



MESSENGER PUBLIC LIBRARY OF NORTH AURORA NEWSLETTER

TINY ART SHOW: SCULPTURE!

Pickup: Saturday, March 22 (while supplies last)

Dropoff: April 7-18

Voting: Tuesday, April 22 - Tuesday, April 29 at 7pm

Reception: Tuesday, April 29 • 6-7:30pm

The Tiny Art Show is back! Unleash your creativity and turn a small canvas into a creative sculpture (max size: 5"x5"x5" cube). Pick up a kit that includes sculpture clay at the library starting March 22 (while supplies last). Submissions that include sculptural elements are encouraged but not required, so use your imagination! Turn in your completed masterpiece April 7-18, then join us April 29 for a reception, where you can show off your creation and vote for your favorites!



Drawn to the Library

Celebrate National Library Week

National Library Week

April 6-12

Millions of people across the country visit their libraries every week. What's the draw? Everything! From storytime to tech help, genealogy to book clubs, libraries have something for everyone. Stop in and find your draw! Fun and prizes all week.

Book Bundle Giveaway: Staff Picks

April 6-12

Enter to win one of five book bundles, each featuring 3 titles of staff favorites.

Submit your entry online from April 6-12 at messengerpl.org. Winners will be contacted after April 13.



SAVE THE DATE!

Summer Challenge Kickoff

Saturday, June 7

Watch our website and social media for more information and registration details.



Free Comic Book Day

Saturday, May 3 • 9 am

Visit the library to receive a free comic book and bookmark of your choice. While supplies last.

YOUTH SERVICES

Registration ^R is required for all programs beginning on February 20, via the online events calendar at 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 ^R

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

March 11-April 1 & April 15-May 6

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

March 13-April 3 & April 17-May 8

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

Preschool Storytime & Craft ^R

Thursdays • 10–10:30 am

March 6: Happy & Healthy Teeth

April 10: Earth Month

May 15: Musical Instruments

Ages 3–5 with caregiver. Join us to read a story together then complete a fun craft or activity for you to take home!

Baby Playtime

10-11 am

Saturday, March 1 • Go Cars Go!

Monday, May 19 • Bubble Mania

Ages 0-2 with caregiver. Enjoy playtime with your baby or young toddler as you learn and explore with new friends. Bubble Mania will be held outdoors, weather permitting.

Toddler Playtime: Vet Clinic

Monday, April 28 • 10-11 am

Ages 2–3 with caregiver. Enjoy playtime with your toddler as you learn and explore with new friends.

March Movement Madness ^R

Friday, March 28 • 10-10:30 am

Ages 3-5 with caregiver. Join us as we shake out those winter blues with a program about movement, play, and being active!



Music Mania ^R

Thursday, May 22 • 10-10:30 am

Ages 3-5 with caregiver. Join us as we bring out our bells, shakers, and sticks for a fun music party!



Sensory Playtime

Mondays • 10-11 am

March 17, April 14, May 5

Ages 0-4 with caregiver. Enjoy sensory play experiences with your little ones. Stations are designed to stimulate your child's mind through sensory, discovery, and gross motor activities.



Miss Katie Sings Family Concert ^R

Monday, April 21 • 10 am

Best for ages 1-7 with their families. Join the talented Miss Katie Sings for a fun time of music and movement! Experience fingerplays, singalongs, shakers, scarves and more as you enjoy new and familiar songs rooted in creative play, kindness, and community. Outside, weather permitting.

ALL AGES

Reading Challenges for All Ages

YEAR-ROUND: 1000 Books Before Kindergarten, 500 Books Before Middle School, 100 Books Before Graduation

SCHOOL YEAR: Monarch (Grades K–3), Bluestem (Grades 3–5), Caudill (Grades 4–8), Lincoln (Grades 9–12)

Ages 0–18. Read or listen to books and graphic novels, keep track of titles on Beanstack or a paper log, and earn goodies, Culvers, and free prize books! Special thanks to Culvers of North Aurora for donating free scoops of custard for readers (available while supplies last). Visit messengerpl.org/reading-challenges for more info.

Spring Book Subscriptions

Ages 0–18. Enjoy a new selection of books every month! Pick up your books on March 10, April 10, and May 10. Messenger Library card required.

