



# MESSENGER PUBLIC LIBRARY OF NORTH AURORA NEWSLETTER

## September Is National Library Card Sign-Up Month

Come in and get a library card! Enjoy fun activities and prizes all month.



## Fundraiser at The Breakfast Club

360 S. Randall Rd.  
Wednesday, Sept. 4  
7 am–3 pm



**FAMILY STORYTIME: 10 am**  
**LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP:**  
**10 am–2 pm**

35% of all sales will benefit programming at the library. Library staff will be on site to register eligible patrons for library cards. Each newly registered patron will receive a \$5 gift card for yummy food for their next visit!

## Save the Date for MPL's

# Holiday Open House



**December 1**

Save the date for Messenger Public Library's annual holiday open house! Join us at the library for a festive winter gathering full of song, crafts, snacks, and socializing. Watch the library's website, social media, and winter newsletter for more details.

# PUZZLE PALOOZA NOVEMBER 2



**Jigsaw Puzzle  
Competition FOR  
FAMILIES R**

**9:30–10:30 am**

**Jigsaw Puzzle  
Competition FOR  
TEENS AND ADULTS R**

**11:30 am–12:30 pm**

How fast can you and your friends or family assemble a puzzle? Show off your skills at this friendly puzzle competition! Registration required for individuals or groups, see online calendar for more details.

**Jigsaw Puzzle Swap  
2–4:30 pm**

Drop off gently used jigsaw puzzles in excellent condition (box intact, no missing pieces), pick up a new-to-you puzzle, or make a swap.

## Kindness Hats

**November 1–January 31**

Use your love of knitting or crochet to keep our community warm this winter. Stop by the Adult Services Help Desk starting November 1 to check out a kit with yarn, needles, and patterns, or use your own materials. Hats made in any size and color are then donated to local charities.

Make one or make 100! Every single hat is appreciated. Bring completed hats to the library by January 31.



## Gingerbread House Challenge

**November 15–29**

Design your own gingerbread creation and bring it to the library from November 15–29. Enter as a family team or individually! Pick up a copy of the rules and entry form at any library service desk. Public voting and award presentation will be at our Holiday Open House on December 1.





# YOUTH SERVICES

**Registration <sup>R</sup> is required for all programs beginning on Tuesday, August 20**, via the online events calendar at [messengerpl.org](https://messengerpl.org), by phone (630) 801-4340, or in person. For drop-in program reminders, use the **Remind Me** or **Add to My Calendar** buttons on the calendar.

## BABIES-PRESCHOOL

### Baby Storytime <sup>R</sup>

**Tuesdays • 9:30–10 am OR 10:15–10:45 am**

**Session 1: Sept. 17–Oct. 15**

**Session 2: Nov. 12–Dec. 10**

*Ages 0–24 months with*

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

### Family Storytime <sup>R</sup>

**Thursdays • 10–10:30 am**

**Session 1: Sept. 19–Oct. 17**

**Session 2: Nov. 14–Dec. 12**

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

### Baby Playtime: Building Fun!

**Monday, Oct. 14**

**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!



### Toddler Playtime LET'S PRETEND!

**Monday, Sept. 23 • 10–11 am**

### PLAYDOUGH PARTY!

**Saturday, Nov. 23 • 10–11 am**

*Ages 2–3 with caregiver.* Enjoy playtime with your toddler as you explore fun stations with new friends.



### Sensory Playtime

**10–11 am**

**Monday, September 30**

**Saturday, October 26**

**Monday, November 11**

*Ages 0–4 with a caregiver.* Enjoy sensory play experiences with your little ones.



### Miss Jamie's Farm Music Show <sup>R</sup>

**Friday, Sept. 20 • 10–11 am**

Join us at the library as we bring back the wonderful Miss Jamie's Farm Music Show! Enjoy a high energy, audience interactive musical play with farm animal puppets. Kids sing along, dance, and answer trivia about farm animals and farm foods. Program will be outside, weather permitting.

### Dance Party! <sup>R</sup>

**Friday, October 18**

**10–10:45 am**

*Ages 0–4 with a caregiver.*

Boogie down with your little one as we read a groovy story and then dance the morning away!

### Halloween Storytime & Costume Parade <sup>R</sup>

**Thursday, October 31**

**10–10:45 am**

*Ages 0–5 with a caregiver.* Come to the library in your costume to enjoy spooky stories and songs, then show off your costume in our parade around the library!

### Preschool Process Art <sup>R</sup>

**Friday, November 22**

**10–10:30 am**

*Ages 3–5 with a caregiver.* Enjoy stories, songs, and a special activity with your preschooler!

