



MESSENGER PUBLIC LIBRARY OF NORTH AURORA NEWSLETTER

Old Becomes New Again at SWAPALOOZA

Start your holiday shopping early: MPL hosts two different swaps on the same day to fill our library with community joy!

Toy Swap R Drop-off: November 1-6

Toy Swap: Saturday, November 7 • 10 am-12 pm

Giveaway: Saturday, November 7 • 2-3 pm

Have your kids outgrown toys that they used to play with? Consider swapping them for something new-to-you! Drop off up to 10 gently used toys for tickets to choose new toys at the Toy Swap. Any extra toys will be available to take without tickets in the afternoon giveaway. See event calendar for full details and restrictions.



Jigsaw Puzzle Swap

Saturday, November 7 • 9 am - 4 pm

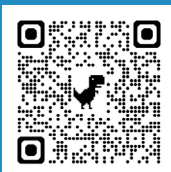
Do you have a stockpile of puzzles? Are you interested in trading them in for someone else's? Drop off gently used jigsaw puzzles in excellent condition (box intact, no missing pieces), pick up a new-to-you puzzle, or make a swap.



Authors Gone Wild

Saturday, October 17 • 10:30 am

Authors and book lovers, start your engines! Join us for the library's inaugural author festival. Readings offer authors an opportunity to share their writing and stories. Tables provided for authors to sell books, meet patrons, sign copies, and share their work. Author applications due September 25. Final schedule posted by October 9. See messengerpl.org/author-festival for more info.



Kindness Hats

Nov 1- Dec 30

Keep our community warm this winter by donating homemade knit or crocheted hats to local charities. Check out a yarn and needle kit or use your own materials. See website for more info. Bring completed hats to the library by December 30.



September Is National Library Card Sign-Up Month

A library card packs a mighty punch! Borrow museum passes, musical instruments, and even a DIY tool kit from the library's collection. Enjoy book clubs, art club, food programs, and lectures. Access technology, databases, and career resources. It's one card with endless possibilities! Get your library card now. Activities and prizes all month.

Don't Forget to Vote Tues, Nov 3 • 6 am-7 pm



MPL is a polling place for the General Midterm Election. Voters on election day can vote at any polling place in Kane County. Visit the Kane County Clerk's website for more information at clerk.kanecountyil.gov/Elections.

Gingerbread House Challenge 2026

Drop-off: Nov 21-Dec 4

Voting: Dec 6 • 2-3:30 pm

Put your gingerbread house making skills to the test: design your own gingerbread creation and bring it to the library from November 21-December 4. Enter as a family team or individually! Pick up a copy of the rules and entry form at any library service desk beginning Nov. 1. Public voting and award presentation will be at our Open House on December 6.



Save the Date! MPL Open House

Sunday, December 6 • 2-4 pm

Join us at the library for our annual festive winter gathering! Gingerbread House contest, crafts, music, and more!

YOUTH SERVICES

Registration R is required for all programs beginning on August 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

Born to Read

For babies up to 6 months old (2026 kickoff period - up to 12 months). North Aurora residents who are expecting or have a new baby can receive a bag of materials to support early literacy for their newborn, introduce library resources, and kickstart a lifelong love of libraries. We'll drop it off at your door or you can pick it up from the library. To learn more, visit messengerpl.org/early-learners or sign up for Baby's 1st Craft on Sat, Sept 5. *Generously funded through the Dunham Foundation.*

NEW PROGRAMS!

Baby's First Craft R

Saturday, September 5 • 9:30-10:30 am

Ages 0-12 months. Join us in creating your baby's first art piece and learning about our new program: Born to Read.



Firefly Family Theatre: The Harvest Moon R

Saturday, Oct 24 • 10-11 am

Ages 0-7 with caregiver. Join Spark the Firefly and friends to welcome the season using puppets, original music, interactive movement and lots of fall fun for families! *Register each person attending.*

STORYTIMES

Baby Storytime R

Tuesdays • 9:30-10 am OR 10:15-10:45 am, Sept 8-Nov 17
Ages 0-24 months with caregiver.
No storytime on Oct. 13.

Toddler Storytime R

Thursdays • 10-10:30 am
September 10-November 19
Ages 2-3 with caregiver.
No storytime Oct. 15 or 29.

