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Director’s Note

What a year 2020 turned out to be! DGPL has spent months reorganizing and reprioritizing. We had to get creative with how we serve the community, both in-person and online. The Board of Library Trustees and staff have looked closely at how to best serve the community during these uncertain times.

Here’s what we’ve been doing:

• Implementing new contactless services to keep our staff and the community safe, like Curbside Pickup.
• Staying up-to-date on health and safety precautions for the community and our library items.
• Committing to change through conversations and action concerning diversity, equity, and inclusion in staffing, services, collections, and more.
• Creating new programming opportunities to connect and engage with the community, including virtual programming and online sharing.
• Remaining responsive to the ever-changing environment by adjusting our hours, limiting the use of our public spaces, and transitioning to a Curbside Pickup only service model.

There is no way to predict what 2021 will bring. What we do know is that DGPL will continue to be flexible and creative to serve and support the community. Thank you for being our greatest champions in 2020. We appreciate your continued support in the new year.

Life in 2020

The library is still gathering submissions from the community to memorialize community experiences during 2020. Submit stories, creations, and other memories of living in Downers Grove during this time of uncertainty. Content can address experiences with COVID-19, stay-at-home art projects and recipes, community action and protests, and more. Submissions may be entered in multiple formats. For more information on how to share and to see submissions: dglibrary.org/life-2020.

Binge Boxes are here! Each box contains 4–5 DVDs and coupons for Aurelio’s Pizza of Downers Grove and Wells Street Popcorn! Place a hold and get one through Curbside Pickup.

Library Hours & Closings

Find out more about DGPL’s reopening plans and hours at dglibrary.org.

The library will be closed:
Thursday, December 31 – New Year’s Eve
Close at 5 p.m
Friday, January 1 – New Year’s Day
Friday, January 15 – Staff In-Service Day

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Find your next title with the library’s Staff Picks collection. Staff members from all departments share their favorite books, movies, music, and videogames. Check online each Wednesday for recommendations: dglibrary.org/staff-picks, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Follow and use the hashtag #DGPlreads to keep up with the freshest picks.

January: Cozy Picks

February: Black History Month

Organization of the Month

January

**Operation Support Our Troops - America**

Operation Support Our Troops - America is a nonprofit with a mission to support the morale and well-being of the armed forces by providing comfort, resources, and education. This is done by citizens sending personal letters and comfort packages to deployed troops. Additionally, they host a variety of programs focused on veterans, raise awareness in the community of current needs, help those experiencing loss, and more. Over 2 million pounds of care packages have been sent through the help of volunteers. Get involved at osotamerica.org.

February

**Senior Suburban Orchestra**

The Senior Suburban Orchestra provides an opportunity for older musicians to continue playing their instruments on a regular basis as members of an active and challenging performance organization. The Orchestra is based in Downers Grove, and its members represent more than 20 of the Western suburbs and outlying areas. SSO provides educational and entertaining performances to community members, including a side-by-side workshop experience for elementary school children. Typical concert venues include retirement and healthcare facilities, senior groups, schools, and libraries. Musicians of all ages are welcome to play in the orchestra, and there is no membership fee or fundraising/ticket-sale requirement to participate. Visit seniorsuburbanorchestra.org to learn more.

Future Bestsellers

These titles are sure to be hot when they arrive! Contact the Ask Us Desk to place a hold.
For Kids:

**YouTube Library Tour**
Hey kids, want to get a behind-the-scenes peek at how the library works? We’ve recorded a tour of the Kids Room, including showing you how a book gets on our shelves and what happens when it is returned! Watch it today at dglibrary.org/virtual-programs.

**Rotary Club Thank You**
We want to give a BIG thank you to the Downers Grove Rotary Club for a $500 donation to our 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program (1KBK). This generous donation purchased 100 copies of *A is for Apple*, a great board book for our early readers! *A is for Apple* is an interactive alphabet book that encourages children to run their fingers along tracks to trace each letter. Letter recognition is an extremely important step in early literacy and preparing children to read. The first 100 new registrants to the 1KBK program will receive a copy of *A is for Apple* along with their registration kit. Make 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten a 2021 New Year’s resolution! Start today at dglibrary.org/just-for-kids.

