



Library Lines

Volume 9, Issue 1
**January
2026**

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

Library Hours

- **Monday - Thursday:**
9 am - 8 pm
- **Friday - Saturday:**
9 am - 4 pm
- **Sunday:**
Closed

Board of Trustees

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

Director: Susan Bielucke

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Happy 2026!

We'll be **closed on New Year's Day**, but we plan to have regular hours for the rest of the month.

In case of **inclement weather**, library closings will be published on social media and on WFMZ-TV (Channel 69) and their online Storm Center. If the library is closed for any emergency, then materials due at that time will be due the next day that we're open.



Winter Programs

Adult Winter Reading Program

From **January 2 - March 31**, adults can register and pick up a winter reading bookmark. Complete the bookmark and receive a small prize.



Virtual Sticker Mosaic

Help us complete a virtual sticker mosaic picture. From **January 19 - 24**, follow the link on our website and place tiles into the correct spot. Let's see what we create!

Creation Station: Snow Much to Measure

Kids in Grades 3 – 6 can enjoy STEAM projects once a month. On **Wed., January 21** at 6, you can learn about our winter wonderland and build your own snow-measuring instrument. Registration is required.

Regular Events

Board of Trustees Meeting

Members of the public are welcome to attend these meetings. The next one is on Thurs., **January 8** at 6:30 p.m.

Adult Coloring Club

The coloring club meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Since we're closed January 1, we'll only meet on **January 15** this month. Please note that there are no more evening meetings.



Death Café

Come to discuss death with no agenda, objectives or themes. It's a discussion group rather than grief support or a counselling session. Meet meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m., with the next meeting on **January 19**.

A Good Yarn

Whether you work with hooks or needles, yarn or thread, you're welcome to join the club! It meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 6 - 7:45 p.m., which will be **January 20** this month.

Movie Night: *The Game Plan*

On the 4th Wednesday of the month, we have our free movie night at 6 p.m. Get together to watch a fun family film!

This month, on **January 28**, we'll watch Disney's *The Game Plan*. Dwayne John stars as an NFL quarterback living the bachelor lifestyle, who discovers that he has an 8-year-old daughter from a previous relationship. He and his daughter don't start out with much in common, but they gradually bond as they discover the power of family.



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 **January 5 & 12**. You can schedule an appointment for 1:00, 2:00, or 3:00, as available. Call us at 610-432-4339 x201 to book your slot.



Beyond Books



While libraries are mostly known for their collections of books and media, we have a few other physical items that you can take out. Since they're smaller collections, please note that you can only have one at a time and keep it for a week, and that late fees apply.

Birding Backpacks

contain binoculars and some guides to help you spot some birds in the area. What critters can you find hanging out in the winter snow?

If you're going on a trip or need temporary Internet access, check out one of our **Mobile Hotspots**.

If you're looking for indoor fun, check out one of our **Museum Passes**. You might discover a new place where you've never been!

More Libby!

POWER Library is now on Libby, which means you can access this collection in addition to the collection from your home library. Here, you can find even more eBooks and eAudiobooks!



How to Access the Collection

1. Visit the Libby App.
2. Click the three lines in the middle of the bottom menu.
3. Click "Add Library".
4. Search for "POWER Library" and select it.
5. Select "Sign In With My Library Card."
6. Scroll to Whitehall Township Public Library and Select.
7. Input WTPL Card Number and PIN.

On the Same Page: *The Little Liar* by Mitch Albom

Every other month, patrons 18+ discuss the same book. On Thurs., **January 15** at 6:30 p.m., we'll talk about *The Little Liar*. It tells the intertwined story of several Holocaust survivors, exploring lies, forgiveness, and revenge.



Book Nook: Mummersy

The first appearance of the word “mummersy” was in 1530 and is derived from German. However, the event dates back to the Roman week-long Saturnalia festival, from which many Christmas traditions originate.



Mummersy was a common medieval European celebration between Christmas and New Year's Eve for folks to don masks and costumes, gather in groups, and go from house to house performing skits or singing in hopes of food or drink as a reward. The Swedish added their twist by shooting guns into the air, playing musical instruments, and creating other noises.

Mummersy was continued in colonial America. When Philadelphia became the capitol of the new United States, George Washington welcomed mummers into his home to perform. As different ethnic communities blended their traditions, by the mid-1800s, there were competitions with prizes. Neighborhood parades often collided, but the Vare brothers, who became successful businessmen and politicians, organized all the neighborhood groups to create one parade on New Year's Day in 1901. By offering large cash prizes for the winners in different divisions, determined by a group of judges, it kept things civil among the groups. Hundreds of people from several states attended, making it a success and an annual Philly tradition. Some believe that former Philadelphia mummers who moved south inspired the New Orleans Mardi Gras.

Mummer societies or Fancy Clubs spend all year planning and practicing for the next parade. Each costume is custom-fitted and can get quite expensive, so the clubs fundraise and perform throughout the year to cover their costs. It's not just a parade, but there are competitions in several categories. The clubs are sorted into five basic divisions, usually in this marching order: the String Band Division, which performs live music, the Comic Division, which parodies current events, the Wench Brigade of female impersonators, the Fancy Division with floats and elaborate costumes, and the Fancy Brigade which is high-level Broadway-inspired showmanship. The Mummers adopted their theme song “Oh! Dem Golden Slippers” in 1905, which was written by James A. Bland in 1879. The Philadelphia Dept. of Recreation organizes the parade, and if the weather is bad, they meet with the club captains to decide if the parade is on. (A side note: saliva freezes in brass instruments at -20° F.) Parade marshals keep the groups flowing and troubleshoot costume or prop problems.

Our library has some books about Mummers in our Local History collection that are for use in-library only. You can also visit the Mummers Museum in Philadelphia (mummersmuseum.org). For more specific information about mummersy check out pmsba.org and mrmummer.com.