



# MESSENGER PUBLIC LIBRARY OF NORTH AURORA NEWSLETTER

## Mutual Ground School Supplies Collection

Help us collect backpacks and school supplies to support resident and client children in Elementary, Middle and High School. School supplies will be collected in June and July.



Messenger Public Library

# SUMMER CHALLENGE

## PLANT A SEED, READ

June 1-July 31, 2026

FOR KIDS, TEENS, AND ADULTS

## BENEFITS OF SUMMER CHALLENGE



### SUMMER CHALLENGE

- Builds daily reading habits and lifelong learners at all ages
- Prevents summer slide and knowledge loss
- Gamifies reading experiences to earn free books, incentives, and grand prizes

### READING

- Reduces stress and improves cognitive function and attention span
- Boosts creativity, flexibility, and empathy
- Reading together strengthens family bonds



**MESSENGER PUBLIC LIBRARY IS YOUR PLACE TO EXPLORE, DISCOVER, AND GROW THIS SUMMER!** Track your daily reading to complete each level and earn prizes. You can also complete activities focused on library programs and resources, our community, and nature to earn digital badges and entry tickets for the Grand Prize Drawings.

## HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Update or create your account on the Beanstack Tracker app or [messengerpl.beanstack.org](https://messengerpl.beanstack.org). Pick up paper trackers from the library.



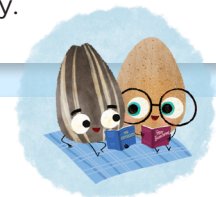
Scan to access Beanstack and register for the 2026 Summer Challenge or visit [messengerpl.beanstack.org](https://messengerpl.beanstack.org)



If you have a child that has participated in a previous Summer Reading Challenge, School Year Challenge, or 1000 Books Before Kindergarten, you already have an account! *Please do not create a new, duplicate account.* Parents – if you already have a Beanstack account, you may need to add yourself as a reader to participate.

**BEANSTACK TIPS** - Visit [messengerpl.org/reading-challenges](https://messengerpl.org/reading-challenges) for links to instructions and videos.

**ADULTS** - Make this summer a page-turner! Join our Summer Reading Challenge and rediscover the joy of reading. Whether it's by the pool, on your lunch break, or before bed. Enjoy great books, fun challenges, and a chance to win prizes along the way.



## SUMMER CHALLENGE KICK-OFF

### SATURDAY, JUNE 6

- 10:30 AM:** Sing-Along Play-Along Concert with Jim Gill
- 11:30 AM:** Kona Ice Truck
- NOON:** Tie Dye for All Ages **R**

Celebrate summer with a day of fun for all ages. Register for the Summer Reading Challenge, find some new summer reads, and make your own snow cone. *Registration is required for tie-dye.*



# YOUTH SERVICES

**Registration <sup>R</sup> is required for all programs beginning on May 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

June 9-23, July 7-21

*Ages 0-24 months with caregiver.*

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



### Toddler Storytime <sup>R</sup>

Thursdays • 10-10:30 am

June 11-25, July 9-23

*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 <sup>R</sup>

Thursdays • 10:45-11:15 am

June 11-25, July 9-23

*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.



### Milestones Matter with SPARK Aurora

Thursdays, June 11 & July 16 • 10 am-Noon

Stop by the library to speak with our partners from SPARK Aurora to learn about early childhood milestones, free developmental screenings, and kindergarten readiness.

### Baby Playtime Wet 'n Wild

Monday, June 15  
10-11 am

*Ages 0-2 with caregiver.*

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



### Preschool Crafts <sup>R</sup>

Wednesdays, June 17, July 22 & August 19 • 10-10:30 am

*Ages 3-5 with caregiver.* Let's read a story together and complete a fun craft for you to take home!



### Preschool STEAM <sup>R</sup>

Monday, June 22 & Thursday, August 13 • 10-10:30 am

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

### Sensory Playtime Outside!

Monday, June 29, Saturdays

July 25 & August 15 • 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.