Lego Club

Thursdays • 6–7 pm

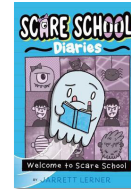
March 13, April 10, May 8

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

Early Reader Book Club

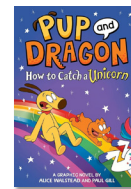
Saturdays • 10-10:45 am 

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.



MARCH 8

Welcome to Scare School by Jarrett Lerner



MAY 10

Pup and Dragon: How to Catch a Unicorn by Alice Walstead and Paul Gill

Books & Bites

Saturdays • 10:30-11:15 am

March 15 & May 17

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.

Nature's Superheroes

Saturday, April 12 • 10-11 am

Ages 5-9. Marvel and Disney characters are not the only creatures with super powers. Naturalists from Kane County Forest Preserve will show how local animals and plants can be just as incredible as mythical superheroes.



Creativity Lab: Yum Club

Monday, April 28 • 6:30-7:30 pm

Ages 8-12. Explore the world! Let's learn about a new country through food and games. Check back to find out which country. Space is limited and reserved for kids who are 8-12 years old on April 28.

KIDS (AGES 5-12)

Programs with a  require advance registration.

Junior Library Helpers Training Session

Monday, March 3 • 6:30-7 pm

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).

Soft Pretzels with Kidinary Cooking Academy

Wednesday, March 12

Ages 4-7 • 5:15-6:15 pm

Ages 8-12 • 6:30-7:30 pm

Let your budding chef explore the culinary arts and gain confidence in the kitchen! In this hands-on cooking program, Chef Jessica will lead everyone in making soft pretzels and cheese sauce.

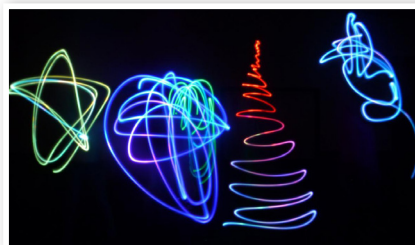


Read With Rover

Sundays • 2-3 pm

March 16 & May 18

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 arrival at 2 pm.



Creativity Lab: Light Painting

Monday, March 31 • 6:30-7:30 pm

Ages 8-12. Let's get creative with light! We'll experiment with long exposure photography and lights to create works of art.

TEENS

Registration **R** is required for all programs beginning on February 20, via the online events calendar at 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 DIY: Pressed Flower Lanterns **R**

Thursday, March 6 • 7-8 pm

Ages 11-18. Create a beautiful pressed-flower lantern to display in your room.



CrimeLab Creators with SciTech **R**

Thursday, March 20 • 7-8 pm

Ages 11-18. Join us for a hands-on forensics workshop to dive into the world of crime scene investigation. Learn how science and technology come together to solve mysteries in the real world.

Teen Book Box Subscription **R**

Grades 6-12.

Enjoy a new selection of books every month! Pick up your books on **March 10, April 10, and May 10**. Messenger Library card required.



Teen Yum Club: Colombia **R**



Thursday, April 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!

Murder Mystery Night **R**

Thursday, April 24 • 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.



Teen Taste Test: Fast Food Breakfast Battle **R**

Saturday, May 3 • 11 am-Noon

Ages 11-18. Who reigns supreme in the battle of fast food breakfasts? It's up to you to taste, vote, and crown a winner!

End of Year Party! **R**

Thursday, May 15

7-8 pm

Ages 11-18. Come relax and celebrate an end to the school year! We will have snacks, a craft, and play Jackbox games on the big screen.

Teen Volunteers

Students ages 11-18/grades 6-12 are welcome to volunteer at the library year-round! Applications for summer 2025 will be available April 1; in-person training will be Thursday, May 29 at 7 pm. Summer volunteers must have completed sixth grade. Visit messengerpl.org/teenvolunteers to apply.

Teen Take Out

MARCH: DIY Yarn Balls

APRIL: Paint Portraits

MAY: Mini Lightsabers

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.



MARCH



APRIL

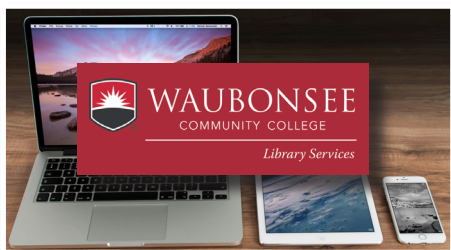


MINI LIGHTSABERS

MAY

ADULT PROGRAMS

Registration ^R is required for all programs, unless noted, beginning on February 20, via the online events calendar at 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.



