

3 Ways to Stay Informed



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KCPL visited the State Capitol in January for Library Day at the Legislature.

Librarians met with state lawmakers to discuss issues affecting libraries, including legislation that would remove criminal exemptions from public libraries regarding the display of materials perceived to be obscene. KCPL's Board of Directors and the West Virginia Library Association strongly oppose these proposed laws as an attempt to curtail free speech in a public setting.

Assistant Director Sarah Mitchell and Technical Services Manager Marian Veld were on hand to provide legislators and Capitol visitors with information and to promote library programs.



ATTN: Marketing & Development, 123 Capitol Street, Charleston, WV 25301
304-343-4646 ext. 1283 www.kcpls.org



NEWSLETTER
March 2024

The Friends' most popular fundraising event is back!
**A Tisket, A Tasket,
A Literary Basket** silent auction is set for Saturday, April 20, 2024, from 6 – 8 p.m. at KCPL's Main Library in Downtown Charleston.

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The auction is back in person for the first time in 5 years and promises to be a fun evening showcasing a stunning array of unique, donated, literary-themed gift baskets, with all proceeds directly benefitting KCPL.

Ticket Prices

- \$40 – Required (\$45 at the door)
- \$75 – Desired (Provide support for the library)
- \$100 – Inspired (Help preserve library services in our community)

Enjoy an evening of good food, provided by 1010 Bridge, and literary-inspired fun. We would love to see you there!

KCPL's website now includes a new feature!



The **Recite Me accessibility toolbar** offers a wide range of options to ensure that our website is more accessible and inclusive for individuals with disabilities, situation challenges, and language needs.

By clicking on the **Recite Me** button on the homepage, visitors are taken to the **Recite Me Toolbar**, which provides a wide selection of accessibility options, including:

- **Play Audio:** reads website text aloud
- **Download Audio:** downloads text as an audio file
- **Text Options:** allows viewers to increase/decrease font size
- **Color, Ruler & Screen Mask:** customizes background, text, and link colors
- **Magnifier:** magnifies selected text on the screen
- **Dictionary:** provides a fully integrated dictionary and thesaurus
- **Translation:** translates text into over 100 different languages

Visit [KCPLS.ORG](https://www.kcpls.org) and try it out!

Work on the 2024 WV Book Festival is underway!

It returns on **October 19** to the **Charleston Coliseum & Convention Center**.

Like last year, the festival will be a **one-day event** featuring best-selling authors, writing workshops and programs, Children's Word Play, the Literary Marketplace, and the annual Used Book Sale. Book Festival organizers are working now on author contracts and lining up programming for this year's event. Look for an announcement on the author's lineup in the coming weeks.

Free Tax Assistance

Need some help with your taxes this year?

Federal and state forms are available at all KCPL locations. Plus, two organizations, VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) and AARP, are offering free, in-person tax preparation assistance on Fridays and Saturdays through April 13 at the Main Library. All you have to do is call the Reference Department to schedule an appointment.

Patron Spotlight: Sissonville Branch



Sissonville Branch Manager and Bingo Caller Cathy Mason, Jean, Mary Lou, and Kyra

Meet the women of Sissonville Branch's Golden Years Bingo Group!

Some are newcomers. Most are bi-monthly regulars over the past year, since Branch Manager Cathy Mason re-started the group after the COVID-19 pandemic, and yet a few have been showing up since way before that! I had the chance to join them this past Valentine's day, and over Anita's blackberry cobbler (made with berries she hand-picked at Four Seasons Farm), we folded and stapled strips of paper together into heart-shaped hanging wreaths at our own pace, talking on everything from car trouble to enlarging old photographs at Walgreens, with plenty of sass and laughter thrown in.

Between the craft and launching into bingo rounds, they shared that Sissonville Branch is "a relaxing and fun place to be," whose staff "put a lot of thought into what they do." They appreciate the fun activities for seniors in the afternoons, which they can fit into their schedules between other meetings and doctor's appointments.

I was tickled to win a round, but one lucky lady by the name of Jean came up bingo twice! As she picked through fun donated items on the table again, 94-year-old Ruby exclaimed, "You've done bingo'ed enough!" When Lady Luck came up bingo a third time, Ruby wagged her finger at her in jest. Imagine everyone's shock when Jean came up bingo a fourth time! Amongst the joking and laughter, they told me that while the Branch also means quite a lot to their kids, the take-home craft kits, friendliness of the staff, and fellowship of their peers creates an environment unlike any other. Like Marilyn says, "Everybody greets you here with a smile."

What does the library mean to you?