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## Free Perks That Come with Your Westchester Library Card

9/18/17 - By Susan Miele (User/15636)

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If your library card hasn't left your wallet in a while, it may be time to pry it from its confines and put it to use.

More than a means to borrow books, your Westchester library card is your ticket to a host of privileges that you might not even know about. **September** (<https://mommypoppins.com/kids/september-go-list-the-best-things-to-do-with-kids-in-westchester>) is Library Card Sign-Up Month, so take this opportunity to get one for each member of your family if you haven't already. Read on to see what you might be missing—and it's a lot more than just reading!

Looking for more helpful insight that helps you stay in the know with all things kid-related? Sign up for our newsletters (<https://mommypoppins.us2.list-manage.com/subscribe?MERGEO=&u=bdct1aa2618e8751c4b2b6acf6&id=51ccfd15a8&submit=Sign+Up>) and follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/MommyPoppinsWestchester/>).



The Boscobel House and Garden is just one of many venues that can be accessed for FREE by borrowing a pass from participating libraries. Photo: Christi O'Donnell, for MommyPoppins.com

**FREE museum passes:** Library card-holders can sign out various museum membership cards to gain not only free admission but full privileges of members, such as discounts in the gift shops. Memberships vary by library, but common ones include the **American Museum of Natural History** (<https://mommypoppins.com/newyorkcitykids/5-fun-finds-in-the-american-museum-of-natural-history>), the **Hudson River Museum**, **Katonah Museum of Art**, **Neuberger Museum of Art** (<https://mommypoppins.com/westchester-museums-kids-family-workshops-hudson-river-museum-katonah-neuberger>), **Storm King Art Center** (<https://mommypoppins.com/kids/storm-king-art-center-new-windsor-outdoor-art-gallery>), **Boscobel House and Garden** (<https://mommypoppins.com/westchester-kids/museums/a-peaceful-trip-back-in-time-at-boscobel-house-and-gardens>), **Stepping Stones Children's Museum** (<http://www.stepsstonesmuseum.org/PlanYourVisit/HoursandAdmission/tabid/164/Default.asp>), **Children's Museum of Manhattan** (<https://mommypoppins.com/ny-kids/childrens-museum-of-manhattan>), **The Guggenheim** (<http://www.guggenheim.org/new-york/visit>) and the **Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum**. (<http://www.intrepidmuseum.org/Plan-Your-Visit.aspx>).

**Downloadable eBooks, Audiobooks and Music:** From comic books to audiobooks, movies to streaming music, your library card allows access to a vast **array of multimedia** (<http://www.westchesterlibraries.org/listen-read/>) while in the library or at home. Features that are specifically for kids include talking picture books, reading-comprehension quizzes and educational games, as well as **NovelList K-8 Plus** (<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?authType=ip.cpid&custid=wls&profile=novpk8>), which offers reading recommendations, series information, book reviews and more.

**Borrow the Unexpected:** Besides books, DVDs and music media, some libraries lend ... surprises. The Harrison Public Library, for one, loans its patrons a **telescope** (<http://www.harrisonpl.org/borrow-the-library-telescope>), **knitting needles and badminton sets** (<http://www.harrisonpl.org/library-of-things>). The Lewisboro Library lends **fishing equipment** (<http://www.lewisborolibrary.org/services.htm>), as well as **"Discovery Backpacks"**

**Chess with an**  
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**kids%2Fevent**  
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Pound Ridge Library ·

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[http://www.lewisborolibrary.org/children.htm#Discovery\\_Backpacks](http://www.lewisborolibrary.org/children.htm#Discovery_Backpacks))—preloaded with fun that's ideal for car trips and rainy days. [The Somers Library](http://www.somerslibrary.org/specialcollections.asp) (<http://www.somerslibrary.org/specialcollections.asp>) loans cake pans, cookie cutters, scrapbooking kits, bongo drums, ukuleles and more (even "borrow" heirloom seeds), and the Warner Library in Tarrytown loans [Kindles and Nooks](http://www.warnerlibrary.org/special-collections-services) (<http://www.warnerlibrary.org/special-collections-services>). Check with your library to find out what your local branch entitles you to.