## PUZZLE PALOOZA NOVEMBER 2



### Family Jigsaw Puzzle Competition <sup>R</sup>

**Saturday, November 2**

**9:30–10:30 am**

How fast can your family puzzle? Show off your skills at this exciting, friendly puzzle competition! Teams will have up to one hour to complete a 350-piece puzzle. Prizes will be given to the first team to finish or complete the most within an hour. Please arrive before 9:30 am so we can begin promptly. Please register as a family, registration required.



# ALL AGES

## Fall Book Subscriptions

*Ages 0–18.* Enjoy a new selection of books every month! Pick up your books on September 10, October 10, and November 10. Messenger Library card required.

## Lego Club

**Thursdays • 6–7 pm**

**September 12, October 10 & November 14**

*All ages.* Visit Youth Services to build a Lego creation to display for all to enjoy.

## Incredible Bats & Other Creatures

**Monday, October 14**

**2:30–3:30 pm**

Earn a new appreciation for bats, spiders, snakes, rats and other misunderstood animals. Dispel common myths that make these creatures seem so creepy and discover what makes them so unique. See live animals! Please register each member of your group.



## 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 provided.



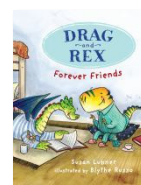
**SEPTEMBER 14**

*Hamster Holmes Big Time Puzzle by Albin Sadar*



**OCTOBER 12**

*Good Dog: Bo Hatches a Plan by Cam Higgins*



**NOVEMBER 9**

*Drag and Rex Forever Friends by Susan Lubner*

# KIDS (AGES 5-12)

Programs with a  require advance registration.

## Apple Cider Donuts with Kidinary Cooking Academy

**Ages 4–7: Wednesday,**

**September 11 • 6–7 pm**

**Ages 8–12: Wednesday,**

**September 25 • 6–7 pm**

Let your budding chef explore the culinary arts and discover their inner chef! This class accommodates nut, dairy, and gluten allergies.



## Junior Library Helpers Training Session

**Saturday, September 21**

**11:30–Noon**

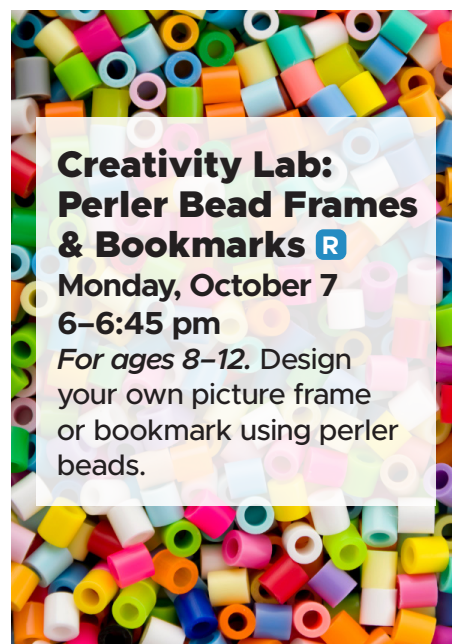
*Ages 9–11.* Too young to be a Teen Volunteer but still want to help around the library? Attend training, then help with simple tasks on your own schedule (15–30 minutes, one or two times/month).

## Read With Rover

**Sundays • 2–3 pm**

**September 15, October 20 & November 17**

*For readers.* Love reading? Or dogs? Practice reading aloud with a licensed therapy dog from the Fox Valley Therapy Dog Club. Each attendee will get 10–15 minutes to read with a dog. Order will be determined by tickets available at 2 pm.



## Creativity Lab: Perler Bead Frames & Bookmarks

**Monday, October 7**

**6–6:45 pm**

*For ages 8–12.* Design your own picture frame or bookmark using perler beads.

## Books & Bites

**Saturdays • 10:30–11:15 am**

**September 21, October 19, & November 16**

*Ages 8–12.* Let's learn how to make a tasty snack and chow down, listen to a short story or chapter book teaser, and talk books.

## Spooky Fall Painting Kit

**Pick-up begins Monday, October 28**

*Grades K–12.* Sign up to receive a painting kit featuring ghosts and spooky Halloween characters.

## Creativity Lab: DIY Pumpkin Battery

**Monday, November 4**

**6:30–7:15 pm**

*Ages 8–12.* Explore circuits and electricity by turning a pumpkin into a battery!





# TEENS

Registration **R** is required for all programs beginning on Tuesday, August 20, via the online events calendar at [messengerpl.org](https://messengerpl.org), by phone (630) 801-4340, or in person. For drop-in program reminders, use the **Remind Me** or **Add to My Calendar** buttons on the calendar.