Preschool Storytime R

Thursdays • 10:45-11:15 am
September 10-November 19
Ages 3-5. No storytime Oct. 15 or 29.

Theme Storytimes! R

Firefighter: Sat, Oct 3 • 10 am
Halloween: Thurs, Oct 29 • 10 am
All ages. Costumes encouraged!

PLAYTIMES @ THE LIBRARY

Drop by to enjoy playtime with your little ones! See the Events Calendar for more details.

Sensory Playtime	Monday	Sept 14	10-11 am	Ages 0-4 with caregiver
Family Rave	Monday	Sept 28	10-10:30	Ages 0-5 with caregiver
Sensory Playtime	Monday	Oct 5	10-11 am	Ages 0-4 with caregiver
Baby Block Play	Monday	Oct 19	10-11 am	Ages 0-2 with caregiver
Sensory Playtime	Monday	Nov 9	10-11 am	Ages 0-4 with caregiver
Toddler Ramps & Rollers	Monday	Nov 23	10-11 am	Ages 2-3 with caregiver

Preschool STEAM R

Thurs, Sept 3 • 10:30-11 am
Fri, Oct 16 • 10-10:30 am
Wed, Nov 18 • 10-10:30 am

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

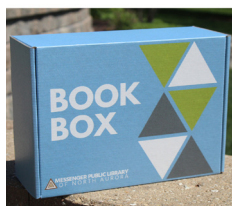
Wed, Sept 16 • 10-10:30 am
Fri, Nov 13 • 10:30-11 am



ALL AGES

Fall Book Subscriptions (¡también en español!)

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



Lego Club

Thursdays • 6-7 pm

Sept 10, Oct 8 & Nov 12

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

KIDS (AGES 5-12)

Programs with a  require advance registration.

Kid Librarian

Sept 1, Oct 1, or Nov 1

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.



Books & Bites

Saturdays • 10:30-11:15 am

Sept 19, Oct 17 & Nov 21

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.

Read With Rover

Sundays • 2-3 pm

Sept 20, Oct 18 & Nov 15

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.



Messenger Library Tour

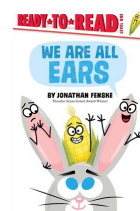
Monday, Sept 21 • 6:30-7:30 pm

For families. What do you know about the public library? Have you ever wanted to see behind-the-scenes? Join us for an introduction to libraries and full-access tour!

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.



SEPT 12
We Are All Ears by Jonathan Fenske



OCT 10
Let's Have a Sleepover! by Norm Feuti



NOV 14
Friends Do Not Eat Friends by Jill Esbaum

Pokémon Club

Wednesdays • 4:30-5:15 pm
Sept 2, Oct 7 & Nov 4

Ages 7-11. Join fellow trainers to enjoy fun activities and share your love for all things Pokemon! New players welcome!



Junior Library Helpers

Thursday, September 10
5:30-6 pm

Ages 9-11. Too young to be a Teen Volunteer but still want to help around the library? Attend training to help us make the library a welcoming place. Complete simple tasks on your own schedule (15-30 minutes, one-two times/month).

Creativity Lab: Maker Play

Mondays, 6:30-7:30pm
Sept 14, Oct 26 & Nov 9

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

Kidinary Cooking Classes



Thursday, October 22

Ages 4-7 • 5-6 pm

Ages 8-12 • 6:15-7:15 pm

Let your budding chef explore the culinary arts and discover their inner chef! This session's menu is Gouda Cauliflower Mac & Cheese. 100% nut free with dairy and gluten accommodations available.

Family Maker Lab Play

Friday, Nov 27 • 10:30 am-12 pm

For families. Explore activities from the maker lab! Design and make your own buttons, create perler bead bookmarks, and more.

TEENS

Registration ^R is required for all programs beginning on August 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

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.



September:
Washi Tape Bookmarks



October:
Fabric Ghost Garland



November:
Friendship Pins



Teen Take Out

September: Paper Building Blocks

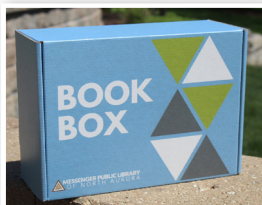
October: Tissue Paper Sunsets

November: 3 Ingredient Pumpkin Cake

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 ^R

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



Teen Yum Club: India ^R

Thursday, Sept 17 • 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.



