

The Spotlight



The Bulletin of The Smithtown Library

Volume 32 • Spring 2024

ADVENTURE BEGINS AT YOUR LIBRARY

Summer Reading Programs at The Smithtown Library

First Step to Reading

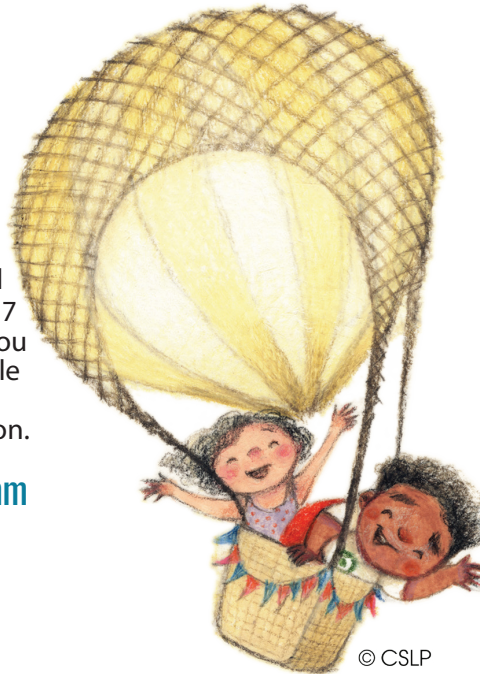
June 17-August 10

Read to your baby and build your baby's early literacy skills. Babies and toddlers from birth through 35 months can participate in this summer program. Stop by the Children's Department of your local library building beginning on June 17 to register and pick up a chart. As you complete 25 activities with your little one, they will earn small prizes and receive a certificate upon completion.

Childrens Summer Reading Program

June 17-August 10

Join in the summer fun at the Library! All readers and pre-readers from age 3 through 5th grade are invited to participate in this year's Children's Summer Reading Program, *Adventure Begins at Your Library*. Visit the Children's Department at your local library building to join starting June 17. Participants will earn prizes for the books they read.



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Teen Summer Reading Program

June 17-August 10

Teens entering grades 6-12 (up to age 18) are invited to join the Teen Summer Reading Program online at www.smithlib.org or in person by visiting the Adult Reference Desk at your local library building. The more books you read and activities you complete, the more raffle tickets you will earn. Raffle tickets can be used to win one of our awesome prizes!

Adult Summer Reading Program

June 17-August 24

Summer Reading isn't just for kids! Adults are invited to sign up for this year's Adult Summer Reading program online at www.smithlib.org or by visiting the Adult Reference Desk at your local library building. You'll earn chances to win great prizes by reading all summer long.



SMITHTOWN UNDERGROUND'S SUMMER BLOCKBUSTER CHALLENGE

June 17-August 24

Join us as we count down the hot summer days with the *Summer Blockbuster Challenge*. Watch movies to complete challenges and receive raffle tickets for a chance to win a \$25.00 Amazon gift card. Stop by the Adult Reference Desk at your local library building to sign up and receive the list of challenges.



Long Island's Largest Library - Serving the Communities of Smithtown:
Commack • Fort Salonga • Hauppauge • Head of the Harbor • Kings Park • Nesconset
Nissequoque • Saint James • Smithtown • Village of The Branch

A Message from the Library Director

What a wonderful start to the 2024 year here at The Smithtown Library. Once again, we welcomed in the new year with all four library buildings decorated with 68 beautiful poinsettia plants and 21 dwarf Alberta spruce plants that were generously donated by Norman Keil Nurseries.

This year, the Library is embarking on a **Sustainable Libraries Initiative**. The goal of this project is to align our values and resources with our local and global community needs. We are excited to better serve our community by being sustainable, resilient and regenerative.

One example of how the Library is fulfilling this initiative is our partnership with in **Balloon Mission**, a not-for-profit organization that collects and repurposes all types of deflated balloons, ribbons and strings before they become litter and dangerous to the environment. Please help us with this mission and “pop-and-drop” your balloons in our designated blue recycling bins at any of our four library buildings.



In June, the Library’s summer activities will begin. There are a variety of reading programs planned for children, teens and adults, providing fun and prizes for patrons of all ages. Please stop by your most frequently visited building and our website to see what might interest you this summer.



I’d also like to bring to your attention, our **Long Island Room Program Series and exhibit – Greetings from Long Island**. This year’s six-part program series and complementary exhibit (located on the lower level of the Smithtown Building) will explore the fascinating history behind some of Long Island’s most popular amusements and attractions.

Get ready for another summer of Thursday night fun at the Library’s **Dennis Cannataro Family Summer Concert Series**, sponsored in part by the Friends of The Smithtown Library. These concerts take place on Thursdays on the front lawn of the Smithtown building, starting, July 11 through August 15 at 7:30pm. This year’s lineup is fantastic - The Gold Coast Orchestra (Motown), Radio Active (80s,90s,2000s), Boardwalk Nights (Jersey Shore Tribute), New York’s Finest (Sting/Police Tribute), Penny Lane (Beatles Tribute) and Any Way You Want It (Journey Tribute). Check the Library’s website for the dates each of these bands will perform. We are most grateful to **Legislator Robert Trotta**, who secured an omnibus grant from Suffolk County to help fund these concerts, which can be enjoyed by the entire community.



Please consider joining the **Friends of The Smithtown Library**. They continually support the Library in so many ways. Their most popular donation to the Library is our ever popular Museum Pass Program. Visit the Friends of The Smithtown Library page on the Library’s website under the About tab for more information.

