



McHenry Public Library District

809 North Front Street

McHenry, Illinois 60050

Phone: 815.385.0036

www.mchenrylibrary.org

**McHenry Public Library District
Board of Library Trustees Regular Meeting**

Tuesday March 21, 2017

7:00 p.m.

2nd Floor Board Room

Agenda

- I. CALL TO ORDER** – Kathy Baderstadt, President
- II. ROLL CALL** – Monica Leccese, Secretary
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- IV. CORRECTIONS OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**
- V. PUBLIC COMMENT AND RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**
- VI. CONSENT AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING (Action)**
 - SECRETARY'S REPORT** – Monica Leccese, Secretary
Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, February 21, 2017
 - TREASURER'S REPORT** – Charles Reilly, Treasurer
Monthly Financial Statements and Interim Check Report through
February 28, 2017 and Bill Reports for February/March 2017
Additional Bills (Distributed night of meeting)
Petty Cash and Credit Card Reports
- VII. COMMUNICATIONS**
 - B. Edminster to Barb McIntosh—Thank you for donation in appreciation of help from Thomas Hillier

VIII. LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

To discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body in compliance with the Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/2 section 2(c)(1) and review and release of the December 13, 2016 Executive Session Minutes.

X. OLD BUSINESS

1. Continued discussion on prioritization of projects (memo + new information)

XI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval and release of the December 13, 2016 Executive Session Minutes. **(Action)**
2. Discussion and approval of agreement with McHenry Area Historical Society for digital access to various local papers **(Action)**
3. Discussion and approval of adding a Librarian I (lead) position in YS – rather than having a Librarian II, Assistant Manager **(Action)**
4. Discussion and Approval of new job description for Librarian I (lead) position **(Action)**

XII. ANY AND ALL OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THE BOARD

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

*Any person with a physical disability may contact the MPLD (815-385-0036) within 4 hours of any meeting date to request special access to any board meeting. The MPLD will make all board meetings accessible to people with physical disabilities under the current ADA requirements.

MINUTES
MCHENRY PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES
PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING

Date: February 21, 2017

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Location: Library Board Meeting Room

Members Present: Margaret Carey, Delphine Grala, Monica Leccese, Charles Reilly, and Bradley Schubert

Members Absent: Kathy Beaderstadt and Jill Stone

Also Present: James Scholtz, Executive Director
Bill Edminster, Assistant Director
Debbie Gunness, Business Manager

I. Call to Order:

President Pro Tem Grala called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

II. Roll Call:

Roll was called and a quorum was established. See #1 on attached sheet.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Corrections or Additions to the Agenda

None

V. Public Comment and Recognition of Visitors

None

VI. Consent Agenda for this meeting

Secretary's Report – Monica Leccese, Secretary

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, January 17, 2017

Treasurer's Report – Charles Reilly, Treasurer

Monthly Financial Statements and Interim Check Report through January 31, 2017 and Bill Reports for January/February 2017

Additional Bills (Distributed night of meeting)

Petty Cash and Credit Card Reports

The Board reviewed the regular board minutes, financial statements and bills.

Carey moved and Schubert seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting for January 17, 2017, the monthly financial statements for the fiscal year through January 31, 2017, the Bill Reports for January/February 2017, and payment of the bills.

Motion passed 5-0. See #2 on attached sheet.

VII. Communications

- Edminster to Susan J. Buchholz—Thank you for donation in memory of Robin Fossum Weber
- Edminster to Jay Weber—Notice of donation in memory of Robin Fossum Weber
- Edminster to Anne Brown—Thank you for donation of indoor/outdoor sound system

VIII. Librarian's Report

- Scholtz told the Board that the AARP tax preparers were here in the library again this year. He has asked them to distribute a survey to the persons being served to identify whether this was their first use of the library and whether they would use it again.
- Scholtz informed the Board that two new staff members, Tawnee Calhoun and Steffanie Baseley were starting in the Youth Department the day of the Board meeting. Barb Majka has begun as Circulation Manager earlier in the month.
- Laurie Mann has left to work at Sycamore Public Library and Rebekah Raleigh has returned to Warren-Newport Public Library in Gurnee.
- Colette Myers had submitted her letter of resignation and her last day is March 23, 2017. She will be retiring to St. Augustine, Florida.
- Scholtz attended the IDOT informational meeting about widening Route 31 from Hwy. 176 north to Hwy. 120. It would affect our property and any plans for an expansion or a new building. Since the library is a governmental entity, eminent domain does not apply to our property, so we might be able to negotiate to get our sewer connection improved. He does not expect construction to begin for six to ten years.
- Scholtz has been speaking to Shaw Media to obtain the right to scan our microfilm of *The Plaindealer* newspaper for a shared database.
- Scholtz has been speaking to the company that will be upgrading our older solar panel array and installing new solar panels. He will not let them work on the roof until the weather is better in Spring. It will probably take two weeks to do the work.
- CCS will be migrating from Sirsi-Dynix to Polaris from Innovative for its integrated library system. It will be more expensive. The concept is Software as a Service so that we will no longer run our own computer hardware. As a result, the computer room at CCS will be available for a training room. The migration is expected to be completed in Spring of 2018.
- The library has a St. Baldrick's team raising money to fight childhood cancer, though it is smaller than usual with only two members so far.
- Twenty-two staff members will be participating in the Centegra Health Challenge.
- There will be a staff in-service on Friday, February 24, 2017 and the library will be closing at noon.
- New furniture for the study rooms has been ordered and will arrive in March. The study rooms will be repainted as well.
- The library is using a new phone carrier and the bills are lower. The phones are the same as before.
- The policies on security cameras and on travel that the board voted on are in place.
- Scholtz is arranging trips to libraries with RFID installations near in the next two weeks. He would like to have two board members in each visit but no more in order to avoid violations of the Open Meetings law.

IX. Executive Session

To discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body in compliance with the Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/2 section 2(c)(1) and review and release of the December 13, 2016 executive session minutes.

The Board did not go into executive session.

