



MESSENGER PUBLIC LIBRARY OF NORTH AURORA NEWSLETTER



Support Our Furry Friends!

Help local animal shelters champion the welfare of animals and improve the lives of community members through programs that create human-animal connections. Donate most needed items (see messengerpl.org), make a direct monetary contribution, or volunteer at a shelter. Look for a donation table near the library entrance during the month of April.

The Library Strikes Back! Saturday, May 4 10-3 pm

All ages. Happy May the 4th!

Celebrate all things Star Wars with activities, crafts, games, and photo ops. Fans of all ages can participate in the starship building contest. Don't forget your costumes! While you are here, grab free comics for Free Comic Book Day. Register for a reminder email or text.



Library Road Trip March 23–April 30

Library Road Trip is back! Plan a visit to some of our neighboring libraries to see the sites and all their unique offerings. Pick up a passport at any participating library. Collect stamps and various souvenirs as you explore each library on your trip. Messenger patrons are entered to win a special grand prize.



National Library Week April 7–13

Libraries connect our communities and enrich our lives. Join NLW Honorary Chair, Meg Medina, to celebrate the indispensable role of libraries and library workers in our communities and schools. Libraries support us wherever we find ourselves on the roadmap through life's journey. Come in and join the fun!

TINY ART SHOW AND RECEPTION

Supplies available: Monday, Apr. 15

ENTRIES ACCEPTED:
Sunday, May 5–Wednesday, May 15

Reception: Saturday, May 18
2:30–3:30 pm

The Tiny Art Show is back! Unleash your creativity and decorate a small canvas. Pick up a supply kit (while supplies last) at the library starting Apr. 15. You are not limited to paint, so use your imagination. Turn in your completed masterpiece May 5 through May 15. Then join us May 18 for a reception, where you can show off your creation and vote for your favorites!



YOUTH SERVICES

Registration **R** is required for all youth and teen programs, unless noted, beginning on Monday, February 26, via the online events calendar at messengerpl.org, by phone 630-801-4340, or in person. For drop-in programs, you may register online to receive a reminder email or text.

BABIES-PRESCHOOL

Baby Storytime **R**

Tuesdays • 9:30-10 OR
10:15-10:45 am

Session 1: Mar. 12–Apr. 2

Session 2: Apr. 23–May 14

Ages 0–24 months with

caregiver. Enjoy stories, songs, and movement to help foster early literacy skills.

Family Storytime **R**

Thursdays • 10-10:30 am

Session 1: Mar. 14–Apr. 4

Session 2: Apr. 25–May 16

Ages 2–5 with caregiver. Enjoy stories and songs with your family while building pre-literacy skills and learning about the world around us.



Family Concert: Little Miss Ann! **R**

Thursday, Apr. 11 • 10 am

For families. Get ready to dance with award-winning musician Little Miss Ann! She's played at SXSW and Lollapalooza, and now she's coming to rock the library with her irresistible music. You'll never hear anyone else sing a better song about purple yams!

Sensory Playtime

Mondays, Mar. 11 and May 6;
Saturday, Apr. 20 • 10–11 am

Ages 0–4 with caregiver. Enjoy sensory play experiences with your little ones. Stations stimulate your child's mind through sensory, discovery, and gross motor activities. *Register for a reminder email.*

Baby Playtime

Monday, Mar. 25: Bubble Mania
Saturday, May 18: Tunnel Time
10–10:45 am

Ages 0–2 with caregiver. Enjoy playtime with your baby or young toddler as you learn and explore with new friends! *Register for a reminder email or text.*

Toddler Playtime: Playdough Party

Monday, Apr. 29 • 10–11 am

Ages 2–3 with caregiver. Enjoy playtime with your toddler as you explore fun playdough stations with new friends. *Register for a reminder email or text.*

Stuffed Animal Sleepover **R**

Tuesday, Mar. 5: Storytime
6:30–7 pm and Wednesday,
Mar. 6: Pickup • 2–8 pm

Ages 3–8. Bring a stuffed animal friend to the library for a sleepover. Enjoy bedtime stories and tuck them in on Mar. 5. Pick them up on Mar. 6 and see what adventures they had overnight!

