



GUILDERLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Staying the Course

**A message from
Library Director
Tim Wiles**

Greetings! I appreciate this opportunity to provide an update on where we stand currently. The Guilderland Public Library, like the majority of local public libraries, will continue to provide services on a **curbside basis only**, as depicted in the photo above. We thank the community for their continued patience and kindness toward us, and want to reassure you that there is a tremendous amount of work and planning going on behind the scenes. Please allow me to explain our reasoning on staying the course for now.

First, **the state-mandated limitation of our workforce to 50 percent continues**. Operating at half-staff, it is extremely difficult, and extremely tiring, to reinstitute services and to catch up on a three-month backlog. Staff are doing a great job, but it is a steep uphill climb.

Second, **we are serving our customers in a comparable way to our peer libraries** in Albany, Bethlehem, Troy, Colonie, and East Greenbush. In fact, we are near the head of the pack for what we have been able to reinstitute. It is not a competition, but I am proud of what we've achieved so far.

Every once in a while, I am asked by a friend or neighbor why it is so hard to open the library, when, for example, Home Depot has been open all along. There are two major differences:

- **Such stores have been designated essential by NYS, and libraries have not.** (Believe me, I am gratified when one of our community members says to me *"How can libraries not be considered essential?"*) Since we are considered nonessential, we have a responsibility to follow the State's guidance, which is designed with public health in mind.
- The business model of a retail store is that every item sold will hopefully never return to their building. The business model of a library is quite the opposite—**by design, everything that goes out our door is supposed to come back in again**. When you pick up takeout from a restaurant, you don't bring back all the packaging, plates, silverware, etc. after you consume the food. But all library materials, in theory, come back.

Safety remains our highest priority.

The library community, on a national and international level, is working with industry scientists to ascertain how the virus is transmitted, and how the risk of such transmission can be minimized. We're also following CDC and WHO guidance on the emerging science of virus transmission and risk mitigation. This science generally focuses on two things: virus survival on surfaces, and airborne transmission.

Currently, we have been following the recommendation to **quarantine all material for 72 hours** before disinfecting with an electrostatic sprayer, and then reshelving for the next user. But an illustration of how we are putting **safety first** is that the Institute for Museum and Library Service (the federal agency doing the research) just revised the guidance upward to **96 hours**. All of a sudden, we need to locate, buy, and assemble another shed. Normally, you hop in your vehicle and drive to the nearest store, but sheds, like hand sanitizer, bicycles, Chromebooks and many other once readily-available products, are in short supply. After much research and legwork, we were able to obtain another shed, fortunately. I relay this story to indicate that **we continue to put safety first**, and also as an illustration of how difficult it is to **implement the ever-changing recommended practices**. It's a fitting example of why our doors remain closed at the present time.

Of course, we hope to see you in person soon, but then there is the matter of the coronavirus itself. Neither I, nor the library board, nor the local library community think that we are currently in a safe space. On approximately 15 of the last 20 days, the nation has seen record numbers of new cases, and many record days for deaths. Three weeks ago, we took some solace in knowing that virus surges were far away—in Florida, Texas, Arizona and California. But as of this writing, more than 40 states are experiencing rapid rises in virus cases, and New York state has limited travel to 24 of them. Governor Cuomo reported that 12,000 people a day enter NYS from those 24 states. And as you know, the July 4th holiday caused a relaxation of individual responsibility regarding masks and social distancing, which has resulted in a big spike in cases locally.

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**BOXED IN:
Senior Clerk
Heather
Nelson helps
process a
backlog—130
boxes of
about 1,400
materials.**



SUMMER READING PROGRAM



Adults, Teens, AND Children All! Register for the "Imagine Your Story" Summer Reading Program on Beanstack! guilderlandlibrary.beanstack.org

Our Summer Reading Program continues through **August 14**, so you still have time to participate! On Beanstack, you can track the books you read and earn points toward fun raffle prizes:

Kids and Teens can earn extra points by completing special book challenges based on some of your favorite series, such as Elephant & Piggie and Magic Tree House, or on the many series from popular author Rick Riordan.

Adults who read more than 12 books over the challenge period will be entered into a raffle to win one of three **\$40 gift cards to the Book House of Stuyvesant Plaza!** If you're looking for a good book to read, visit the Adult Summer Reading page at <https://guilderlandlibrary.org/adultsrp/> to find recommendations. We've purchased multiple copies of paperback books that you can request from the library catalog, and the GPL Librarians have curated "Staff Picks" lists that can also inspire your next good read.

We also have **Virtual Storytime-To-Go Kits** on our SRP web page: www.guilderlandlibrary.org/SRP. There you'll find fun eBooks, songs, and rhymes for toddlers and preschoolers that you can share at home together.

Check our **Events Calendar, Facebook** and **Instagram** regularly for program updates – we're constantly adding to our online options.