*Get with the times and take advantage of 3D printers at local libraries!*

**3D Printing:** Some libraries offer periodic programs that provide training in the use of their 3D printer, while others, including the Riverfront branch of the Yonkers Public Library, allow card-holders to [utilize its 3D printer](https://www.ypl.org/3dprinting/) (<https://www.ypl.org/3dprinting/>) on other occasions as well (some branches charge a fee for this service). Slightly less high-tech, libraries also offer the use of their in-house computers, Wi-Fi, Internet access and, at least in some cases, scanning—all FREE.

**Foster a Love of Learning on ABCmouse.com:** (<http://abcmouse.com/home-check-out>) This interactive site—which typically requires a paid subscription—stimulates young minds to prepare them for pre-K through elementary school through fun activities. Use this in the library or from home. They won't even realize that they're learning!

**Online Learning for Older Kids:** Learn about fashion design or prepare for your road test with an additional assortment of [online learning tools](http://www.westchesterlibraries.org/learn-online/) (<http://www.westchesterlibraries.org/learn-online/>).

**Homework Help:** Many libraries offer after-school homework help at scheduled times, including having teen tutors help younger learners. Additionally, Yonkers card-holders, for one, can access [online tutoring](https://www.ypl.org/homework/) (<https://www.ypl.org/homework/>) in various subjects.

**Battle of the Books** (<http://www.westchesterlibraries.org/bob/>): Kids in grades 4-10 can rev their literary engines in these biblio-trivia tournaments that some libraries participate in, with teams competing against teams from other libraries. Reading becomes a social and recreational event, particularly appealing to game-lovers and those with a competitive bent. The Summer Reading Games, meanwhile, keep kids reading all summer, with themes, special events and prizes.

## ACTIVITY

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Westchester's libraries also, of course, have a plethora of children's programs and storytimes all year round. Photo taken by the author.

**Reserve a Room:** The Larchmont Public Library, among others, allows patrons to [reserve a room in the library](http://www.larchmontlibrary.org/reserve-a-room-faqs/) (<http://www.larchmontlibrary.org/reserve-a-room-faqs/>) for private use. While using this space for birthday parties isn't quite the right fit, kids can form study groups and book clubs or use the space just for game-playing and meetups.

**Get Product Ratings from Consumer Reports:** Buying a stroller, a booster seat or other kid items? Consult the ratings in this [highly reputable resource](http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?authtype=ip.cpid&custid=sho&profile=eon) (<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?authtype=ip.cpid&custid=sho&profile=eon>) (which requires a paid subscription to access but is FREE to card-holders) to learn about the reliability, safety, efficiency and value before purchasing.

**Yet More:** The Bronxville Library maintains a binder of nanny want-ads, and the White Plains Public Library is on track to open a café.

## Free Events

Much more than storytime, Westchester libraries have offered kids of varying ages workshops in everything from crocheting and cooking to coding and Pilates. Some libraries have offered evening drop-off programs (even sleepovers!) to encourage parents to have a local date night.

In keeping pace with the times, recent offerings have included 3D printing and slime-making. Seasonal offerings help kids make holiday decorations or gifts for Mother's Day and Father's Day, while some quirkier favorites have included Zombie Night (librarians dress up like zombies and engage in a chase with tweens) and Dance Like a Chicken Day (yep, that actually happened). And with STEAM programming on everyone's mind, you'll find loads of these for the choosing, as well as chess clubs, bilingual activities and just about anything you can think of.

Of course, the best way to keep abreast of library activities is via our [Event Calendar](https://mommypoppins.com/events?area%5B%5D=120) (<https://mommypoppins.com/events?area%5B%5D=120>), as we comb through all 38 branches of the Westchester library system to bring you the best programs we can find.