Spring Technology Programs ^R

Coming soon!

MPL is excited to offer more technology programs in partnership with Waubonsee Community College and other local libraries. Watch our website and social media for scheduling and registration details as they become available.

Beginning Amigurumi ^R

Thursday, March 13

6:30-8:30 pm OR

Wednesday, March 26

10 am-Noon

Join us for an exciting amigurumi class where you'll learn the art of creating adorable crocheted creatures! Whether you're a beginner or an experienced crocheter, this class covers the basics of shaping, stitching, and assembling amigurumi. Some crochet experience needed, supplies are provided.



REMINDER

The next consolidated election is April 1. MPL is a polling place on Election Day. For election details and to find out where you can vote, visit the Kane County Clerk's website.

Ruth Handler: The Story Behind Her Dream Doll Creation, Barbie™ ^R

Saturday, March 15 • 3-4 pm

Step back in time to 1994, the 35th anniversary of Mattel's bestselling doll, Barbie. Storyteller Lynn Rymarz portrays Ruth Handler, the creator of Barbie. Hear about the beginnings of Barbie, from inspiration to creation, and discover Ruth's beginnings along the way.



Mysteries at MPL ^R

Monday, March 17

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.



Drop-In Crochet and Knit Club

Thursdays • 6-8 pm

March 20, April 17, May 15

Come relax and work on making something cozy with others who are interested in the fiber arts! This is a drop-in program for intermediate and advanced crafters. Refreshments are provided. Please bring your own materials and projects to work on



Wits Workout ^R

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!



March 21 • Child's Play
(long term memory)

April 11 • Giddy for Green
(focus and attention)

May 9 • Bright Ideas
(tips and techniques)



Vibrational Sound Healing

Thursday, April 3 • 7-8 pm
OR Saturday, April 5
10-11 am

Come immerse yourself in the healing sounds of vibration with Jenny Bergold. Experience the balancing effects on your nervous system while Jenny plays the gong along with the beautiful sounds of crystal and Tibetan bowls. Bring a blanket and/or a yoga mat. There are two sessions of this program. Both are identical; please only register for one.



AARP Driver Safety

Wednesday, April 23
12:30-4:30 pm AND
Thursday, April 24
12:30-4:30 pm

Refresh your driving skills and find out how to operate vehicles safely in today's increasingly challenging driving environment. This classroom style program does 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 due at the start of session one.

Morbid History

Monday, May 19 • 7-8 pm

From grand corpse larceny in medieval Venice to the iron coffins popping up in Lincoln Park, this light-hearted presentation takes you around the world with spine-tingling true tales you never learned in history class.



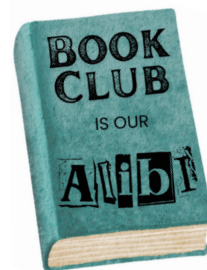
Exploring Thai Cuisine

Monday, May 12 • 7-8:30 pm OR
Friday, May 16 • 10:30 am-Noon
Chef Susan Maddox demonstrates how to prepare several Thai dishes. Recipes and samples are included! There are two sessions of this program. Both are identical; please only register for one.

Book Club Is Our Alibi

Monday, April 14 • 7-8:15 pm

Meet our new book club! Perfect for fans of tension-filled reads and thrilling plots. This spring, we discuss *First Lie Wins* by Ashley Elston. Copies available at the User Services Desk. Location provided upon registration.



Composting Basics

Monday, April 21 • 7-8 pm

Experience the art and science of composting, and learn how everyday organic waste can be transformed into nutrient-rich compost that supports healthier gardens and reduces landfill waste.

NORTH AURORA **Community Group** **MEETINGS**

North Aurora Garden Club

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

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

ART CLUB FOR ADULTS

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

Busted Canvas Art **R**

Saturday, March 8
10 am-Noon OR
Tuesday, March 18
6:30-8:30 pm

Create a unique art project with a 3D effect by cutting and popping out sections of a flat canvas to reveal another image below. Registration is open.



Sakura Flower Eggs **R**

Saturday, April 12 • 2-4 pm
OR Tuesday, April 15
6:30-8:30 pm

Inspired by the cherry blossom (Japanese Sakura), which is the national flower of Japan and a symbol of renewal, optimism, and spring, these festive eggs are crafted with yarn and cherry blossom sequins. Registration starts March 1.

