

# 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 a retired grandmother. Currently I am employed part time at my grandsons' school as a lunch monitor. My husband is also retired. We provide after school care for our grandsons.

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

At the onset of Covid, I was working a full time job. I had 3 months to go before I retired. Everything changed in March 2020. Not only did I work from home but also took care of my grandsons while my daughter continued her job which provided daycare for first responders. Now I work part time as I mentioned earlier and watch the boys after school with my husband.

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

We have always followed CDC guidelines. We wear masks and are fully vaccinated as a family. We did buy cold medicine, cough syrup, ibuprofen Gatorade, tissues and hand sanitizer to be prepared. We bought things when we could find them. We stayed home and only travelled between our house and our daughter's house in Plainville.

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

The biggest challenge was finding fun things to do with the boys. We couldn't even go to the park - everything was closed. Virtual learning was hard for the boys but we all learned what to do and got used to it. The boys really missed their teachers and classmates.

## **How have you stayed busy?**

We cooked and baked and did crafts. The Wallingford Library provided us with kits and Zoom meetings on many wonderful topics and we attended many cooking demos on Zoom. We even created a cookbook - 19 Recipes to make when you have to shelter in place - the Covid 19 Cookbook. We also put up the Christmas tree and decorated it!!! We painted rainbows on our windows to show solidarity with Italy. We put hearts on our front door to thank the first responders. Once we put up the tree and baked Christmas cookies - our elves came back from the North Pole and stayed through the boys birthdays in May!!! They provided a lot of entertainment too!!!

## **Have there been any positives to this situation?**

Yes my grandsons love cooking and baking!!!

## **What local Wallingford places/businesses do you miss most?**

I really missed going to programs at the library with the boys and just going to the park.

## **How have you stayed social while social distancing?**

Zoom meetings, virtual Cub Scout meetings, Duo calls on the cellphone. Outdoor get togethers with family members we remained in touch with and were in our cohort.

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

Go on a cruise with my husband and family. We never celebrated our retirements - our cruise was cancelled.

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

Our oldest daughter lives in Maryland and she came home for Thanksgiving - we celebrated with just our immediate family - our cohort only. She didn't come home for Christmas and that was hard.

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

We will certainly attend the fireworks and parade.

**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?**

Go to a program with my grandsons.