *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture In Crisis* by J.D. Vance
- *Be Ready when the Luck Happens: A Memoir* by Ina Garten
- *On Call: A Doctor's Journey in Public Service* by Andrew Fauci
- *Good Energy: The Surprising Connection between Metabolism and Limitless Health* by Casey Means
- *Atomic Habits* by James Clear
- *An Unfinished Love Story: A Personal history of the 1960s* by Doris Kearns Goodwin
- *What to Cook When you Don't Feel Like Cooking* by Caroline Chambers
- *Ask Not: The Kennedys and the Women they Destroyed* by Maureen Callahan

Where We Belong: Wissahickon Valley Area Poetry Contest

We are excited to announce the *Where We Belong* poetry contest, a community-wide event for poets of all ages. This contest invites participants to explore the theme of "home, hometown, community, and belonging" through poetry. We are thrilled to have Lisa DeVuono, Montgomery County Poet Laureate for 2024-2025, spearheading this initiative.

Key Dates to Remember:

- Submissions: October 15, 2024-February 15, 2025
- Winners Announced: March 2025
- Celebration & public readings: April 26, 2025 1:00pm -4:00pm at Ambler Branch community room.

How to Participate:

Participants are encouraged to submit one-page poems. Prizes will be awarded in different age categories, including children, teens, and adults. All submitted poems will be included in a printed anthology, and selected works will be featured in posters displayed in Ambler storefronts throughout April 2025 in honor of National Poetry Month

For submission guidelines and forms, visit the library's website at wvpl.org/poetry-contest, or pick up a form in person at the Ambler or Blue Bell library branches. For more information, contact us by email at poetrycontest@wvpl.org

eResources for Kids

(WVPL card required for access)

Visit: wvpl.org/eresources



BookFlix is an online literacy resource that pairs classic video storybooks with related nonfiction eBooks to build a love of reading and learning.



Tumblebooks offers a large collection of animated, online story books, games, puzzles, and audio books, including ones in French and Spanish.



Scholastic Teachables allows you to search thousands of printable resources, including worksheets, lesson plans, activities, leveled mini-books, and leveled learning collections.

Volunteer Spotlight

Sally Wagner



When you reserve a book at the library, Sally is one of the volunteers who finds it and puts it on the holds shelf for you to check out. She also helps with checking books in. For a book lover, could there be a better volunteer job? Sally has volunteered since 2010. She is a life long resident of the area and grew up riding her bike to the original Ambler Library at the corner of Ridge and Race. She retired as a Special Education teacher in June 2019. Sally starts her day at home with the NYT's puzzles. She enjoys cooking, gardening, walking, and reading historical novels and spy fiction.



Your continued support matters. It will help us renovate the library. Will you please donate? You can use the enclosed envelope or go to www.wvpl.org/donate



It's Good To Have Friends



The Blue Bell Friends have donated \$45,000 to go towards the renovation of the Main Library in Blue Bell. They also donated \$2,355 for a mobile shelving unit, \$2,548 for fundraising software and \$1,272 to pay for recycling. The Ambler Friends donated \$1,666 for adult programs including art, bingo, computer classes and special programs for adults. The Friends also donated \$1,022 to pay for children's program like 3D Pen workshops, chess and other special events. Thank you to all our Friends who work so tirelessly to raise funds for the libraries.



Grants



Since April, the library was awarded a \$4,000 operating grant from the VNA Foundation of Greater North Penn. The library also received an educational grant to learn about Building Equity Based Summers (BEBS). We learned how to reach out more successfully to serve the underserved members of our community and were awarded a \$500 stipend.

A Heartfelt Thank you

A Successful Collaboration with Mattie Dixon and WVPL



We are delighted to share that our recent collaboration with Mattie Dixon Community Cupboard was a tremendous success! Thanks to the generosity of our patrons, we were able to collect a substantial amount of gently used clothing for individuals and families in need.

If you're still looking to donate, Mattie Dixon's food pantry remains in need of non-perishable food items. For a list of food items please go to www.community-cupboard.org

A Successful Drive for Laurel House at WVPL

In the month of July, our library partnered with Laurel House for a back-to-school supply drive that proved to be a tremendous success! Thanks to the generosity of our community, we were able to collect and distribute essential supplies to local students in need, ensuring they start the school year prepared and confident. To learn more go to www.laurel-house.org

