

COMPUTER PROTECTION

In the digital age, we have grown accustomed to doing everything online. But that's also left us vulnerable to misuse of our personal data. From hackings to data breaches to unwanted tracking by marketers, there's a lot to be worried about. That's why it's crucial to take steps to protect personal data — and to know how to respond if your information is compromised. Personal data is a valuable asset and thanks to technology, it's also vulnerable to exploitation. Anyone, especially our children, can fall prey to data breaches, phishing tricks, on-line scams and other types of cyberattacks.



That's why it's so important to take steps to safeguard your personal information by:

- Creating strong passwords
- Do not share your passwords with anyone except your parents
- Not using unsecured Wi-Fi networks
- Using two-factor authentication
- Only using secure browsers
- Limiting the information you share

<https://www.consumernotice.org/wp-content/uploads/Internet-Safety-for-Kids-Guide-1.png>

If you or your children are victimized, report the scam and take steps to minimize the damage.

- Tell your children NEVER to share any personal information including your name, address, phone number, social security number or home address.
- Do not post your photo on any sites
- Do not chat with strangers
- Do not open email from someone you do not know
- Do not respond to any email that makes you uncomfortable
- Tell a responsible adult about uncomfortable messages
- Never agree to meet someone you have only met online.

Friends of The Oakmont Library
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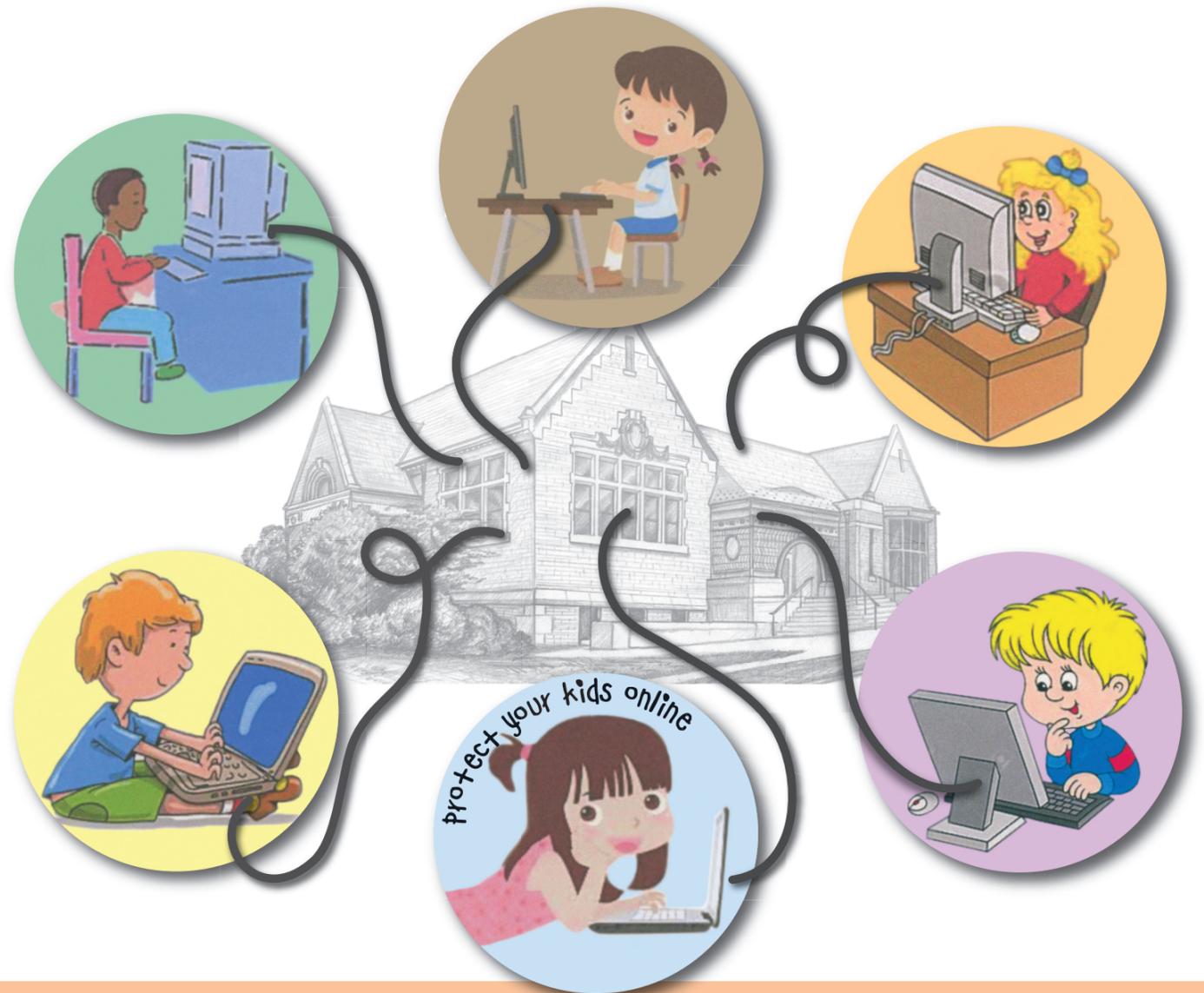
FOOL'S FORUM



