



Volume 8, Issue 10
**October
2025**

**Whitehall Township
Public Library**
3700 Mechanicsville Rd.
Whitehall, PA 18052
610-432-4339
www.whitehallpl.org

Whitehall Township Public Library **Library Lines**

Happy October! This month, we're celebrating **Banned Books Week**, and we have plenty of spooky programs for **Halloween**. The library's regular hours are 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. from Monday - Thursday and 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. from Friday - Saturday. However, we'll close at 4 p.m. on Thurs., **October 23** for the **Whitehall Fall Parade**.

Board of Trustees Fiscal Year 2025-2026:

Kathy Betz, treasurer
Dhara Dekhtawala,
vice president
Tom Ernst
Ed Hozza
Melissa Sassaman,
secretary
Denise Shaffer, president

Director: Susan Bielucke

Inside This Issue:

Fall Fundraisers	2
Fall Story Time	2
Medicare Enrollment Assistance	2
Book Nook: National Pizza Month	3
Banned Books Week	4

Spooky Season

The Curious Life and Mysterious Death of Edgar Allan Poe

Edgar Allan Poe was a writer and poet best known for his tales of mystery and the macabre. Local storyteller Ellen Flynn discusses this fascinating literary figure at 6:30 p.m. on Tues., **October 7**. Registration is requested.

Kids & Teens Connect: Hallow-Read

Kids can come in for food, games, and crafts run by our Teen Advisory Board on Sat., **October 25** from Noon-2 p.m. Costumes are encouraged!

Lehigh Valley Haunts

Ellen Flynn returns at 6:30 p.m. on Tues., **October 28** to share a collection of local ghost stories. Registration is requested.



New Hold Limits

Ever since we started partnering with other libraries for our Multi-District collaboration, we've been excited to bring you a wide variety of materials. You now have access to over 1.4 million items with your library card! However, due to strains on the system, we need to start limiting the number of holds on patron accounts.

The date is to be determined, but soon, each patron can have **up to 50 items on hold** at any given time. If you have more than that, this gives you some time to remove some of those holds. You can do this from the "My Account" page on our website, or someone at our front desk would be happy to assist you. While you're in your account, you can add items to a virtual Bookshelf, so you can keep track of other things you want to read.

Thank you for working with us on this so we make sure we can keep circulating materials promptly between libraries.



Whitehall Township



Public Library



Regular Events

Adult Coloring

Club: Thurs.,
October 2 & 16, 11
a.m. - 1 p.m. &
Tues., October 7,
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Adult Book

Talks: Thurs.,
October 2, 1 - 2
p.m.

Board of Trustees

Meeting: Thurs.,
October 9, 6:30
p.m.

Teen Advisory Board Meeting:

Sat., October 11,
1:30 p.m.

Death Café: Mon.,
October 20, 6:30
p.m.

A Good Yarn:

Tues., October 21,
6 - 7:45 p.m.

Movie Night:

**Honey, I Blew Up
the Kid:** Wed.,
October 22, 6 p.m.

Fall Fundraisers

Basket Raffle

- **Raffle:** Our Basket Raffle runs from Fri., **October 24** - Sat., **November 1**. You can come in during our open hours to buy tickets, browse our baskets, and drop your tickets. You can get 1 card of 15 raffle tickets for \$5. If you'd like to enter the 50/50 drawing, you can buy 1 ticket for \$2 or 3 tickets for \$5.
- **Presale:** During the Basket Raffle Presale only (**September 29 - October 23**), you can get 5 cards of 15 raffle tickets for \$20. Please note that on the last day of the presale, October 23, we may be closing early due to the Whitehall Township Fall Parade.
- **Donations:** We will accept donations of new or like-new items through **October 18**.



Boscov's Friends Helping Friends

Donate \$5.00 to WTPL and get a 25% shopping pass for the Boscov's event on **October 22**.

Fall Story Times

To make sure everyone gets the most out of the event, please double-check the age requirements before registering or attending.

Preschool Storytime

This is for ages 37 months – 5 years. It meets every Wednesday at 1:30 from October 1 – November 12.

Toddler Time

This is for ages 12 – 36 months. It meets every Thursday at 11 a.m. from October 2 to November 13.

Saturday Story Time

This is for ages 3-7 and is on October 11 at 11 a.m.



Medicare Enrollment Assistance

This fall, the Whitehall library is offering one-on-one appointments with a certified Medicare Enrollment Counselor. You can get free, personalized help with enrollment or other questions that you might have. We'll have three time slots a day on **Mondays from October 20 – December 1**.

Registration is required. You can schedule an appointment for 1:00, 2:00, or 3:00 p.m., as available. Call us at 610-432-4339 x201 to book your slot.



Book Nook: National Pizza Month

The origin of pizza is prehistoric. It began as a flatbread with toppings and evolved when the Egyptians discovered yeast and made leavened flatbreads. These go by many names across different cultures.

There is a lot of conjecture about the word "pizza". Some references say it comes from the Latin "pinsere", meaning to stamp or pound, or from "pistus", which was a tool used to mix dough. Other sources say it came from the German "bizzo", meaning bite or morsel, borrowed when the Lombards conquered most of the Italian peninsula between 568 and 774 AD. The closest reference appears in a document dated 879 AD from Provence, France and uses the word "pissaladiere" to describe a flat dough topped with anchovies, olives, and onions. A document from Gaeta, Italy in 997 AD records the delivery of 12 pizzas and some cash to a local bishop as rental payment. Not only is the word "pizza" recorded for the first time, but also delivery.

