



The Library Times

Serving Bartonville, Bellevue, Glasford, Kingston Mines, Mapleton, Norwood, and all of the Illini Bluffs and Limestone Community High School Districts

JANUARY/FEBRUARY
2012

Board Meetings
TUESDAY, Jan. 17, 2012 7:00 p.m.
TUESDAY, Feb. 21, 2012 7:00 p.m.

Public is welcome!

Library Closings
MONDAY, Jan. 2, 2012
MONDAY, Jan. 16, 2012
MONDAY, Feb. 20, 2012

Alpha Park Library District
3527 S. Airport Road
Bartonville, IL 61607
Phone: (309) 697-3822
V/TDD: (309) 697-9470
Fax: (309) 697-9681
E-mail: alpha@alphapark.org
Website: http://www.alphapark.org

Library Hours
Monday-Thursday 9-9
Friday 9-6
Saturday 9-5

Consumer Information Corner:

Spotlight on Couponing
www.couponing101.com
www.coupons.com
www.smartsources.com
www.redplum.com



FROM THE DIRECTOR
John D. Richmond

It can be odd to have to meet a deadline a month before words appear in print. What is true today can change (or not) in one month's time. A district resident recently asked me, "Is the library planning to expand over there?" with "over there" meaning "on the west side of Airport Road." I thought: *Oh, no, here it comes. This person has been reading the library board's published minutes, and I am about to get whacked upside the head about library expansion ideas/dreams in a poor economy, and other unpleasantness.*

Never assume anything. The response to my response was a mild, "You don't have much room to do anything on that lot, do you?" Whew!

Per State library standards, the board must review buildings and programs every ten years. Our review has taken the form of a building program. "Building program" is a technical term for a written document describing the library's current state, and what is needed for the future. APL hired Fred Schlipf, retired director of the Urbana Free Library, as consultant for the building program. Mr. Schlipf has worked with over 100 libraries on similar projects.

The library was built in 1985 and expanded in 1995. When I arrived in 2001, it was full. Not enough meeting room space; the take-over of space by computers (six Internet computers when I came, with 20 now); the loss of quiet reading and study room because of technology; inadequate storage and staff work areas, necessary to provide for planning new programs and processing of new materials; and shelves crammed from top to bottom with all sorts of things—books included, but not just books—are the realities of life in our attractive, well-used, highly regarded building.

By the time you read this, the board will have accepted Mr. Schlipf's written building program, with recommendations for a library approximately twice the size of the one we've got. Mr. Schlipf worked with board and staff to produce his report; he did not just pick a number, any number, for possible expansion. The board also should have hired an architect to do the most preliminary of studies, called a feasibility study. If the library were to grow, do we have room here? If not, then what?

Economic times are tough. In the midst of that, the State is selling bonds in the amount of \$50 million to finance library construction, statewide. If we want to be eligible for any kind of grant, we must apply for a construction grant by April 16. *Not* to apply would be irresponsible on our part. How could we responsibly look to *anyone* for any expansion help, without first going for a grant?

One thing we know: The library has outgrown its space. Our consultant and an architect may be able to suggest options for the future. The board and staff are committed to *careful* thought, taking *deliberate* action, and *prudent* stewardship of public dollars. Whatever we do, it is, and will be, for the growth of excellent service to all district residents. Stay tuned, and thanks for all your support!

Special Events

TIME TO REMINISCE
Thursdays, Jan. 5 & Feb. 2; 9:30-11:00 a.m.
This is a fun program for senior citizens who enjoy discussing past events and experiences. Refreshments are served.

Topics for discussion:
January 5 - We'll talk about *memories of your childhood home*.
February 2 - The discussion will be about *grand parenting*.

Biggest Loser 6 Week Weight Loss Program
Kickoff Monday, January 9; 7:00 p.m.

Kick start the new year with a new you! Join us for a 6 week weight loss program and see how much you can learn and lose. Simply weigh in at the library every Tuesday or Wednesday and watch for informational programs throughout the 6 weeks to help you live a healthier lifestyle. Prizes will be awarded to weekly "losers" and the grand prize is a \$50 Visa card (perfect start for that new wardrobe you'll need!). Register at the information desk by Friday, January 13, to join the program. Informational "Kick Off" meeting will be held Monday, Jan. 9, at 7:00 p.m. in the upstairs meeting room.

