



West Babylon Public Library

# Sustainable Libraries Initiative Presentation





# About Us

In 1981, a group of 13 community members came together with a shared mission to create a public library in West Babylon. Four previous attempts had failed. The group formed the Friends of the West Babylon Library and solicited support and membership from the community. Their efforts were successful and a vacant building was located and purchased. On September 11, 1983, the West Babylon Public Library opened its doors with a service area of less than 6000 patrons.

The library currently serves 27,947 patrons, providing a wide range of services and resources to community members.



# Our Sustainability Journey

**Inspired by neighboring libraries that completed the Sustainable Library Certification process, we joined the program in February 2022 and formed our team. We worked through the 12 Sustainability categories and in Spring 2024, submitted for review.**

# Plants and Things

Community members help plant our Backyard and grounds each year. Native and pollinator plants are grown, as well as vegetables which are later shared with the community. We received a LILRC grant for a hydroponic garden and the vegetables and herbs grown in it are also shared with the community. Additionally, we offer a Seed Library, Plant Cutting Swap Station, and informational gardening programs throughout the year.





## Energy

- ⚡ We replaced our outdated Building Management System and HVAC units and received a 50% NYS Construction grant and PSEG rebate towards the cost.
- ⚡ The new Building Management System is programmed to optimize our heating and cooling schedule, using less energy when spaces aren't being utilized and when the building is closed.
- ⚡ Our vending machines are ENERGY STAR rated.
- ⚡ The majority of our servers are transitioned to virtual and we plan to have entirely cloud-based servers in the future.

# Reduce

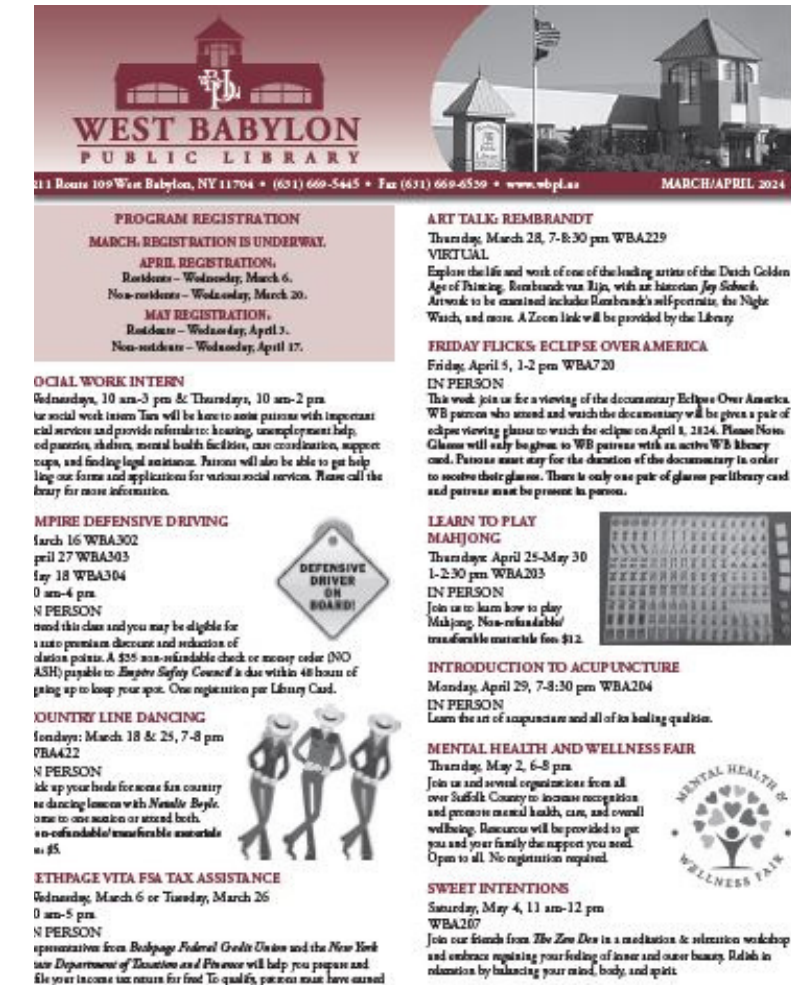


Patrons may check out a bag for their library materials instead of using disposable bags.

