



# Friends of the Willmar Public Library Newsletter

September 2020

Volume 47

## Fundraising Update

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Friends board has decided not to carry out the annual raffle, but remain open to the idea of rescheduling if conditions become more favorable. Unfortunately, that means at least two of the major fundraisers for the Library will not be held this year. We are asking for your support now more than ever! If you are able to donate, please send a check to :

**Friends of the Willmar Public Library | 410 5<sup>th</sup> St SW | Willmar MN 56201**

## Annual Book Sale

Mark your calendars! A modified annual book sale will be held this year from October 1 –17. A limited number of books will be put out for sale on the main floor of the library. Payment with exact change or check is appreciated.

\*Sale may be canceled or postponed if conditions change.

## WILLMAR PUBLIC LIBRARY UPDATES



**20 min**

### Library Express

20 minutes to browse, make copies, pick up holds, etc. No appointment necessary.

**Mon - Thur 9 AM - 7 PM  
Fri 9 AM - 5 PM & Sat 10 AM - 2 PM**



### Limited Capacity

Limited building capacity during Library Express hours. Doors will be locked if max number is met.



### Curbside Pickup

We continue to offer curbside pickup. No appointment necessary.

**Mon - Thur 9 AM - 8 PM  
Fri 9 AM - 5:30 PM & Sat 10 AM - 2 PM**



### Computers

45 minute limit for computer use. Appointments are recommended, but not required. Call 320-235-3162 to schedule an appointment.

**Mon - Thur 9 AM - 7 PM  
Fri 9 AM - 5 PM & Sat 10 AM - 2 PM**



### Returns

Use the outside book drop for all returns (available 24/7). If the item does not fit, call the library to make arrangements.



### Face Masks

Face masks are required. If you do not have your own, the library will provide you with one.



### Age Restriction

Anyone under age 17 must be accompanied by an adult.



### Spaces & Rooms

Study rooms, the children's play area, and other seating areas are unavailable.



### Programs

Programs & registration will continue to be offered online. Check our website for further info.

\*Exception - Children's Grab & Go Activity Kits can be picked up in the building as available.



### **Kathy Torkelson Retires**

#### **After 42 Years of Library Service**

Kathy served the Willmar community for over 42 years with the library. She began her time with Willmar Public Library in 1976 as a work study in school. In 1978, she joined the staff as Children’s Librarian Assistant. Over time Kathy moved into a variety of roles within the library and became the Children’s Librarian in 2007. We will miss Kathy’s enthusiasm and talents while working with children in the Willmar community.

### **NEW at the Willmar Public Library!**



**NEW! CHECK OUT THE INTERNET FOR 28 DAYS!**

**CALL THE LIBRARY AT 320-235-3162 TO PLACE A HOLD ON A HOTSPOT**



### **Still Having Fun!**

Teen programming has gone virtual and we’re having a blast! We have found so many fun and creative ways to stay connected during this pandemic by using things like Zoom, YouTube or Facebook Live, Twitch, and Discord! I am so happy to still be able to get together with the teens and offer some fun activities to break up the monotony of this summer. We play board games, Jackbox games, watch YouTube videos, have book discussions, or just hangout together - all from the comfort of our homes. Although we are not able to offer all the same programs that we did before, I think the new programs are equally as fun.

One program that hasn’t disappeared is the Summer Reading Program! The Teen Summer Reading Program has also gone totally virtual. Reading logs are filled out and submitted online via a Google Form for every five books read or program attended. The big difference is now teens can select prize categories they’re interested in and if they win they’ll get a personalized gift basket full of items from the categories they chose! Now is the perfect time to read or attend virtual programs so it’s really a win-win!

We’re coming up with new ways to continue to serve our community during this pandemic all the time so be sure to keep an eye on our social media pages and our website!

### **Membership Reminder**

Is it time to renew? Look for a membership reminder letter in the mail. Dues help with costs such as the Friends’ newsletter, fundraising to benefit the Willmar Public Library, and donations to the Willmar Public Library or to the Friends Fund, part of the Willmar Area Community Foundation.