- [Community](#)  
(%2Fcategory%2Fcommunity)
- [Crafts & Recipes](#)  
(%2Fcategory%2Fcrafts-recipes)
- [Easter](#)  
(%2Fcategory%2Ffeast)
- [Fairs & Festivals](#)  
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The Trove at the White Plains Public Library is one example of the inviting rooms tailored to young visitors. Photo courtesy of White Plains Public Library.

## Sign Me Up

All this and more are available to library card holders. Sign not only yourself but your kids up for their own card. Librarians typically offer an assortment of age-appropriate graphics to choose from, so little ones will love their card. Cards expire after three years (regardless of recent activity) so be sure to keep yours current!

Top photo courtesy of the White Plains Public Library.

## Related Articles



[Children's Museum of Manhattan \(/ny-kids/childrens-museum-of-manhattan\)](#)



[5 Fun Finds at the American Museum of Natural History \(/newyorkcitykids/5-fun-finds-in-the-american-museum-of-natural-history\)](#)



[September GoList: The Best Things to Do With Kids in Westchester \(/kids/september-go-list-the-best-things-to-do-with-kids-in-westchester\)](#)



[3 Westchester Museums with Cool Kids' Programming \(/westchester-museums-kids-family-workshops-hudson-river-museum-katonah-neuberger\)](#)

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## "Groundbreaking" of Supply Field Interim Library Marks a Major Step in Renovation of Scarsdale Library

VILLAGE VOICES PUBLISHED ON WEDNESDAY, 04 OCTOBER 2017 13:14 JOANNE WALLENSTEIN



After seven years of studies, architectural drawings, discussion, village board approval, and a "quiet" phase of the fundraising campaign, the Scarsdale Public Library took a major step toward its renovation and upgrading with the

From left: Dara Gruenberg, President, Friends of the Library and Co-Chair, Campaign for Excellence; Elizabeth Bernel, Library Director; Diane Greenwald, President, Library Board of Trustees; Mayor Dan Hochvert; Betty Pforzheimer, co-chair, Campaign for Excellence; Jane Veron, Village Trustee; Bob Steves, co-chair, Campaign for Excellence; Assemblywoman Amy Paulin; Village Trustees Carl Finger, Deborah Pekarek and Marc Samwick.

"groundbreaking" on Tuesday morning at the Supply Field building that will serve as a temporary library during construction.

Speakers at the celebratory gathering that included village trustees and officials, current and former library board trustees and supporters, praised the co-operative efforts of the Library Board Trustees, Friends of the Library and the village and its staff for making a transformed library a reality.

Special praise was given to Scarsdale Assemblywoman Amy Paulin why secured \$500,000 in state funding for work to prepare the Supply Field building for use as the interim facility.

"I know I share with all of you a goal to leave Scarsdale better than we found it, and Supply Field is a concrete step that makes lasting improvements possible for the library and Scarsdale Village," said Diane Greenwald, Library Board President.

Calling Scarsdale "special," Paulin thanked those involved "for taking on the initiative." She recalled the day seven years ago when a group came to her office to discuss the project. "I was uncertain it would happen," she said, "but you continued, and this is where we are today."

Dara Gruenberg, President of the Friends of the Library and co-chair of the Campaign for Excellence, noted that to date the campaign has raised \$5.7 million toward its goal of \$7.5 million which would initiate the village bonding the rest of the cost. She said the event kicked-off the public phase of the Campaign for Excellence fund-raising.

"I'm honored to live in a community that comes together and invests in such a critical resource that will benefit so many, not only right now, but for generations to come," Gruenberg said.

An emotional Elizabeth Bermel, Library Director, who noted that this week marks her eighth anniversary in Scarsdale, thanked the library staff and all those who "have been on this journey with me." She said Library Loft, the name for the interim facility, is scheduled for completion in early spring and the move from Olmstead Road library would take place when ground is broken at that facility.