## Going Paper Free Where Possible

- ✔ Meeting Request Forms
- ✔ Program Agreements
- ✔ Library of Things Agreements
- ✔ Book Request Forms
- ✔ Missing Items Cards
- ✔ Apply for a Library Card Online
- ✔ Joined Print Release to offset paper usage

Electronic forms and online services are used wherever possible, instead of paper.



Print newsletter was changed from monthly to bi-monthly to reduce paper use and postage and printing costs.

# Reuse

We partner with our local Lion's Club to collect eyeglasses which are recycled/reused for those in need.

Through our partnership with VIBS, we collect cellphones which are recycled or refurbished and distributed to victims of violence.





# Recycle

- Recycling bins were added to our Cafe, Community Room, and Staff Lounge. Proceeds from the bottles and cans are donated to charitable organizations.
- Newspapers are donated to a bird sanctuary for use as cage liners.
- Toner cartridges are recycled to keep them out of landfills.





## Sustainability Collection

A circulating Sustainability collection was developed. It includes fact sheets & tips to help patrons learn more.



# Community Partnerships

Our partnerships with community and social service agencies provide valuable resources and services and help us remain relevant.

**PSEGLI CONSUMER ADVOCATES**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13  
10 AM-2 PM**

**Thank you West Babylon!**

**Long Island Cares**

A total of **825 pounds** collected!

**Meet with Tara, Social Work Intern**

**WEDNESDAYS: 10 AM-3 PM  
THURSDAYS: 10 AM-2 PM**

**ALL SERVICES ARE FREE & CONFIDENTIAL**

**ONE-STOP EMPLOYMENT CENTER @YOUR LIBRARY**

- Resumes
- Workshops
- Job Search
- Career Coaching
- Free Business Attire
- Skills Development
- Mock Interviews

**UPCOMING DATES**  
Tuesdays: July 11 & 25, August 15 & 29  
10 AM - 1 PM

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU**

to the following businesses for donating in support of our Summer Reading Club!

- Looney Tunes
- Miceli Brothers Pizzeria
- Jessen's Deli
- GameStop
- Long Island Comics
- Bagel & Deli Creations
- L & T Nails
- Briscoe Giftbox
- Supercuts
- Old Fashioned Ice Cream
- Wagyu Steakhouse
- Gino's Pizzeria
- Ralph's Italian Ices

**ALL TOGETHER NOW**

**NEW YORK STATE POLICE RECRUITMENT TABLE**

**WEDNESDAY AUGUST 2 10 AM-1 PM**  
**THURSDAY AUGUST 31 4-6 PM**

**SHED THE MEDS & Senior ID Cards**

Thursday October 5 10:30 am-2 pm

**Mobile Mammography Van for Breast Cancer Screenings Is Coming Your Way**

West Babylon Public Library  
211 NY 109 West Babylon, NY 11704

Friday, September 8th 9am-4pm

**MEDICAID ENROLLMENT ASSISTANCE**

**WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 14 10 AM-2 PM**

**FREE TAX ASSISTANCE**

Tuesday, February 13

Registration is required & underway.

**SUFFOLK COUNTY POLICE DEPT K9 UNIT DEMONSTRATION**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21 11 AM-12 PM

**TEEN VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!**

**Adult Tutor Training Workshop**

Learn how to help adults improve their English speaking, reading, and writing skills.

**Literacy SUFFOLK**

Tuesday, September 26 10am-12:00pm  
Thursday, September 28 10am-12:30pm  
Tuesday, October 3 10am-12:30pm

The **Employee** Newsletter of the BOCES Employee Assistance Program

## Mental Health Tips for Dealing with Complaints

**L**earning how to develop emotional resilience as someone new to managing people who are unhappy or complaining about your organization's service isn't easy. Yet it's vital dealing with difficult experiences. Emotional resilience is your ability to adapt and bounce back from stressful interactions. How can you develop emotional resilience? Practice recognizing your emotions, triggers, and stress responses. Do this for a few weeks. Keep a small diary of these discoveries. Doing so will help you develop keen self-awareness that allows you to spot early signs of emotional distress. Empower your ability to intervene and manage this state of mind. You will also be able to appropriately detach from emotionally charged situations and enjoy your job more. In turn, this will boost empathy skills—your ability to understand, connect with, calm, and serve your stakeholders with winning service.