**Head Librarian  
Notes by  
Andrew Bregar**



**Adapting in Times of Change**

We have experienced many changes recently due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In early March, the library was forced to close our doors on short notice. The building remained inaccessible for over a month while library administration worked on plans to reopen when possible. During this time, library staff worked from home on a variety of tasks. Library programs quickly transitioned to an online format. Programs for youth, teens, and adults were redesigned and new programs were developed to allow the library to continue to serve the community. Additional electronic resources were added to the collection including eMagazines through Overdrive. The library added a subscription to the online resource HelpNow which provides resources and tutoring for homework help and job searching.

By the end of April, staff returned to working inside the library building and began to implement a phased reopening process that continues today. The 1st phase of the process included the creation of a new library service model—curbside pickup. This allowed access to the library collection while the building remained closed to the public. The 2nd phase included the addition of computer access by appointment allowing patrons to access the computer area and complete essential computer business. At the beginning of July, the library entered the 3rd phase of reopening which includes the launch of our Library Express service. Library Express allows patrons to enter the library for quick 15 minute visits to browse the collection, make copies, or complete other library business. Seating is not available and computer use is still restricted to appointment only. In building access is limited to certain hours and capacity to ensure staff and patron safety. Please refer to our website or call the library for complete details on these services.

With the phased reopening the library has continued to adapt and add programs in virtual and no contact ways. New programming including take and make craft & activity kits for all age groups are available (while supplies last) each month through our Curbside and Library Express services. Recently the library has added 7 T-Mobile WIFI hotspots that are now ready for checkout if you need internet access at home. These devices can be requested by calling the library at 320-235-3162.

During these difficult times the library continues to reintroduce services and programs. All of these changes can be stressful and different from our previous library experience. Please know that the library continues to serve the community by providing quality service and resources in these challenging times.

**Adult Anecdotes  
by  
Syrena Maranell**



**Adult Programming Update**

With everything changing, I have tried to keep the adult programs similar to what was done in-person, but move it online. For example, the Lunch Bunch Book Club is now an Online Book Club. It still meets the third Wednesday of the month at noon, but on Zoom. If you would like to join, please register on our website ([www.willmarpubliclibrary.org](http://www.willmarpubliclibrary.org)). I have also been hosting a live Trivia Night on Facebook and Game Night via Discord. These are very relaxed, fun programs to participate in if you are looking for a way to unwind.

Social media has been the best way to remain connected. So if you don't already, follow the Willmar Public Library on Facebook and Instagram. This is where you will see program updates and new contests.

**ONE BOOK WILLMAR**

**Community  
Read Event  
with  
Brian Freeman**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22  
7 PM**

This project is funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

One Book Willmar, our annual community read event, will also be held online this year. The featured book is *Thief River Falls* by Brian Freeman. This event is free, but registration is required. Fill out the registration form at [www.willmarpubliclibrary.org](http://www.willmarpubliclibrary.org) and join in Thursday, October 22nd at 7 PM for an author talk and Q & A. This project is funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Friends of the Willmar Public Library

410 5th St SW

Willmar MN 56201



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Help support the Willmar Public Library by joining (or renewing) as a Member of the Friends of the Willmar Public Library, a 501(c)3 non-profit (annual membership dues are tax deductible as allowed by law). Dues help with costs such as the Friends' newsletter, fundraising to benefit the Library, and donations to the Library or to the Friends Fund, part of the Willmar Area Community Foundation.

Yes, I want to become a Friend of the Library at the following level:

\_\_\_ Individual \$10

\_\_\_ Family \$20

\_\_\_ Benefactor \$35

\_\_\_ Business \$50

Checks to: Friends of the Willmar Public Library

Send to: Friends of the Willmar Public Library | 410 5<sup>th</sup> St SW | Willmar MN 56201

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I want to receive newsletters by email

I am interested in volunteer opportunities