ALL AGES

Spring Book Subscriptions **R**

Ages 0–18. Enjoy a new selection of books every month! Pick up your books on the tenth of March, April, and May. *Messenger Library card required.*



STEAM Activity Kits

March: Youth Art

April: Poetry

May: One-Minute Brownie

Stop by Youth Services every month for a new take-home activity kit. Kits are categorized by age group with different abilities and skills in mind. *Available while supplies last.*



It's a Zoo! with DuPage Children's Museum **R**

Saturday, May 25
10–11:30 am

Ages 2–5 with caregiver. DCM brings hands-on STEAM learning for the youngest explorers and their families to Messenger!



Lego Club
Thursdays, Mar. 14, Apr. 11, May. 9 • 6–7 pm
All ages. Visit Youth Services to build a Lego creation to display for all to enjoy. *Register for a reminder email or text.*

Wild World Animal Show
Saturday, Mar. 23 • 11 am–Noon
 For families. Join us to see and learn about different types of animals, including an albino Burmese python, Flemish giant rabbits, African pygmy hedgehog, and more!

Celebrate Youth Art Month with Mrs. M

Explore artists and dreams through new art media. Ages 3–8 attend with caregiver. See more details and dreamy inspiration online.



ages 3-5 **Dreamy Matisse Collages**
 Saturday, Mar. 2 9:30 am



ages 6-8 **Marc Chagall Oil Pastel Landscapes**
 Saturday, Mar. 9 • 2 pm



ages 9-12 **Surrealism with Magritte**
 Saturday, Mar. 2 11 am



ages 13-18 **Dalí Dreams**
 Saturday, Mar. 9 • 3:30 pm

KIDS (AGES 5-12) Programs with a **R** require advance registration.

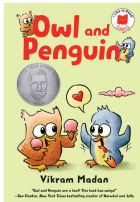
Junior Library Helpers
Training: Saturday, Mar. 16 11–11:30 am
Ages 9–11. Too young to be a Teen Volunteer but still want to help around the library? Attend training, then help with simple tasks on your own schedule (15–30 minutes, one–two times/month).

Creativity Lab
Mon., Mar. 11 • 5–5:45 pm: Marshmallow Sculptures
Mon., May 6 • 6:30–8 pm: Adventure Escape Room
Ages 8–12. Art, science, and technology, oh my! Join us for a new hands-on activity each month. See online calendar for more details.

Early Reader Book Club
Saturdays • 10-10:45 am
Ages 5–7 with caregiver. Just starting to read or exploring early chapter books? Join us to read together, talk about books, and do crafts. Books and refreshments are provided.



MARCH 2
Diary of Pug: Pug Blasts Off by Kyla May



APRIL 6
Owl and Penguin by Vikram Madan



MAY 4
Star Wars: The Battle of Endor by Ella Patrick

HOMESCHOOL HANGOUT
Homeschool Hangout Night
Tues., Apr. 16 • 6:30–7:30 pm
Ages 5–10 and families. Do you homeschool? Come to Homeschool Hangout to play games and get to know other families. While you're here, ask the librarians questions about resources and programs!

Read with Rover
Sundays, Mar. 17, Apr. 21, May 19 • 2–3 pm
For readers. Love reading? Or dogs? Practice reading aloud with a licensed therapy dog from the Fox Valley Therapy Dog Club. Register for a 15-minute time slot and each month separately.

Dog Man Day ^R

Monday, Apr. 15

5–6 pm

Ages 7–10. Join us for an hour of Dog Man fun! Read from the newest book, *The Scarlet Shedder*, play games, and enjoy a craft.



Animal Exploration ^R

Saturday, Apr. 27 • 1-2 pm

Ages 5–7. Explore unique ways birds, mammals, and reptiles adapt to their environment and investigate nature artifacts. Presented by the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County.



Wild Detectives ^R

Saturday, Apr. 27 • 2:30–3:30 pm

Ages 8–10. Discover how to identify wild animals that live nearby by studying skulls and bones, learning basic natural history, and unraveling wildlife mysteries. Presented by the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County.

NEW PROGRAM



Kid Librarian

Ages 7–10. Create a book display for the library! You choose the theme and books with a librarian. To apply, visit Youth Services and fill out an entry form. One Kid Librarian is selected each month.

TEENS

Registration ^R is required for all teen programs, unless noted, beginning on Monday, Feb. 26, via the online events calendar at messengerpl.org, by phone 630-801-4340, or in person. For drop-in programs, you may register online to receive a reminder email or text.

Teen Volunteers

Students ages 12–18 are welcome to volunteer at the library all year! Summer volunteer applications are available online starting Apr. 1. Visit messengerpl.org/teenvolunteers for requirements and applications.