## Use Anticipatory Joy to Manage Work Stress

**L**ooking forward to something enjoyable coming up soon can create a positive emotional state to help you manage stress better. Biology is key in this stress management technique known as "anticipatory joy" or "positive anticipation." The anticipation of an enjoyable experience releases dopamine, a neurotransmitter that produces a sense of pleasure and reward. This uplifts your mood and counteracts stress hormones. Try it. Focus on a soon-to-be-experienced activity—plan one now—that will bring joy and excitement. See if this strategy shifts your attention away from stressors and creates positive thinking. The payoffs are reduced anxiety, improved mood, increased motivation, and a sense of purpose.



Source: <https://www.forbes.com/health/mind/how-to-deal-with-stress-at-work/>

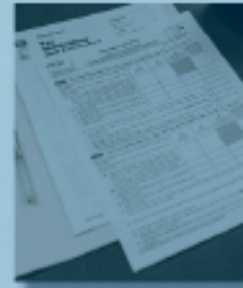
## Best Way to Utilize a To-Do List

**T**o improve the effectiveness of to-do lists, consider these valuable tips: 1) Write down all tasks in "mind dump fashion" and prioritize later. 2) Break up any big tasks into small doable steps. 3) Do not make your to-do list too long because if one glance at the list causes you to feel overwhelmed, you may lose motivation. Put it aside, and not complete it. Identify urgent versus important tasks—not hardest first and easiest later. 4) Add deadlines to each item because your to-do list is an action plan, not just a memory jogger.

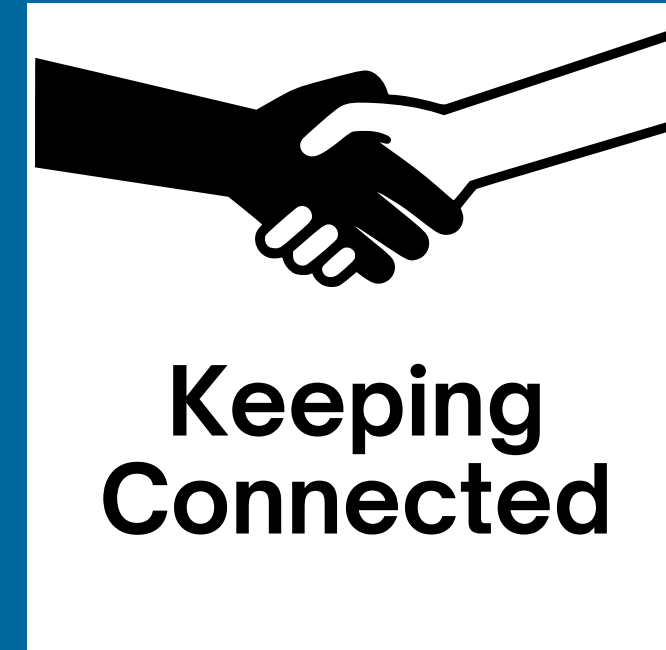


## Avoid the Stress of Last-Minute Income Tax Preparation

**A**void the distress of rushing any last-minute tax preparation this year by dedicating time now if you are still procrastinating. Break up the task into bite-sized pieces by creating a schedule or timeline for each task—gathering documents, organizing receipts, adding things up, filling out forms. Stick to a schedule using your smartphone by setting reminders and gentle nudges to stay on track. Consider potential obstacles or distractions and develop strategies now to avoid them. Remind yourself of the benefits of completing your taxes early—it helps. Make one of these benefits a big reward for yourself for avoiding the rush this year!



Source: <https://hbr.org/2021/01/i-tried-4-to-do-list-methods-heres-what-worked>



We've partnered with EAP to bring resources to our employees. The monthly newsletter is distributed to employees via email, and we've started scheduling various meetings like Dealing with Difficult People, an empathy workshop, and Civility in the Workplace.

We've added a sustainability section to our weekly staff e-newsletter to keep everyone up-to-date on what what the library is doing as well as provide tips and facts on what staff can do to help lower their carbon footprint.

# Future Goals

<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>Replace roof with energy efficient roof.</b></p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>Upgrade fluorescent lighting to LED lighting.</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>Recycle paper.</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>Discontinue paper library card applications.</b></p>
<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>Install solar panels.</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>Participate in NexTrex Recycling Challenge.</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>Install Little Free Pantry on property.</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>Offer community swap programs.</b></p>