Murder Mystery Night ^R

Thursday, Sept 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.

Taskmaster Teen Game Show ^R

Monday, Oct 12 • 2:30-4 pm

Ages 11-18. Inspired by the British game show, Taskmaster! Use your imagination, intellect, creativity, and deviousness to complete a series of ridiculous tasks. Depending on how your success is judged, you could earn the winner's trophy!



Teen Maker Lab: Cricut Stickers ^R

Thursday, Nov 19 • 7-8 pm

Ages 11-18. Come explore our new Maker equipment! Play with Canva and the Cricut Maker to make custom vinyl stickers. Bring your creative juices!



Audible Arts: Kinusaiga ^R

Thursday, Oct 29 • 7-8 pm

Ages 11-18. Let's get crafty while listening to an audiobook! Try the modern Japanese art form Kinusaiga while listening to a book set in Japan.

Financial Aid Process ^R

**Thursday, November 12
7-8 pm**

Grades 11-12 + adults. Come hear about your financial aid options for college and get your questions answered by an Illinois Student Assistance Commission instructor.



TEEN VOLUNTEERS

Students are welcome to volunteer at the library year-round! Visit messengerpl.org/teenvolunteers for age/grade requirements and to apply.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Registration ^R is required for all programs, unless noted, beginning on August 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.

Drop-In Crochet and Knit Club

Thursdays • 6-8 pm

Sept 10, Oct 22 & Nov 5

Relax and enjoy an evening of knitting, crocheting, or other fiber arts with fellow experienced crafters—just bring your own project and materials, and we'll provide the refreshments!



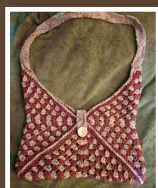
Advanced Crochet Series: Granny Square Bag ^R

Wed, Sept 23 • 6-8 pm

AND

Thurs, Sept 24 • 6-8 pm

This two-part class covers key terms and techniques needed for a classic crochet staple. Yarn and hook are provided. For ages 16+ with basic crochet knowledge (single crochet). Registration for session one covers both sessions.



Introduction to FamilySearch Genealogy Tools with Jenny Warner ^R

Tuesday, Sept 22 • 10-11 am

Jenny Warner explores the FamilySearch Wiki, a comprehensive "how-to" tool that assists in locating and interpreting genealogy records. *Registration required. Attend either in-person or on Zoom.*



FamilySearch

HYBRID PROGRAM

Live4Lali Family Workshop ^R

Tuesday, Sept 1 • 6-8 pm

Educators from Live4Lali lead an interactive family workshop on substance use prevention, overdose awareness, and practical coping strategies, using real-life stories to build understanding and dispel common myths.



Live4Lali Overdose Reversal Training ^R

Wednesday, Sept 16

6-8 pm

Learn how to recognize and respond to an opioid overdose in this free community training, and receive a free naloxone kit, prevention materials, and local support resources.

MPL Tech Tuesdays: Drop-In Technology Help

Tuesdays • 3-5 pm

Sept 1 and 8, Oct 6 and 13 & Nov 3 and 10

Free, drop-in program offering 15-30 minute one-on-one tech support sessions.

Sound Healing ^R

Friday, Oct 23 • 10-11 am OR

Saturday, Oct 24 • 2-3 pm

Relax and restore with Jenny Bergold's soothing sound bath featuring gongs and Tibetan singing bowls, designed to promote deep relaxation and balance. Bring a blanket or yoga mat, and please register for only one session so more people can participate.

Gentle Yoga for Older Adults ^R

Friday, Sept 11 • 10:30-11:30 am

Join Amy Jackson from The Perch for a gentle, beginner-friendly yoga class featuring slow, mindful movement.



All-Levels Community Yoga (Mat-Based) ^R

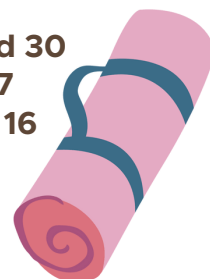
Various • 6-7 pm

September 22 and 30

October 14 and 27

November 11 and 16

All-levels yoga class designed to help you move, stretch, and unwind.