X. Old Business

Continued discussion on prioritization of projects

- Update on MPLD staff/board outings to other RFID libraries
Scholtz asked Board to give him dates that they will be available to visit some of the following libraries: Algonquin, Fox Lake, Cary, or Barrington

XI. New Business

1. Approval and release of the December 13, 2016 Executive Session Minutes.
No action was taken because the Board did not go into executive session.
2. Discussion and approval of agreement with McHenry Area Historical Society for digital access to various local papers
No action was taken because Scholtz had not received the agreement with McHenry Area Historical Society for digital access to various local papers.
3. Approval of RFID RFP and consent to send out to vendors, place on MPLD website
Scholtz answered questions from the Board regarding the RFID RFP proposal. Leccese moved and Schubert seconded a motion to approval of RFID RFP and consent to send out to vendors, place on MPLD website. Motion passed 5-0. See # 3 on attached sheet.

XII. Any and All Other Business Which May Properly Come Before the Board

None

XIII. Adjournment

Schubert moved and Reilly seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m.
Motion passed 5-0. See # 4 on attached sheet.

Respectfully Submitted,

Monica Leccese, Secretary

Text for Motion Sheet

1. Roll Call at 7:07 p.m.
2. Motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting for January 17, 2017, the monthly financial statements for the fiscal year through January 31, 2017, the Bill Reports for January/February 2017, and payment of the bills.
3. Motion to approval of RFID RFP and consent to send out to vendors, place on MPLD website.
4. Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

DATE: February 21, 2017 Called to Order: 7:07 p.m.	Kathy Baderstadt	Margaret Carey	Delphine Grala	Monica Leccese	Charles Reilly	Bradley Schubert	Jill Stone
1. Roll call at 7:07 p.m.	NP	P	P	P	P	P	NP
2. Motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting for January 17, 2017, the monthly financial statements for the fiscal year through January 31, 2017, the Bill Reports for January/February 2017, and payment of the bills.	NP	(M)Y	Y	Y	Y	(S)Y	NP
3. Motion to approval of RFID RFP and consent to send out to vendors, place on MPLD website.	NP	Y	Y	(M)Y	Y	(S)Y	NP
6. Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m.	NP	Y	Y	Y	(S)Y	(M)Y	NP

A=Abstain, M=Motion, N=No, NP=Not Present, P=Present, S=Second, Y=Yes

MCHENRY PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

COMPILED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

February 28, 2017

McHenry Public Library District
Balance Sheet
As of February 28, 2017

1:05 PM
03/17/2017
Cash Basis
Feb 28, 17

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

1060 · First Midwest Bank-Money Market	
1060100 · MM - General - First Midwest	360,467.45
1060200 · MM - Spec Reserve-First Midwest	1,748,269.54
1060300 · MM - Grant & Gift-First Midwest	445,810.22
Total 1060 · First Midwest Bank-Money Market	2,554,547.21
1070100 · HSA/Building - First Midwest	363,854.84
1615100 · General Account - First Midwest	31,810.25
1625100 · Payroll Account - First Midwest	137,517.86
1635100 · Imprest Account - First Midwest	1,833.98
1045100 · PROPAY	3,075.64
1150100 · Huntington-MoneyMarket	200,243.36

Total Checking/Savings	3,292,883.14
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Other Current Assets

1005100 · Petty Cash	800.00
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Total Other Current Assets	800.00
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Total Current Assets	3,293,683.14
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TOTAL ASSETS

3,293,683.14

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity

3010100 · Fund Balance - General	1,607,104.80
3010200 · Fund Balance - Special Reserve	1,744,332.86
3010300 · Fund Balance - Grants & Gifts	465,934.67

Net Income	(523,689.19)
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Total Equity	3,293,683.14
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TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY

3,293,683.14

McHenry Public Library District
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
February 2017

1:16 PM
03/17/2017
Cash Basis
Feb 17

Income	
6030100 · Interest Income - General	41.48
6030200 · Interest Income - Spec Reserve	52.39
6030300 · Interest Income - Grant & Gifts	13.27
6040100 · Nonresident & Enhanced Cards	45.00
6050100 · Fines	4,363.76
6055100 · Referral/Collection Fees	30.00
6060100 · Photocopier & Fax Income	1,803.63
6070300 · General Fund Gifts	7,593.66
6105100 · Staff Cobra/Insurance Payments	1,584.04
6110100 · Program Fees/Misc Fees	14.00
6120100 · Meeting Room Fees	135.00
6130100 · Misc Income - General	365.90
6150100 · Lost & Damged Materials	222.83
6200100 · Over/Short	(5.58)
Total Income	16,259.38
Gross Profit	16,259.38
Expense	
8010100 · Adult Books	7,547.77
8020100 · Youth Books	9,414.07
8028100 · Administrative Resources (GA)	29.99
8030100 · Magazines & Newspapers	48.09
8040300 · Operating Fund Gifts	1,515.43
8050100 · Adult AV Materials	3,686.45
8060100 · Youth AV Materials	1,399.14
8080100 · Video Games	180.97
8090100 · eBook & eMagazine Services	(62.06)
8095100 · Electronic Subscriptions	2,957.40
8120100 · Library Supplies	2,269.42
8130100 · Tech Services Supplies	4,802.18
8140100 · Adult Programs & Supplies	1,504.95
8145100 · Circulation Supplies	685.95
8147100 · Summer Reading Club	40.00
8150100 · Youth Programs & Supplies	1,968.51
8215100 · Collection Agency Fees	196.90
8245100 · Comp/OfcEqp/CopierRepairs/Contr	183.23
8310100 · CCS & SIRSI Expenses	5,902.00
8320100 · Network Expenses	1,979.66
8330100 · OCLC Services (cataloging)	1,057.75
8410100 · Payroll Exp, Acctg & Audit Serv	1,042.90
8420100 · Legal Services	1,292.50
8430100 · Automation & Misc Consultants	300.00
8510100 · Printing	5,461.00
8540100 · Postage	2,369.02
8550100 · Public Relations/Promotions	118.67
8610100 · Electricity	2,015.80
8620100 · Gas	1,564.83
8630100 · Telephone	266.25
8635100 · T-1 & other Telecommunications	577.97

	Feb 17
8640100 · Water & Sewer	259.53
8720100 · Building/Auto Insurance	828.00
8740100 · Building & Grounds	3,760.32
8760100 · Hospitality	515.69
8770100 · Interlibrary Loan Fees & Losses	60.98
8795100 · Miscellaneous (FH)	910.00
8800311 · Adult Materials - PER CAPITA	361.23
8800321 · YPS Materials - PER CAPITA	2,614.10
8910100 · Salaries	125,071.99
8920100 · FICA/Medicare	9,244.11
8930100 · IMRF	13,814.26
8940100 · Health & Life Insurance	53,798.27
8960100 · Memberships & Dues	563.99
8970100 · Meetings & Travel	3,046.88
9060100 · Library Furnishings	2,454.04
9090100 · Additional Capital Projects	4,318.14
Total Expense	283,938.27
Net Income	(267,678.89)