Yarners and Needlers
Thursday evenings 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.




Bring your needlework to the library and join this group of folks who enjoy sharing needlework tips. It's a great opportunity to spend quality time on projects. All levels of skill and experience are welcome. This group is open to anyone 14 and up who enjoys needlework and a few good laughs!

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
Monday, January 23; 7:00-8:00 p.m.
The Dive From Clausen's Pier
By Ann Packer

Read the book and share your thoughts. All adults are welcome to join the discussion.

Pick up a copy at the Check-Out Desk today and join the crowd!




Evanovich Extravaganza Movie Discussion Party
Friday, February 17 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Help us celebrate all that is Stephanie Plum with a night full of fun, food and surprises! We'll enjoy some of Stephanie's favorite treats (Cheese Doodles, Tasty Cakes, chicken, pizza, etc.), discuss the movie "One For The Money" (in theatres January 27, 2012), play games, and maybe blow up a few cars! Book trivia will determine if you're on Team Ranger or Team Moroney and everyone will watch to see who the real Grandma Mazur is! Tickets for the Evanovich Extravaganza are \$5.00 and go on sale January 23. Only 40 tickets will be available and may be purchased at the Reference Desk on or after January 23rd. If you're a Stephanie Plum fan, this is "One for the Money" and you won't want to miss it!

Coupon Program
Monday, February 6; 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

With the rising prices of food and other goods, there is also a growing interest in couponing. We are inviting anyone interested in learning how to get started in couponing and those who would like to share their tips and tricks to join our facilitator to learn more about this money saving venture.



NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY'S FRIENDS


The Friends of the Alpha Park Library have held two successful events—a mini-carnival this summer, and a "Chocolate Rendezvous" in October. The next Friends board meeting will be on Thursday, January 5, at 6:30 P.M. Place: The library. Behind-the-scenes plans for a really spectacular event are underway, but we can't reveal details! Stay tuned.

Libraries of all kinds have Friends groups. Friends may raise funds to supplement a library's budget—for those "little extras," and sometimes big ones, that can't fit into the library budget. They may sponsor programs (see carnival and chocolate, above) ... volunteer for special projects... and be visible, active advocates for the library in the community.

Annual dues begin at \$5 for an individual, \$20 for a family; special categories above those levels also apply. Why, there's even a "life member" category, with a one-time gift of \$1,000 or more! Members receive a Friends "window cling," with the Friends logo, and 10% off any book sale items. The Friends also have wristbands available for sale at the library. Small cost: \$3, or two for \$5. Questions? Call Leanne Sanders, Friends board president at 697-8380, or John Richmond, Library Director, at 697-3822, ext. 12.

Ladies' Night Out
Our theme for the 2012 Ladies' Night Out is "Breakfast at Tiffany's." This classic 1961 movie starring Audrey Hepburn featured the chic clothing styles of that era. Come dressed as an Audrey Hepburn look-alike and you may win a prize for the best costume! We're planning another fun and relaxing evening with dinner, a craft and entertainment. Register at the library Information Desk. \$5.00 (non-refundable) payment is due at the time of registration. Phone 697-3822, ext. 13 for further information.

Friday, January 20; 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.



YOUTH SERVICES

Winter Storytimes: Storytimes are held in six-week sessions throughout the year. Sessions may include books, fingerplays, crafts, songs, games, and/or videos. Children must be the appropriate ages at the first class of each session.


Book Babies: Parents/caregivers with babies ages 12-24 months are invited to the library for activities. Songs, creative time, group play, and resource ideas will be shared.
Wednesdays, 10:00-10:30 a.m. January 18, 25
February 1, 8, 15, 22

Toddler time: Storytime for 2-year-olds with an adult.
Tuesdays, 10:00-10:30 a.m. January 17, 24, 31
February 7, 14, 21

Mom and Me: Storytime for 2- or 3-year-olds with an adult.
Thursdays, 10:00-10:30 a.m. January 19, 26
February 2, 9, 16, 23

Bookworms: Storytime for ages 3 to 6.
Tuesdays, 10:30-11:00 a.m. January 17, 24, 31
February 7, 14, 21
Wednesdays, 1:00-1:30 p.m. January 18, 25
February 1, 8, 15, 22

Stories on the Steps: Storytime for ages 3 to 8. Themes will be the same as Bookworms.
Thursday evenings, 6:30-7:00 p.m. January 19, 26
February 2, 9, 16, 23



JUST FOR TEENS

TEEN BOARD
Thursdays, Jan. 5 & Feb. 2; 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Teen Board members must be in 7th through 12th grades. Show up or call Youth Services at 697-3822, ext.14, for more information.

