



January 14, 2022

A letter to the community from Director Joyce May

Dear Friends,

It's a new year and although we are still faced with managing our lives in a pandemic, we find hope in new beginnings.

You may have seen a number of news reports this week about your library. We were so pleased to announce that the East Providence Public Library has joined many other public libraries in becoming fine free. Of course, we are still encouraging our patrons to return materials on time, but we do not want the potential of fines to deter anyone from using the library.

Our Fuller Creative Learning Center became a temporary COVID-19 test site this week. For years, your library has valued its role as a partner in a healthy community. It is the reason we began a Farmers' Market nine years ago, sit on the Board of the East Providence Prevention Coalition, offer outdoor programs to youth and adults, and have pursued grants to enhance our library grounds. What better time than now to prioritize our community's need for more testing opportunities? Your library wants you to be safe and healthy.

Please know that while we enter a new year with new initiatives, your library holds dearly to its core values:

- A belief in the power of reading
- A dedication to public service
- A commitment to equity, inclusion, and diversity
- A delight in lifelong learning

And the knowledge that a "city with a great library is a great city." \*

We will strive to be great in 2022.

Happy New Year,

Joyce

\* A phrase first coined by a Mayor of Nashville in the 1990s.