### Messy Art Outside!

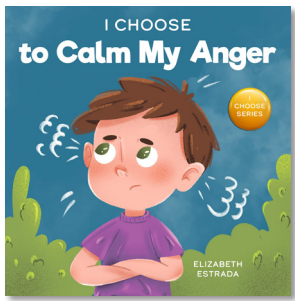
**Ages 0-3: Monday,**

**July 13 • 10-11 am**

**Ages 3-5: Wednesday,**

**July 29 • 10-11 am**

*With caregiver.* Enjoy messy art together as you learn and explore with new friends. Outside, weather permitting.



## Healthy Emotions Storytime (¡también en español!) 📖

Thursday, July 30

English • 10 am, Español • 10:30 am

*Ages 2-5 with caregiver.* Mental health professionals from NAMI KDK share stories and hands-on activities to help little ones understand feelings and learn to manage big emotions.

## Toddler Playtime: Day at the Farm

Monday, August 3 • 10-11 am

*Ages 2-3 with caregiver.* Enjoy playtime with your toddler as you learn and explore with new friends. This month we will pretend to work on a farm.

# ALL AGES

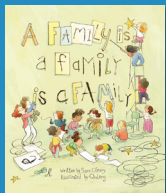
## StoryWalk®

June 1-15 & 16-30

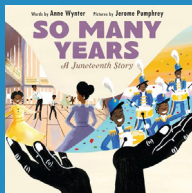
July 1-15 & 16-31

Enjoy a story and the summer sun while taking a stroll along our new StoryWalk. Picture books will feature summer holidays and celebrations. Graciously funded by a Dunham Foundation grant for early childhood initiatives.

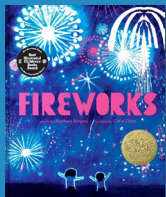
**NEW!**



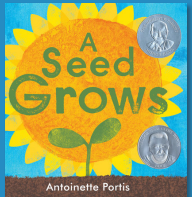
June 1-15



June 16-30



July 1-15



July 16-31



## Lakota Hoop Dance Presentation with Starr Chief Eagle 📖

Saturday, July 11 • 3:30 pm

*All ages.* Starr Chief Eagle provides an interactive and educational dive into Lakota Culture exploring the language, art, and knowledge of Lakota people. She will perform the rare tradition of Hoop Dancing to create designs, shapes, and creatures to tell a story. With (optional) audience participation!



## Mammals & More - Families 📖

Saturday, June 27

10-10:45 am

*All ages.* Flying Fox Conservation Fund brings the zoo to us!

Learn about some of the most unique creatures from around the world. Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult caregiver.

## STEAM Activity Kits

Stop by Youth Services for a new take-home activity kit. Available while supplies last.

**June 1:** Window Flower Pots

**June 16:** STEM Butterfly Puppet

**July 1:** Seed Mosaic

**July 16:** Family Pizza Dough Kit

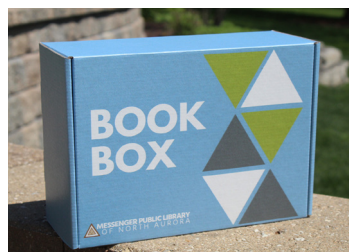


## Lego Club

Thursdays • 6-7 pm

June 11, July 9, August 13

*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 June, July, and August. See calendar for more information. Messenger Library card required.

# KIDS (AGES 5-12)

Programs with a **R** require advance registration.

## Kid Librarian **R**

June, July, or August

*Ages 7-10.* Be a Kid Librarian for a month! Choose a topic and create a book display. See more information and register on the event calendar.

## Junior Library Helpers **R**

Monday, June 8 • 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.



## Library Buddies **R**

Fridays, June 12 & 26, July 10 & 24 • 10:30-11:30 am

*Ages 5-10.* Buddy up with a teen volunteer to read aloud and then take on a STEAM challenge together! Bring a favorite book or come early to choose something new. Register for each date separately.

