

Director's Corner

Seasons Greetings from VPL!

As we close in on the end of 2023 and the winter season begins, I want to remind our patrons how special this time of year can be. We all tend to think about slippery roads, ice scrapers, and large heating bills when cold weather sets in.

There is another perspective that I hope you will consider. I just moved back to New York after nine years in South Carolina. I won't lie by saying warmer weather isn't nice, but the winter months never felt quite right either. The four seasons remind us of the cycle of life and how we can savor each of them as they arrive.

One of the things I enjoy most about winter is having a good book in a warm house with a hot beverage while watching the snow come down outside. Our library can be a part of that by providing good reading material to-go or a warm place to read and sip a warm drink.

Another of my favorites is taking a walk during (or after) a snowstorm. The snow cover makes the outdoors uniquely serene and clean. With that in mind, this is one of my favorite poems, and I hope you enjoy it as much as I do.

- Michael Herman - VPL Director

Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening BY ROBERT FROST

Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

Displays

Wintery Mix

Pop over to the library and check out our current displays– the forecast for this month includes Wintery Mix, a curation of books and movies perfect for this chilly, festive season. In the Youth Department are more displays featuring books about snowy themes. Over in the New Books section are displays celebrating the 2024 Goodreads Choice Award nominees and the anniversary of Pearl Harbor. Lastly, in the Young Adult section, we are highlighting the Chilly Forecast with suspenseful books of mystery and intrigue.

Therapy Dogs

Read with a Therapy Dog has been (and continues to be) a popular program here at VPL for many years, with only a short pause during the pandemic. Volunteers from Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dogs come every other Monday from September to May to encourage literacy and zen for patrons of all ages. Thank you for your faithful attendance and for letting us read to your furry friends.



Meet the Staff - Kayla

Kayla Bates has worked at VPL for six years. She started as a page shelving books in the youth services department. Through hard work and consistency, Kayla has worked her way up to clerk at our main circulation desk. "I just love the welcoming atmosphere of the library!" Kayla says. Kayla contributes to that welcoming energy daily by helping both patrons and staff. Outside of work, Kayla likes crocheting or watching cartoons. "Currently, I'm watching Adventure Time and reading Sundial by Catriona Ward."

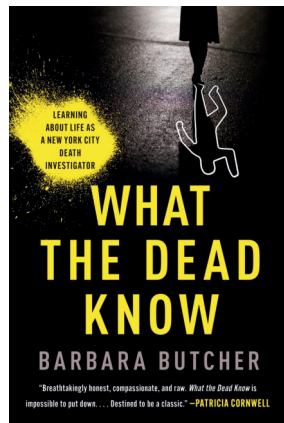


For more information about events check VPL Program Calendars, visit vestalpubliclibrary.org, or call (607)-754-4243

Book Review

What the Dead Know: Learning About Life as a New York City Death Investigator

is the memoir of Barbara Butcher, who worked more than twenty years for the New York City Medical Examiner's Office. It was interesting to learn about what a Death Investigator does and how the job affected the author and her life. A Death Investigator is called to all kinds of dead bodies - murders, suicides, and natural deaths. It was fascinating to learn how they examine the bodies and the clues they look for to understand a person's final moments. Barbara tells about a time when she was almost killed, another case where she was sure a man had been murdered and knew who did it but was unable to prove it, and what happens when a body falls from a great height. She also details what it was like to be in New York City on September 11, 2001, when the Twin Towers fell, and how hard they worked to identify the body parts that were collected in order to give the victim's families some closure. As a recovering alcoholic and one of only a few women in her office, Barbara discusses how her job impacted her personal life in both good and bad ways. She had a very supportive boss who was a mentor and friend, and despite challenging work conditions, earned the respect of her peers and police officers whom she worked alongside. However, the stress of the job and long hours took a toll on her relationships and mental health. Although the book was a bit gruesome and difficult to read in parts, I enjoyed learning how deaths are investigated, and how that job impacts you as a person. - Laura F. - Youth Services Clerk



Preschool Storytime

We had a great Fall Preschool Storytime session! Some special activities included a visit from a momma and baby goat and thanks to Erin Rudolph for bringing goats to the library. Friends enjoyed a sensory pool filled with dried yellow corn at our Yellow theme. Upcoming winter themes will include penguins, pizza, and sleep. Please note that there are coming changes to Preschool Storytime to be on the lookout for in 2024. Preschool Storytimes are moving to Tuesdays, 10:30 am to 11:30 am. We still ask that 4-6-year-olds get a craft ticket from the Youth Desk.



Upcoming Events

- DEC 18** **Elementary Take & Make**
Pick up at 4 PM - YS Desk
Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dogs
6 PM - In Library
VPL Board of Trustees Meeting
6:30 PM - Meeting Room
- DEC 19** **Bookaneers! (ages 7 - 9)**
4 PM - Meeting Room
Read It & Eat (ages 10 - 13)
4 PM - Conference Room
Break-In Bag (ages 12 -18)
3 PM - In Library
- DEC 20** **Board Game Night (all ages)**
6 PM - In Library
FUNshop (ages 16+)
6:15 PM - Meeting Room
Shelf Indulgence
6:30 PM - Conference Room
- DEC 21** **Tiny Tots Storytime**
10 AM - Meeting Room
A4 - All Ages, All Abilities
12 - 2 PM - Meeting Room
Yin Yoga
6 PM - Meeting Room
- DEC 22 - DEC 30** **Book Sale**
Starts 11AM on Friday 12/22
- DEC 26** **Java Joe Jammers**
6 PM - Meeting Room
- DEC 27** **I'd Rather Read YA - Book Club**
6 PM - Virtual
FUNshop (ages 16+)
6:15 PM - Meeting Room
Pins & Needles
6 PM - In Library
- JAN 2** **Lego Club (ages 7 - 12)**
4 - 6 PM - Meeting Room
Shelf Discovery - Book Club
6:30 PM - Conference Room
- JAN 3** **FUNshop (ages 16+)**
6:15 PM - Meeting Room
- JAN 4** **A4 - All Ages, All Abilities**
12 - 2 PM - Meeting Room
Yin Yoga
6 PM - Meeting Room
- JAN 5** **Winter Fort Night (All Ages)**
5 - 7 PM - In Library
- JAN 9** **Preschool Storytime**
10:30 AM - Meeting Room
Mad for Art: Book Lover Canvas
6 PM - Meeting Room
- JAN 10** **Tech Assistance**
10 AM - Vestal Senior Center
Learn to Knit (Ages 12 - 18)
3:30 PM - In Library
Pins & Needles
6 PM - In Library
FUNshop (ages 16+)
6:15 PM - Meeting Room
- JAN 11** **Tiny Tots Storytime**
10 AM - Meeting Room
Yin Yoga
6 PM - Meeting Room
- JAN 12** **Open Game Day (all ages)**
11 AM - 3:30 PM - Meeting Room
- JAN 15** **VPL Board of Trustees Meeting**
6:30 PM - Meeting Room