



MESSENGER PUBLIC LIBRARY OF NORTH AURORA NEWSLETTER



Celebrate National Library Week!

April 19-26

Find your joy! Joy isn't one-size-fits-all. For some, it's losing track of time in a stack of graphic novels. For others, it's the spark of confidence from a polished résumé, the excitement of a packed author talk, or the simple relief of having free Wi-Fi when it's needed most. Whatever joy looks like to you, you'll find it at the library. No barriers, no cover charge, no secret password. Just walk in. This National Library Week is a celebration of all the ways libraries bring joy to our lives and communities. Find your joy. It's waiting for you at the library.

Book Bundle Giveaway: Award Winners April 19-26

Enter to win one of five book bundles for all ages, each featuring a selection of award winning titles. Submit your entry from April 19-26 online at messengerpl.org or in the library. Winners will be contacted after April 27.



The Palace Project App Is Here!

The Palace Project app is your new one-stop shop to find ebooks and e-audio from both OverDrive/Libby and eRead Illinois (formerly Boundless). Search for it in your app store to use on mobile phones and tablets. Kindle users and Libby lovers - don't worry: Libby is not going anywhere! The Palace app is an additional way to access OverDrive titles plus read eRead Illinois titles.

4TH ANNUAL TINY ART SHOW: Celebrate Nature! 🌱
PICKUP: Saturday, March 21
DROPOFF: April 6-19
VOTING: April 22-29
RECEPTION: Wednesday, April 29 • 6:30-7:30 pm

Unleash your creativity and create a masterpiece inspired by the earth. You choose—canvas or 3D tiny art accepted. Bonus points for upcycling materials to turn trash into treasure! Return your completed masterpiece April 6-19, then join us April 29 for a reception where you can show off your creation and vote for your favorites!



Library Road Trip March 28-April 30

Library Road Trip is back and better than ever! 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. *Please note that MPL is closed for the spring holiday April 4-5.*

REMINDER: The next general primary election is March 17. 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 at clerk2.kanecountyil.gov.

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 17-May 5

Ages 0-24 months with caregiver.

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

Toddler Storytime ^R

NEW!

Thursdays • 10-10:30 am

March 19-May 7

Ages 2-3 with caregiver. Enjoy stories, rhymes, and songs while building pre-literacy skills and learning about the world around us. Siblings welcome.

Preschool Storytime ^R

Thursdays • 10:45-11:15 am

March 19-May 7

Ages 3-5. Enjoy stories and songs while building pre-literacy skills and learning about the world around us. Preschool Storytime is a first “on our own” experience; caregivers must remain in the youth department during the program.

Sensory Playtime

Mondays, March 9 and April 13, Saturday May 2 • 10-11 am

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.

Pre-K Art Play:

Eric Carle Collages ^R

Tuesday, March 10 • 10-11 am

Ages 2-5 with caregiver.

Explore the art of collage using the inspiration of legendary children’s book illustrator Eric Carle. Please register each child attending.



Toddler Prom ^R

Monday, March 30

10-10:30 am

Ages 0-5 with caregiver. Put on your dancing shoes and fanciest outfit to join us for our first ever Toddler Prom! Come dance the morning away with music, shakers, and bubbles!

Preschool STEAM ^R

10-10:30 am

Wed, April 1: 3D Rainbows

Fri, April 17: Bird’s Nests

Mon, May 4: Messy Art

Fri, May 15: Torn Paper Flowers

Ages 3-5 with caregiver. Join us to explore books and activities based on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and/or Math.



Baby Playtime: Tunnel Time

Mon, April 20 • 10-11 am

Ages 0-2 with caregiver.

Enjoy playtime with your baby or young toddler as you learn and explore with new friends.



Toddler Playtime: Vet Clinic

Monday, May 18 • 10-11 am

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

ALL AGES



Giant Bubble Show

Saturday, March 28 • 10 am

Aimed at ages 0-8 with caregiver.

Shake out those winter blues and come join us on the Library Lawn for a Giant Bubble Show from TwistiCity! This is a bubble show like no other. Kids in bubbles! Bubbles as big as cars!

Lego Club

Thursdays • 6-7 pm

March 12, April 9, May 14

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

Spring Book Subscriptions (¡también en español!)



Ages 0-18. Enjoy a new selection of books every month! Pick up your books on the 10th of March, April, and May. See calendar for more information. Messenger Library card required.

Reading Challenges for All Ages

YEAR-ROUND: 1000 Books Before Kindergarten, 500 Books Before Middle School, 100 Books Before Graduation
SCHOOL YEAR: Monarch K-3, Bluestem Gr. 3-5, Caudill Gr. 4-8, Lincoln Gr. 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.