## Family Maker Lab Play

Saturday, June 13 • 2:30-4 pm

*For families.* Explore activities from our new maker lab! Design and make your own buttons, create with perler beads, and more.

## Creativity Lab: Maker Play **R**

Mondays, June 22, July 6, August 24 • 6:30-7:30 pm

*Ages 8-12.* Explore the Maker Lab! We'll make buttons and work on a new project every month.

## Kidinary Cooking Classes **R**

Tuesday, June 30

*Ages 4-7 • 2-3 pm*

*Ages 8-12 • 3:15-4:15 pm*

*Ages 11-16 • 4:30-5:30 pm*

Let your budding chef explore the culinary arts and discover their inner chef! Learn to make fruit cinnamon rolls with glaze. 100% nut free, dairy and gluten accommodations available.



## Animal Tracks & Trails at Creek Bend Nature Center **R**

Saturday, July 25 • 10-11 am

*Ages 5-10 with caregiver.* Wild animals can be secretive and difficult to see, but they often leave behind signs like scat, fur, tracks and chew marks. Learn how animals also help plants grow. See more info and directions to the nature center on the event calendar.



## Tinker. Play. Invent! **R**

Monday, June 8: Chain Reaction Machines

Saturday, June 20: Taking Things Apart

Saturday, July 18: Biomimicry

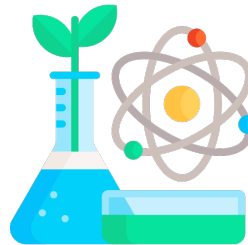
Monday, July 27: Inventions for Nature

*Ages 4-7 with caregiver • 10-10:45 am*

*Ages 8-12 • 11-11:45 am*



Get ready to tinker, play, and invent while learning about coding, arts, science, and more. Please sign up for each session separately. Sponsored by the DuPage Children's Museum.



# TEENS

**Registration **R** is required for all programs beginning on May 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 Space

June: Emotional Support Chickens

July: Paper Bracelets

August: Bag Charms

*Ages 11-18.* Come hang out in your Teen Space and complete a fun project with your friends. Each month a new project or craft will drop! Grab a friend and come make with us.



JUNE



JULY



AUGUST

## Teen Take Out

Stop by the Teen Space for a fun craft or activity to take home and make on your own time. Grab a kit 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 June, July, and August. See calendar for more information. Messenger Library card required.



## Teen Yum Club: Japan

**Thursday, June 18 • 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.



## Audible Arts: Pounded Flower Pouches

**Thursday, August 6 • 7-8 pm**

*Ages 11-18.* Let's get crafty while listening to an audiobook! This month we will pound flowers onto pouches to create special, one-of-a-kind bags. Bring your creativity!



## Mammals & More - Teens and Adults

**Saturday, June 27 • 11 am**

*Ages 13+.* Flying Fox Conservation Fund brings the zoo to us! Learn about some of the most unique creatures from around the world.

# TEEN VOLUNTEERS

Students are welcome to volunteer at the library year-round! Visit [messengerpl.org/teenvolunteers](http://messengerpl.org/teenvolunteers) for age/grade requirements and to apply. *Registration closes June 30 and reopens for the school year on August 1.*



## Beginner Beauty Basics

**Thursday, July 16 • 7-8 pm**

*Ages 11-18.* Join GlamBat Studios for a fun, confidence-boosting introduction to everyday makeup! Learn how to create a simple, polished look while exploring the basics of makeup techniques.



## Teen Maker Lab

**Thursdays • 7-8 pm**

*Ages 11-18.* Come explore our new Maker equipment!

**June 25:** Open Play  
Play with the button maker, make perler bead designs, and learn about the Cricut Maker.

**July 23:** Tie Dye  
Use the die cut machine and Cricut to make cool tie dye items.

## Kidinary Cooking Classes

**Tuesday, June 30**

**Ages 11-16 • 4:30-5:30 pm**

Let your budding chef explore the culinary arts and discover their inner chef! Learn to make fruit cinnamon rolls with glaze. 100% nut free, dairy and gluten accommodations available.