Teen Yum Club: South Korea ^R



Thursday, Mar. 21 • 7–8 pm

Ages 11–18. Like to try new things? Wish you could travel around the world? Yum Club is a place to explore new places through food! Space is limited.

Teen Job & Volunteer Fair @ Geneva Public Library

Saturday, Apr. 6 • 1–3 pm

Ages 11–18. Teens, bring your resume to meet businesses and organizations that are looking for seasonal or part-time employees or volunteers. *This event is held at Geneva Public Library.*

Teen Taste Test: Doughnuts! ^R

Thursday, Apr. 18 • 7–8 pm

Ages 11–18. Where are the best doughnuts in North Aurora? We'll try doughnuts from different places and price points to determine the best of the best. Come hungry!



Are You Smarter than a Librarian? ^R

Thursday, Apr. 25 • 7–8 pm

Ages 11–18. Think you know everything? Put your knowledge to the test in a trivia challenge against the original search engine, a librarian!

Murder Mystery Night ^R

Thursday, May 16 • 6:30–8 pm

Ages 11–18. Do you have what it takes to solve a mystery? Help look through clues and examine evidence to figure out who the culprit is. Come with your thinking cap on!

Teen Take Out

MARCH: Mini Book Magnets

APRIL: Blackout Poetry

MAY: One-Minute Microwave Brownie

Stop by the Teen Space each month for a fun craft or activity to take home and make on your own time. New kits debut on the first of the month, so grab one before they disappear! While supplies last.



ADULT PROGRAMS

Call or check our online events calendar for more details, up-to-date information, and registration. All programs are held in the library unless otherwise noted; please register **R** in advance. Teens over the age of 16 are always welcome to register. Art Club requires a registered adult with any teen.

Wits Workout **R**

Fridays • 10:30–11:30 am

Wits Workout

is an engaging, interactive, and educational brain



**WITS
WORKOUT**

health program designed especially for seniors. Learn about brain health and participate in activities to strengthen your memory and increase your brain power!

Mar. 8 • Women in Herstory (long-term memory)

Apr. 12 • Baby Steps (tips and techniques)

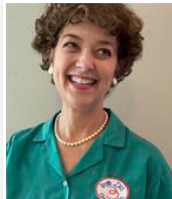
May 10 • By Land or Sea (forgetfulness contributors)

Julia Child **R**

Saturday, Mar. 16

2–3 pm

In the 1960s, thousands tuned in weekly to watch

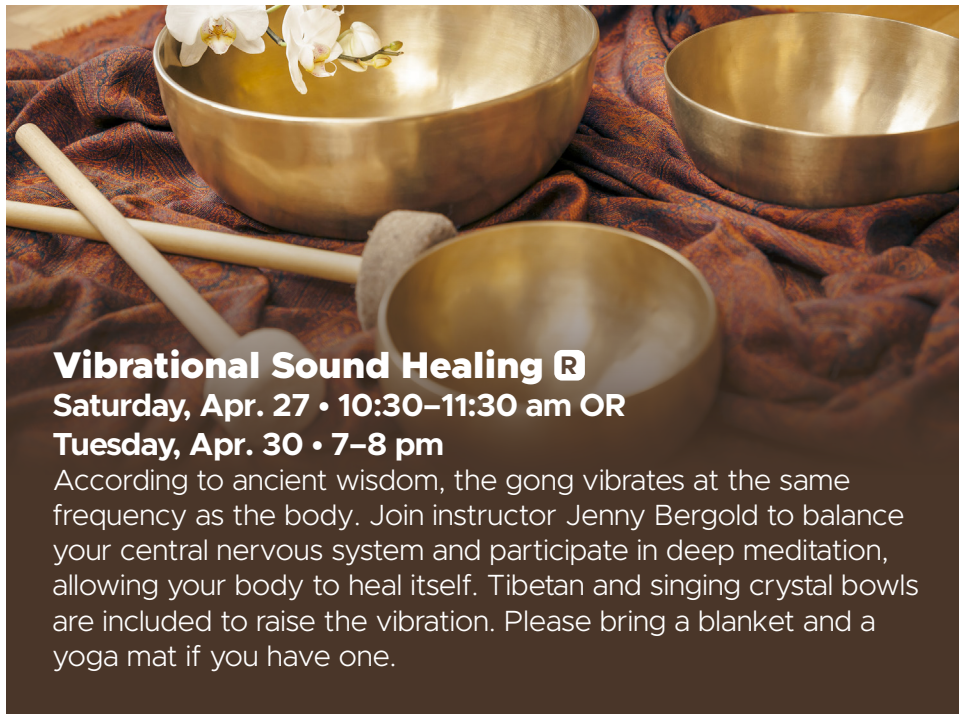


Julia Child demonstrate the art of French cooking on television. Actress and scholar Leslie Goddard brings the iconic chef to life in this portrayal, where Child discusses everything from her relationship with her husband to the mishaps of cooking on television. Bon appétit!