McHenry Public Library District
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures by Class
 July 2016 through February 2017

1:13 PM
 03/17/2017
 Cash Basis

	100 General Fund	200 Special Reserve Fund	300 Grant and Gift Fund	TOTAL
Income				
6010100 · Property Taxes	1,565,210.51	0.00	0.00	1,565,210.51
6020200 · Developer Fees	0.00	3,470.00	0.00	3,470.00
6030100 · Interest Income - General	446.38	0.00	0.00	446.38
6030200 · Interest Income - Spec Reserve	0.00	466.68	0.00	466.68
6030300 · Interest Income - Grant & Gifts	0.00	0.00	121.88	121.88
6035100 · Dividends	238.20	0.00	0.00	238.20
6040100 · Nonresident & Enhanced Cards	520.00	0.00	0.00	520.00
6050100 · Fines	32,333.20	0.00	0.00	32,333.20
6055100 · Referral/Collection Fees	210.00	0.00	0.00	210.00
6060100 · Photocopier & Fax Income	10,523.21	0.00	0.00	10,523.21
6070300 · General Fund Gifts	0.00	0.00	9,686.13	9,686.13
6105100 · Staff Cobra/Insurance Payments	11,012.33	0.00	0.00	11,012.33
6110100 · Program Fees/Misc Fees	2,414.00	0.00	0.00	2,414.00
6120100 · Meeting Room Fees	530.00	0.00	0.00	530.00
6130100 · Misc Income - General	2,274.48	0.00	0.00	2,274.48
6150100 · Lost & Damged Materials	2,149.11	0.00	0.00	2,149.11
6200100 · Over/Short	4.07	0.00	0.00	4.07
Total Income	1,627,865.49	3,936.68	9,808.01	1,641,610.18
Gross Profit	1,627,865.49	3,936.68	9,808.01	1,641,610.18
Expense				
8010100 · Adult Books	58,699.59	0.00	0.00	58,699.59
8020100 · Youth Books	30,619.18	0.00	0.00	30,619.18
8025100 · Professional Resources	4,767.93	0.00	0.00	4,767.93
8028100 · Administrative Resources (GA)	505.93	0.00	0.00	505.93
8030100 · Magazines & Newspapers	12,959.68	0.00	0.00	12,959.68
8040300 · Operating Fund Gifts	0.00	0.00	7,147.87	7,147.87
8050100 · Adult AV Materials	34,176.25	0.00	0.00	34,176.25
8060100 · Youth AV Materials	7,842.18	0.00	0.00	7,842.18
8080100 · Video Games	6,223.89	0.00	0.00	6,223.89
8090100 · eBook & eMagazine Services	19,483.22	0.00	0.00	19,483.22
8095100 · Electronic Subscriptions	43,847.21	0.00	0.00	43,847.21
8110100 · Bank Service Charges	0.81	0.00	0.00	0.81
8120100 · Library Supplies	5,129.00	0.00	0.00	5,129.00
8130100 · Tech Services Supplies	21,384.34	0.00	0.00	21,384.34
8140100 · Adult Programs & Supplies	13,645.25	0.00	0.00	13,645.25
8145100 · Circulation Supplies	4,605.81	0.00	0.00	4,605.81
8147100 · Summer Reading Club	64.08	0.00	0.00	64.08
8150100 · Youth Programs & Supplies	15,695.52	0.00	0.00	15,695.52
8215100 · Collection Agency Fees	957.65	0.00	0.00	957.65
8245100 · Comp/OfcEqp/CopierRepairs/Contr	16,099.97	0.00	0.00	16,099.97
8270100 · Finance/Late Fee Charges	38.10	0.00	0.00	38.10
8310100 · CCS & SIRSI Expenses	47,216.00	0.00	0.00	47,216.00
8320100 · Network Expenses	14,164.01	0.00	0.00	14,164.01
8330100 · OCLC Services (cataloging)	6,699.75	0.00	0.00	6,699.75
8410100 · Payroll Exp, Acctg & Audit Serv	16,155.56	0.00	0.00	16,155.56
8420100 · Legal Services	2,031.97	0.00	0.00	2,031.97
8430100 · Automation & Misc Consultants	1,070.00	0.00	0.00	1,070.00

	100 General Fund	200 Special Reserve Fund	300 Grant and Gift Fund	TOTAL
8440100 · In Service Honorarium	764.85	0.00	0.00	764.85
8510100 · Printing	22,637.24	0.00	0.00	22,637.24
8530100 · Public Notices & Ads	1,347.88	0.00	0.00	1,347.88
8540100 · Postage	7,161.58	0.00	0.00	7,161.58
8550100 · Public Relations/Promotions	5,390.09	0.00	0.00	5,390.09
8610100 · Electricity	16,233.78	0.00	0.00	16,233.78
8620100 · Gas	2,757.26	0.00	0.00	2,757.26
8630100 · Telephone	3,721.03	0.00	0.00	3,721.03
8635100 · T-1 & other Telecommunications	4,417.44	0.00	0.00	4,417.44
8640100 · Water & Sewer	3,707.08	0.00	0.00	3,707.08
8720100 · Building/Auto Insurance	21,526.00	0.00	0.00	21,526.00
8730100 · Bonding & Officers Liability	5,243.00	0.00	0.00	5,243.00
8740100 · Building & Grounds	33,104.68	0.00	0.00	33,104.68
8760100 · Hospitality	3,792.30	0.00	0.00	3,792.30
8770100 · Interlibrary Loan Fees & Losses	179.68	0.00	0.00	179.68
8795100 · Miscellaneous (FH)	910.00	0.00	0.00	910.00
8800311 · Adult Materials - PER CAPITA	0.00	0.00	6,670.49	6,670.49
8800321 · YPS Materials - PER CAPITA	0.00	0.00	2,614.10	2,614.10
8800341 · Other Equipment - PER CAPITA	0.00	0.00	13,500.00	13,500.00
8910100 · Salaries	1,153,413.65	0.00	0.00	1,153,413.65
8920100 · FICA/Medicare	86,646.61	0.00	0.00	86,646.61
8930100 · IMRF	127,270.21	0.00	0.00	127,270.21
8940100 · Health & Life Insurance	207,229.37	0.00	0.00	207,229.37
8950100 · Tuition Reimbursement	1,248.84	0.00	0.00	1,248.84
8960100 · Memberships & Dues	2,779.88	0.00	0.00	2,779.88
8970100 · Meetings & Travel	7,361.82	0.00	0.00	7,361.82
9060100 · Library Furnishings	4,176.83	0.00	0.00	4,176.83
9080100 · Small Equipment Under \$250	(9.30)	0.00	0.00	(9.30)
9090100 · Additional Capital Projects	28,272.23	0.00	0.00	28,272.23
Total Expense	2,135,366.91	0.00	29,932.46	2,165,299.37
Net Income	(507,501.42)	3,936.68	(20,124.45)	(523,689.19)