# ADULT PROGRAMS

**Registration <sup>R</sup> is required for all programs, unless noted, beginning on May 20**, via the online events calendar at [messengerpl.org](http://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.



## MPL Tech Tuesdays: Drop-In Technology Help

Tuesdays • 3-5 pm

June 2 and 9

July 7 and 14

August 4 and 11

Need help with your smartphone, tablet, computer, or software? Come to MPL's Tech Tuesdays- a free, drop-in program offering 15-30 minute one-on-one tech support sessions.

## All-Levels Community Yoga (Mat-Based) <sup>R</sup>

Select Tuesdays &  
Wednesdays • 6-7 pm

June 10 & 23

July 8 & 28

August 12 & 25

Unroll your mat and join us for a free, feel-good yoga session with

Michelle! As a certified instructor (RYT 200) and North Aurora neighbor, she's all about creating a relaxed, accessible space for everyone to move, stretch, and unwind. This is a mat-based class—please bring your own yoga mat (or a towel) and water bottle.



## WCC AND YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY: SUMMER TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS

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

**Microsoft Excel: Beyond Basics** (Downtown Campus)  
Tuesdays • Noon-1 pm (English), 6-7 pm (Spanish)  
June 23 & June 30

**Microsoft Word: Resume Building** (Downtown Campus)  
Wednesdays • Noon-1 pm (English), 6-7 pm (Spanish)  
July 8 & July 15

**Microsoft Excel: Beyond Basics**  
(Sugar Grove Campus-Todd Library)  
Thursday • Noon-1 pm (English)  
July 16 & July 23



## THE OBAMA PRESIDENTIAL CENTER **A GLOBAL CENTER FOR CHANGE**



## Inside the Obama Presidential Center <sup>R</sup>

VIRTUAL  
PROGRAM

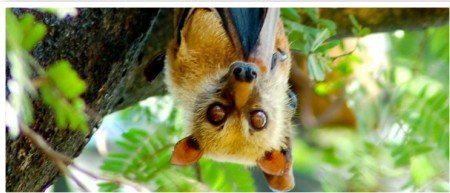
Thursday, June 11 • 7-8 pm

Explore the Barack Obama Presidential Library and the Obama Presidential Center through this virtual experience. Learn how presidential records are preserved and shared, and how they shape our understanding of recent history and democratic values.

## Meditative Watercolor Painting <sup>R</sup> Friday, June 12 • 2-3 pm

Join Amy Jackson from The Perch for a relaxing session to explore gentle watercolor techniques while focusing on mindfulness and creative expression. No experience is needed—just bring yourself and enjoy a calm, colorful escape.





## Mammals and More

**Saturday, June 27**

**11-11:45 am**

For ages 13 and older. Flying Fox Conservation Fund brings the zoo to us! Learn about some of the most unique creatures from around the world.



## Tour Hardware Sustainable Gastropub

**Tuesday, June 23 • 1-2 pm**

Join us for a sustainability tour of Hardware's greenhouse and gardens to learn about how they supply greens, hops, and produce to the gastropub and brewery, neighboring restaurant, and beyond.

## Chair Yoga

**Friday, July 10**

**10:30-11:30 am**

We're excited to welcome back DuShaun Branch for another relaxing and energizing session of chair yoga! Please wear comfortable, layered clothing and bring water to stay hydrated. While this is a low-impact class, you'll still be gently moving and getting a great stretch.



## W.F.K. Travers' Lincoln's Portrait

**Wed, July 15 7-8 pm**

**VIRTUAL PROGRAM**

Historian Mallory Mortillaro shares her account of researching this nine-foot-tall portrait of the sixteenth president painted by W.F.K. Travers while she leads the audience through this painting's provenance.



## Sound and History of Bagpipes

**Sat, August 1**

**2-3 pm**

Explore the history of bagpipes with J. Kevin Chapman in full uniform. Enjoy a live performance and learn about regalia, origins, and styles of this iconic instrument.