At Supply Field "we will offer new and popular materials for all ages, wi-fi access, circulation services, and the same great personal service and more." Plans include increasing the library's online presence and providing programs offsite for children, teens and adults. "Stay tuned to learn more as our plans solidify," she said.

Scarsdale Mayor Dan Hochvert recalled his introduction to a library in the 1940s by his older sister in their hometown of Buffalo. There were books and silence, no meeting spaces, cellphones or internet, he recalled. "The world has changed, but people need to have space to work together." He thanked the village staff and library groups and said of Paulin, "we have a state representative in Scarsdale who knows when we need help and gets it for us."

[Link here](#) for information about the Library Transformation Campaign for Excellence.

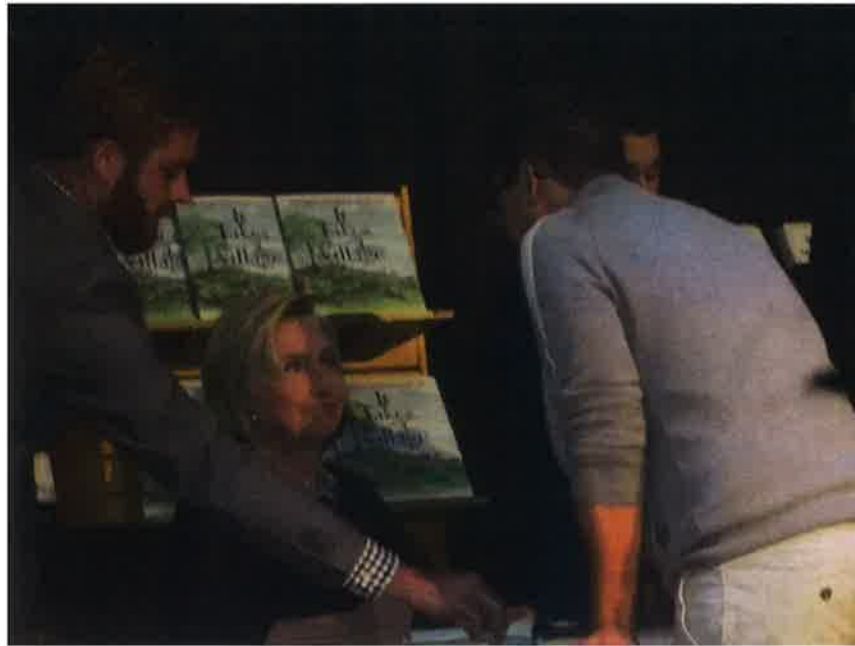


Library Director Elizabeth Bermel celebrated her eighth anniversary at the Scarsdale Library.

POLITICS 09/23/2017

# Hillary Clinton Draws Big Crowd At Hometown Book Signing In Westchester

 Sam Barron



Hillary Clinton signs books at the Chappaqua Library. Photo Credit: *Sam Barron*



CHAPPAQUA, N.Y. -- About 1,000 people showed up at the Chappaqua Library Saturday as hometown resident Hillary Clinton signed copies of her new book "What Happened."

Clinton, who arrived just before 3 p.m., was greeted with a large ovation. She took photos with dancers who had made a video in her honor (<http://chappaqua.dailyvoice.com/politics/hillary-clinton-meets-pleasantville-dancers-who-made-her-smile/722330/>) before sitting down to sign books.

The book discusses Clinton's failed run for president in 2016. The Democratic nominee lost to Republican Donald Trump. Clinton also signed copies of her new children's book "It Takes A Village."

Nirit Rosenblum, a Chappaqua resident, was there to show her daughters and her son, what a strong woman looks like. Rosenblum said the book has helped her cope with the election.

"I want to thank her inspiring my daughters," Rosenblum said. "She makes you realize that you can make a difference."