How To Donate

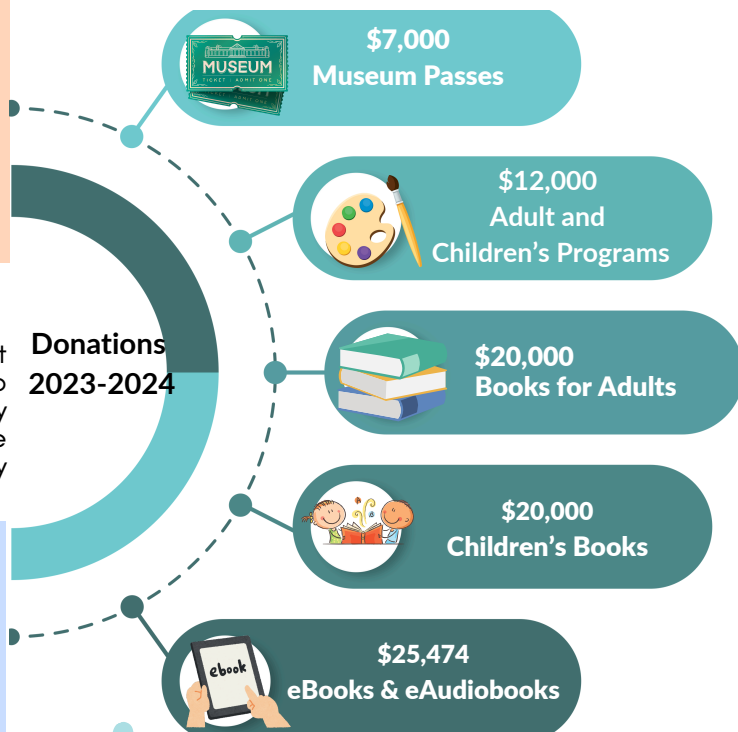


Donations are tax deductible

- **Mail Donation** in the enclosed envelope.
- **Donate Online at wvpl.org, click on "Donate".**
- **Sign up for Company Matching Donations.** The library gets matching donations from General Electric, Exxon Mobil, Merck, Citizens Bank, Johnson & Johnson, Penn Virginia Corporation, Pfizer Foundation, Quaker Chemical Foundation, Vanguard, Oracle, Wells Fargo and GlaxoSmithKline.
- **Make a Memorial Donation.** Honor a relative or a friend.
- **Join the Friends of the library.** Pick up an application or go to wvpl.org, and click on "Friends"

Thank you Donors

In the 2023-2024 fiscal year, you donated \$84,974 to the library's annual appeal. These funds were used for



Patron story



Alyson with her daughter Molly

Alyson Bagley shared, "I started coming to the library when my older daughter, Julia, was just 9 months old. We attended Miss Erin's Baby Wiggles program and then graduated to storytime, where we met our family's best friend! The library has become such a special place for us. I love the book sales and always find great reads at fantastic prices. Julia has been participating in 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten and Miss Erin has been so helpful in suggesting the perfect books along the way. We also look forward to the summer programs—it's always a real treat when we visit."



650 Skippack Pike
Blue Bell, PA 19422



Give the gift of literacy.
Support the library at
www.wvpl.org/donate

Occupant or

For library events and updates



@wvplibrary



@wvpl_pa

www.wvpl.org

Wissahickon Valley Public Library - We're here to serve you!

Ongoing Programs at the Library

Blue Bell Branch:

Mondays

Online ESL Group 10:30 am
Yoga 12:30 pm
Advanced Tai Chi 2:30 pm
Intermediate Tai Chi 3:15 pm
Beginning Tai Chi 4:00 pm
Chess Club 5 pm

Tuesdays

Knitting 10 am
Storytime (Ages 2+) 10:30 am
Movie Matinee 2 pm
Mindfulness Meditation 6 pm

Wednesdays

Book Club (1st Wednesday) 10 am
Integrate for Good (1st and 3rd Wednesdays)
10 am
MC Readers Club (1st Wednesday) 12:30 pm
Lego Club (1st Wednesday) 4:30-6:30 pm

Thursdays

Storytime (Ages 2+) 10:30 am
Socrates Café (2nd Thursday) 1 pm
Thursday Movie Club (1st Thursday) 2 pm
NAMI Support Group (2nd Thursday) 6 pm

Fridays

Baby Wiggles (Under 2 years) 10:30 am
Mahjong Group 1:30 pm

Saturdays

Mystery Book club (3rd Saturday)

Ambler Branch:

Mondays

Preschool Storytime 10:30 am
Online ESL Group 10:30 am
Queens of Mystery Book Club (3rd Monday) 5 pm
Beginner ESL Evening Group 6:30 pm

Tuesdays

Baby Storytime 10:30 am

Wednesdays

ESL Conversation Group 10:15 am
Beginner ESL Afternoon group 3 pm

Thursdays

Book Group (2nd Thursday) 2:30 pm
Ambler Kids Chess Club (1st Thursday) 6 pm

Fridays

Ambler Artist Group 10 am
First Fridays Art Program for Adults with Disabilities (1st
Friday) 12:30 pm
Bingo for Adults with Disabilities (3rd Friday) 12:30 pm

Saturdays

Reading to the Dogs (3rd Saturday) 11 am

Special Events:

Dec 10, 6-7:30 pm Writing workshop for
teens with Local Author Steve Schafer
BB

Dec 11, 6 pm Robotics adventures
ages 6-12 BB

Jan 15, 10am Crevice Gardening. In
collaboration with Norristown Garden
Club BB

Jan 16, 2pm Workshop on Deep
Listening BB

**Support the Blue Bell
Renovation.
Please donate !
wvpl.org/donate**

