Library Closings

All WRL facilities will close at 5 p.m. on Nov. 21 and will remain closed Nov. 22-23 for the Thanksgiving holiday. You can always find digital items to check out at www.wrl.org.

Movies About Food

11/1 - Eat Drink Man Woman
11/8 - Babette's Feast
11/15 - Big Night
11/20 - Soul Food*
11/29 - Who is Killing the Great Chefs of Europe?

*Special Tuesday Screening

All programs begin at 2 p.m. in the Williamsburg Library Theatre. Find complete film descriptions on our calendar at www.wrl.org/events/films.

Children of the French Revolution

What happened to the orphaned children of Marie Antoinette in the tumult of post-Revolutionary France? Hear what history, rumor, and DNA can tell us about what happened after the guillotine.

11/6, 2 p.m., Stryker Center

The Library Building Survey saw a high level of public engagement from residents of James City County (69.01%), the City of Williamsburg (19.84%), and York County (10%). Over 75% of survey respondents indicate a preference for using the Williamsburg Library (515 Scotland Street) due to its proximity to their home, work, or school. The highest user satisfaction rankings for the Williamsburg Library building are all location driven; including the proximity to downtown Williamsburg, the convenience of the location, and the accessibility of the building. The majority of users indicate that they use the downtown location in combination with trips to Merchant Square and Colonial Williamsburg. The emphasis on the existing location was also the most often voiced concern in the community focus group conversations with more than 100 attendees.

Citizens also shared why the downtown library location is important in over 4000 comments describing where they went before and after their most recent library visit. People told us that they usually visit the downtown library in combination with other downtown activities, primarily shopping, errands, eating, attending events, and walking in Merchant Square, Colonial Williamsburg, and adjacent corridors. These responses indicated the library is an important downtown economic anchor and driver. In turn, the convenient downtown location also clearly drives people to visit the library and makes the library a more vibrant and busy community hub. In response to a final open ended question about library buildings, respondents from all jurisdictions added another 321 comments expressing how much they value the existing downtown location.

Parking emerged as the third most important finding after location and the economic impact of library use. Almost half of the respondents indicated that a lack of parking has impacted their use of the Williamsburg facility. Many users commented they avoid visiting the library during peak times or have left without visiting because there was no accessible parking. On-site parking was also listed as the number one most desirable important feature of a new library.

Although many users shared that they love and are happy with the library, many others expressed a desire for a larger and better facility. Users with mobility issues, young families with children, teens, and people seeking comfortable or quiet places to sit or work all expressed frustration with the current building. The top ranked features people would like to see in a new building are primarily features not available in the existing location, including ample on-site parking, natural light, an accessible interior and sustainable energy-efficient design, and a large up-to-date building. Conversely, one of the traits people valued the most about the existing library is the diversity of users and the sense of a shared, vibrant community hub where everyone comes together.

The Junior Woman’s Club of Williamsburg recently hosted "Brews that Benefit," an annual event presented in partnership with Alewerks to raise money for local nonprofit organizations. This year the Friends of Williamsburg Regional Library Foundation was selected as the beneficiary, and thanks to their hard work and your support this event was a great success.

The Friends of WRL Foundation was also able to set up a table at the event to share information about some of our latest initiatives with the community. We spread the word about great programs like STEAM Saturdays, the Dewey Decibel Concert Series, and more. Thanks to everyone who came out!
Featured Events for Kids

STEAM Saturdays – Thankful for Chemistry
11/17, 1-4 p.m., James City County Library
Decorations, dishwashers, and decadent desserts – discover why you should be thankful for chemistry this Thanksgiving as Professor Tyler teaches and demonstrates the colors, tastes, and materials of everyone’s favorite November holiday.

Family Fort Night
11/19, 5:30-7 p.m., Williamsburg Library
Pick out a book, then build a fort to snuggle inside and share stories. Bring a flashlight and blankets or towels for your fort. Registration at 757.259.4050. For ages 4+; children must be accompanied by at least one adult.

The Nutcracker Suite
11/17, 1 p.m., Williamsburg Library
It’s time once again to enjoy the loveliest of holiday traditions as the Concert Ballet of Virginia presents The Nutcracker Suite. The bright, colorful costumes and exciting, enthusiastic performances are sure to delight kids of all ages.

Check out all this month’s great kids events and more at www.wrl.org/kids.

Featured Events for Teens

Learn to Make Beats!
11/10, 12 p.m., James City County Library
Learn to make digital music on a laptop in this workshop presented by Sean Slaughter of Life Power Music Mentoring. Register at 757.259.4050.

