

A Note from Our Director

We did it! 2020 is officially behind us. We can finally put an end to what has been an incredibly turbulent year and look forward to new beginnings in 2021. The New Florence Community Library is embracing a fresh start and looking forward to redefining ourselves and how we provide library services. We've incorporated new services that will enable us to serve our community better than we ever have. These new services include online programs that are designed to keep us connected with our patrons, and our patrons with one another, while maintaining a healthy, safe environment for everyone. While we are managing our way through these unprecedented times, it's important that we provide more information on how we're keeping the library safe and inviting for our patrons to visit.

On November 23, based on the recommendation of state and local government, we adjusted our current COVID policies to meet the needs of our staff and patrons.

These updates included the following changes;

-Curbside pick is now available! Call us when you arrive, and we'll bring your items out to you in a never been used bag and ensure there is no contact. Call us at (724) 235-2249 to learn more.

-The library will sanitize common areas, door handles, book return box and the service desk every single time a patron enters and exits the library.

-Library stacks (bookshelves) and children's department are currently closed for browsing. Patrons can request materials from them, but may not directly browse and pull the books themselves

-Computer use is limited to 1-hour only with no time extensions

If you'd rather not visit, that's okay, we've got you covered. The library is working on online programs through Facebook and Zoom. Keep reading to learn more. Be sure to check out Overdrive, our eBook, Audiobook and movie and TV show service. Also, Power Library, available through the State Library, also provides books, movies and TV shows free of charge.

Call us at (724) 235-2249 or visit newflorencelibrary.org to learn more. We're happy to answer any questions you might have, and we'd love to hear from you.

James Facer

Library Director

Dear Friends,

I wanted to reach out to you during these scary and trying times and suggest a wonderful way to relax and escape for a few hours. Take the time to meet the heroes and heroines that can be found in over 20,000 books in the New Florence Community Library stacks. And if that is not enough, over a million books are available through the Westmoreland Library Network. Just stop by/call/e-mail your requests and the staff will get them for you.

I'd like to share some of my favorite authors and suggest their books for you to read. If you couldn't get enough of Downton Abbey on Masterpiece Theater here are some writers that bring that era to life.

Charles Todd has earned a special place among mystery's elite writers with his series featuring Scotland Yard Inspector Ian Rutledge, a former soldier seeking to lay to rest the demons of the past in the aftermath of WWI. Writer Todd also introduces us to Bess Crawford, a nurse in the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps. Bess follows in her family's tradition of service to the British Empire. She serves behind the frontlines working at field hospitals and transporting patients while uncovering mystery and murder during the Great War.

Another heroine is Maisie Dobbs, intuitive, intelligent and resourceful who, with help, went from a parlor maid at thirteen, to a psychology major at the outbreak of WWI. Jacqueline Winspear is the creator of this gripping memorable series.

I can't continue without mentioning Agatha Christie. Outsold by only the Bible and Shakespeare, Agatha Christie is the best-selling novelist of all time. She is best known for her 66 detective novels, many featuring Miss Marple (my favorite) and Hercule Poirot with his impressive moustaches and his "little grey cells."

I have just discovered Rennie Airth mysteries thanks to Paula, one of our clerks. Start with *River of Darkness* which is a "can't put down" thriller.

Fast forward to the twenty-first century where we are still solving murders, looking for spies, enthralled by thrillers; James Patterson, Lee Child, Michael Palmer, Alex Berenson are all great writers of nail biting action.

Two of my top favorites are David Baldacci's "Memory Man" series. Amos Decker is a towering detective who, due to a helmet-to-helmet football collision can forget nothing. The second is Vince Flynn's "Mitch Rapp" series. Rapp is a CIA counter-terrorism agent, who is sent into the most dangerous missions to protect Americans and our way of life.

Thank you for allowing me to share some good reads with you. James, Sarah, Paula, and Sharon will help you find wonderful reading adventures tailored to your requests.

Looking beyond COVID to safer times, the librarians are planning book clubs, discussion groups, story hour and many more new surprises.

Please stay safe, and wear a mask to protect others.

Sincerely, Adda Lee Hoskinson, Library Board President

Still not sure what to read next?

Ask us, we will help you discover your next favorite book!

*One of the best things about belonging to the Westmoreland County Library Network is that we can request books from any of our 25 county libraries and have them shipped here! With the COVID-19 protocols we have in place, it takes about a week to receive those items.

I'm a passionate reader, I'll pick up a book before I turn on the TV. You'll never catch me with an empty "currently reading" stack. 2020 was a big reading year for me. I read a total of 85 books, my goal was only 60! That seems like a lot, but I broadened my genres, I read a lot of graphic novels, and poetry, but I also forced myself further out of my comfort zone with some non-fiction reads, along with rereads of my favorites, and falling into completely new worlds. 2021 is a new year, for new reading goals, so what are yours? My reading goal is 70 this year, higher than my last goal, but under what I actually read. I want reading to be enjoyable, and a pleasurable hobby, I don't want to feel like I have no choice but to read, because some days, I just want to watch a movie, or play solitaire for 6 hours. Aside from my number goal, I also want to make myself read things I probably wouldn't have.