TEEN COFFEEHOUSE & OPEN MIC NIGHT
Friday, Jan. 27, 2012; 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Do you read or write poetry, play an instrument, enjoy being dramatic or just want to show off your talent? If so, take advantage of Alpha Park's Open Mic Night! Teens in 7th - 12th grade are invited to perform at this event. Come to enjoy drinks, snacks, friends and free entertainment! Prizes will be awarded to the best, funniest and most original performances.


TEEN MOVIE & POPCORN NIGHT
Thursday, Feb. 9; 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Come to the library and join your friends for an anti-Valentine's themed movie and popcorn event. Movies are selected by the APL Teen Board.


Please note: Teen programs are for students in 7th - 12th grades.

CONSTRUCTION CLUB
Thursday, January 24; 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Attention architects! Third through sixth grade students can join their friends at the library for a building challenge and some free design time. Materials will be provided. Registration is not required. Come by and enjoy the fun!



MAKE-IT, TAKE-IT
Saturdays, Jan. 28 & Feb. 25; 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.



Children ages 4 through 4th grade along with their parent or caregiver are invited to make a craft in the Youth Services Department. Parental assistance required. No drop-offs, please!

Best of Book Club
Wednesday, February 15; 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Come get a copy of *How to Train Your Dragon* by Cressida Cowell and read about the daring heroism of Hiccup Horrendous Haddock III as he tries to join the Viking Tribe of the Hairy Hooligans. The library has extra copies for you to check out. We will share some of the best parts and have an activity together that relates to the book. Sign up by calling or stopping by Youth Services. You do not have to finish the book to attend, but it is recommended. This program is most appropriate for 2nd through 5th grade.

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS
Begins in January!

Battle of the Books is a competition between libraries. The Battle of the Books includes books for middle grade readers. Readers who read the listed books can sign-up to participate in the Championship Battle, which pits library teams against each other to test their knowledge of the books. The program kicks off with a visit by one of the authors. The Championship Battle will take place in late April or early May. Check out the books and start reading now!! More information, including AR levels and specific dates, will be available at the library and on the library website as it becomes available.

Annie's Adventures By Lauren Baratz-Logsted

The Misadventures of Maude March By Audrey Couloumbis

Nathaniel Fludd, Beastologist: Flight of the Phoenix By R.L. LaFavers

Alibi Junior High. By Greg Logsted


A Mango-Shaped Space. By Wendy Mass

The Fourth Stall. By Chris Rylander

Aliens on Vacation By Clete Barrett Smith

Author Alert! Lauren Baratz-Logsted Visits APL
Lauren Baratz-Logsted has written books for adults, teens and children. A featured author in this year's *Sister Eight* series follows the Huit octuplet girls, with their eight cats, who are learning to live on their own since their parents' mysterious disappearance. According to the notes, each girl must discover her own unique gift in order to get to the bottom of the mystery of her missing parents.

Thursday, February 16; Time TBA



BEYOND THE BOOK:

iPad Basics
Thursday, January 26; 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Attention iPad owners or those curious about them. This class is designed to help you get to know your iPad better. We'll explore the basics, learn how to interact with the device, and discover the world of apps. Bring your iPad and let us know what tricks you've already discovered!

Microsoft Word Basics
Thursday, February 9; 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Join us for a one night class on the basics of Microsoft Word. Whether you're typing a resume, a letter to your friend, or a report for club or class, Microsoft Word has the tools to create it quickly and even beautifully. This class will teach you how to start a new document, save it, change the text, add pictures and generally format a page. This class is limited to 7 people. Please contact the Information Desk at 309-697-3822, ext.13 to register.

eReader and eBooks 101
Thursday, January 12; 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Learn how to download library eBooks FREE to your eReader, iPad, or smart phone.