If 2020 were a book, there has already been enough plot twists to keep us up all night. None of us at SPL could have predicted the many challenges of recent months or imagined all the ways in which we would quickly innovate and adapt. We could not have predicted that over the past five months, we would completely restructure our service model, launch virtual programming, wrap up our first ever virtual Summer Reading Challenge, and pass a critical renewal levy almost completely by mail. We’ve met each of these challenges only with the support of you, our patrons, and the dedication of our staff.

The story’s not over, but we are confident that no matter the plot twists, together, we will continue to meet those challenges with dedication, determination, and innovation. Thank you for being with us every step of the way.

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The library continues to offer no-contact service while buildings remain closed. SPL is closely monitoring developments and intends to proceed with limited reopening once virus trends indicate a sustained level of decline. Services and building status remain contingent upon current pandemic developments at all times. Stay up-to-date at swpl.org or via social media.

Upcoming Special Events

Pathway to Literacy Virtual 5K Fundraiser presented by Friends of Southwest Public Libraries


Get some fresh air and support the library via the Friends! Register for the Friends virtual 5K and walk, jog, bike, or run for a great cause. Complete the 5K on your own schedule, all at once or over multiple days between October 12–24. Try it socially distanced with a friend! Share and hashtag your 5K photos #PathwaytoLiteracy. Cost $30. All registrants will receive a small commemorative item.

To register visit www.tinyurl.com/SWPL5K or check out the event on Facebook. Register by September 30.

The Friends conduct fundraising, volunteer work, public awareness efforts, and literacy programs in the community on behalf of the library and also support special library events like the annual Summer Reading Challenge. This year’s SRC raffles and prizes were sponsored by the Friends.

One Book, One Community

Community read coming soon! Stay tuned for details.

Be on the lookout! SPL is excited to be collaborating with other central Ohio libraries to present an upcoming community read and virtual author visit to support the important and ongoing conversations about race and racism.

SPL strongly denounces racism in any form and acknowledges the work we all must do as individuals, as communities, and as a nation to make equality a reality for all. We aspire to help educate and spark dialogue and understanding.

(Flip the page to check out more SPL happenings!)
Virtual Programming + Grab & Go

We can’t wait to host you in person again, but we’re excited to bring you your favorite programming virtually and via grab & go. Virtual events will be presented on Facebook unless otherwise noted. Give our page a like! @SPLFranklinCountyOH

--- NEW! Grab & Go, Books to Go ---

Not sure what to request for holds pickup? Let us help with these thoughtfully curated bundles to go.

Storytime Kits
You may not be able to come to the library for storytime right now, but you can take storytime home! Now offering storytime kits for checkout. Each themed kit comes in a bag with 3 books, a music CD, and a binder of activities and coloring pages. Perfect for families and groups. Reserve a kit through our web catalog or by calling Youth Services.

Book Bundles
Need help discovering your next favorite book? Try out our new Book Bundles service starting September 8th and “browse” the library from a distance! Ask for a Surprise Bundle (assorted themes) during no-contact pickup hours or fill out a request form or call to have a personalized bundle put together just for you.

YOUTH SERVICES PROGRAMMING

Virtual Storytime + Storytime Anytime Kits
Tuesdays & Thursdays, starting Sep 8. 10:30 a.m.

Virtual Storytime is back featuring Westland staff on Tuesdays and Grove City staff on Thursdays. Videos will be posted on Facebook and YouTube. Tune in to sing, dance, and read along!

Keep the fun going at home with “Storytime, Anytime” kits! These kits correspond with storytime and include a storytime outline, simple felt board rhymes, songs, or crafts. Stop by and pick up a kit on designated days or reserve a kit by calling Youth Services. While supplies last.

Tuesday Storytime pickups: Mon & Tue
Thursday Storytime pickups: Wed & Thu

STEM at Home
Thursdays, Sep 10, 17, & 24. 6:30 p.m.

Satisfy your curiosity and join us virtually for fun Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math related activities you can do at home! We’ll post video challenges and demonstrations via Facebook and provide a materials list so you can gather your own materials, or you can stop by the library and pick up a STEM kit. Kits are available for pickup on STEM Thursdays, first come, first served or call Youth Services to reserve a kit. While supplies last.

--- Adult Services Programming ---

5 Books in 5 Minutes
Saturday, Sep 12. 12 p.m.

Looking for your next favorite book? Join us on Facebook for 5 book talks in 5 minutes! In this video series, we briefly review 5 books from 5 different genres in 5 minutes. Watch and discover something new to read. Need more inspiration? Leave a comment under the video or give us a call, and we’ll be happy to advise.

Informed 2020
Saturday, Sep 26. 12 p.m.

Be an informed voter! Pop in on Facebook on Sep 26 where we’ll be sharing important voting information, tips on evaluating sources and spotting fake news, and other valuable tools to help you become an informed voter.

Get Creative! Take & Make Kits

Take & Make Kits are available for no-contact pickup beginning 10 a.m. on indicated days and are first come, first served while supplies last.

Take & Make Kit: Taco Earbud Holder Friday, Sep 11
Earbuds always in a tangle? No more! Pick up a kit with supplies and directions to make a cute felt taco to hold your earbuds. (Sorry to anyone now hungry for tacos!)

Take & Make Kit: Gift Card Envelopes Friday, Sep 18
Make an easy gift card holder with just one piece of paper! Pick up a supply kit with instructions and then watch our video tutorial to see how simple it is to fold your way to colorful envelopes.

Take & Make Kit: Yarn Crafts Saturday, Sep 19
Knit and crochet enthusiasts can pick up a yarn kit that includes fun patterns, activities (coloring, anyone?), plus a skein of yarn to get your project started!

Take & Make Kit: Pom-Pom Bookmarks Friday, Sep 25
Need a new page holder? Grab a take-home craft kit during our no-contact service hours with supplies to make two colorful and fluffy pom-pom bookmarks!

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Psst! Register to vote by Oct 5. Request an absentee ballot application by Oct 31. Pick up forms at the library or visit www.voteohio.gov

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VOTE

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The page contains information about various programs and events offered virtually and via grab & go, including storytime, STEM activities, book recommendations, and voting information. It also promotes take & make kits for various crafts and hobbies. The text is organized into sections for Youth Services Programming and Adult Service Programming, each with detailed descriptions of the activities and how to participate.