Animal Show **R**

Saturday, Mar. 23 • 1–2 pm

Learn about and interact with animals both common and exotic. Animal Quest presents an assortment of critters, including an albino Burmese python and Patagonian cavy. This session is for adults.



Vibrational Sound Healing **R**

Saturday, Apr. 27 • 10:30–11:30 am OR

Tuesday, Apr. 30 • 7–8 pm

According to ancient wisdom, the gong vibrates at the same frequency as the body. Join instructor Jenny Bergold to balance your central nervous system and participate in deep meditation, allowing your body to heal itself. Tibetan and singing crystal bowls are included to raise the vibration. Please bring a blanket and a yoga mat if you have one.

Mysteries at MPL **R**

Monday, Mar. 25 • 6:30–8:30 pm

Join us for another night of mystery solving and teamwork!

We are dying to play the new Deadbolt Mystery Society game.

Come by yourself or bring a friend. You'll need access to a smartphone—

along with your intelligence,

observation skills and puzzle

solving abilities—

to crack the case.



Simple but Impressive Meals **R**

Tuesday, May 28

7–8 pm

Local chef and chef-instructor Susan Maddox presents a culinary demonstration (and tasting!) of simple meals using seasonal ingredients that are guaranteed to impress.



Mental Health and Self Care

Tuesday, May 7 • 7-8 pm

Sara Gray, Executive Director National Alliance on Mental Illness, Kane-DeKalb-Kendall Counties, joins us for a presentation on the meaning of mental health, NAMI resources, and ways to take care of yourself when you're suffering from mental illness or even just stress.



Kane-south, DeKalb and Kendall Counties

Game Night at Brother Chimp Brewing

**Tuesday, Apr. 2
6:30-8:30 pm**

Join us at Brother Chimp Brewing in North Aurora for an evening of board games.

We provide the games, so bring a friend or two and come enjoy the fun. Proceeds from certain purchases benefit the library.



Paint and Sip Painting Party

**Tuesday, Apr. 23
6:30-8:30 pm**

Join us as we paint a spring cactus while sipping on mocktails. All supplies are provided. *Registration starts Mar. 1.*

ADULT BOOK CLUBS

Digital copies of book club titles may be available on Hoopla, Libby, or Boundless (formerly Axis360); print copies are available for checkout at the User Services Desk. Please register in advance.

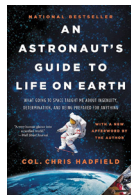
Narrative Nonfiction Book Club | Mondays • 7-8 pm



Mar. 11
The Feather Thief
by Kirk Wallace Johnson

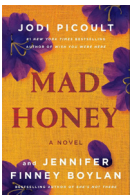


Apr. 8
The Worst Hard Time
by Timothy Egan



May 13
An
Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth
by Chris Hadfield

Morning Book Club | Wed. • 10:30-11:30 am



Mar. 6
Mad Honey
by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finley Boylan

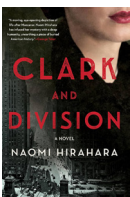


Apr. 3
Weyward
by Emilia Hart



May 1
Yellowface
by R.F. Kuang

Evening Book Club | Thursdays • 7-8 pm



Mar. 7
Clark and Division
by Naomi Hirahara



Apr. 4
Switchboard Soldiers
by Jennifer Chiaverini



May 2
The Other Mrs. by Mary Kubica

NORTH AURORA Community Group MEETINGS

Fox Valley Writers Group
Alternating Tuesdays • 6:45 pm
Contact: foxvalleywriters@gmail.com

North Aurora Garden Club
First Monday of each month • 6:30 pm
Contact: Gail Wilke (630) 618-6467

North Aurora Lions Club
Second Tuesday of each month • 7 pm
Contact: northauroralions@gmail.com

Toastmasters: Timely Talkers
1st, 3rd & 4th Wednesday of each month • 7 - 8:30 pm
4th Wednesday is on Zoom only
Contact: Dan Velasco at danvelasco123@gmail.com

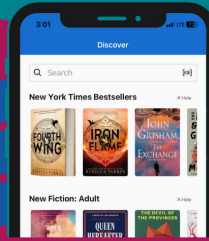
Toastmasters: Advanced Expressives
Fourth Saturday of each month
10:15 am - Noon
Contact: John Jerrard (630) 688-8438

DOWNLOAD THE NEW SWAN LIBRARIES + APP

Manage Your Account

Request Titles

Save Your Card



The new "SWAN Libraries +" app is here!