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures Budget vs. Actual

03/17/2017

July 2016 through February 2017

Cash Basis

	Jul '16 - Feb 17	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Income				
6010100 · Property Taxes	1,565,210.51	3,180,652.28	(1,615,441.77)	49.21%
6020200 · Developer Fees	3,470.00	25,000.00	(21,530.00)	13.88%
6030100 · Interest Income - General	446.38	5,000.00	(4,553.62)	8.93%
6030200 · Interest Income - Spec Reserve	466.68	3,000.00	(2,533.32)	15.56%
6030300 · Interest Income - Grant & Gifts	121.88	2,500.00	(2,378.12)	4.88%
6035100 · Dividends	238.20	500.00	(261.80)	47.64%
6040100 · Nonresident & Enhanced Cards	520.00	1,000.00	(480.00)	52.0%
6050100 · Fines	32,333.20	55,000.00	(22,666.80)	58.79%
6055100 · Referral/Collection Fees	210.00	1,000.00	(790.00)	21.0%
6060100 · Photocopier & Fax Income	10,523.21	17,000.00	(6,476.79)	61.9%
6070200 · Reserve Fund Gifts	0.00	25,000.00	(25,000.00)	0.0%
6070300 · General Fund Gifts	9,686.13	20,000.00	(10,313.87)	48.43%
6090100 · Annexation Impact Fees	0.00	1,000.00	(1,000.00)	0.0%
6090200 · Transfer from General Fund	0.00	800,000.00	(800,000.00)	0.0%
6105100 · Staff Cobra/Insurance Payments	11,012.33	17,000.00	(5,987.67)	64.78%
6110100 · Program Fees/Misc Fees	2,414.00	4,200.00	(1,786.00)	57.48%
6120100 · Meeting Room Fees	530.00	1,000.00	(470.00)	53.0%
6130100 · Misc Income - General	2,274.48	25,000.00	(22,725.52)	9.1%
6130200 · Misc Income - Special Reserve	0.00	2,000.00	(2,000.00)	0.0%
6150100 · Lost & Damged Materials	2,149.11	6,000.00	(3,850.89)	35.82%
6170300 · Per Capita Grant	0.00	84,893.43	(84,893.43)	0.0%
6200100 · Over/Short	4.07	0.00	4.07	100.0%
6210300 · Miscellaneous Grants	0.00	50,000.00	(50,000.00)	0.0%
Total Income	1,641,610.18	4,326,745.71	(2,685,135.53)	37.94%
Gross Profit	1,641,610.18	4,326,745.71	(2,685,135.53)	37.94%
Expense				
8010100 · Adult Books	58,699.59	85,000.00	(26,300.41)	69.06%
8020100 · Youth Books	30,619.18	59,000.00	(28,380.82)	51.9%
8025100 · Professional Resources	4,767.93	3,500.00	1,267.93	136.23%
8028100 · Administrative Resources (GA)	505.93	6,400.00	(5,894.07)	7.91%
8030100 · Magazines & Newspapers	12,959.68	15,000.00	(2,040.32)	86.4%
8040300 · Operating Fund Gifts	7,147.87	448,381.10	(441,233.23)	1.59%
8050100 · Adult AV Materials	34,176.25	62,000.00	(27,823.75)	55.12%
8060100 · Youth AV Materials	7,842.18	16,000.00	(8,157.82)	49.01%
8080100 · Video Games	6,223.89	15,000.00	(8,776.11)	41.49%
8090100 · eBook & eMagazine Services	19,483.22	55,500.00	(36,016.78)	35.11%
8095100 · Electronic Subscriptions	43,847.21	80,000.00	(36,152.79)	54.81%
8110100 · Bank Service Charges	0.81	500.00	(499.19)	0.16%
8120100 · Library Supplies	5,129.00	10,000.00	(4,871.00)	51.29%
8130100 · Tech Services Supplies	21,384.34	57,200.00	(35,815.66)	37.39%
8135100 · Bindery	0.00	150.00	(150.00)	0.0%
8140100 · Adult Programs & Supplies	13,645.25	22,000.00	(8,354.75)	62.02%
8145100 · Circulation Supplies	4,605.81	12,000.00	(7,394.19)	38.38%
8147100 · Summer Reading Club	64.08	7,000.00	(6,935.92)	0.92%
8150100 · Youth Programs & Supplies	15,695.52	21,500.00	(5,804.48)	73.0%
8215100 · Collection Agency Fees	957.65	1,500.00	(542.35)	63.84%
8245100 · Comp/OfcEqp/CopierRepairs/Contr	16,099.97	59,000.00	(42,900.03)	27.29%

