

Letters to the Library



Describe yourself in a sentence or two, for example your age and occupation (or, if you do not have one, what you like to do). What is your household like?

I am 51, married with 3 kids, a turtle and a cat. I work for a large CT based insurance company.

What is your day to day routine like now? What has changed? What has not changed?

A typical work day is getting up around 7am and making the long commute downstairs to make coffee, eat and start my work day. Everything about the logistics of my job has changed - no more commute, no in-person meetings, no coworkers. While the actual work hasn't changed, how I do it has. It's been a hard adjustment for a social person like me.

What precautions have you taken against the virus? How have you prepared? Were there any difficulties (shortages, high prices etc.)?

We stay home and don't venture out much. We wear masks when we do. My husband made sure we were very prepared and got us the masks and stocked up on some items (like toilet paper). When I do go out, I'm usually alone and I try to keep my distance from other people. The significant drop in gas prices was nice though we didn't really get to capitalize on it. I fill my tank about every 3 weeks now instead of once a week.

What have been the biggest challenges for you during this time?

I am a social person and not seeing friends, family and coworkers had been hard.

How have you stayed busy?

Puzzles and reading. Lots of reading.

Have there been any positives to this situation?

I've been watching less television. My kids and I play more games together. I even got to know a few of my neighbors better.

What local Wallingford places/businesses do you miss most?

The library and the Library.

How have you stayed social while social distancing?

Virtual happy hours. Socially distanced happy hours. Sending out cards.

What is the first thing you are doing when things go back to normal?

We won't be normal for some time so it's hard to say. I'm looking forward to having a family picnic. We won't be running out to eat at restaurants as a family. I think it will be important to limit our interaction with strangers for a long time.

How did you celebrate the Holidays? Did you see family in person, digitally, or not at all?

We had a Zoom call for Easter. For Independence Day, we are having a small family gathering.

How will you be celebrating Wallingford's 350th Jubilee? If you were here for the 325th Jubilee, do you have any memories you would like to share?

We won't be celebrating. That's a community activity - no fun celebrating by ourselves.

What do you miss most about the Wallingford Public Library? What is the first thing you will be doing when you can come back into the building?

I miss the smell. The library (and the books) have this familiar smell.