The Founding Mothers with Laura Keyes ^R

Saturday, September 26

• 10:30-11:30 am

Discover the remarkable women whose influence helped shape America's founding in this illustrated lecture highlighting the often-overlooked "Mothers" of the United States.

Medicare 101 ^R

Thursday, Oct 1 • 6:30-8 pm

Get ready for Medicare's Annual Election Period with an overview of 2027 Medicare changes, coverage options, prescription plans, and strategies to help you save on healthcare costs.



The following virtual programs are all made possible by Illinois Libraries Present.

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

Inside the Empire of AI with Karen Hao [®] Thursday, Sept 17 • 7-8 pm

Journalist and author Karen Hao explores the rise of artificial intelligence and the social, political, and ethical questions shaping its future in this engaging and accessible discussion. *Please register to receive a Zoom link.*



Preserving History with Geoffrey Baer [®] Tuesday, Oct 20 • 7-8 pm

Tag along for a special conversation with Geoffrey Baer, beloved Chicago historian, storyteller, and host of numerous PBS programs exploring the architecture, history, and hidden stories of the city and surrounding region. *Please register to receive a Zoom link.*



Words, Power, and Community with Dr. Eve L. Ewing [®] Thursday, Nov 12 • 7-8 pm

Join Dr. Eve L. Ewing for a thoughtful conversation exploring race, education, identity, and community through the lens of literature, learning, and social change. *Please register to receive a Zoom link.*



Disaster Preparedness Class: Are You Ready? [®]

Sundays • 2-4:30 pm

Sept 13, Oct 18 & Nov 15

Become a disaster-readiness champion by learning about local hazards, weather alerts, family emergency planning, and emergency kit essentials. This free workshop is open to Kane County and surrounding area residents ages 12+, as well as community leaders, business owners, and first responders.



Tour North Aurora's New Fire Department Building [®]

Thursday, Oct 8 • 10-11 am

Get a behind-the-scenes look at North Aurora's new fire station! Meet library staff at the flagpole outside 23 N. Lincolnway a few minutes before the tour begins.



HYBRID PROGRAM

Holiday Witches: Folklore and Seasonal Traditions from Ireland, the UK, and Beyond

Wednesday, October 28

6:30-7:30 pm

Explore the full calendar year of holidays where witches and other strange creatures are celebrated, reviled, or feared. Get ready to enjoy a bit of festive fun. *Attend either in-person or on Zoom.*

Celebrating Swedish Roots in Chicagoland [®]

VIRTUAL PROGRAM

Thursday, Nov 5 • 7-8 pm

Swedish American Museum curator Sarah Hawkinson explores the rise of Swedish immigration in the 19th century and the lasting impact Swedish immigrants had on Chicago's history, culture, and communities.



swedish
american
museum

DRIVER SAFETY SM

AARP Driver Safety [®]

Wednesday, November 18

12:30-4:30 pm AND

Thursday, November 19

12:30-4:30 pm

Refresh your driving and safety skills in this classroom based program (no on-road driving included). Both sessions are required to qualify for an insurance discount. Cost: \$25 (AARP members \$20). *This is a two-part class; registration for one signs you up for both.*



All About Owls [®]

Saturday, Nov 21 • 10-11 am

Explore the fascinating world of owls with a Forest Preserve District of Kane County naturalist as they share the cultural history, anatomy, and lore of these remarkable birds through an interactive presentation featuring owl artifacts.

ART CLUB FOR ADULTS

Rustic Pinecone Flower Art

Saturday, September 12
10 am-Noon OR

Tuesday, September 15
6:30-8:30 pm

Create unique wall art with colorful flowers crafted from natural pinecones, perfect for adding a cozy, woodland charm to your home decor. *Registration opens August 1.*

Miniature Bookcase

Saturday, October 10
10 am-Noon OR
Tuesday, October 20
6-8 pm

Delight in creating your own miniature bookshelf complete with books and decorations in this guided lesson by Catherine Suchy. All supplies and materials provided. *Registration opens September 1.*

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

Bougie Fall Pumpkins

Saturday, Nov 14 • 10 am-Noon OR
Tuesday, Nov 17 6:30-8:30 pm

Bougie on a budget? Discover how to elevate Dollar Tree pumpkins into stylish décor, perfect for cozy fall gatherings. *Registration opens October 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 The Palace Project; print copies are available for checkout at the User Services Desk. Please register in advance.

