

Thrall Library Times

What's New & Interesting at Middletown Thrall Library!

Spring 2020 Edition

"Stay near me - do not take thy flight! A little longer stay in sight!" William Wordsworth, "To a Butterfly"

A Special Message to Our Patrons Matt Pfisterer Thrall's Director

As we continue our public health quarantine I want to take a moment to express my good wishes along with the good wishes of our library staff, Board of Trustees and Friends of Middletown Thrall Library for the safety and wellbeing of every member of our community.

For all of us here at the Library social distancing is extremely difficult because we miss seeing all of you in our library building on a regular basis. We have formed strong bonds with our patrons as we have assisted you with all of your information and entertainment needs.

The good news is that while we are physically and socially distant the Library is still keeping our community connected to valuable and important information resources at our website www.thrall.org.

Updated daily by our team of incredibly knowledgeable and helpful librarians, our website is your gateway to downloading e-books and e-audiobooks directly onto your smartphone or tablet.

Additionally, our website provides access to databases where you can search for a truly incredible amount of information on a number of topics of interest including literature, law, education, science, consumer information and employment.

We are also attempting to reach out to our community via our social media page on Facebook. You can locate our Facebook page by searching for "Middletown Thrall Library" on Google or Facebook. There is also a link to the page on the Library's website.

The Library's Facebook page (www.thrall.org/fb) is where you will find informative posts by our very own "Quarantine Librarian" who has posted demonstrations of how to watch movies using Kanopy and how to

download e-books and e-audiobooks using Overdrive. We will also be posting special story times and book talks on this page.

Please understand that your library is still here for you during this difficult time just like we have been for well over 100 years!

Please take advantage of all of the valuable resources we are making available to you at this time and know that we are all really looking forward to the time when we can see you all again at the library!

Until then, stay safe and strong Middletown!

From Our Head of Reference Services Mary Susan Flannery Climes

No Worries!

Do you still have books you borrowed from Thrall or another RCLS library? If you do, well, in the wise and timely words of Douglas Adams' classic sci-fi novel *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, we would just like to say, "Don't panic!"

You're **not going to owe ANY late fees whatsoever!** When Thrall reopens in the not-so-distant future, you can confidently return your library items with the knowledge that **they will be considered "on time."**

Thrall@Home

www.thrall.org/athome

"Thrall at home" is a new menu we designed for **members of Thrall** so you can quickly and easily explore a sizable selection of **free services and resources they can access completely - for free - at home!** Included here are *Rosetta Stone*, *Kanopy streaming videos* for all ages and tastes, **RCLS OverDrive eBooks**, **Universal Class**, and *tons more!*

Thrall@Home (continued)

Since a number of these services do **require you to log in with your library card number**, please have that handy and be sure to enter your number without any spaces. If you're ever asked for a **PIN number**, that will be the **last four digits of your telephone number**, unless you changed it.

Thrall at Home is a permanent part of our website, and we hope you enjoy discovering the many informative, powerful, and entertaining offerings there!

Busy, Busy, Busy!

While the library has been closed due to the pandemic, staff members have been very busy working "behind the scenes" and remotely to make sure your library remains functional, vital, and current.

Our **Reference librarians** continue to develop the **library's collections** in all subject areas, from fiction to nonfiction.

Our **RCLS OverDrive eBook collections** have grown accordingly as well so more of you can access popular titles and enjoy many of the very latest titles available.

We've been **answering patrons questions online** submitted through our **Ask a Librarian** service (www.thrall.org/ask).

We've continued developing our popular **Future Title Watch** flyers online (www.thrall.org/future) with all the latest and greatest fiction and nonfiction works being published. We also posted the latest **Spring 2020 edition** of our quarterly **Beyond the Bestsellers** publication (www.thrall.org/btb) online so you can explore notable books and authors not necessarily found on bestseller lists.

We've been blogging (www.thrall.org/blogs), updating our **Health Blog**, **Booklovers blog** (be sure to check out our **National Poetry Month** posts), our **Environment blog**, and more.

We've also been updating our online information guides (www.thrall.org/guides) with new links and resources, including our **Election 2020 guide** (www.thrall.org/election2020), **Ready Reference Center** (thrall.org/readyref), our **Women's History** (thrall.org/whm) guide, and our **Coronavirus guide**...

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guide www.thrall.org/corona

While most of us have probably heard more than we ever wanted about COVID-19, there are, in fact, *many* other important aspects of this crisis worth everyone's attention, since the situation now involves things beyond strictly health-based concerns, such as **unemployment**, the **economy**, **disinformation**, **free services**, and **psychological wellness**.

Our guide, which ranks among the most current and comprehensive directories of COVID-19 information online, includes information of interest to **job seekers, students, parents and guardians, small business employers and entrepreneurs, educators, researchers, consumers, and others**.

In addition to key **federal, state, and local government information, new, and advisories**, our guide includes these categories:

- **Business, Economy, Personal Finances**
- **Critical Thinking, Scams, Fact-Checking**
- **Free Services & Resources**
- **International Info. & Orgs.**
- **Maps of Coronavirus Cases**
- **Media & News Coverage**
- **Medical Literature: Journals & More**
- **Psychological Aspects of Coronavirus: Mental Health & Wellness Resources**
- **Resources for Researchers & Students**
- **Terminology**

As the Internet itself has suffered a **parallel informational epidemic**, with **disinformation, conspiracy theories**, and **bad health advice** spreading daily from all directions, our guide also exists to help *you* protect *yourself* from **scams**, to navigate the very complex conversations surrounding COVID-19, and to begin doing your own **fact-checking**.

From Our Government Information Librarian

The rapidly evolving situation with the Novel Coronavirus has resulted in not only an unprecedented shutdown of American businesses and schools, but also a number of **State and Federal Government postponements and deadline extensions**.

For those desiring an **Enhanced or REAL Driver's License**, but have not yet acquired one, you now have a full **one-year extension** until **October 1, 2021** to get this Federal ID.

And as many are already aware, **the federal as well as state deadline for the filing of income taxes** has also been extended to **July 15, 2020**.

Due to Coronavirus concerns the **New York Board of Elections Presidential Primary** was *cancelled*.

In other election news, Governor Cuomo's **Executive Order 202.15** states "an **absentee ballot can be granted based on temporary illness and shall include the potential for contraction of the COVID-19 virus** for any election held on or before June 23, 2020." It also states, "for any election held on or before June 23, 2020, Section 8-400 of the Election Law is hereby modified to allow for **electronic application, with no requirement for in-person signature or appearance to be able to access an absentee ballot.**" (source: www.governor.ny.gov)

We hope everyone continues to follow the **CDC's Coronavirus guidelines** (CDC.gov) and **stays safe!**