



# Friends of the Willmar Public Library Newsletter

January 2021

Volume 48

## A message from the Friends

Closing the book. Starting a new chapter. Turning over a new leaf.

It seems fitting that so many of the metaphors we use for new beginnings are drawn from the world of books.

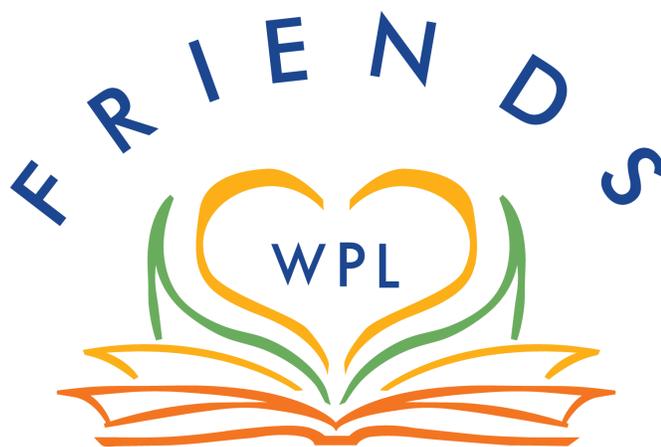
2020 presented daunting challenges to the Willmar Public Library and to the Friends... but with dedication and perseverance, we made it through. Your Willmar Public Library found ways to continue providing the services we all value while protecting community health.

And you, the community, supported us in return with your partnership, your dollars and your encouragement. We are better because we are doing this work together.

As we open the first pages of 2021, we are delighted to introduce a fresh look: a brand-new logo for the Friends of the Willmar Public Library. Custom-designed for us by Print Masters of Willmar, it reflects the enduring relationship between reader and book - and we think it beautifully complements the official Willmar Public Library logo as well. We are rolling out our new look in upcoming weeks on our letterhead, postcards and more. Watch for it and tell us what you think!

We value your support as we begin the new year. More than ever, we value the commitment we share to the Willmar Public Library and its vital role as a community resource. Here's to bright days ahead!

Board of Directors  
Friends of the Willmar Public Library



**WILLMAR PUBLIC LIBRARY**

### Annual Meeting

Thursday, January 28, 2021

5:30 PM

- Hear annual reports from Board; discuss plans
- Vote on suggested updates to the Bylaws
- Hear annual reports from Librarians

Meeting will be conducted via Zoom videoconference. Members may sign in to the meeting using the Zoom app, which is free. The meeting ID: 815 3444 8747, passcode: 651565, Dial in: 1-312-626-6799

Access meeting documents online at [www.willmarpubliclibrary.org/friends-of-the-willmar-public-library/](http://www.willmarpubliclibrary.org/friends-of-the-willmar-public-library/) or ask at the WPL Information Desk.



## Children's Corner

by

Alyssa Lennander



### New Children's Programs!

Hello! I'm Alyssa, and I am very excited to be here at the Willmar Public Library as the Children's Librarian. I wanted to be much closer to family than I was in Crookston, MN, where I was the youth services library associate, and the position in Willmar seemed like a great fit. Before Crookston, I was at the Brainerd Public Library serving in AmeriCorps, where I worked on building their makerspace by implementing 3D printers and robots, among other things. My favorite thing about being a Children's Librarian is programming! It is something I truly enjoy doing.

I'm starting to get into a regular programming schedule, though, of course, not in-person. For now, I will be releasing a storytime video on the first and third Tuesday of every month (check the children's page of the website for the link). Each storytime will have an accompanying Take & Make craft that can be picked up at WPL. There will also be a once-a-month STEMtastic Thursday. On January 14th, our first experiment will be lemon volcanoes—it's just as awesome as it sounds! There will be other fun, one-time events, and for January I will be hosting a Virtual Pet Show & Tell via Zoom on Thursday the 28th. What kid doesn't love showing off their pet?! I myself will be introducing my two cats, Moose & Milo.

I'm still pondering other ideas as well as looking forward to Summer Reading. The theme is "Reading Colors Your World." Check [www.willmarpubliclibrary.org/kids-services/](http://www.willmarpubliclibrary.org/kids-services/) for more information.

Online Storytime  
with the  
Willmar Public Library

Jan. 19 video theme: Snow



## Teen Beat

by

Sam Lilienthal



### 2020 Young Adult Book Award Winners

2020 may not have been a great year, but it was full of great books. Take a look at the 2020 winners of YA book awards. Looking forward to a new year full of great new books!