	Jul '16 - Feb 17	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
8260100 · Misc Contracted Services	0.00	2,000.00	(2,000.00)	0.0%
8270100 · Finance/Late Fee Charges	38.10	500.00	(461.90)	7.62%
8310100 · CCS & SIRSI Expenses	47,216.00	80,000.00	(32,784.00)	59.02%
8320100 · Network Expenses	14,164.01	25,000.00	(10,835.99)	56.66%
8330100 · OCLC Services (cataloging)	6,699.75	8,000.00	(1,300.25)	83.75%
8410100 · Payroll Exp, Acctg & Audit Serv	16,155.56	28,000.00	(11,844.44)	57.7%
8420100 · Legal Services	2,031.97	1,500.00	531.97	135.47%
8430100 · Automation & Misc Consultants	1,070.00	14,000.00	(12,930.00)	7.64%
8440100 · In Service Honorarium	764.85	1,000.00	(235.15)	76.49%
8510100 · Printing	22,637.24	36,000.00	(13,362.76)	62.88%
8530100 · Public Notices & Ads	1,347.88	3,000.00	(1,652.12)	44.93%
8540100 · Postage	7,161.58	18,000.00	(10,838.42)	39.79%
8550100 · Public Relations/Promotions	5,390.09	10,000.00	(4,609.91)	53.9%
8610100 · Electricity	16,233.78	25,000.00	(8,766.22)	64.94%
8620100 · Gas	2,757.26	2,500.00	257.26	110.29%
8630100 · Telephone	3,721.03	13,500.00	(9,778.97)	27.56%
8635100 · T-1 & other Telecommunications	4,417.44	7,000.00	(2,582.56)	63.11%
8640100 · Water & Sewer	3,707.08	3,500.00	207.08	105.92%
8720100 · Building/Auto Insurance	21,526.00	32,000.00	(10,474.00)	67.27%
8730100 · Bonding & Officers Liability	5,243.00	5,500.00	(257.00)	95.33%
8740100 · Building & Grounds	33,104.68	54,000.00	(20,895.32)	61.31%
8760100 · Hospitality	3,792.30	13,000.00	(9,207.70)	29.17%
8770100 · Interlibrary Loan Fees & Losses	179.68	700.00	(520.32)	25.67%
8795100 · Miscellaneous (FH)	910.00	4,000.00	(3,090.00)	22.75%
8800300 · Per Capita Grant expense for FY	0.00	32,393.43	(32,393.43)	0.0%
8800311 · Adult Materials - PER CAPITA	6,670.49	0.00	6,670.49	100.0%
8800321 · YPS Materials - PER CAPITA	2,614.10	0.00	2,614.10	100.0%
8800341 · Other Equipment - PER CAPITA	13,500.00	0.00	13,500.00	100.0%
8910100 · Salaries	1,153,413.65	1,810,000.00	(656,586.35)	63.73%
8920100 · FICA/Medicare	86,646.61	145,000.00	(58,353.39)	59.76%
8930100 · IMRF	127,270.21	180,000.00	(52,729.79)	70.71%
8940100 · Health & Life Insurance	207,229.37	260,000.00	(52,770.63)	79.7%
8950100 · Tuition Reimbursement	1,248.84	9,000.00	(7,751.16)	13.88%
8960100 · Memberships & Dues	2,779.88	8,000.00	(5,220.12)	34.75%
8970100 · Meetings & Travel	7,361.82	14,000.00	(6,638.18)	52.58%
9030300 · Misc Grants	0.00	25,000.00	(25,000.00)	0.0%
9050200 · Library District Act	0.00	150,000.00	(150,000.00)	0.0%
9060100 · Library Furnishings	4,176.83	35,000.00	(30,823.17)	11.93%
9070100 · Library Equipment	0.00	70,000.00	(70,000.00)	0.0%
9080100 · Small Equipment Under \$250	(9.30)	10,000.00	(10,009.30)	(0.09%)
9090100 · Additional Capital Projects	28,272.23	320,000.00	(291,727.77)	8.84%
Total Expense	2,165,299.37	4,492,724.53	(2,327,425.16)	48.2%
Net Income	(523,689.19)	(165,978.82)	(357,710.37)	315.52%

Statement of Revenue and Expenditures Budget vs. Actual

03/17/2017

July 1, 2016 - February 28, 2017 - General Fund

Cash Basis

	Jul '16 - Feb 17	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Income				
6010100 · Property Taxes	1,565,210.51	3,180,652.28	(1,615,441.77)	49.21%
6030100 · Interest Income - General	446.38	5,000.00	(4,553.62)	8.93%
6035100 · Dividends	238.20	500.00	(261.80)	47.64%
6040100 · Nonresident & Enhanced Cards	520.00	1,000.00	(480.00)	52.0%
6050100 · Fines	32,333.20	55,000.00	(22,666.80)	58.79%
6055100 · Referral/Collection Fees	210.00	1,000.00	(790.00)	21.0%
6060100 · Photocopier & Fax Income	10,523.21	17,000.00	(6,476.79)	61.9%
6090100 · Annexation Impact Fees	0.00	1,000.00	(1,000.00)	0.0%
6105100 · Staff Cobra/Insurance Payments	11,012.33	17,000.00	(5,987.67)	64.78%
6110100 · Program Fees/Misc Fees	2,414.00	4,200.00	(1,786.00)	57.48%
6120100 · Meeting Room Fees	530.00	1,000.00	(470.00)	53.0%
6130100 · Misc Income - General	2,274.48	25,000.00	(22,725.52)	9.1%
6150100 · Lost & Damged Materials	2,149.11	6,000.00	(3,850.89)	35.82%
6200100 · Over/Short	4.07	0.00	4.07	100.0%
Total Income	1,627,865.49	3,314,352.28	(1,686,486.79)	49.12%
Gross Profit	1,627,865.49	3,314,352.28	(1,686,486.79)	49.12%
Expense				
8010100 · Adult Books	58,699.59	85,000.00	(26,300.41)	69.06%
8020100 · Youth Books	30,619.18	59,000.00	(28,380.82)	51.9%
8025100 · Professional Resources	4,767.93	3,500.00	1,267.93	136.23%
8028100 · Administrative Resources (GA)	505.93	6,400.00	(5,894.07)	7.91%
8030100 · Magazines & Newspapers	12,959.68	15,000.00	(2,040.32)	86.4%
8050100 · Adult AV Materials	34,176.25	62,000.00	(27,823.75)	55.12%
8060100 · Youth AV Materials	7,842.18	16,000.00	(8,157.82)	49.01%
8080100 · Video Games	6,223.89	15,000.00	(8,776.11)	41.49%
8090100 · eBook & eMagazine Services	19,483.22	55,500.00	(36,016.78)	35.11%
8095100 · Electronic Subscriptions	43,847.21	80,000.00	(36,152.79)	54.81%
8110100 · Bank Service Charges	0.81	500.00	(499.19)	0.16%
8120100 · Library Supplies	5,129.00	10,000.00	(4,871.00)	51.29%
8130100 · Tech Services Supplies	21,384.34	57,200.00	(35,815.66)	37.39%
8135100 · Bindery	0.00	150.00	(150.00)	0.0%
8140100 · Adult Programs & Supplies	13,645.25	22,000.00	(8,354.75)	62.02%
8145100 · Circulation Supplies	4,605.81	12,000.00	(7,394.19)	38.38%
8147100 · Summer Reading Club	64.08	7,000.00	(6,935.92)	0.92%
8150100 · Youth Programs & Supplies	15,695.52	21,500.00	(5,804.48)	73.0%
8215100 · Collection Agency Fees	957.65	1,500.00	(542.35)	63.84%
8245100 · Comp/OfcEqp/CopierRepairs/Contr	16,099.97	59,000.00	(42,900.03)	27.29%
8260100 · Misc Contracted Services	0.00	2,000.00	(2,000.00)	0.0%
8270100 · Finance/Late Fee Charges	38.10	500.00	(461.90)	7.62%
8310100 · CCS & SIRSI Expenses	47,216.00	80,000.00	(32,784.00)	59.02%
8320100 · Network Expenses	14,164.01	25,000.00	(10,835.99)	56.66%
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8440100 · In Service Honorarium	764.85	1,000.00	(235.15)	76.49%
8510100 · Printing	22,637.24	36,000.00	(13,362.76)	62.88%