Pressed Flower Jars **R**

Saturday, May 10 • 10 am-Noon
Learn the history of pressed flowers in art and create a stunning vase using pre-pressed flowers and recycled jars. Registration starts April 1.

Watercolor Wreaths **R**

Tuesday, May 20
6:30-8:30 pm

Artist Audrey Ra joins us to lead the group in painting a lovely watercolor floral wreath. Registration starts April 1.

PLEASE NOTE: June Art Club—Project TBA.

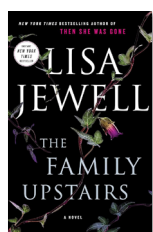
Registration opens May 1.

ADULT BOOK CLUBS

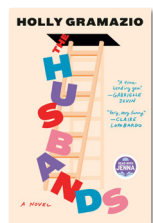
Digital copies of book club titles may be available on hoopla, Libby, or Boundless; print copies are available for checkout at the User Services Desk.

Morning Book Club **R**

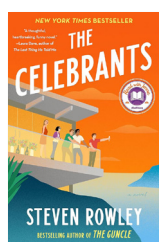
Wednesdays 10:30–11:30 am



MARCH 5
The Family Upstairs by Lisa Jewell



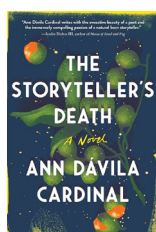
APRIL 2
The Husbands by Holly Gramazio



MAY 7
The Celebrants by Steven Rowley

Evening Book Club **R**

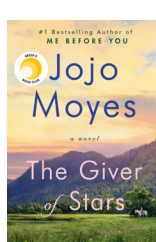
Thursdays • 7–8 pm



MARCH 6
The Storyteller's Death by Ann Davila Cardinal



APRIL 3
Garden Spells by Sarah Addison Allen



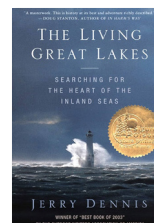
MAY 1
The Giver of Stars by Jojo Moyes

Narrative Nonfiction Book Club **R**

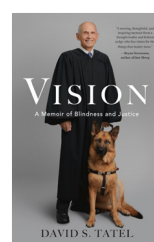
Mondays • 7–8 pm



MARCH 10
Cloistered: My Years as a Nun by Catherine Coldstream



APRIL 14
The Living Great Lakes: Searching for the Heart of the Inland Seas by Jerry Dennis



MAY 12
Vision: A Memoir of Blindness and Justice by David S. Tatel



RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

MESSENGER PUBLIC LIBRARY OF NORTH AURORA | SPRING 2025: 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 • 7–8 pm
March 13, April 10, May 8

THE LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

Saturday, April 19
Sunday, April 20
Sunday, May 25
Monday, May 26



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

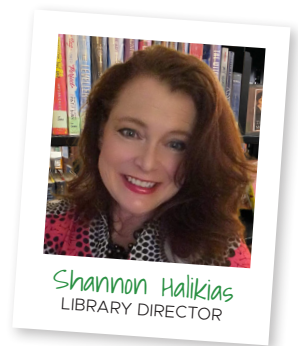
The word literacy is defined as the ability to read, write, speak, and listen in a way that lets us communicate effectively and make sense of the world. Promoting literacy on every front is also core to the mission of a library, and as such I'm excited to announce a new partnership with **Literacy Volunteers Fox Valley** and the beginnings of work to strengthen programming, outreach, and collection acquisitions to benefit literacy initiatives.

In the past two months, we received a \$12,000 donation for children's literacy from the **Dunham Fund of Aurora**, a nonprofit foundation supporting projects benefiting community, economic growth, and education. We were also graced with a \$5,000 memorial donation from the estate of a beloved patron and will apply those funds to adult literacy initiatives. A little extra gas in the engine for programming is a wonderful gift, and

to quote Michelle (Head of YS), "We've never been able to dream this big."

As we level up on literacy and ELL services, I'd like to promote the need for tutoring volunteers in the North Aurora area, with only a one-hour commitment each week. There is a waiting list of individuals needing assistance, and you can help! The next training session we can promote is on Tues/Thur March 11, 13, 18, 20 at St. Charles Library. You may learn more by calling Literacy Volunteers at (630) 584-4428 or visiting www.lvfv.org.

Shannon Halikias
Library Director
shannon@messengerpl.org



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