I'm a huge Young Adult (YA) fan, I believe anyone of any age can read YA and still enjoy it, mostly I like the Fantasy. We've started to add new titles to our young adult collection such as: *One of Us is Lying* by Karen M. McManus; *Three Dark Crowns* by Kendare Blake; *Scythe* by Neal Shusterman; *A Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* by Suzanne Collins.

I started an Adult Book Club and Teen Book Club! We will have on-going discussion threads on Facebook and Goodreads! We will meet via Zoom, which is completely free to sign up for and download the app onto your device, or you can access on an internet browser. I can't wait to meet everyone via Zoom our first meeting for each will be a meet & greet kind of meeting. If you have any questions or concerns with this, please do not hesitate to ask me!

Adult Book Club: Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, at 7pm, with our first meeting, Wednesday, January 13th. We will select a book from a list each month to read and discuss.

Teen Book Club: Meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, at 7pm, with our first meeting, Wednesday, January 20th. We will not have an assigned book, we will just discuss what you are reading, or what you've recently read.

Quickest way to reach me is by email - sarah.rearigh@wlnonline.org, but you can call the library, if I'm not in, leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

I cannot wait to help you reach your reading goals this year!

Sarah Rearigh, Librarian

When I was a young girl, the library was my favorite place to visit - it's still in the top five! I would walk out every time with the limit of eight books. As I look back I realize my reading habits were set way back

then. I read the Nancy Drew books, the Trixie Belsen books, the biography books, the Hardy Boys books. Do you see the pattern? I like series books! I don't want to have to learn new characters every time, I want to revisit old friends! In the last year, I've discovered the books called cozy mysteries. Yes, someone dies, but there's no blood, guts, and gore (at least not in any great detail). They are written in a series format. It's like reading my old Nancy Drew books or watching *Murder, She Wrote*.

Some titles I recommend are:

Fixer Upper Series by Katie Carlise (Some of these have been made into Hallmark movies!)

If you like the Hardy Boys over Nancy Drew try, *Cat in the Stacks Mysteries* by Miranda Lewis *An Old Hotel in Florida* By Kathleen Bridge

Shakespeare in the Catskills by Elizabeth J. Duncan

Pennsylvania Dutch Country by Tamar Myers & Laura Bradford

Bar in Chicago by Allyson K. Abbott

A Tourist in Town in California by Lynn Cahoon

A Fudge Ship/Hotel on Mackinac Island (These include recipes!) by Nancy Coco

I do most of my reading these days on my iPad, so I'm a heavy user of OverDrive. In the county library's ebooks, you can find these mysteries set all over the country. If you are unsure on how to use OverDrive, or what it is exactly, give the library a call and the library staff will be happy to help answer your questions!

Pam Hysong, Board Treasurer

Programs

Adult Book Club – Wednesday, January 13, 7:00-8:00pm (Zoom)
(Recurring program meeting every Second Wednesday of the month)

Teen Book Club – Wednesday, January 20, 7:00-8:00pm (Zoom)
(Recurring program meeting every Third Wednesday of the month)

Seasonal Reading Challenge – Jan. 11 – March 26 (ongoing)

See below for more details about our seasonal reading challenge and how you can participate and win prizes.

New Florence Community Library

Name:
Contact:

Seasonal Reading Challenge Bingo

Read a book that's set in a country but not the US, UK, or Canada	Read a book with a cover you don't like	Read a book published in 2020	Read a book with pink on the cover	Read a book that's part of a series
Read a book with a person on the cover	Read a new book by an author you love	Read a book that's been on your TBR list for over a year	Re-Read a book you've always loved	Read a book with less than 200 pages
Read a book with more than 400 pages	Read a book that's a best seller		Read a book out of your comfort zone	Read a book with a murder in it
Read a book with a teenage main character	Read a book published the year you were born	Read a book with an orange cover	Read a book set in a small town	Read a book that you own but haven't read
Read a book set during a holiday	Read a book borrowed from the library	Read a book considered a classic	Read a book with a four word title	Read a book with a nature object on the cover

Seasonal Reading Challenge Bingo will start Monday, January 11th and run through Friday, March 26th. Books should be read during this time frame. The drawing will be on Saturday, March 27th. Try to score a BINGO: 5 across, down, or diagonal. No four corners or postage stamp allowed! Yes, the book stack is a free space! Jot down your titles in the box, and once you have a bingo (or more than 1) bring your card in to be entered into the drawing for a \$25 gift card to Bigginz Restaurant. Enjoy and have fun!