Also, be sure to join our **GPL Kids and Families Facebook page** for all kinds of fun resources, activities and crafts!

FAMILY / ALL AGES PROGRAMS

The following program will be held online, using one of our videoconferencing platforms. You will need either a computer with a microphone and webcam, or a smartphone for these events. **Registration is required, indicated by [R].** Click on the **Events calendar on www.guilderlandlibrary.org** to register. Please provide your email address to receive a link for the event.

**Family Trivia**

Wednesday, August 12 @ 7 pm

Don your collective thinking caps as you brainstorm on 20 questions of virtual trivia designed for the whole family to play along! We'll be quizzing your knowledge of Guilderland

and summer reading program-themed topics involving fairy tales, favorite book series, movies, and TV. Play along virtually as an individual or team. **Trivia Champs will win a gift card to Coldstone Creamery in Stuyvesant Plaza!**

Team captains should be 13+ years old and will be responsible for communicating to the hosts. Team Captains and any additional team members that will need the virtual meeting login information should register. **[R]**

Fairy Tale Baking Contest

Through August 14

Hear ye, Hear ye! All in the Land of Guilder, break out your mixing bowls and whisks and enter GPL's Fairy Tale Baking Competition! We want to see your best baking and decorating inspired by fairy tales, folklore, or nursery rhymes!



Live out your *Nailed It!* and *Great British Baking Show* aspirations by submitting a photo of a sweet or savory baked good or other dessert that is decorated/staged to represent a fairy tale, folk tale, or nursery rhyme. The GPL community will then vote and award the People's Choice Favorite a **\$25 gift card to Different Drummer's Kitchen!**

To enter: click on the Fairy Tale Baking Contest slide on our website's home page for the submission form. Submit it with your completed form by **Friday, August 14 at noon.**

Letters to Greufus

*Kids are encouraged to write and mail letters to our beloved mascot, Greufus the Cow. He'll be glad to hear from you, and he'll write you back, too! Send notes to: **Greufus the Cow, Guilderland Public Library, 2228 Western Avenue, Guilderland, NY 12084***

ADULT PROGRAMS & RESOURCES

The following programs will be held online, using one of our videoconferencing platforms. You will need either a computer with a microphone and webcam, or a smartphone for these events. **Registration is required, indicated by [R].** Click on the **Events calendar on www.guilderlandlibrary.org**, to register. Please provide your email address so that we can send you a link for the event.

CULINARY

**Cookbook Club:
Virtual Edition
Wednesday, August 5
@ 7 pm: Favorite
Kitchen Gadget**

Do you have a favorite kitchen gadget that you simply could not live without? We're talking tried-and-true tools at this show-and-tell-style online meetup! **[R]**



**Preserve the Bounty
with Cornell Cooperative
Extension**

**Wednesday, August 19
@ 6:30 pm**

During these days of bountiful harvest, we often ask ourselves: what am I going to do with all of these zucchinis, tomatoes or corn, since we cannot possibly eat it all while it's fresh? Learn

safe food preservation techniques such as dehydration, freezing, canning, and fermenting, using the proper tools and packaging. Presenter Karen Roberts Mort will also share tips on ways to prepare, cook and serve vegetables in quick, delicious and healthy ways. **[R]**



TECH

**Introduction to Google Apps Suite
Saturday, August 29 @ 10 am**

Learn about the free productivity suite known as the Google Apps Suite. In this overview, learn what tools are available free with a Google or Gmail account, how to import and edit documents and files created in other software tools, and best practices for making use of Google's apps. We'll take a short tour of four of the most popular tools—Docs, Sheets, Slides, and Forms.

This session, led by Librarian and Digital Literacy Instructor Nathaniel Heyer, MLS, will be held online via GoToMeeting. Once you've registered, you'll receive a link to the virtual session. Limit of 10 registrants. **[R]**



LANGUAGE

**Talking Italian—Online!
Wednesday, August 26
@ 6 pm**

This class is designed for learners who have had little or no previous exposure to the Italian language. Let's meet after dinner for a fun and relaxed virtual chat about Italian coffee & cake! We will focus on the basics of Italian grammar and conversation surrounding these topics. The instructor, Valentina Ciccarelli, is an Italian native teacher with extensive experience in teaching Italian. She loves Italian cooking and baking, and is excited to chat about her culture and beautiful country. Registrants will receive a digital Italian Coffee Cake recipe card when we send you the link to join the meeting. **[R]**



**New Language
Database:
Pronunciator**



Even if visiting another country is not feasible at the present time, learning the native tongue of that land is always an option. In fact, learning a new language just got easier! Our new **Pronunciator** database features a whopping **163 lan-**

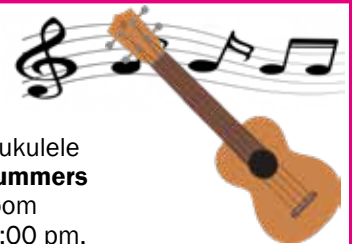
guages and customized classes tailored to your progress and abilities. Access this dynamic resource, using your trusty GPL library card as your passport, here: <https://guilderlandlibrary.org/research-databases/>

MUSIC

**Virtual Ukulele Jams
Thursdays from 6:30-8 pm**

Missing our Thursday night ukulele jams? The **Normanskill Strummers** are meeting online using Zoom every Thursday from 6:30-8:00 pm.