## Meditation: Calm in the Chaos

**Thursday, August 6**

**6:30-7:30 pm**

Umesh Bhatia is back for an engaging workshop on natural, effective meditation techniques. Perfect for beginners or experienced meditators.

## Capone's Vault: The Real Story of the Biggest Disaster in Television History

**Monday, August 17**

**6:30-7:30 pm**

Historian William Elliot Hazelgrove discusses Capone's Vault and one of the most bizarre moments on live television. What was meant to be a comeback for journalist Geraldo Rivera turned into a crazy night that has defined live television ever since.



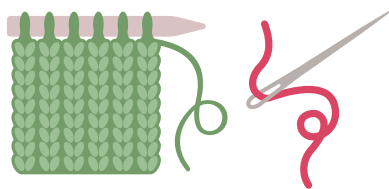
## Foraging 101 with Natalie Evans

**Friday,**

**August 28**

**10:30-11:30am**

Discover the world of wild foods from the comfort of the library! Natalie, our wild food instructor, reviews foraging techniques and how to forage safely and ethically.



## Drop-In Crochet and Knit Club

**Thursdays • 6-8 pm**

**June 25, July 16, Aug 20**

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

## Beginning Crochet Series

**Wed, August 26 • 6-8 pm**

**AND Thurs, August 27**

**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. Registration for one session signs you up for both.

# ART CLUB FOR ADULTS

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

## VONA Creativity at the Crossroads

Saturday, June 13 • 10 am-Noon

Join MPL staff at the Village of North Aurora's Creativity at the Crossroads event. Drop by the gazebo at North Aurora Riverfront Park (25 East State Street) and make a beaded caterpillar plant marker. Crafters of all ages are welcome!

PLEASE NOTE:  
September Art Club Project TBA.  
Registration starts August 1.



## Patio Paver Pals **R**

Tuesday, June 16 • 6:30-8:30 pm

Decorate your yard or garden with an adorable ladybug, bee, or owl made from patio paver stones! Registration starts May 1.

## Easy Watercolor Greeting Cards **R**

Saturday, July 11 • 10 am-Noon OR

Tuesday, July 21 • 6:30-8:30 pm

Learn how easy it is to create custom, hand painted greeting cards for friends and family. Registration starts June 1.



## Abstract Marble Painting **R**

Sat, August 8 • 10 am-Noon OR  
Tues, August 18 • 6:30-8:30 pm

Learn a fun technique to make abstract art with marbles and paint. After the marble "frames" are made, we paint the shapes created with watercolors or markers, your choice. Registration starts July 1.

## Book Club Is Our Alibi

Monday, June 22 **R**

6:45-8 pm

Join us at Crema Coffee Roasters for our quarterly thriller book club. This session, we discuss *The Younger Wife* by Sally Hepworth.

NEW TIME

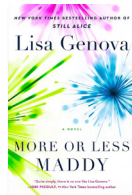


# ADULT BOOK CLUBS

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



JUNE 3

*More or Less Maddy* by Lisa Genova



JULY 1

*How to Age Disgracefully* by Clare Pooley

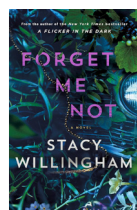


AUGUST 5

*Good Night, Irene* by Luis Alberto Urrea

## Evening Book Club **R**

Thursdays • 7-8 pm



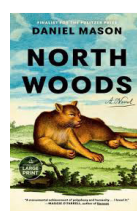
JUNE 18

*Forget Me Not* by Stacy Willingham



JULY 16

*The Paris Novel* by Ruth Reichl

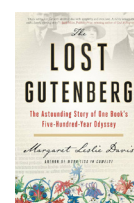


AUGUST 20

*North Woods* by Daniel Mason

## Narrative Nonfiction Book Club **R**

Mondays • 7-8 pm



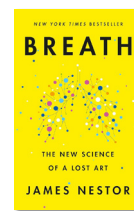
JUNE 8

*The Lost Gutenberg: The Astounding Story of One Book's Five-Hundred-Year Odyssey* by Margaret Leslie Davis



JULY 13

*A Change of Habit: Leaving Behind My Husband, Career, and Everything I Owned to Become a Nun* by Sister Monica Clare



AUGUST 10

*Breath: The New Science of a Lost Art* by James Nestor

# Music @ Messenger

Select dates • 6:30-8 pm

**The Music @ Messenger summer concert series** returns for a fifth season with a musical tour of many genres including jazz, acoustic guitar, Americana, and rock. Bring your lawn chair and picnic for an outdoor show on the rear lawn of the library. All shows are outdoors as weather allows.