Karen Holdridge, a Chappaqua resident, and Christine Bates said they were excited and nervous to meet Clinton for the first time.

"We need her leadership," Holdridge said. "She means the future on so many levels."

Bates said she was processing everything Clinton has meant to her.

State Sen. George Latimer, the Democratic nominee for Westchester County Executive, was on hand to get his copy of the book signed. He said it's great to have someone like the Clintons as a neighbor.

"She's terrific," Latimer, who worked with Clinton when she was a U.S. senator representing New York. "She's so easygoing and nice.

Not everyone was happy to see Clinton. Two protestors stood across the street wearing "Hillary For Prison" shirts. Amy, who came from New Jersey and declined to give her last name, criticized Clinton for her handling of the Benghazi incident and for receiving debate questions in advance.

"No one is above the law," Amy said. "It's dangerous to let someone like her walk the street."

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## Library News: Scarsdale Library Receives Grant and Unsold Books Donated to Charity

BULLETIN BOARD PUBLISHED ON THURSDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2017 09:46 JOANNE WALLENSTEIN



The Scarsdale Foundation's \$50,000 grant to Scarsdale Public Library for its transformative renovation helped the Campaign for Excellence reach a new milestone with over \$5 million committed in gifts and pledges. "A great Village needs a great library!" said Foundation

President Emily Sherwood, "so it seemed only right that the Scarsdale Foundation partner in advancing a project that defines the spirit of Scarsdale." The Scarsdale Foundation's mission supports institutions and individuals that encourage educational and human development and mutual understanding. The grant will be matched by generous donors effectively doubling its impact with construction scheduled to begin in 2018.

### Where Do Unsold Book Sale Materials Go? To Numerous Charities

Every year the book sale organized by the Friends of the Scarsdale Library sells thousands of books to raise funds to support expanded library programs. And every year there are unsold copies as our community donates many books. This year, the Friends along with Steve and Barbara Kessler came up with a plan to donate the unsold books to not-for-profits and senior citizen homes. Steve is a Library Trustee and Barbara is a former librarian and current library volunteer.

Members of the Friends and Library Trustees are contacting charities they know to see if they would like donated books. The response has been wonderful and bookshelves in numerous locations will have many additional fiction and non-fiction books.