As always, we appreciate your comments and suggestions on the services and resources you like and use, and those that you’d like the Library to look into offering. While we may not be able to accommodate every request, your input is a wonderful way for us to plan for the future.




Robert Lusak
Library Director

That's a Good Bingo!

Did you know we hold a bingo program twice a month? Bingo Morning for Adults and Bingo Night for Adults have quickly become two of our most popular adult programs. Hosted by **Gina and Dina** from the **Community Relations Department**, patrons enjoy over one hour of action-packed Bingo excitement in this entertaining program. Meet your neighbors, have a snack and win some great prizes. *Registration required!*



Explore Local Attractions with Your Library Card

The Friends of The Smithtown Library have once again generously agreed to fund the entire Museum Pass Program for 2024. Thanks to their generous donation, the Library has purchased numerous passes for this year. Some of our passes include: Harbes Family Farm, The Jazz Loft, LT Michael P. Murphy Navy SEAL Museum and Raynham Hall Museum.

Passes are available for checkout to Smithtown Library adult cardholders in good standing. Based on pass availability, reservations may be made online by following the Museum Pass links on the Library's website (www.smithlib.org), by calling (631) 360-2480 ext. 140 or in person at the Smithtown Building's Children's Reference Desk. For complete guidelines and more information about the passes and availability, contact the Children's Department at the Smithtown Building or go the Library's website.



Eclipse Craze Spreads to The Smithtown Library ☀️

On April 8, our community was able to look up and catch a phenomenon in the sky. New Yorkers were able to witness a solar eclipse at 3:26pm, when 89.4% of the sun was covered by the moon! The Library was thrilled to have shared over 1,700 pairs of solar eclipse glasses with our community!

After the eclipse, we were a drop off point to recycle solar eclipse glasses. All glasses were donated to Warby Parker in the Smith Haven Mall who then donated them to Astronomers Without Borders.



Summer Tour Returns

The Smithtown Library will be once again participating in the 2024 Suffolk County Public Libraries Summer Tour. With your free Suffolk Summer Tour booklet, you are encouraged to visit public libraries all around Suffolk County any time from July 1 through August 31. While you visit, be sure to find that library's artifact and then locate their Stamp Station to receive a stamp in your booklet. At 5, 15 and 25 library visits you will be entered into fun raffles. At your 25th library visit you will officially be a Summer Tour Library Explorer and receive a special commemorative patch (while supplies last)! Pick up your booklet starting July 1 at either the Adult or Children's Reference Desk.



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A Letter from the Friends of The Smithtown Library

The cold weather is gone and the budding of flowers and trees usher us into summer time. While this means all the chores that come with the new season will be back, when you get tired and want a break, think library! You can browse among the books and other materials or come to one of the many programs offered at all of the buildings.

The Friends raise money throughout the year from book sales, raffles, donations and more. Because of this, we are able to help fund those areas that fall outside of the Library's operating budget. One of the most popular programs that the Friends support is the Museum Pass Program which we were able to fully support for 2024 at a cost of \$10,895. Please contact the Children's Department at the Smithtown Building for more information or to reserve a pass. In addition to the Museum Pass Program, the Friends once again offered scholarships to two seniors this past year, in the amounts of \$1,500 and \$750, respectively. This year the Friends were able to support two new projects in conjunction with the Library. The first was the addition of the Outdoor Classroom at the Commack Building at a cost of \$15,000, which was fully funded by the Friends. We also helped to defray part of the cost of the Library's new website by \$15,000 that was launched last April. In 2023, we were also able to raise \$3,080 from raffle baskets that we had throughout the year at each building.

It is time to renew your membership with the Friends of The Smithtown Library. Lifetime members will have their names inscribed on a plate added to the recognition board in the Smithtown Building. All new members that join will receive a postcard in the mail which you can turn in at the Circulation Desk at any of the Library's four buildings to receive a Friends of The Smithtown Library magnet.

We are always looking for new Friends and urge you to give us a chance so come join us at one of our monthly meetings which begin promptly at 7:00pm. Participating in the Friends is a wonderful way of giving back to the community. I try to keep the meetings short, but interesting! Your continued support of the Friends is greatly appreciated and we hope to see you at our next meeting.

Anthony Monteleone

President, Friends of The Smithtown Library

Everybody needs Friends...Especially the Library!

The Friends of The Smithtown Library is a not-for-profit (501c3) organization dedicated to supporting the resources of the Library. Contributions are tax deductible.

Annual Dues:

- Individual \$15.00
- Family (same household) \$20.00
- Senior (65 and over) \$10.00
- Lifetime \$200.00 (Inscribed plate is added to the main plaque)
- Patron \$500.00 (Lifetime membership plus a plaque at the building of your choice)

We would love your participation. Would you like to volunteer for:

- Book Sales
- Friends Board
- Committee & Special Projects

Name _____
Address _____

Email _____
Phone _____

Bring to the Circulation Desk or mail to:
Friends of The Smithtown Library
148 Smithtown Blvd. Nesconset, New York 11767



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Smithtown Building
Long Island Room,
Patent and Trademark
Resource Center & Passport
Acceptance Facility
1 North Country Road
Smithtown, NY 11787

Commack Building
3 Indian Head Road
Commack, NY 11725

Kings Park Building
1 Church Street
Kings Park, NY 11754

**Nesconset Building &
Administration /
Business Office**
148 Smithtown Boulevard
Nesconset, NY 11767



www.smithlib.org
(631) 360-2480



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