KIDS (AGES 5-12)

Programs with a  require advance registration.

Junior Library Helpers

Monday, March 2 • 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.

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 provided for the first 6 registrants.



March 14
Big Dog & Little Dog Make a Mistake



April 11
Do You Like My Bike?



May 9
Chip Gets Summer Shivers

Creativity Lab

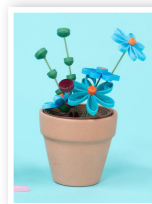
Mondays • 6:30-7:30 pm

March 9: Maker Play

Ages 8-12. Come explore our new Maker Lab! Play with the button maker, make perler bead designs, learn about the Cricut Maker, or build a circuit. You choose!

April 27: Paper Quill Mini Flowers

Ages 8-12. Learn the art of paper quilling and "plant" a tiny pot of flowers.



Read With Rover

Sundays • 2-3 pm

March 15, April 19, May 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 at least 10-15 minutes to read with a dog. Order will be determined by arrival at 2 pm.

Books & Bites

Saturday, March 21, April 18, May 16 • 10:30-11:15 am

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.

Kidinary Cooking Classes

Wednesday, May 13

Ages 4-7 • 3:30-4:30 pm OR 4:45-5:45 pm

Ages 8-12 • 6-7 pm


Let your budding chef explore the culinary arts and discover their inner chef! Classes accommodate nut, dairy, and gluten allergies. Menu TBA.

Family Egg Drop Challenge

Sat, May 23 • 10:30-11:30 am

Aimed at ages 5-10 with caregivers. Test your teamwork, creativity, and engineering skills in this (hopefully NOT) messy challenge!

TEENS

Registration  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 Take Out

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!

Teen Book Box Subscription

Grades 6-12. Enjoy a new selection of books every month! Pick up your books on the 10th of March, April, and May. See calendar for more information. Messenger Library card required.



Teen/Caregiver Artsy Evening: Animal Portraits

Thurs, March 5 • 6:30-8 pm
Ages 11-18 with caregiver. Learn how you can use pastels to create a picture of your pet in this fun art class with Ms. Laura. Bring an 8x11 printed picture of your pet or any animal. This class is for parents or caregivers to attend with their teen.

Why Waubonsee? Admissions, Opportunities, and Scholarships

Wed, March 18 • 6-7 pm
Ages 14+. Considering Waubonsee Community College? An admissions advisor provides an overview of the college, explains the application process, discusses their scholarship foundation, and answers your questions.

Teen Yum Club

Thursday, March 19 • 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! Those with food allergies should proceed with caution.



Teen STEM: Circuit Light Up

Thursday, April 16 • 7-8 pm

Ages 11-18. Join us for a fun, hands-on maker workshop! Get ready to explore, create, and discover all things circuits and lights.

Murder Mystery Night

Thursday, May 7 • 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 VOLUNTEERS

Students ages 11-18/grades 6-12 are welcome to volunteer at the library year-round! Visit messengerpl.org/teenvolunteers to apply.

Summer Teen Volunteer registration begins April 1; training will be Thursday, May 28 at 7 pm.

Audible Arts: Watercolor

Thursday, May 14 • 7-8 pm

Ages 11-18. Let's get crafty while listening to an audiobook!




Teen Maker Lab: Open Play

Thursday, April 30 • 7-8 pm


Ages 11-18. Come explore our new Maker equipment! We will get to play with the button maker, make perler bead designs, and learn about the Cricut Maker. Bring your creative juices!

ADULT PROGRAMS

Registration  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.



Live4Lali Resource Table
Thursday, March 5 • 3-6 pm
Drop in for a chat with Live4Lali to learn about prevention, education, and support related to substance use disorders.

Posture, Balance, and Some Cha-Cha-Cha 
Fri, March 13 • 10:30-11:30 am
Using a chair for stability, practice posture and balance with instructor Elain Gotfryd-Noonan to increase your strength, flexibility, and alignment. Then have a blast on the "dance floor" while increasing coordination. Please wear comfortable clothing and bring a water bottle to stay hydrated.

STITCH BY STITCH



Drop-In Crochet and Knit Club

Thursdays • 6-8 pm
March 19, April 23, May 21
Join fellow fiber arts enthusiasts for a cozy, drop-in crafting session. Bring your own projects— refreshments provided!

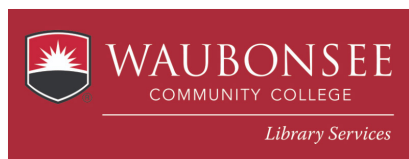
Advanced Crochet Series: Amigurumi

Session 1: Wednesday, May 6 • 6-8 pm AND
Session 2: Thursday, May 7 • 6-8 pm
Learn the basics of amigurumi- the Japanese art of crocheting small stuffed creatures. This two-part class covers key terms and techniques as you start with a basic sphere; yarn and hook are provided. For ages 16+ with basic crochet knowledge (single crochet); registration covers both sessions.