**Teen Yum Club: Thailand **R****  
**Thursday, October 3**  
**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! This month we are exploring snacks from Thailand. Space is limited.



**Teen Book Box Subscription **R****  
*Grades 6–12.* Enjoy a new selection of books every month! Pick up your books on **September 10, October 10, and November 10**. Messenger Library card required.

**Teen & Adult Painting Party **R****  
**Thursday, September 19**  
**6:30–8:30 pm**

Teens and adults can join us for a painting party featuring their choice between two fall-themed paintings. All adult registrants must be accompanied by a teen, and all teen registrants must be accompanied by an adult. Supplies provided.



**Murder Mystery Night **R****  
**Thursday, Oct. 17 • 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 VOLUNTEERS

Students ages 11–18/grades 6–12 are welcome to volunteer at the library year-round! Visit [messengerpl.org/teenvolunteers](https://messengerpl.org/teenvolunteers) to apply.

**Teen Taste Test: Fast Food Showdown! **R****  
**Thursday, November 7 • 7–8 pm**

*Ages 11–18.* We have some new challengers for our classic Fast Food Showdown. Let's try burgers, fries, and drinks to determine the best of the best. Come hungry!

**Financial Aid Process **R****  
**Thursday, November 21 • 7–8 pm**

*Grades 11–12 + adults.* Come hear about your financial aid options for college and get your questions answered from an ISAC instructor.

## Teen Take Out

**SEPTEMBER: Stick Bombs Stem Kit**

**OCTOBER: Hocus Pocus Interactive Movie Kit**

**NOVEMBER: Yarn Painting**

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

**Registration <sup>R</sup> is required for all programs, unless noted, beginning on Tuesday, August 20,** via the online events calendar at [messengerpl.org](https://messengerpl.org), by phone (630) 896-0240 ext. 3, or in person. For drop-in program reminders, use the **Remind Me** or **Add to My Calendar** buttons on the calendar.



## **Crochet Basics <sup>R</sup>**

**Thursday, Sept. 12 • 6–8 pm**

Are you interested in making a Kindness Hat but don't know how to knit or crochet? Come learn the basics with us! All materials provided.

## **Wits Workout <sup>R</sup>**

**Fridays • 10:30–11:30 am**

Wits Workout is an engaging, interactive, and educational brain health program designed especially for seniors. Learn about brain health and participate in activities to strengthen your memory and increase your brain power!

**September 13**

**Slumber Party (sleep)**

**October 11 • The World Over (stress management)**

**November 8**

**Two Heads are Better than One (socialization)**



## **Ageless Grace Introductory Class <sup>R</sup>**

**Wednesday, September 18 • 10–11 am**

Ageless Grace is a brain-based fitness class that underlines how everything we do has a purpose in prolonging our brain health and uses elements of coordination, cardio, balance and flexibility. Attendees perform all exercises from the chair. People of all ages and abilities can take this class.

## **Adult & Teen Painting Party <sup>R</sup>**

**Thursday, September 19**

**6:30–8:30 pm**

Join us for a painting party! Participants select from two fall-themed paintings. All adult registrants must be accompanied by a teen, and all teen registrants must be accompanied by an adult. Supplies are provided.



## **MPL Offers Basic Technology Programs at Waubonsee Community College <sup>R</sup>**

**September 15–21**

In partnership with Aurora Public Library District and Waubonsee Community College, MPL is excited to offer technology programs. Watch the MPL website and social media for scheduling and registration details as they become available.

## **Nobody's Fool Event <sup>R</sup>**

**Thursday, Sept. 19 • 7–8 pm**

In this talk with psychology professor Dan Simons, co-author of *Nobody's Fool: Why We Get Taken In and What We Can Do About It*, discover how deception works and empower yourself to become nobody's fool. Zoom link provided upon registration.

**VIRTUAL EVENT**

## **Medicare Basics <sup>R</sup>**

**Thursday, Sept. 26 • 7–8 pm**

David Wyly of Medicare Solutions Network details what Medicare covers, what it doesn't, and your options for additional coverage. He also discusses supplements, Part D prescription, and other cost-saving strategies for the years ahead.

## **Books and Brews at Brother Chimp Brewing <sup>R</sup>**

**Monday, Sept. 30 • 7–8:30 pm**

Join us at Brother Chimp Brewery in North Aurora for a discussion of 2019 thriller *The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides. Copies of the book are available for checkout at the User Services Desk.



