

Library News!

Greenville Public Library, 520 Sycamore Street, Greenville, Ohio 45331

937-548-3915 www.greenville-publiclibrary.org January 2021

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Library continues to serve patrons

2020 and the Covid-19 pandemic may have changed a lot of things, but it didn't change the Greenville Public Library's passion to serve our patrons.

The way you use the library may be different than you're used to, but we are striving to be the same dependable resource we've always been. Browsing for books now has to be scheduled ahead of time, as does computer time, but we are trying our best to be as flexible as possible all while keep our patrons and staff safe.

For those who haven't been back under pandemic restrictions, here are a few things you may not know...

Our hours of operation have changed. We are now open from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Grab and Go appointments to browse for books or movies are made in half-hour increments throughout the day, while computer



Ed Cornell checks out materials for a Grab and Go patron.

appointments are hour-long slots with the last available time being from 4-5 p.m. Masks are required to enter the building.

Curbside service is a new option that we are offering to patrons who aren't comfortable entering the building. To utilize this service, call during our hours of operation to order titles of your choice (limit of 10), or place holds on materials on our website. We will schedule a time for you to pick up items at

your convenience, and then deliver them to your car upon arrival. Just give us a call when you arrive and we'll bring them out to you!

All returns must go into the dropbox due to our new quarantine process. Returns will stay on your account for up to five days, but you may check out materials in the mean time.

If you have any questions regarding our new procedures, just give us a call. We hope to see you back at the library soon!

New Story Time kits now available

When the library closed for Covid in March of 2020, Children's Librarian Julie Kennett knew she needed to come up with a way to continue offering Story Time to GPL's faithful followers of the service.

"While we were off in the spring, under quarantine, I was thinking, what *can* we do? There are so many things we can't do, and I just kind of wanted to make the best of the situation," Julie said.

Her solution: Story Time kits to go!

"I had heard about them for years," Julie added. "Some libraries, mostly the bigger ones, just have a few of them at all times. It's something that I'd just never done."

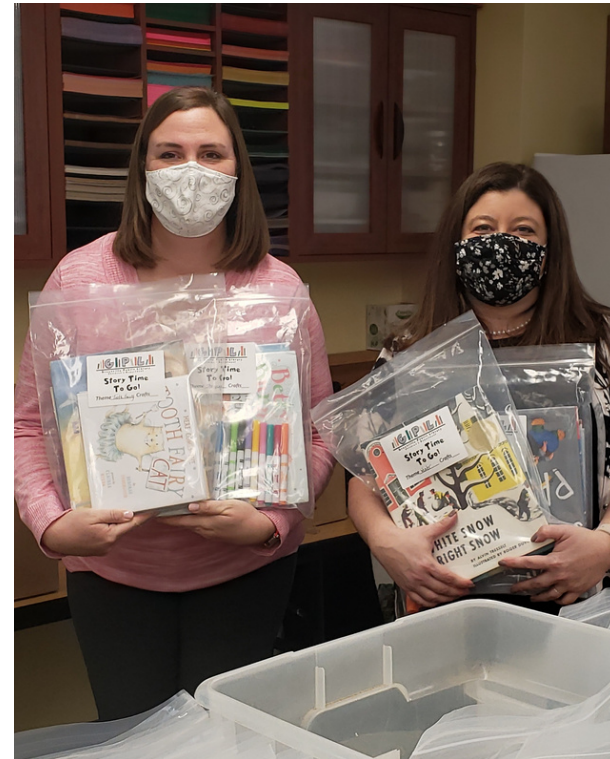
Kits feature themes of all kinds, including holidays, authors, and popular book characters. Most kits contain two to three books as well as a craft that goes with the kit's theme. Each kit is equipped with all the items required to make the craft inside.

"I wanted families to have everything they need for the craft. I didn't want it to be that if they didn't have glue, they couldn't do it."

What began out of necessity has certainly flourished and grown beyond all expectations. Of over 130 kits, around 65 go out each month, with new kits being released every quarter.