## **Rick Weals**

**Wednesday, June 10**

Ricks brings his guitar for acoustic rock, country, and blues while mixing originals and covers with a Cash influence.



## **Dan Colles**

**Wednesday, June 24**

A frequent flyer on the Fox Valley scene, singer/songwriter Dan plays the acoustic guitar tunes you love to sing along with, especially by a campfire!



## **Corey O'Donnell**

**Wednesday, July 8**

Corey returns as a favorite for energetic songs and keyboards; he mixes and matches with an Elton or Denver flair.



## **Jim Green**

**Tuesday, July 28**

Voted by Billboard Magazine as “one of the best artists in the Midwest,” guitar maestro Jim Green visits home on his travels and brings his unique finger style percussive guitar tunes. Don't miss this opportunity to see a creative craftsman in action!



## **Nate Krause**

**Wednesday, August 12**

Nate brings singer/songwriter vibes with flavors of Simon and Garfunkel, Joni Mitchell, and his original tunes, such as “Harmony Hall.”



## **Pleasant Panic**

**Tuesday, August 25**

Get ready for a harmony driven duo with mashups, medleys, and fun with rock/pop as the central vibes. No need to panic, they're really pleasant tunes!



## **IN HONOR OF Mrs. Janet L. Leach**

MPL honors the enduring legacy of Mrs. Janet L. Leach, who passed away on December 22, 2025. Janet dedicated 20 years of service to the Library Board and played an instrumental role in the construction of the library's current location. She had a deep love for books and learning—a passion that shaped both her personal and professional life. Janet began volunteering at MPL in the 1980s, and that experience led her to a fulfilling career in librarianship. She found great joy in helping others discover information, explore new ideas, and nurture a lifelong love of reading and learning.

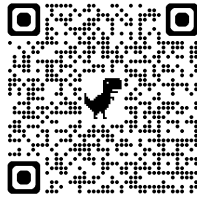
Janet served as a Medical Librarian at Mercy Hospital and later at Waubensee Community College Library before retiring in 2017. Through her work, she quietly made a lasting impact on countless lives by encouraging curiosity and learning in all its forms. While she cherished books and knowledge, she loved people even more. Janet, MPL thanks you for your service, your impact on North Aurora is appreciated.

# STRATEGIC PLAN

## TAKE OUR PLANNING SURVEY

Our next strategic planning process is underway. A strategic plan defines MPL's actions and activities by setting a clear vision, mission, and measurable goals. It acts as a roadmap to align resources, guide decision-making, and prioritize actions, ensuring we work toward common goals while adapting to future challenges.

Patron feedback is important to craft our plan. Please share your constructive thoughts about MPL's collection, resources, and services. We will collect survey responses online and in print at the library from June 1-August 31.



## What did we accomplish in our last plan?

As we embark on the journey to craft our next strategic plan to guide our operations, we thought it might be productive to revisit what we accomplished in our last plan covering the years 2023-2026. Our last plan was crafted after patron surveys, staff input, and thoughtful Board consideration to create a mission and vision document that helps guide staff and administration. So, what did we do in our last strategic plan? Here are a few highlights under each of our goals.

## GOAL 1

### Facilities enhancement for evolving needs

Obtained the services of a leading architecture and engineering firm to assess our building and provide an accurate Capital Needs Plan for repairs, equipment maintenance, and mechanical systems. We developed our first ever Master Plan to guide our next 25 years.