A Newsletter by and for the Friends of the Oakmont Library
(affectionately known by the acronym "FOOL's")
700 Allegheny River Blvd., Oakmont, PA 15139 • 412-828-9532

VOLUME 26 • SPRING 2021

Oakmont Carnegie Library



The mission of the Friends of the Oakmont Library, a non-profit organization, is to provide financial assistance to the Oakmont Carnegie Library for outside-the-budget children and young adult programming. Since 1992 the Friends raised over \$110,000 through the annual tax-deductible membership drive and the Friends of the Oakmont Library link on the Oakmont Library website. Since the acronym for the Friends of the Oakmont Library is FOOL, it was decided from the beginning to embrace this identity by using two jesters reading books on our letterhead. This has become a symbol for people who support the Oakmont Carnegie Library, a library serving the children and youth of the Oakmont and Verona communities. How appropriate that we begin our annual membership drive by sending this newsletter near our founding anniversary of April Fool's Day!

A Message from the Library Director

This has been such a strange year, and we appreciate all the kind words you've sent to us since March of 2020. One of the things we are planning to do this year is to direct funding for mobile hotspots. A hotspot is a device that gives you internet access. You can check the hotspots out for 3 weeks and use them for internet access while at home or if you're traveling. We have ordered a few and will add to this collection as we track how often they are used. Our services to children during the pandemic included virtual story times, take and go craft kits and an outdoor story stroll. We are continuing our virtual children's programming and adding in virtual adult programming. To access the virtual schedule, just go to the events keeper calendar on our web site. To access the virtual schedule, just go to the events keeper calendar on our website. We have a new Story Stroll beginning in April.

For adults we started new features on Facebook that highlight new books in both our general and best seller collections. We've partnered with community organizations to provide classes from cooking to yoga at no cost to our library users. The library is also open as long as we keep numbers in building low. You can call the library (412.828.9532) to see how busy we are then come in to use a computer or browse the collection. For books you reserved, the library lobby is open for pickup. There is no furniture on the first floor at this point, but you can come in get your materials, browse the collection, and use a computer and go.

- **Lobby hours:** M-Saturday 10-2
Additional hours are available Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 4-8.
- **Squirrel's Nest hours:** 10-2 Fri.
- **Computer hours:** 10-2 M-T-W-F-S and 4-8 T and TH
- **Library Browsing:** 10-2 M-T-W-F-S and 4-8 T and TH

Beth Mellor
Director
Oakmont Carnegie Library

A Message from the President

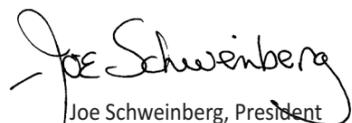
In January of last year, the Friends of the Oakmont Library board met to discuss the content of our April 1st 2020 newsletter with the expectation of reporting the library's accomplishments of great children's and young adult programs from 2019 that your membership sponsors. What a year it has been since then!

As we stated in our postcard sent out last April, the FOOL's made the decision not to print an annual newsletter that usually shows plans for the children's and young adult programming at the library and how your donations have supported those activities. When news of the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the lives of us all last March, what followed was the immediate closings of stores, restaurants, churches and schools. We had a great concern asking for donations at that time.

The Oakmont Carnegie Library was far from immune from the lockdown. The Carnegie Library Association ordered their facilities closed mid-March. The Oakmont branch did not function again until July 2020, and that was limited to curbside pickup. As the nation turned to communicating via computers, I am proud to say our library continued to operate as a source of information and learning. Our children's librarian, Karen, provided over 140 virtual programs for children and young adults and our library director, Beth, almost 80 programs for babies.

As we adapt to this new normal, we look back on the efforts of the Oakmont library staff and what they continue to do. A full schedule of virtual programs continues now and can be found on the library website. Speaking with Beth, I learned that the library has a goal to offer specialized technology that would help children to develop the 21st century skills needed for the changing workforce demands. The FOOL's would like to address this goal in 2021.

The mission of the Friends of the Oakmont Library has always been to provide services, equipment, materials, books and programming that cannot otherwise be purchased through the Library's budget. The needed funding comes through this newsletter and your financial backing. If you are a member, I thank you for your past and continued support. If not a member, please consider helping us maintain the continued quality of the children and young adult programming at the Oakmont Carnegie Library.


Joe Schweinberg, President
Friends of the Oakmont Library serving
Verona and Oakmont

A Great Reason to Join FOOL'S

For more than five years, The Oakmont Carnegie Library has been offering creative STEM activities that tie into the school district's curriculum. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and mathematics. These activities encourage inquiry, creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking, as well as increasing understanding of scientific processes. Children must develop the 21st century skills needed for changing workforce demands. Using technology has become fundamental to our work. The development of tech skills in children is an essential part of our mission.

The Library has offered STEM programs for school-age children at the library and at the Verner Elementary School in Verona. But more materials and equipment is needed to advance our children to the next level. Purchasing more equipment and materials is one of the main goals of the FOOL's this year. By becoming a member or renewing your membership in FOOL's, you will be helping our children advance in STEM activities.

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We have made every effort to present the list of donors as accurately and completely as possible. If any errors have occurred, we apologize most sincerely.