Email: normanskillstrummers@gmail.com to join; see www.normanskillstrummers.com for further details.



FROM LIBRARY DIRECTOR TIM WILES

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Dr. Anthony Fauci and the CDC believe **we are still in the first wave** of the disease, not the second. McDonald's voluntarily announced they would keep dining rooms closed nationwide for three weeks. Walmart, Target and several other retailers announced that masks are required coast to coast. **We are not out of the woods.**

GPL remains limited in the amount of **plexiglass** we've been able to acquire and install, a necessary precondition to allowing any patrons in the building. We are working hard on that requirement.

We are also studying the nature of **HVAC and air cleaning systems** and reaching out for help on that from our architects, engineers, sales reps, GCSD, and peer libraries. We have asked architects at Butler Rowland and Mays to include an enhanced air cleaning system as an alternate in upcoming bid documents, in the event that we are able to do the renovation project under budget. This work takes time because the science is just emerging, and the industry is working double-time doing estimates and consulting with many potential clients who never had the need of enhanced air filtration before. And once you actually place an order, there is a **significant backlog in supply**, since every other building with a lot of people coming in and out is trying to do the same thing.

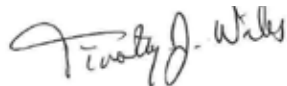
As of this writing, seven of the 29 libraries in UHLS (36 locations counting Albany's branches) are allowing some form of extremely limited access to the building. Of those seven facilities, four are simply allowing their "curbside pickup" to take place inside rather than outside. The rest are allowing access on an extremely limited basis, such as three patrons in the building per hour, by appointment only. Most of these seven libraries are extremely small, such as Peterburgh and North Greenbush. The two comparable facilities allowing such access are Colonie and Troy, and we have circulated more material than them since each library began limited reopenings.

In short, we are working hard and doing the best we can do.

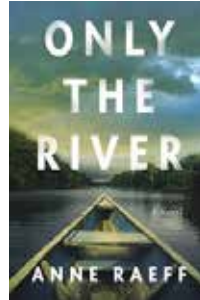
In addition to safety precautions, our current goal is to catch up on the **backlog** of requests. We are filling requests for about **5,000 items per week** at the moment—often a **higher daily rate** via curbside pickup than we do when we are fully open! And this is all being done in the most sanitary way possible. Our staff is doing an amazing job inventing this busy service on the fly, and I thank them.

I believe GPL's position is right in line with other libraries in the region, and that our staff and patrons want us to **keep safety our highest priority at this time**. Even a handful of positive cases among staff would likely shut down our operation due to state guidelines, and I do not want to take that risk.

Be safe, and please take care!



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

**Night Owls Online**

Monday, August 10 @ 7:30 pm

Moderated by Librarian Maura Powers-Smith

This month, we're reading **Only the River**, by Anne Raeff, available now on Hoopla in eBook and audiobook format.

Sign up on our website's Events tab!

Fleeing the ravages of wartime Vienna, Pepa and her family find safe harbor in the small town of El Castillo, on the

banks of the San Juan River in Nicaragua. There, her parents seek to eradicate yellow fever while Pepa falls under the spell of the jungle and the town's eccentric inhabitants. But Pepa's life—including her relationship with local boy Guillermo—comes to a halt when her family abruptly moves again to New York. Spanning generations and wars, Only the River explores the way displacement both destroys two families and creates new ones, sparking a revolution that changes their lives in the most unexpected ways. [R]

MORE GPL NEWS

Read It Forward: Anti-Racism

The topic of anti-racism is an important discussion that our country is having right now. We want to help foster this conversation, so **we'll give you a book to read without ANY expectation that you need to return it to us, ever!** We simply ask that you pass it along to a family member or friend when you're done reading it, encouraging that person to



pass it forward when they're done and keep it circulating. You can choose from two books: Pulitzer Prize-winning novel **The Nickel Boys** by Colson Whitehead; or **How to Be an Antiracist**, the critically-acclaimed nonfiction work by author and historian Ibram X. Kendi. Copies are available on a first-come, first-served basis. **To participate, fill out our survey starting August 1st:** <https://bit.ly/GPLRIFsurvey>

**Guilderland Public Library Board of Trustees Virtual Board Meeting**

Thursday, August 20 @ 6 pm on Facebook

This meeting will be streamed live and archived on our Facebook page. Public commentary may be directed to: pc@guilderlandlibrary.org.

Dial A Story

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DIAL A STORY

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