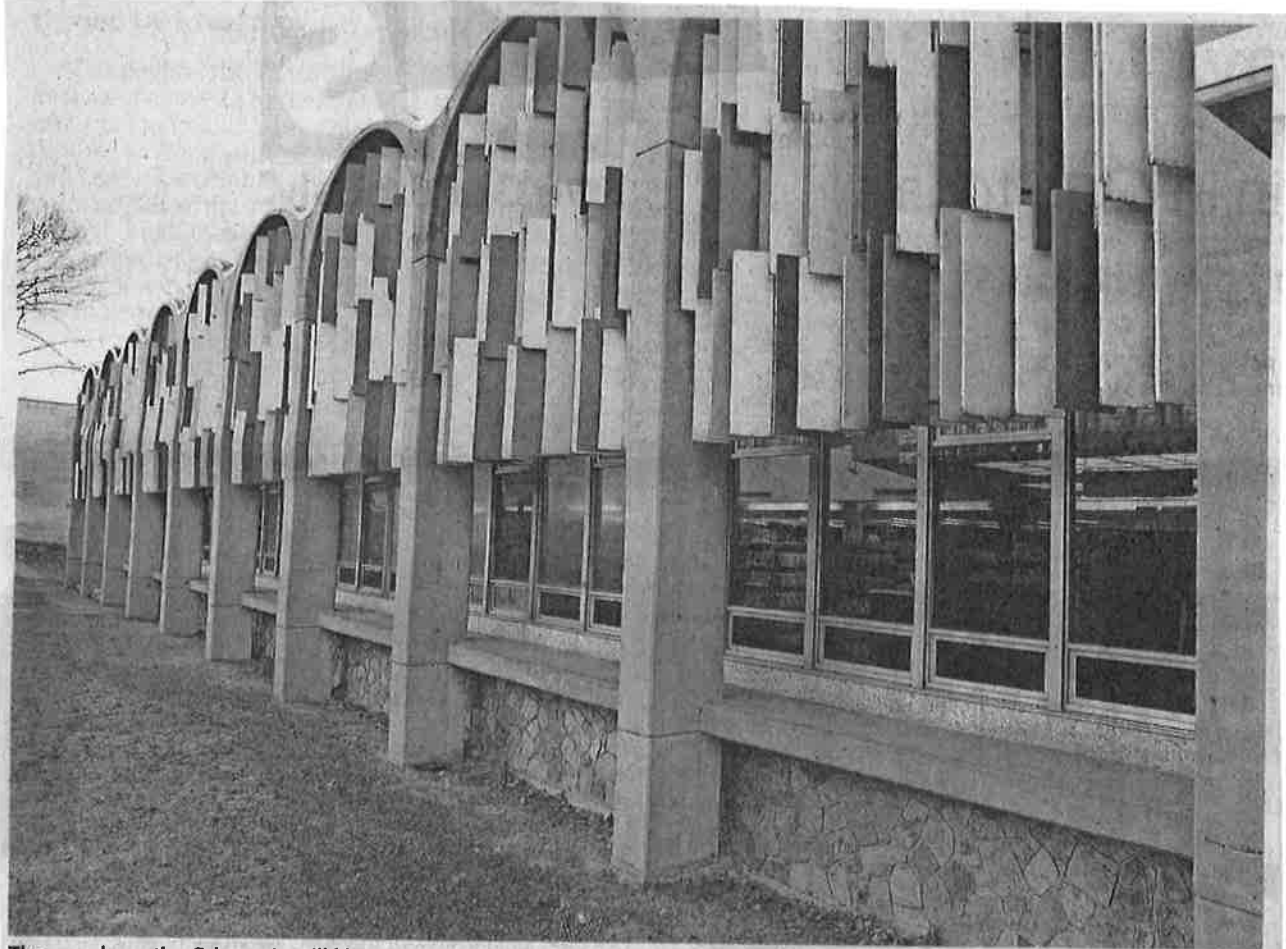
The books will be available to all not-for-profits through Friday, September 22, and can be picked up at the Scarsdale Library.

Among the organizations and institutions receiving books are: P.S. 43 in the Mott Haven section of the South Bronx, White Plains Hospital, The Riverdale Atria, The Denver Jewish Community School. The Bronx VA Hospital is being contacted.

# The Journal News

LOCAL NEWS

Wednesday, September 20, 2017



The panels on the Grinton I. Will library in Yonkers have been there since the 1960s. MARK VERGARI/THE JOURNAL NEWS

## Library's panels to become art

**ERNIE GARCIA**  
ELGARCIA@LOHUD.COM

Some of the multi-colored shades that have been removed from the Yonkers Public Library's Will branch will become art.

Officials have saved about 50 pieces of the 1960s-era panels from the Grinton I. Will Library at 1500 Central Park Ave.

They are being stored in a garage for a future art project, according to the library Board of Trustees' September Joint Management Re-

port.

Yonkers Public Library director Edward Falcone could not be reached for comment about what kind of art the panels could become because he is out of the office all week.

The first phase of the Will branch's renovation includes \$1.8 million of work by Milcon Construction of West Babylon, New York.

The Will branch needs new windows, insulation and repairs to its concrete, which has cracks and oth-

er damage.

The first phase of the work will focus on the front of the building and part of the southern side where the children's library is located.

The first phase of the work is projected to extend until January because architects are waiting for drawings to be submitted for the windows and the new panels, which has delayed the work, according to the Joint Management Report.

Twitter: @ErnieJourno