**New Anything Emporium Art Kits**
Check out new Art Kits that were funded in part by a generous grant from the Downers Grove Junior Woman’s Club. These Anything Emporium Kits are filled with the supplies needed to explore a variety of mediums.

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<tr>
<th>Art Kit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Painting Kit with Easel</td>
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<td>Comic Book Making Kit</td>
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<td>Wooden Weaving Loom</td>
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<td>LED Tracer Light Box</td>
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<td>Pixel Art Kit with Perler Sequins</td>
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<td>Drawing Stencils</td>
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<td>Art Spinner</td>
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<td>Spiral Art Kit</td>
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<td>Twin 4M Doodling Robots</td>
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For Teens:

**Maker Mondays 2 Go**
Grades 7–12. A new activity every Monday! Check the events calendar to see upcoming projects.

**Pickup Programs**
Grades 7–12. Register for a program kit on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Participants will receive a bag with supplies and instructions to complete the activity. Check out the events calendar for specific programs each month.

For Adults:

**So Many New Tax Laws: What You Need to Know NOW**
Tues., Jan. 19, 6:30 p.m.
Join Judi Strauss to learn the new tax law changes and how they affect your 2020 taxes.

Virtual Programming for Businesses:

With partner Indian Prairie Public Library

**How to Understand PPP Loans for Business**
Tues., Jan. 26, 7:00 p.m.
Robert Steiner, District Director of the Illinois District of the SBA, and Ute Westphal from the SBDC discuss the Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Program and new information that will be helpful for your business.

**DIY Marketing Graphics for Any Skill Level**
Tues., Feb. 9, 1:30 p.m.
Are you an entrepreneur who needs high-quality DIY graphics in your marketing tool kit but struggles with the know-how? Learn from business coach Julie Kittredge.

Job Workshops:

With partner People’s Resource Center

**Resumes vs. Robots**
Thurs., Feb. 4, 10:00 a.m.

**Manage Stress During the Job Search**
Thurs., Feb. 18, 10:00 a.m.
Winter Bingo
Jan. 4 - Feb. 28

Looking for something to do during the winter months from the comfort of your home? All ages are invited to join the library’s Winter Bingo! Win prizes and raffle tickets by reading and completing fun activities. Prize pickup begins in March. Bingo cards will be available digitally and in print for Kids, Teens, and Adults. Visit dglibrary.org/bingo to play!

Lift Every Voice During Black History Month

During Black History Month, visit the DGPL website and explore recorded poetry readings, discussions, and other video programs covering themes such as the freedom struggle; Black identities; Black experience in history and memory, Black language and music; family and community. Media Library provided by Lift Every Voice: Why African American Poetry Matters, a national public humanities initiative of Library of America in partnership with The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Staff Anniversaries

5 years:
Anthony Jones, Circulation
Kelly Kobayashi, Circulation
Allyson Renell, Children’s Services

10 Years:
Sandra Feuillan, Circulation

15 Years:
Suzanne Thomas, Children’s Services
Diane Jakosz, Children’s Services
Suzy Miller, Adult & Teen Services

20 Years:
Annie Jagielski, Information Technology

New Cover to Cover Podcasts

Go behind the scenes and hear about the Organization of the Month at DGPL with this monthly podcast.

January – Book Review: The Devil in the Dark Water by Stuart Turton.
February – Movie Review: The Donut King.

Both titles can be found without holds on Hoopla with a DGPL library card.

Cover to Cover is produced in the library’s media lab. Listen on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, or on the library’s website at dglibrary.org/cover-to-cover-podcast.

Discoveries brings news of services and activities at the Downers Grove Public Library
Julie M. Milavec, Library Director
Brian Ruane, Editor
Grace Goodwyn, Graphic Designer

Questions or comments? Email us at publicrelations@dglibrary.org

Library Board of Trustees
Jonathan Graber, President
David Humphreys, Secretary
Carissa Dougherty
Swapna S. Gigani
Barnali Khuntia
Kim Stapleton

The Board of Library Trustees meets Wednesdays, January 27 and February 24 at 7:30 p.m. Agendas, complete meeting information, and recordings of past meetings are available online.

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