We refreshed the facility with interior painting, improved seating, door assists for bathrooms, new meeting room chairs, reconfiguration of our adult workroom for staff spaces, and drop down electricals for the Tinker Room. Security was strengthened by updating many of our old analog cameras for digital coverage.

Patios were built on our rear lawn for outdoor performances and storytimes, memorial benches were added along with many new flower plantings. A fun Bookworm Bike Rack and Repair Station was installed with a grant from Kane County.



## GOAL 2

### The library will serve as a community and cultural resource

We developed a local history section and began the archival process of North Aurora's historical pictures and documents, and of making documents available to the public.

The Youth Services picture book section was reorganized; new titles infused both Adult and Youth Services. A Literacy and Learning collection for education and training was created. We increased homebound and institutional delivery.

The Music @ Messenger summer music series was founded, bringing local artists to our patrons. More programming opportunities were crafted for both adults and youth reading challenges, senior programming, yoga, book groups, and more.

We partnered with Waubensee for technology-based training classes for patrons, with our results published and presented to academic research panels.

## GOAL 3

### The library will prioritize staff stewardship and effective human resource practices

We updated our job descriptions, the review process, and staff salary scales to attract and retain qualified staff with a high level of expertise. We prioritized training and education, implementing more learning opportunities and staff development days. We crafted a significant number of policies for the safety and security of our building, collection integrity, staff stewardship, and facility use. Staff areas were refurbished and enhanced, and two new positions were created.



## GOAL 5

### Foster positive community relations through awareness and partnerships

We produced a new logo, newsletter, and website to better reflect contemporary communication to our patrons. Outreach was increased, and partnerships increased with Waubensee Community College, the Lifelong Learning Institute, Fox Valley Literacy, AOK, and Kane County Health Department.

Our website offers greater transparency with open information, policies, and documents to assist users. We improved digital accessibility compliance to meet the needs of patrons using vision readers.



## GOAL 4

### Develop next generation resources and services to meet evolving needs

Our patron computers and monitors were updated and laptops were made available for in-library use. We updated our OPAC stations and replaced our self-check units. More wifi hotspots were purchased, we increased our internet speed, and a mobile maker space was created with crafting items.



## What were the results of the Master Plan Study?

After almost two years of research, firm selection, public focus groups and surveys, we finalized the first ever long-term Master Plan to guide building updates and renovations, with a focus on accessibility in entrances, the bookdrop, parking, technology, and interior use. Should the library move forward with updates or growth, a potential building addition was identified to double meeting room spaces, add in a maker's space and update technology resources. You may view our Master Plan on our website for a review of the process, survey results, and diagrams to show our potential to better serve the community. Please take part in our next survey as we consider how to best approach Master Plan implementation.





# RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

MESSENGER PUBLIC LIBRARY OF NORTH AURORA | SUMMER 2026: JUNE, JULY, AUGUST

## 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  
June 11, July 9, August 13

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

June 19  
July 4  
July 10: late opening at 10 am



## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

This issue of our newsletter highlights an important community survey to assist in developing our next Strategic Plan. We are also using this space to reflect on the results of our most recent strategic plan—the “ta-da!” that follows years of thoughtful planning and the many “to-do” lists that guide our work.

The capstone of our last Strategic Plan was a comprehensive review of public feedback, survey data, and a full engineering and architectural assessment of the library. Together, these efforts informed a Master Plan designed to guide the Library’s growth in the years ahead. The adopted Master Plan is available on our website.

Community feedback consistently identified priorities such as improved accessibility, better parking and book drop functionality, additional meeting space, and updated technology. The Master Plan addresses these needs, and we are

beginning conversations about potential funding options.

The Library building, constructed in 2002 on a sloped site with a unique orientation, presents limitations for major structural changes, particularly to entrances. While there are no quick solutions, the plan allows for thoughtful, long-term improvements as resources permit.

We invite the community to participate as we move into the next phase of planning; focus groups will be announced for the fall. We encourage everyone to take our survey and share their input to help plan the library’s next chapter.



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