Bubble Tea & Anime
11/11, 2 p.m., Williamsburg Library
Make your own bubble tea and join us to watch popular anime episodes. Register at 757.259.4050; for ages 11-18.

Teen Writing Lounge
11/18, 2-3:30 p.m., Williamsburg Library
Join other teens for creative exercises and writing prompts in a relaxed setting.

Tabletop Thursdays
11/29, 6-8 p.m., James City County Library
Bring your Magic the Gathering or Yu-Gi-Oh decks, or simply join other teens for other popular board games.

Check out all this month’s great teen events and more at www.wrl.org/teens.

Featured Events for Adults

Rock Out and Color to Hamilton
11/6, 3 p.m., Stryker Center
Listen to the Broadway smash Hamilton and color in this fun program for teens and adults.

Dewey Decibel Concert Series
Various Dates, 7:30 p.m., Williamsburg Library
Join us on 11/2 for Nordic Fiddlers, a trio that masterfully blends the traditions of Norway, Sweden, and the Shetland Islands. Then on 11/29, Ford’s Colony Dance Band will return to the stage for a special “Happy Holidays” concert. Check www.wrl.org/dewey for ticket info.

Centuries of Art @ Your Library Series
11/5, 7:30 p.m., James City County Library
Join us for “First Impressions: A Brief History of Early Illustrated Texts.” Learn about the techniques of relief and intaglio printing, and the artists and printers who were essential to the progression of this art form.

A Visit from Bacon’s Castle
11/13, 2 p.m., James City County Library
For over 350 years Bacon’s Castle has been home to fascinating individuals. We’ll discuss them, including Nathaniel Bacon and his rebels.

Celtic Film Series: Michael Collins
11/15, 7 p.m., Williamsburg Library
Join us in this relaxing program for adults with early memory loss and their care partners to meet and learn about this month’s topic: the Macys Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Getaway Café: The Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade
11/16, 2 p.m., James City County Library
Every year, the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade brings us all together! Join us in this relaxing program for adults with early memory loss and their care partners to meet and learn about this month’s topic: the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade.

The Lost Colony of Roanoke
11/20, 2 p.m., Stryker Center
Where did they end up? What does “Croatoan” signify? Nicholas Luccikki offers clues on the possible relocation of the Roanoke settlers of 1585.

Find all of this month’s library programs & classes at www.wrl.org/events.

Share Your Story this NaNoWriMo

Do you have a story inside of you that you’ve been dying to put to paper? Whether it’s the next bestseller, the Great American Novel, or just a fun idea that’s been floating around your head, there’s no better time to finally sit down and get to work than National Novel Writing Month.

WRL is here to help you through the process. Bring your ideas and writing gear each Monday in November to the James City County Library from 6-9 p.m. Each event will feature a speaker for the first half, then participants are invited to visit and write!

How to Get Published (11/5) -- Our first event will feature Dawn Brotherton, an award-winning author and featured speaker at writing and publishing seminars. Though this is the first talk in our series, Dawn will be discussing the last step in the writing process: the pros and of various publishing methods, including self-publishing, indie publishing, and trade publishing.

The Discipline of Writing (11/12) -- Our second event will feature Peter Stipe, a local author who has enjoyed a long and varied career that included fourteen years in education as a public high school history teacher and track coach. Drawing on his background as a teacher, Peter will discuss the discipline of writing.

Researching Your Topic (11/19) -- For our third event, Cindy L. Freeman will offer tips and tricks to research your topic. Although writing fiction is a lifelong passion for Cindy, she didn’t become an author until after the age of sixty, proving that it’s never too late to start chasing your dreams.

Plots and Characters (11/26) -- For our final event, Susan Williamson will help you find inspiration and ideas for your plot and characters. Susan’s life has been defined by her twin passions for writing and horses, and she will share how her own experiences have helped shape her writing.

You're More Creative Than You Think You Are

Do you want to build your crafting skills or develop new expertise? With WRL’s subscription to CreativeBug from Joann, WRL cardholders have an all-access, no-boundaries pass to explore 1,000+ video classes on sewing, art and design, quilting, knitting, crochet, jewelry, paper crafts, food and home, and more. Crafters of all levels can work alongside instructors to learn new techniques or build on existing skills. CreativeBug videos are produced by renowned artists and creative experts. Instructors bring a lifetime of practice, passion, and proven teaching methods. Get started making today with WRL and CreativeBug at www.wrl.org/create.