Beginning Crochet Series

Session 1: Wednesday, April 15 • 6-8 pm
AND Session 2: Thursday, April 16 • 6-8 pm
Instructor Candi Rakow returns to demonstrate some of the basics of crochet. All materials are provided. Space is limited, so please register for your spot and make sure to put both dates in your calendar. This is a two-part class; registration for one signs you up for both.



Why Waubonsee? Admissions, Opportunities, and Scholarships

Wed, March 18 • 6-7 pm
Considering Waubonsee Community College? An admissions advisor provides an overview of the college, explains the application process, discusses their scholarship foundation, and answers your questions.

Leslie Goddard Presents: Abigail Adams

Saturday, March 21 • 2:30-4 pm
In this living history portrayal, American patriot Abigail Adams recounts her life, shares opinions of the founding fathers, and offers a glimpse at one of the great love stories of all times.



Estate Planning Explained

Tues, March 24 • 6:30-7:30 pm
Jim Flanagan walks through the estate planning process from start to finish, covering why planning matters, common strategies, key documents, and issues like probate, wills vs. trusts, and powers of attorney—helping you protect your spouse and heirs.

Instant Pot Cooking

Monday, March 30 • 6:30-8 pm

Join cookbook author Emily Paster for an Instant Pot demo, exploring its functions and tips for getting the most out of your appliance. Suitable for all skill levels with samples provided.

Munch and Learn: “Blue Zones” in the Kitchen

Friday, April 10 • 10:30-11:30 am

Get inspired by Joan Davis to boost longevity with practical, achievable steps toward healthier eating. This engaging session includes a cooking lesson, kitchen revamp, recipe review, taste sampling, and tips for incorporating both traditional foods and convenient products into daily nutrition.

Home Cheesemaking

Saturday, April 11 • 2:30-4 pm

Good cheese tastes even better when you make it yourself! Mark Lyons introduces the science of cheesemaking and covers ingredients, equipment, and techniques for making a variety of cheeses, perfect for beginners and curious experienced makers alike.



Lost Treasures of the Titanic

Monday, April 13 • 6-7 pm

Historian Mallory Mortillaro takes a closer look at the stories of some of the more interesting and valuable treasures lost when tragedy struck the Titanic on April 14, 1912. Please register via the Zoom link available in MPL's events calendar.

Plan Your Walt Disney World Vacation

Saturday, April 18 • 2:30-4 pm

Planning a trip to Disney World in Orlando can be expensive and confusing! Disney expert Valerie Gugula discusses time and money-saving tips to help you plan, as well as what time of year to go, where to stay, and more.

Walking Chicago's Coast

**VIRTUAL
EVENT**

Tuesday, April 21 • 7-8 pm

Michael McColly, author of *Walking Chicago's Coast: A 63-Mile Journey to the Indiana Dunes*, shares his walk along Chicago's shoreline from Rogers Park to Indiana Dunes National Park, and the inspiration behind this remarkable journey. Please register via the Zoom link available in MPL's events calendar.



Celebrating the Cherry Blossom Festival

Friday, April 24 • 10:30 am-Noon

Learn about Japan and the traditions associated with the beautiful springtime cherry blossom festivals with educator Yvonne Liu Wolf. Presentation includes an optional paper-cutting cherry blossom craft.

Preserving the Past, One Scan at a Time

Monday, April 27 • 5-7 pm

In honor of Preservation Week (April 26-May 2), join us for a Community Scanning Night and take a simple step toward preserving personal, family, or community memories.

Planning Ahead: Securing Your Family's Future

Wed, April 29 • 9:30-11 am

Please join the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley in partnership with the Elder Law practice of Mickey, Wilson, Weiler, Renzi, Lenert, & Julien, P. C., as we discuss the importance of an Estate Plan and ways to include charitable giving to organizations that matter to you.

Wildflower Walk

Saturday, May 2 • 10-11 am

Hike with us to find beautiful wildflowers that show themselves in the spring! Join a Kane County Forest Preserve naturalist for a walk through Bliss Woods in Sugar Grove to find spring ephemerals and learn about their habitats and histories.



Intro to Improv

Sat, May 16 • 2:30-3:30 pm

Come learn some basic improv exercises and games that will get you laughing and connecting with new friends! No experience needed!



AARP Driver Safety

Session 1: Wednesday, May 20

• 12:30-4:30 pm AND

Session 2: Thursday, May 21 •

12:30-4:30 pm

Refresh your driving and safety skills in this classroom-only, two-part program. Complete both sessions to qualify for your insurance discount. Cost: \$25 (\$20 for AARP members); registration covers both sessions.

