



PRESS RELEASE

March 16, 2020

A Message from Our Director

As of Monday, March 16, all Prince William Public Libraries are closed to the public. During this time, we are committed to providing you with a positive experience to the best of our ability.

We're taking the following steps to provide you with the quality of service you've come to expect from us:

Phone Service: Beginning Tuesday, March 17, all of our branches, excluding Central Community Library and Nokesville Neighborhood Library, will have staff available to answer your questions by phone:

Monday - Thursday, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Friday and Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

All branches will be closed on Sundays

Curbside Pickup: Beginning Wednesday, March 18, take advantage of Curbside Pickup. Place a hold, then come to your branch to pick it up curbside! Wait until you get email confirmation that your hold is available and, when you arrive at the branch, call inside. One of our friendly staff members will bring out your hold while you wait in your car. Curbside pickup is not available at Central Community Library or Nokesville Neighborhood Library. Curbside Pickup schedule:

Monday - Thursday, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Friday and Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

All branches will be closed on Sundays

Digital Library: Our Digital Library provides free access to thousands of online and digital resources including e-books, audiobooks, newspapers, and Premium Websites. Prince William County, Manassas, and Manassas Park residents can access all of the library's digital services without visiting a library branch by signing up for a Digital Library Card. The Digital Library Cards expires in two years. To sign up, click here to select "Don't have a PWPLS library card?" to register for a Digital Library card.

Expired Library Cards: If your library card has expired or is about to expire, please call a library branch. Our staff will help to reactive your card to give you full access to our catalog for Curbside Pickup and our Digital Library.

Fines: Beginning March 16 through the time that we are closed, you will not incur fines for overdue books. We ask that you continue to return books to the book drop on their due date.

Book Drops are Open: Book drops at all 11 locations are open. Please continue to drop off books before their due date.

Interlibrary Loans: We will continue offering Interlibrary Loans (ILL). As in the past, there is a nominal fee when requesting an ILL. This fee will be charged to your account for you to pay online at your convenience.

Virtual Programs: Our librarians are hard at work creating Virtual Story Times, Music and Motion, and more for you and your family to enjoy. Check our website for details in the coming days.

Friends Book Donations: At this time, we are not accepting Friends of the Library book donations. Hold onto them! We'd love to take them once we're fully up and running again.

Update from Prince William County: Please see the following message from Chair of the Board of County Supervisors Ann Wheeler and County Executive Chris Martino regarding the county's ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic: <https://youtu.be/nkSElhpoKdg>
I wanted to thank you all - our community - for your understanding and support.

Sincerely,

Deborah L. Wright
PWPLS Director

April Highlights

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VA, 3/16/20 - The Prince William Public Library System (PWPLS) offers a number of programs throughout the year for all ages including families, children, teens, and adults. PWPLS would like to highlight some of those programs and events below. Please visit our [website](#) to learn more about all of the events offered for the month.

**Programs scheduled for April may be canceled.
Please visit our website for program updates.**

[Baby Animal Petting Zoo](#)

Pet the cute and cuddly animals from the Bar C Ranch.

[Max and Tucker Adventure - Deer oh Deer](#)

Max and Tucker will be at the library to tell you all about their adventures in the Virginian woods.

[Welcome to Ramadan](#)

Celebrate cultural diversity and learn about Ramadan, a holy month for Muslims that focuses on faith and charity.

[Interactive Movie - Jurassic Park](#)

Props and snacks will be provided for you to participate in our special interactive showing of the original Jurassic Park (127 minutes, rated PG-13). Registration required.

[Kindergarten Readiness](#)

Know what to expect when your child goes to kindergarten. Recommended for parents of children entering kindergarten in September of 2020.

Smart Money Week: Learn More About Medigap

[How to Make a Budget and Stick to It!](#)

[Choose Your Medigap Insurance Wisely \(and Make Sure You're Not Overpaying\)](#)

Celebrate Smart Money Week at your local library! In these two stand-alone sessions, learn how to use tools that the library offers to make investment, budget, and insurance decisions led by a subject matter expert.

Celebrate National Poetry Month at the Library!

[Write Your Piece-Poetry Writing Workshop with Author Asha Watson](#)

Creative writing prompts and activities to encourage those in grades 6 - 12 to write poems in various styles.

[Speak Your Piece Poetry Slam hosted by Poet Purple Reign](#)

Teens: share your poetry in a safe, constructive environment as and hear poems written by others

[Poems About Town](#)

Meet local poets and learn tips on how to create your own literary masterpieces.

[Let's Go Fly a Kite!](#)

At Montclair Community Library, make a mini-kite, check out a kite exhibit, and join the outdoor mini-kite festival.

At Independent Hill Neighborhood Library, join us for kite learning, kite making, and even kite flying.

Programs scheduled for April may be canceled.

Please visit our website for program updates.

The 2020 Census and Your Library

Every 10 years, the U.S. Census Bureau conducts a census to count every resident in the U.S. As a public library, we're here to help make your experience completing the census a little easier. You may wonder: why is it important for me to complete the census? Besides the mandate (did you know that the U.S. Constitution requires that everyone in the country be counted every 10 years?), the census helps with the distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds, grants, and support to states, counties, and communities based on the census data.

For Prince William County, Manassas, and Manassas Park residents, this means you are impacting everything from:

- Planning public transportation services. Imagine: the potential for more - and easier - ways for more residents to get to and from the library.
- Planning future government services. What is needed in the greater Prince William community? The census data can help determine that.
- Planning budgets for government at all levels. Yes, that includes county government!
- Directing services to children and adults with limited English-language proficiency. For the library, this helps us determine what books, resources, and programs we should be adding to our collections and offering to patrons.

How is the library helping to support the 2020 Census?

- We've been awarded a grant from the American Library Association to bolster our service to hard-to-count communities and help achieve a complete count in the 2020 Census.
- You can take the [Census](#) on our computers (or by using our Wi-Fi!) If you don't have a computer at home, or you'd just rather complete the census at the library, our computers and free Wi-Fi are available for you.

Still not convinced? Did you know that - for every Virginian not counted in the census - the region loses \$1,200 per year for 10 years until the next census (that's \$12,000 total!) in federal funds for programs like education, hospitals, roads, and other public works projects. While completing the census is mandatory, it's also a way for you to participate in our democracy and say "I count!"

Media Contact:
Rachel Johnson
703-792-5578