	Jul '16 - Feb 17	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
8530100 · Public Notices & Ads	1,347.88	3,000.00	(1,652.12)	44.93%
8540100 · Postage	7,161.58	18,000.00	(10,838.42)	39.79%
8550100 · Public Relations/Promotions	5,390.09	10,000.00	(4,609.91)	53.9%
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8730100 · Bonding & Officers Liability	5,243.00	5,500.00	(257.00)	95.33%
8740100 · Building & Grounds	33,104.68	54,000.00	(20,895.32)	61.31%
8760100 · Hospitality	3,792.30	13,000.00	(9,207.70)	29.17%
8770100 · Interlibrary Loan Fees & Losses	179.68	700.00	(520.32)	25.67%
8795100 · Miscellaneous (FH)	910.00	4,000.00	(3,090.00)	22.75%
8910100 · Salaries	1,153,413.65	1,810,000.00	(656,586.35)	63.73%
8920100 · FICA/Medicare	86,646.61	145,000.00	(58,353.39)	59.76%
8930100 · IMRF	127,270.21	180,000.00	(52,729.79)	70.71%
8940100 · Health & Life Insurance	207,229.37	260,000.00	(52,770.63)	79.7%
8950100 · Tuition Reimbursement	1,248.84	9,000.00	(7,751.16)	13.88%
8960100 · Memberships & Dues	2,779.88	8,000.00	(5,220.12)	34.75%
8970100 · Meetings & Travel	7,361.82	14,000.00	(6,638.18)	52.58%
9060100 · Library Furnishings	4,176.83	35,000.00	(30,823.17)	11.93%
9070100 · Library Equipment	0.00	70,000.00	(70,000.00)	0.0%
9080100 · Small Equipment Under \$250	(9.30)	10,000.00	(10,009.30)	(0.09%)
9090100 · Additional Capital Projects	28,272.23	320,000.00	(291,727.77)	8.84%
Total Expense	2,135,366.91	3,836,950.00	(1,701,583.09)	55.65%
Net Income	(507,501.42)	(522,597.72)	15,096.30	97.11%

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures Budget vs. Actual

03/17/2017

July 1, 2016 - February 28, 2017 -Special Reserve Fund

Cash Basis

	Jul '16 - Feb 17	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Income				
6020200 · Developer Fees	3,470.00	25,000.00	(21,530.00)	13.88%
6030200 · Interest Income - Spec Reserve	466.68	3,000.00	(2,533.32)	15.56%
6070200 · Reserve Fund Gifts	0.00	25,000.00	(25,000.00)	0.0%
6090200 · Transfer from General Fund	0.00	800,000.00	(800,000.00)	0.0%
6130200 · Misc Income - Special Reserve	0.00	2,000.00	(2,000.00)	0.0%
Total Income	3,936.68	855,000.00	(851,063.32)	0.46%
Gross Profit	3,936.68	855,000.00	(851,063.32)	0.46%
Expense				
9050200 · Library District Act	0.00	150,000.00	(150,000.00)	0.0%
Total Expense	0.00	150,000.00	(150,000.00)	0.0%
Net Income	3,936.68	705,000.00	(701,063.32)	0.56%

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures Budget vs. Actual

03/17/2017

July 1, 2016 - February 28, 2017 - Grant and Gift Fund

Cash Basis

	Jul '16 - Feb 17	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Income				
6030300 · Interest Income - Grant & Gifts	121.88	2,500.00	(2,378.12)	4.88%
6070300 · General Fund Gifts	9,686.13	20,000.00	(10,313.87)	48.43%
6170300 · Per Capita Grant	0.00	84,893.43	(84,893.43)	0.0%
6210300 · Miscellaneous Grants	0.00	50,000.00	(50,000.00)	0.0%
Total Income	9,808.01	157,393.43	(147,585.42)	6.23%
Gross Profit	9,808.01	157,393.43	(147,585.42)	6.23%
Expense				
8040300 · Operating Fund Gifts	7,147.87	448,381.10	(441,233.23)	1.59%
8800300 · Per Capita Grant expense for FY	0.00	32,393.43	(32,393.43)	0.0%
8800311 · Adult Materials - PER CAPITA	6,670.49	0.00	6,670.49	100.0%
8800321 · YPS Materials - PER CAPITA	2,614.10	0.00	2,614.10	100.0%
8800341 · Other Equipment - PER CAPITA	13,500.00	0.00	13,500.00	100.0%
9030300 · Misc Grants	0.00	25,000.00	(25,000.00)	0.0%
Total Expense	29,932.46	505,774.53	(475,842.07)	5.92%
Net Income	(20,124.45)	(348,381.10)	328,256.65	5.78%

McHenry Public Library District
INTERIM CHECKS ISSUED -February 2017
(NOT INCLUDED ON BILL REPORT)

<u>VENDOR</u>	<u>Account - Money Market</u> <u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>ACCT#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CHECK</u>
	(no checks written on this account)				
	subtotal for account	\$ -			

<u>VENDOR</u>	<u>Account - General Fund</u> <u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>ACCT#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CHECK</u>
Comcast	T-1 and other Telecommunications	\$ 247.80	8635-100	02/15/17	EFT
	subtotal for account	\$ 247.80			

<u>VENDOR</u>	<u>Account - HSA/Building</u> <u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>ACCT#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CHECK</u>
First Midwest Bank	employee contributions HSA	\$ 922.68	8940-100	02/09/17	EFT
First Midwest Bank	employer contributions HSA	\$ 1,700.00	8940-100	02/09/17	EFT
First Midwest Bank	employee contributions HSA	\$ 922.68	8940-100	02/28/17	EFT
First Midwest Bank	employee contributions HSA	\$ 922.68	8940-100	02/28/17	EFT
	subtotal for account	\$ 4,468.04			