## **Birding Nature Walk <sup>R</sup>**

**Friday, October 4 • 10–11 am**

Enjoy the changing seasons as we walk, look, and listen for the birds inhabiting the Dick Young Forest Preserve this fall. A Forest Preserve District naturalist covers basic bird-identification skills and shares a few interesting stories along the way.



## Mysteries at MPL

Monday, October 14

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.

## Drop-In Crochet and Knit Club

Thursdays, October 24 and November 14 • 6–8 pm

Come relax and work on making something cozy with others who are interested in the fiber arts!



## Tricks and Treats: A Cultural History of Hallowe'en

Monday, October 28  
7–8:30 pm

Gain a deeper understanding of the historical and cultural significance of Hallowe'en on this bewitching journey through time.



## The Story of Elizabeth Packard

Tuesday, October 29 • 7–8 pm

Elizabeth Packard was wrongfully committed to an insane asylum by her husband in 1860. She won her freedom and campaigned against other women being treated similarly. Historical reenactor Laura F. Keyes tells Elizabeth's story from her perspective in this compelling program.



## Incredible Bats! and Other Misunderstood Creatures

Sunday, October 13 • 2–3 pm

Earn a new appreciation for bats, spiders, snakes, rats and other misunderstood animals by learning about their diets, habits, communication, and more. Dispel common myths that make these creatures seem so creepy and discover what makes them so unique.

**AARP**

**DRIVER SAFETY** 

## AARP Driver Safety Class

Wednesday, October 16

12:15–4:30 pm AND

Thursday, October 17

12:30–4:30 pm

This classroom style program will not include any on-road driving. Both sessions must be completed to qualify for your insurance carrier's discount. Cost \$25 (AARP members \$20) cash or check made out to AARP.

## Multicultural Holiday Cooking

VIRTUAL  
EVENT

Monday, Nov. 4 • 7–8:30 pm

Join Kristyn Slick and learn how to prepare a beautiful and cozy holiday meal that gives you a taste of each special family gathering including: Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa! Zoom link provided upon registration.

## Make Fidget Bags to Take or Donate

Monday, November 18

6:30–8:30 pm

These touchy-feely sensory pouches (also known as squish bags and sensory pads) are a wonderful way to explore the senses. They are also so easy to make! Making sensory pouches is a quick, inexpensive, and relaxing sensory activity for people living with dementia. Learn how to make a few for friends, relatives, or to donate. We will distribute donations made in this class to individuals in dementia care in the North Aurora area.

## Music @ Messenger 6:30 - 8 pm

### The Music @ Messenger concert

**series** returns for fall shows highlighting the talents of local Fox River Valley artists. Bring your lawn chair and picnic for an outdoor show on the rear lawn of the library. All shows are outdoors as weather allows.

### Corey O'Donnell

Wednesday, September 11

Corey brings piano, trumpet and harmonica to play familiar faves that will remind you of classic songs, rock, country roads, and piano mans of the days past. His cheerful presence is sure to be a crowd pleaser.



### Mark Weber

Wednesday, September 25

Get ready for a true singer/songwriter vibe with Mark Weber, a frequent guest at local coffee shops and songwriter sessions in our surrounding area. He performs originals and covers with his own guitar centric flair.





# ART CLUB FOR ADULTS

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

## Art Collage Book **R**

Saturday, September 14  
10 am–Noon

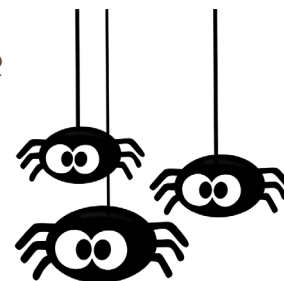
Visiting artist Colette Shelby guides us through the process of creating an Art Collage Book using old books, magazines, and other embellishments. Registration starts August 1.



## Beaded Halloween Spiders **R**

Saturday, October 12, 2024 • 10 am–Noon OR  
Tuesday, October 15 • 6:30–8:30 pm

Use simple beading techniques to create sparkling beaded spider ornaments. Registration starts September 1.



## Book Page Rosette Pumpkin **R**

Saturday, November 9 • 10 am–Noon OR  
Tuesday, November 19 • 6:30–8:30 pm

Create the perfect focal point for your fall centerpiece! Learn to create book-page “rosettes.” Cover an artificial pumpkin, and then decorate with twine, berries, and leaves. Registration starts October 1.



## Macramé Plant Hanger **R**

Tuesday, September 17  
6:30–8:30 pm

Macramé is back! Learn the basics while making a cute mini plant hanger. It’s “knot” as hard as you think! Registration starts August 1.

## PLEASE NOTE: December Art Club–Project TBA.

Registration opens November 1.