**Alex Awards** -Awarded to ten adult books with young adult appeal.

**A Few of the 2020 Winners:** *A Boy and His Dog at the End of the World* by C. A. Fletcher, *Middlegame* by Seanan McGuire, *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead, *Red, White, & Royal Blue* by Casey McQuiston, *The Swallows* by Lisa Lutz

**Margaret A. Edwards Award** - Honors an author and body of work for significant and lasting contributions to young adult literature.

**2020 Winner:** Steve Sheinkin and his books.

**William C. Morris YA Debut Award** -Honors a book by a first-time YA author.

**2020 Winner:** *The Field Guide to the North American Teenager* by Ben Philippe

**YALSA's (Young Adult Library Services Association) Award for Excellence in Nonfiction** -Honors nonfiction books published for young adults.

**2020 Winner:** *Free Lunch* by Rex Ogle

**Odyssey Award** -Awarded to the best audiobook for children and/or young adults.

**2020 Winner:** *Hey, Kiddo: How I Lost My Mother, Found My Father, and Dealt with Family Addiction* by Jarrett J. Krosoczka

**Michael L. Printz Award** -Awards books that exemplify literary excellence in young adult literature.

**2020 Winner:** *Dig* by A.S. King

If you're interested in learning more about these awards, honored winners, or past winners, you can visit [ALA.org/yalsa](http://ALA.org/yalsa) for more information. These titles are available for checkout within the Pioneerland Library System so give one a try today!



**Head Librarian Notes**  
by  
**Andrew Bregar**



**Adult Anecdotes**  
by  
**Syrena Maranell**



**Thank You Friends!**

Each year the Friends of the Willmar Public Library provide money through grant and fundraising activities. This year many of the annual fundraising activities had to be cancelled but the Friends group still provided thousands of dollars to the library that went to support the library collection and programs.

A portion of the donations and grants brought into the library from the Friends group is used to enhance the library collection. Traditionally funds have been used each year to purchase large print books for the collection, and in 2020 the this funding was used to purchase 44 large print titles.

The Library also utilizes Friends donation funds to help support library programming throughout the year. This year due to the COVID-19 pandemic library operations have been significantly disrupted and planned programs and activities took on a different appearance or were cancelled out right.

From January - March 2020, Friend's funds were used to support in person library programs. The new program series "Cure your Cabin Fever" was a series of programs geared to all ages and families. Friend's funds supported 11 total programs in this series (including an escape room, scavenger hunt, and cooking competition). Attendees used punch cards to track progress and enter for a grand prize drawing at the end of the series.

Beginning in mid-March the library was forced to close to the public and all library programs and services were transitioned to virtual delivery. The library began to offer virtual programs including contests and activities that utilized Friends funding to provide incentives. After the library began to reopen in May programming continued to be online and additional Take & Make Crafts were developed and offered through curbside service. During the summer months Friends grant money is used to support the annual summer reading program.

The Friends provide much needed support to help the library enhance and promote programs and services. I would like to thank each member of the Friends of the Willmar Public Library for the contributions they make to the success of the library.

**Winter Reading 2021**

If you haven't picked up a reading log for Winter Reading yet, you have until March 5 to participate. Receive up to 2 of the following prizes (while supplies last): mug, tote bag, or memo book for every five library books you read or listen to. Then, keep reading for more chances to win a gift card from the grand prize drawing.

**Adult Programming Update**

As we look to a new year of transformations, programs for adults will remain very similar to last year with updates and new things to try along the way. Online, all-ages monthly contests will continue with the Six-Word Story contest in January and Nailed It, a puzzle contest, and cookie decorating in the coming months. Interactive Movie Kits, a fun twist on movie night, will continue with the following selections: January - *The Emperor's New Groove*, *The Greatest Showman*, and *The Princess Bride* February - *Toy Story*, *The Muppets*, and the original *Ghostbusters*. Another participant favorite, Take & Makes, will continue with two crafts per month. For trivia lovers, play along with live trivia via Facebook every other Thursday evening at 7 PM. Online book club is held every third Wednesday at noon. Registration, entry forms, and more information can be found at [www.willmarpubliclibrary.org](http://www.willmarpubliclibrary.org) or give us a call at 320-235-3162.



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  
 Donation beyond Membership       I would like my donation to remain anonymous

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

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

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

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

I want to receive newsletters by email

I am interested in volunteer opportunities