<u>VENDOR</u>	<u>Account - Payroll</u> <u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>ACCT#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CHECK</u>
	subtotal for account	\$ -			

<u>VENDOR</u>	<u>Account - Imprest</u> <u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>ACCT#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CHECK</u>
Postmaster	Postage for Preface	\$ 1,800.00	8540-100	02/01/17	1133
Independence Trust	Additional Capital Projects	\$ 1,142.00	9090-100	02/28/17	1134
	subtotal for account	\$ 2,942.00			

GRAND TOTAL CHECKS ISSUED \$ 7,657.84

Barb McIntosh
P.O. Box 631
Iola, Kansas 66749
February 23, 2017

Dear Barb McIntosh:

Thank you for your donation to the McHenry Public Library to thank for Thomas Hillier for his help with your genealogy research. We will use the money to purchase books for the Local History/Genealogy Collection that Thomas is responsible for.

Thank you for your kind appreciation of the work that Thomas Hillier does as our Genealogy librarian. We are all very pleased that we could help you and appreciate your donation.

Sincerely,

Bill Edminster
Assistant Director

McHenry Public Library District

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

February 2017

Administration

- B. Edminster represented the library at the Character Counts! Coalition meeting, 3/9.
- B. Edminster and a library team will be shaving their heads to raise money to fight pediatric cancer at the St. Baldrick's Community Shave, 3/16.
- J. Scholtz attended Landmark Commission mtg 3/7 to discuss Petersen Farm and possible library participation in additional events (Chautauqua?) + educational/reading garden 3/22.
- J. Scholtz met with S. Armstrong concerning strategic planning/project prioritization and staff readiness, 3/8.
- J. Scholtz prepared RFP for RFID and sent it out to vendors; various on-site visits scheduled with other phone calls and emails from vendors. Met with Tech Logic vendor 3/8/B. Majka as well (thanks Barb for your insight!), answered questions from Bibliotheca.
- Budget request forms sent out to Managers 3/14. 5/9 due date.
- J. Scholtz in discussions with NW Herald editors concerning rights to digitize "**The Plaindealer**".
- J. Scholtz contacted Gillespie Design to obtain vendors/carpet samples for quotes on replacing main floor carpeting.

Adult Services

- C. Myer's last day on job 3/23 – we will miss here as she basks on the beach in St. Augustine, FL!!
- P. Strain will be promoted to Adult Services Manager; Z. Terrill will be promoted to Adult Services Assistant Manager as C. Myers retires. Office moves will follow. Congratulations! An opening will be advertised for a Librarian I (or other position), as seen fit by Adult Services, ASAP.
- Patron asked if he could go to the Library of Congress and read the books that were housed there. The answer is yes – if a person of the public is doing research they can visit the Library of Congress for a specific research question. Rules do apply though! LMann
- Measured the bookshelves for our re-shifting of the non-fiction project TOToole,THillier,ZTerrill
- Worked with BEdminster & JScholtz with finding best way to digitize and/or rebind two atlases in the Genealogy Room. THillier
- Updated all Community Connections brochures for 2017. LMann
- Assisted Zach in updating the pamphlet on BOOKS ABOUT HOCKEY. TO'Toole

Building Services

- Received 2 new floor/carpet sweepers from Minuteman.
- N. Broderick did an excellent job of waxing/finishing the rubber flooring – main library!
- New study room furniture arrived; Maintenance painted accent walls in all study rooms, removed old furniture and installed new furniture.
- Maintenance will be working on changing out pendant lighting to LED Mar/Apr. Lighting changed in Circ. Pot lights.
- D. Harding purchased Kaivac retrofit battery system for Dispense and vac system.

- Maintenance has still gone through 20 pallets of salt this winter, even though we have had a relatively quiet winter.
- Carpet cleaning has begun again and maintenance is slowly working their way through the library.

Circulation

- S. Willis reports a total of 125 expired holds pulled in February.
- B. Majka started as Circulation Manager on 2/6/2017. Welcome Barb!!
- L. Rex announced the upcoming birth of her first grandchild.
- E. Caywood announced she is leaving the library.

Human Resources

- Barbara Majka, Circulation Manager, hired 2/6/2017
- Steffanie Basely, PT Associate Librarian (YS), hired 2/21/2017
- Tawnee Calhoun, PT Associate Librarian (YS), hired 2/21/2017
- Laurie Mann, Librarian I (AS), terminated on 2/10/2017
- Rebekah Raleigh, Librarian I (YS), terminated on 2/17/2017
- Approval received to hire two (2) part-time Customer Service Associates (Front Desk) for Circulation – both at 25 hours per week.
- Salary Increase Information: Data is pulled from a minimum of 3 months (vs. monthly) to maintain confidentiality and also provide meaningful numbers.
 - Average Salary increase for the Last 3 months – 3.33%
 - This average calculation is missing data from three (3) employees whose salary increase has not yet been submitted.
 - Average Salary increase for the FY 2016-2017 (year-to-date) – 2.75%
 - This average calculation is missing data from four (4) employees whose salary increases have not yet been submitted.
 - Fiscal YTD: two employees did not receive an increase due to performance and two employees have received lump-sum merit payments vs. an increase to their base salary
- Conducted exit interviews with two departing employees.
- Twenty-one employees have continued their “Break Your Boundaries” weight-loss challenge (sponsored by Centegra). Centegra representatives presented an aerobic & strength training educational session on February 8th and lead a presentation on behavioral changes on February 28th.
- In addition to the weekly information provided by Centegra, I have provided a weekly “healthy tip” and collaborated with the AS Manager for library resources (books) on weight loss/healthy lifestyles.
- Participated in HR Roundtable (sponsored by Management Association) at the Palatine Public Library.
- Attended the Manager’s Meeting and led discussion on a few HR-related agenda items including changes to sick leave policy and timesheet processing.
- Participated in the In-Service Committee planning meeting.
- Met with representatives from ADP on 2 occasions to further vet their HRIS/Payroll product.
- Attended two webinars regarding employee engagement and background checks.