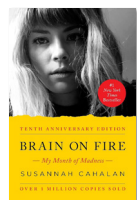


# ADULT BOOK CLUBS

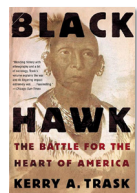
Digital copies of book discussion titles may be available on hoopla, Libby, or Boundless; print copies are available for checkout at the User Services Desk. Please register **R** in advance.

## Narrative Nonfiction Book Club **R**

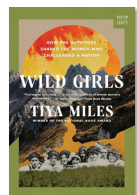
Mondays • 7–8 pm



**September 9**  
*Brain on Fire: My Month of Madness*  
by Susannah Cahalan



**October 14**  
*Black Hawk: The Battle for the Heart of America*  
by Kerry A. Trask



**November 11**  
*Wild Girls: How the Outdoors Shaped the Women Who Challenged a Nation*  
by Tiya Miles

## Morning Book Club **R** Wednesdays

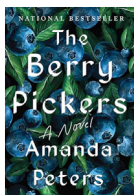
10:30–11:30 am



**September 4**  
*Book Lovers*  
by Emily Henry



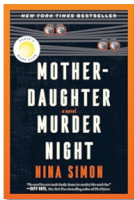
**October 2**  
*The Hacienda*  
by Isabel Canas



**November 6**  
*The Berry Pickers*  
by Amanda Peters

## Evening Book Club **R**

Thursdays • 7–8 pm



**September 5**  
*Mother-Daughter Murder Night*  
by Nina Simon



**October 3**  
*Practical Magic*  
by Alice Hoffman



**November 7**  
*The Editor*  
by Steven Rowley

## NORTH AURORA Community Group MEETINGS

### North Aurora Garden Club

1st Monday/month • 6:30 pm  
Gail Wilke (630) 618-6467

### Fox Valley Writers Group

Alternating Tuesdays • 6:45 pm  
foxvalleywriters@gmail.com

### North Aurora Lions Club

2nd Tuesday/month • 7 pm  
northauroralions@gmail.com

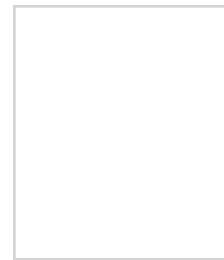
### Toastmasters: Timely Talkers

1st & 3rd Wednesday/month  
7–8:30 pm  
Dan Velasco at  
danvelasco123@gmail.com

### Toastmasters: Advanced Expressives

4th Saturday/month  
10:15 am–Noon  
John Jerrard (630) 688-8438





## RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

MESSENGER PUBLIC LIBRARY OF NORTH AURORA | FALL 2024: SEPT, OCT, NOV

### 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 • 7–8 pm  
Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14

### THE LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

Sunday, September 1 and Monday,  
September 2 • **Labor Day**

Friday, September 6  
**Staff Development Day**

Wednesday, November 27 (at 5 pm)  
and Thursday, November 28  
**Thanksgiving Holiday**

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

As we enter into a season of gratefulness, I'd like to highlight some of our recent moments as well as a few things coming down the library pipeline. We have just been awarded a Kane County "Fit for Kids" grant for *Biking Bookworms*, and funding will provide an adorable new bicycle rack and bicycle repair station. This project will tie into the Fox River bike trail and local initiatives to encourage health and wellness in our community.

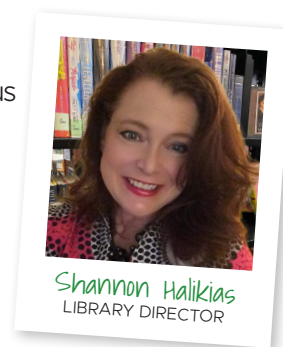
A local benefactor is raising funds for an additional memorial bench for our back area, a lovely and thoughtful gift to foster growing appreciation for outdoor programming. Please enjoy it with the new butterfly garden plantings and improved landscaping.

Our fall Staff Development Day will be on maintaining a calm focus during difficult national cycles. I'm grateful that over nine local agencies are meeting to share

training enabling us to assist patrons with information on topics such as food pantries, domestic abuse, senior services, local emergency social services, narcan training, and input from our local police and fire departments.

And yum! I'm grateful to **The Breakfast Club** for hosting a fundraiser: 35% of sales will be donated to programming. Please enjoy tasty food, a storytime, register for a library card, and get a photo op with *Claire* (ok, me in a wacky costume) on Wednesday, September 4. Enjoy this beautiful fall season in North Aurora!

**Shannon Halikias**  
Library Director  
[shannon@messengerpl.org](mailto:shannon@messengerpl.org)



Shannon Halikias  
LIBRARY DIRECTOR