Due to their popularity, Julie intends to keep the kits around after the pandemic is over, when patrons will be able to come in and pick them out like regular materials.

For more information, or to order a kit, contact Julie or Joanna in the Children's Department.



Joanna Brown and Julie Kennett are pictured with just a few of the Story Time To Go kits now being offered.

Story Time To Go Kits		
Kits include books and everything you need for a craft!		
Afraid of the Dark	Pets	Winter Holidays:
Aliens	Poetry	Black History Month
Bath time	Polar Bears	Christmas
Books Based on Songs	Porcupines	Groundhog Day
Cars and Trucks	Princesses	Hanukkah
Cookies	Sheep	Martin Luther King, Jr
Dancing	Shopping	Valentine's Day
Exercising	Sleepovers	Popular Authors:
Family	Smelly Things	Laura Numeroff
Friends	Sneezing, Cold, Flu	David Shannon
Funny Books	Snowmen	Popular Characters:
Gingerbread	Socks	Babar
History	Star Wars	Curious George
How-To	Tooth Fairy	Froggy
Hugs and Kisses	Tractors	Llama Llama
Ice Skating	Underwear	Olivia
Love	Winter	Peanuts
Mittens, Scarves, Hats	Yetis	Rainbow Fish
Penguins	Yoga	Winnie the Pooh

Bringing the library to the community

For those unable to visit the library in-person, the library offers delivery service for local patrons in need.

Extension Services deliveries are reserved for those patrons who are unable to leave their homes, for health reasons or otherwise. Patrons recovering from surgeries or severe illness, as well as those who don't drive during inclement weather may also utilize the service until they are once again able to return to the library themselves.

The Extension Services team at Greenville Public Library currently serves 15 individual patrons each month, as well as five preschools and six nursing homes. Before the Covid-19 pandemic, the Extension Services program was circulating around 750 books each month, and the team hopes to get back to that mark again soon.

Susana selects books for individual patrons using the service. She begins by finding out what types of books the patron prefers, then selects materials she thinks would be a good fit. Patrons are still able to make requests, but for those without a list of desired titles, Susana makes



The GPL Extension Services team: (l to r) van driver, Jeffery Deeter, Rachael Strosnider, Caitlyn Clark, and Susana.

the selections. There isn't a set limit of books Extension Services patrons are allowed to check out. According to Susana, most average around 5-6 books a month, but more can be sent upon request.

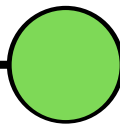
Caitlyn makes book selections for local nursing homes. The materials she selects are available to anyone within the residence. Items she includes are a variety of fiction, large print books, audiobooks, and movies from the GPL collection.

Rachael handles most of the materials circulated by Extension Services.

She selects and sends out over 400 items each month for the local preschools and daycares that utilize the service to enjoy.

Long-time GPL employee Jeffery makes all of the scheduled deliveries in the library van. He started delivering books for Extension Services in 2002 in the Bookmobile. Over the years, he's grown close with many of the patrons the library serves.

Extension Services is looking to add a few new patrons to their monthly schedule. Those interested can call the library for more information.



Library History: Did You Know?

In January of 1977, the library was closed due to the energy crisis of that time. In order to keep the library functional, then Director Susan Allen made the decision to close the doors to the public and operate out of the Bookmobile, which was parked in front of the library.

Patrons were encouraged to quickly browse what little of the collection could be housed within the Bookmobile, or to call the library with specific requests.

According to an article in the Jan. 22, 1977 edition of the Daily Advocate, Allen kept, "one small, well-insulated room in the library basement heated with electric space heaters for library personnel to warm up in." There was also a phone installed in this room to allow library staff to take requests, which were to be picked up in the Bookmobile at a scheduled time.

During the shutdown, which lasted about two months,

two library staffers manned the Bookmobile, while a third went in and out of the building gathering requested materials. Drop ceilings were installed on the second floor during the closure to help curb heating costs when the library reopened.

The decision to close was made after Allen received a letter from DP&L stating that, "the recipient had used up its 50 per cent allotment of natural gas and would not receive any more."

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