Book Club Is Our Alibi

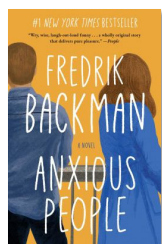
Monday, Oct 26 • 6:45-8:30 pm

Join us at Crema Coffee Roasters for our quarterly thriller book club. This session, we discuss *The Kind Worth Killing* by Peter Swanson



Morning Book Club

Wednesdays 10:30-11:30 am

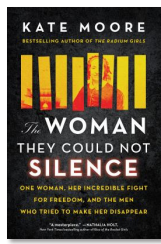


SEPTEMBER 2

Anxious People
by Fredrik Backman

Narrative Nonfiction Book Club

Mondays • 7-8 pm

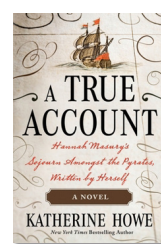


SEPTEMBER 14

Woman They Could Not Silence: One Woman, Her Incredible Fight for Freedom, and the Men Who Tried to Make Her Disappear by Kate Moore

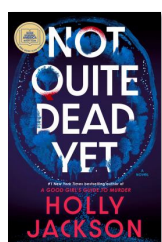
Evening Book Club

Thursdays • 7-8 pm



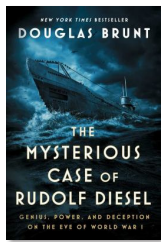
SEPTEMBER 17

A True Account by Katherine Howe



OCTOBER 7

Not Quite Dead Yet by Holly Jackson



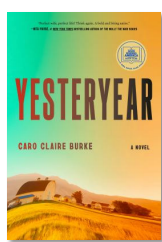
OCTOBER 12

The Mysterious Case of Rudolf Diesel: Genius, Power, and Deception on the Eve of World War I by Douglas Brunt



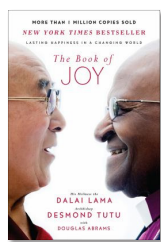
OCTOBER 22

The Bewitching by Silvia Moreno-Garcia



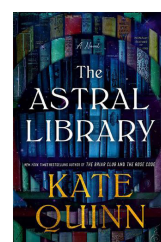
NOVEMBER 4

Yesteryear by Caro Claire Burke



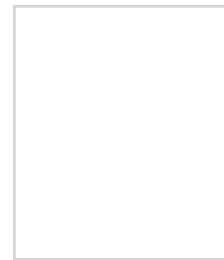
NOVEMBER 9

The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World by Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu, and Douglas Carlton Abrams



NOVEMBER 19

The Astral Library by Kate Quinn



RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

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

LIBRARY BOARD MEETINGS

Thursdays • 7–8 pm
September 10, October 8, November 12

THE LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

Sunday, September 6
Monday, September 7
Wed, November 25 (Closed at 5 pm)
Thursday, November 26
Late opening at 10 am on
September 25 & November 13



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Summer and fall 2026 are busy seasons for important technology and facility upgrades. We recently completed a comprehensive Wi-Fi overhaul, increasing speeds and adding access points throughout the building to better support the many devices in use at one time. We also upgraded the patron and staff copiers, as the previous machines had reached the end of their useful life. Reliable printing and copying services remain a critical resource for patrons. The new machines are easier to use, and although the cost of providing this technology has increased, we are not raising printing costs for patrons.

In addition, we installed new screens and projection equipment in the Large Meeting Room, Room 1, and the Conference Room. These improvements will provide more reliable technology and better screen visibility for the many programs held in these spaces.

This fall, we will install a new Adult Reference Desk designed to better

support both staff and patrons. The current desk was originally intended as a small computer help desk rather than a full working desk, and the new design will provide more comfortable, appropriately sized workspaces for staff. The updated desk will also improve patron service points, including a wheelchair-accessible area. The project will be completed in phases, and we do not anticipate any interruption to reference services.

Just like life, libraries are not static; they are dynamic. Evolution, change, and self-improvement enhance all our experiences.

Shannon Halikias

Library Director

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Shannon Halikias
LIBRARY DIRECTOR