Download the new SWAN Libraries App to your smartphone or tablet. Once you login with your library card barcode and PIN, you can access the SWAN Library Catalog and your account. The SWAN Libraries + app is free to all patrons and available for iOS and Android.

FEATURES INCLUDE:

- Store your library card number right in the app, to use at self checks
- Review checkouts and renew eligible items
- View holds information; create, suspend, and or cancel holds
- Search the library catalog for physical and downloadable items
- Scan ISBN barcodes to see if an item is available at the library

For more details, screen shots, video tutorials, and how-to's about using the SWAN Library app check out their website:
swanlibraries.net/mobile-app



Take and Give Seed Library

Planning your garden? Check out free seeds or donate your own—or both!—at our Take and Give Seed Library in the lounge. Presented in partnership with the North Aurora Garden Club. *Limit 4 packets; available while supplies last.*

ART CLUB FOR ADULTS

Beginners welcome! Register **R** in advance. For adults and teens over 16 (with registered adult).

Spring Cookie Decorating **R**

Saturday, Mar. 9 • 10 am–Noon

(Adults 18+) Looking to learn how to decorate sugar cookies? Hop on over to our beginner-friendly cookie decorating class! Perfect for those new to sugar cookies or just looking for a fun time. Everything is included to decorate three cookies: a bunny, an egg, and a tulip. It'll be egg-celent! *Registration starts Feb. 1.*



Freestyle Diamond Art Bookmark **R**

Saturday, May 11

10 am–Noon OR

Tuesday, May 21

6:30–8:30 pm

Design and create a sparkling bookmark perfect for all book lovers. *Registration starts Apr. 1.*

Fantasy Dragon Eggs **R**

Tuesday, Mar. 19 • 6:30–8:30 pm

Perfect for *Harry Potter* or *Game of Thrones* fans, this class teaches how to make a fantasy dragon egg of your own. *Registration starts Feb. 1.*



Hydrangea Bubble Painting **R**

Sat., Apr. 13 • 10 am–Noon OR

Tuesday, Apr. 16 • 6:30–8:30 pm

Paint realistic hydrangea blooms using a fun technique. Just have fun and blow some bubbles! *Registration starts Mar. 1.*



RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

MESSENGER PUBLIC LIBRARY OF NORTH AURORA | SPRING 2024: MARCH, APRIL, MAY

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday-Thursday
9 am - 9 pm

Friday-Saturday
9 am - 5 pm

Sunday
1 - 5 pm

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mark Saperston, President
Mary Steed
Tanya Berley
Peggy Carlson
Elizabeth Cranford
James R. Hicks
Darlene Bailey

LIBRARY BOARD MEETINGS

Thursdays • 7-8pm
Mar. 14, Apr. 11, May 9

THE LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

Saturday, Mar. 30 and Sunday, Mar. 31
Sunday, May 26 and Monday, May 27



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Spring will be busy at the library, with a key focus on the roof replacement project scheduled during April and May. Our current roof has lasted twenty years thanks to regular maintenance, but like all things, it has an end-of-service life and is rated in poor condition. Please stay tuned for further information as we may need to reroute parking or traffic flow to allow for cranes, contractors, and supplies. The roof is a mix of shingles and EPDM (membrane) materials, with weighted rock ballast. The most disruptive part will be all the rock that has to be vacuumed off and replaced once the new membrane is secured. As such, we are cautioning patrons that the library may be **quite** loud on certain days and the sound volume may interrupt meetings.

We do apologize in advance for the inconvenience, but this is a necessary

endeavor for our building and grounds. Regular updates to a facility are imperative, and working in advance to prevent larger issues requires planning, and prudence with our financial resources.

The good news is we will have a safe and secure roof built to last another twenty years to keep our facilities and collection dry and warm. In other news, by the time this publication lands in your mailbox, we have hopes for warmth, sunshine, and a respite from the literal tundra that January brought us. Welcome Spring, even if ours here at the library might be a tad noisy!

Shannon Halikias
Library Director
shannon@messengerpl.org



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LIBRARY DIRECTOR