The seacoast city of Naples, Italy came under Spanish rule in the early 1500s. It became an important cultural and economic center, attracting not only aristocrats and artists, but also working class peasants from the countryside. Pizza became a popular street food because it was portable and cheap. When tomatoes were brought from the Americas, they were believed to be poisonous, so demand was low. This made them very inexpensive, so they became a popular pizza topping. The word "focaccia" was replaced by "pizza" in Naples in 1535. Naples became synonymous with pizza, with the first officially licensed pizzeria in 1738.

There is a quaint legend that King Umberto I and Queen Margherita visited Naples in June 1889, and pizzeria owner Raffaele Esposito presented them with three different kinds of pizza. The queen preferred the one with red sauce, fresh mozzarella, and basil leaves because it had the same colors as the Italian flag. Esposito listed it on his menu as the Margherita. However, there is no newspaper from that time that mentions a royal visit to Naples, so the veracity of the story is suspect, as well as the thank you letter from the queen hanging in the shop to this day.

In 2004, a law went into effect in Naples for making pizzas: They must use a particular yeast and flour. They must be made by hand, not rolling pin or machine. They can be no wider than 14 inches and no thicker than ¼ inch in the center. They must also be baked in a dome-shaped wood-fired oven. The European Union honored Naples and its pizzas with a Protected Designation of Origin in 2009. This was solidified in 2017, when UNESCO added Naples to its Intangible Cultural Heritage List.

Italy, especially the southern regions, experienced a lot of violence, social and economic chaos, diseases, and natural disasters at the turn of the 20th century. Between 1880 and 1920, more than four million Italians immigrated to the United States, adding their culture to the American melting pot. Filippo Milone opened the first licensed pizzeria in America in New York City in 1898 and placed the first newspaper ad selling pizzas in 1903. Milone hired a newly arrived immigrant named Gennaro Lombardi in 1905, who bought out Milone in 1908. The restaurant changed names several times, finally becoming Lombardi's in 1939, and it is recognized as the first U.S. pizzeria. Soldiers returning home after WW II, especially those who served in Italy, sought out Italian foods, so pizza and pasta gained popularity. Pizza popularity soared in 1956, when an "I Love Lucy" episode had Lucy filling in at a pizzeria. There are many regional styles of pizza across the U.S. An interesting fact is that the inventors of Chicago's deep dish pizza intended to open a Mexican restaurant but changed the plan when one of them got sick from an enchilada. In order to stand out among many competing pizzerias in their neighborhood, they came up with the deep dish in 1943. Today, pizza is the number one take-out food in America, and in home delivery in Pennsylvania. Nationwide, it is third, after burritos and burgers.

Congress made October National Pizza Month in 1987. If you'd like to make some, we have many cookbooks including recipes for pizza, specifically in our nonfiction section under 641.82, so roll up your sleeves and get creative! Buon appetito!



Banned Books Week

Banned Books Week 2025 runs from October 5 - 11, 2025, with the theme "Censorship Is So 1984. Read for Your Rights." This annual event, launched by the American Library Association (ALA), celebrates the freedom to read and raises awareness about the growing number of attempts to ban or restrict books in schools and libraries. You can find resources, data, and information below and on the Banned Books Week website ([BannedBooksWeek.org](https://www.bannedbooksweek.org)), and the ALA website (<https://www.ala.org/bbooks/banned>).

Banned Book Bundle Scavenger Hunt

This week is Banned Books Week - a time to celebrate our freedom to read. Come in some time during our open hours from October 6 - 11 to do our in-house scavenger hunt for a chance to win a Banned Books Bundle.



Top Ten

These are the top ten most banned or challenged books in 2024:

1. **All Boys Aren't Blue** by George M. Johnson
Challenged for: LGBTQIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit
2. **Gender Queer: A Memoir** by Maia Kobabe
Challenged for: LGBTQIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit
3. (TIE) **The Bluest Eye** by Toni Morrison
Challenged for: depiction of sexual assault, depiction of incest, claimed to be sexually explicit, EDI content
3. (TIE) **The Perks of Being a Wallflower** by Stephen Chbosky
Challenged for: claimed to be sexually explicit, LGBTQIA+ content, depiction of sexual assault, depiction of drug use, profanity
5. **Tricks** by Ellen Hopkins
Challenged for: claimed to be sexually explicit
6. (TIE) **Looking for Alaska** by John Green
Challenged for: claimed to be sexually explicit
6. (TIE) **Me and Earl and the Dying Girl** by Jesse Andrews
Challenged for: claimed to be sexually explicit, profanity
8. (TIE) **Crank** by Ellen Hopkins
Challenged for: claimed to be sexually explicit, depiction of drug use
8. (TIE) **Sold** by Patricia McCormick
Challenged for: claimed to be sexually explicit, depiction of sexual assault
10. **Flamer** by Mike Curato
Challenged for: LGBTQIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit



Censorship Trends

The majority of library censorship can be tied to organized campaigns. Pressure groups and the administrators, board members, and elected officials they influenced targeted 4,190 total titles in 2024. From 2001–2020, this constituency attempted to remove an average of 46 titles per year.

These are the groups that challenged books in 2024, by percent:

- **36%** Board/ Administration
- **26%** Pressure Groups
- **16%** Parents
- **10%** Elected officials/ government
- **7%** Other/ Unknown
- **4%** Patrons
- **1%** Librarians/ teachers/ staff