ART CLUB FOR ADULTS

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

Craftivism 101 **R**

Saturday, March 14

10 am-Noon

Learn to embroider and stitch something brilliant in Shannon Downey's introduction to craft-based activism. *Registration starts February 1. Please only sign up for one March class.*

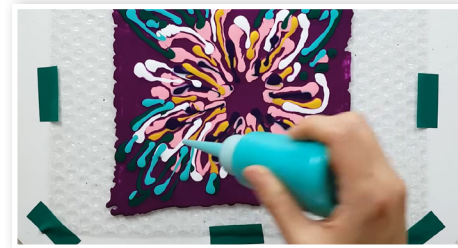


Graffiti Name Art **R**

Sat, April 11 • 10 am-Noon OR

Tues, April 21 • 6:30-8:30 pm

Learn how to create graffiti-style name art starting with basic tag lines and progressing to more complex 3D lettering techniques. *Registration starts March 1.*



Bubble Wrap Dip Painting **R**

Sat, May 9 • 10 am-Noon OR

Tues, May 19 • 6:30 pm-8:30 pm

Learn a fun art technique using bubble wrap to create textured, unique flower-like prints. *Registration starts April 1.*

Sea Turtle Shoreline Wall Art **R**

Tuesday, March 31

6:30-8:30 pm

Create a whimsical beach scene featuring hatchling sea turtles heading out to sea. *Registration starts February 1. Please only sign up for one March class.*

PLEASE NOTE: June Art Club Project TBA. Registration starts May 1.

Book Club Is Our Alibi

Monday, March 23 **R**

7-8:15 pm

Join us at Crema Coffee Roasters for our quarterly thriller book club. This session, we discuss *Lock Every Door* by Riley Sager.



ADULT BOOK CLUBS

Digital copies of book club titles may be available on Hoopla, Libby, or The Palace Project; print copies are available for checkout at the User Services Desk. Please register **R** in advance.

Morning Book Club **R**

Wednesdays 10:30-11:30 am



MARCH 4
Kitchens of the Great Midwest
by J. Ryan Stradal



APRIL 8
Station Eleven
by Emily St. John Mandel



MAY 6
The 7 1/2 Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle
by Stuart Turton

Evening Book Club **R**

Thursdays • 7-8 pm



MARCH 5
The Villa
by Rachel Hawkins



APRIL 2
The Twilight Garden
by Sara Nisha Adams



MAY 7
The Bog Queen
by Anna North

Narrative Nonfiction Book Club **R**

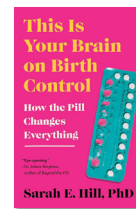
Mondays • 7-8 pm



MARCH 9
Maybe You Should Talk to Someone: A Therapist, Her Therapist, and Our Lives Revealed
by Lori Gottlieb



APRIL 13
Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland
by Patrick Radden Keefe



MAY 11
This Is Your Brain on Birth Control: How the Pill Changes Everything
by Sarah E. Hill



RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

MESSENGER PUBLIC LIBRARY OF NORTH AURORA | SPRING 2026: 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
Darlene Bailey
Tanya Berley
Katherine Bogle
Peggy Carlson
Elizabeth Cranford
Laura McCoy

LIBRARY BOARD MEETINGS

Thursdays • 7–8 pm
March 12, April 9, May 14

THE LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

Saturday, April 4
Sunday, April 5
Sunday, May 24
Monday, May 25



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

“Find Your Joy!” What a wonderful theme for National Library Week held April 19-25. This is a full week of activities celebrating libraries, library professionals, and your right to read. Some of my best childhood memories have to do with visiting the library as my family depended on it for free programs, a place to visit and play, study, and to check out arm-loads of books, especially during times of mini-recessions and economic challenges marking the 1970s.

My first vinyl albums came from the library; I held one up in wonder realizing I could take it home with me. Though we could barely afford a record player, I had unfettered access to a collection of music in every genre. To my mother's amused dismay, I was partial to KISS rather than Barry Manilow, though we all agreed upon Dolly Parton and the Bee Gees. Last week I bought an old-school DVD player, as I refuse to pay to subscribe to even one more darn thing with

endless advertising.

I will return to my roots of getting DVD/CD formats from the library. “Retro” media is coming back for many reasons! In the shifting times of 2026, I see new generations both finding their way to the library as well as using it for some of the very same reasons. It's a vibrant place of joy where you can still hold items up in wonder.

A few dates are important, and we will be highlighting each event to share more information: Right to Read Day (April 20), National Library Workers Day (April 21), National Library Outreach Day (April 22), Take Action for Libraries Day (April 23). Please celebrate with us!



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