

“Libraries Rock!” was this year’s Summer Reading theme, and what a rockin’ summertime it’s been for WCDPL and the community we serve! Indeed, area youth rocked participation in this year’s Summer Reading Program, keeping a steady beat of reading, learning, and volunteering at the library. Check articles from Maria Simon and the Children’s Place in this issue of *Connect* for highlights from lively Summer Reading activities and “Royal Readers” achieving milestones in the popular, year-round 1000 Books Before Kindergarten Challenge.

I’m also thrilled to share with you that another gold-record hit of the summer, the 2018 Library Foundation’s Annual Benefit for WCDPL in July, more than doubled its goal of raising \$75,000 this year. “Thank you” cannot be said enough to the sponsors whose astonishing generosity underwrote the event’s expenses, donors who contributed wonderful silent and live auction items, and attendees who opened their hearts (and check books) at the event!

Even as we celebrate the achievements of summer, there is much to look forward to with the coming of fall:

- Community Reads returns in October, and features Paulette Jiles’ lyrical novel, *News of the World*. Set in post-Civil War Texas, this little book reads big, exquisitely capturing a complex time and place in U. S. history. Copies of the book are available to check out from the library now. And, mark your calendars: Ms. Jiles will be visiting Bowling Green on October 16. Details are still being worked out, so keep an eye on [wcdpl.org/CommunityReads](http://wcdpl.org/CommunityReads) for information and updates.
- Speaking of calendars, look for the Children’s Place and the Adult/Information Services, and the Walbridge library on the library’s website, [wcdpl.org/calendar](http://wcdpl.org/calendar). These calendars provide information about the many programs and events for you and your family coming up in September, October, November, and December at the library.

With so much going on, you might think there’s nothing exciting left to share with you. As the old TV ad goes, “But, wait! There’s more!” Check out the exciting news from the State Library regarding the availability of the phenomenal online resource [Lynda.com](http://Lynda.com) for free to anyone with a library card from an Ohio public library.

See you at the library!

~Michael Penrod, Director

## Introducing Lynda.com

Perhaps you've heard of Lynda.com, the popular website that provides thousands of video-based courses that can help anyone learn business, software, technology, and creative skills to achieve personal and professional goals? It's an amazing service, but it's not cheap. A subscription can cost an individual as much as \$30 a month.

Now, thanks to an agreement between the Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN) and LinkedIn, WCDPL joins Ohio's public libraries in offering Lynda.com free to all library cardholders. This agreement is unique—the first of its kind in the nation.

The volume of courses may seem overwhelming, but all of the content is searchable and organized by subject, skill level, and duration (some courses are quick; other courses may take a few hours to complete). There are even learning paths that package courses for a specific role or job. For example, some of the learning paths include how to become a small business owner, a project manager, an IT security specialist, or a bookkeeper. If you're embarking on a new career, you can take advantage of these learning paths to become more knowledgeable about the skills and experience needed to secure your dream job. You can also use the learning paths to develop new areas of expertise. Whether you're looking to jump into a new career or sharpen your skills, Lynda.com can be your guide.

You can use Lynda.com while in the library or from home. You just need an internet connection, your active library card number, and your library account PIN. Patrons with active library cards can access the site using this URL, [www.wcdpl.org/lyndacom](http://www.wcdpl.org/lyndacom).

After creating a Lynda.com account (which only requires your name and e-mail address), you can watch videos, create playlists, bookmark interesting courses for later, download course files, and obtain certificates of course completion.

We are excited to provide Lynda.com. Grab your library card, pick a subject, and start learning – the possibilities are endless. If you have any questions about Lynda.com, remember that WCDPL staff are only a library visit or phone call (419-352-5104) call away.