- Registered for the annual SHRM conference in New Orleans in June to take advantage of early bird discount.
- Hosted/emceed the afternoon staff In-Service Meeting on 2/24. Also, presented information to staff including changes to sick leave policy and timesheet processing.
- The featured presentation for the In-Service Meeting on 2/24 was “Office Wellness” by Jill Powers (stretches/exercises to combat office posture and sitting fatigue). The meeting was attended by approx. 76% of our staff. (Previous attendance: December 77%, October 56%, and August 81%)

Public Relations

- March/April/May **Preface** newsletter was printed and mailed to more than 21,000 households in the district on Feb. 11.
- Coordinated photography exhibit with Linda from McHenry County Land Conservancy featuring winners and entries for their annual photography contest. Pictures were displayed in Meeting Room hallway for the month of February.
- Helped coordinate AARP Tax Aide program in Storytime Room. Created surveys for patrons to fill out indicating any use of library services/checkout of materials while getting taxes done.
- Coordinated library's presence at the Chamber's annual Business Expo Feb. 25. Gave out print materials and SWAG. Thanks to Jim S. for helping man the booth.
- Sent e-newsletter to more than 1,800 patrons Feb. 15.
- Promoted upcoming events via website, social media, press releases, indoor/outdoor LED signs, and NW Herald's online events calendar.
- Updated website as needed, and created various social media posts.
- Participated in a few webinars: Demco's software products, including library app Boopsie, Library Aware's presentation on Email Newsletters Made Easy(ier); and OverDrive's webcast on increasing digital downloads.
- Met with Barb and Kathy M. re: updating language on CCS email notification signup screen via our website, and on overdue notices, reminding patrons of late fee increases from 9/16.
- Attended management team meeting Feb. 14.
- Attended staff in-service Feb. 24.
- As part of Sunshine Committee, coordinated monthly birthday celebration and attended monthly meeting Feb. 28.
- Participated in Centegra's 'Break Your Boundaries' weight loss challenge as part of library team.

Technical Services

- The department formed a team, “The Reducers,” for the Break Your Boundaries program from the four members that registered, P. Radic, K. Meadows, K. Walker and K. Milfajt. At the end of the program, all members saw significant losses. Thank you for the opportunity to learn about healthy lifestyle options and implement them in our life!
- Training and cross training continue to stay at the forefront of department efforts. K. Milfajt and K. Kimbrel continue to work with D. Lavin to improve her cataloging skills. D. Lavin continues to share her expertise in working with Google documents with K. Meadows and P. Radic. The department continues to cross train during the department meetings that are part of the in-service programs. This month we learned how to process “simple” disc media.
- K. Milfajt attended Collection Development Committee meeting, 2/7.

- P. Radic, K. Walker and K. Milfajt attended the Break Your Boundaries program on exercise, 2/8.
- K. Milfajt represented the library at the CCS Catalog and Metadata Management meeting, 2/8.
- P. Radic, K. Meadows, K. Walker, D. Lavin, K. Kimbrel and K. Milfajt met for the Technical Services monthly department meeting, 2/9.
- K. Milfajt facilitated the Contemporary Book Group's discussion of *The Last Time I Was Me* by Cathy Lamb, 2/13.
- K. Walker facilitated the Dungeons and Dragons program, 2/14.
- K. Milfajt attended the Management Team meeting, 2/14.
- K. Milfajt represented the library at the CCS SCRAP meeting, 2/15.
- K. Milfajt met with B. Majka and K Lambert about updating the language on the CCS email notification signup screen via our website, and on our emailed and mailed notices to remind patrons of late fee increases implemented 9/16, on 2/21, and then worked with CCS to implement the changes to our emailed and mailed notices.
- P. Radic, K. Meadows, K. Walker, D. Lavin, K. Kimbrel and K. Milfajt attended the staff In-service, 2/24.
- P. Radic, K. Meadows and K. Milfajt attended the Break Your Boundaries program on goal-setting and continuing forward towards our healthy lifestyle goals, 2/28.

Technology

- New firewall installed 3/13 – signage out in Library due to unavailability of PCs for day.
- Evals for M. Brown and D. Grandon completed/J. Scholtz (need to talk to both of them yet)
- This month MPLit closed 89 Helpdesk tickets.
- IT did our every 3 month cleaning of our Eco master
- MPLit performed our routine maintenance of our patron and staff workstations.
- Several staff webinars were setup in the boardroom & Conference room
- Prepare Board packet post to Google Drive and email board members. Post to All staff news on Google Drive, notify staff via email & post on Intranet.
- IT continued testing chat software
- Patrons accessed the WiFi 1,092 times during February.

Youth Services

- Afterschool Snack Program: 74 snacks served, 78 kids in attendance, 20 adults in attendance
- Spanish Interactions: Adult: 81, Teen: 21, Children: 111
- YS Staff sent 57 books to local schools for classroom use through the Teacher Outreach Program
- Steffanie Baseley and Tawnee Calhoun started on 2/21/17 as part-time Youth Service Associate Librarians
- Rebekah Raleigh resigned her position as Youth Services Assistant Manager and her last day was 2/17/17.
- On Feb 3, J. Velasquez, conducted a classroom visit to Mrs. Tayler's bilingual 1/2nd classroom, where we were joined by Bilingual Special Ed. students. Children enjoyed a theme of El invierno y El Día de San Valentín: Música y chocolate (Winter, Valentine's Day, Music, and Chocolate). We read a prickly love story, and kids loved listening to El amor de Splat. We also sang the traditional Mexican song Chocolate, and listening to and sang along with La pulga de San Jose, where we airplayed various instruments, from the bass violin to the drum.

- C.Bergan has had her hands full with the annual Book Madness Tournament. This year we had 659 brackets turned in from kids in 4th-8th grade. This number increased due to the classroom visits where C.Bergan explained the tournament and book talked some of the books on the list. The voting turnout has been great and we have noticed many kids discussing the books and the tournament in the library.
- G.Doolan has been getting positive reception to when recommending movies to patrons when the movie that they came in for is already checked out.
- M.Cairo hosted Life Skill students from Creekside Middle School (Woodstock) which are students with special physical and/or learning needs. Many students in the classes are from McHenry and they teachers were glad to hear that we welcomed their students in for a visit. M. Cairo read them stories and did a Valentine's Day activity.
- M.Dineen watched a webinar called Creating Inclusive Storytimes for All Children. The presenter provided some background information on special needs children (those on the Autism Spectrum, those with ADHD, and those with Intellectual Disabilities) and things that can be done to cater storytimes more to their needs. She will be looking into offering a special needs storytime in the future.
-

Statistics and Highlights Narrative

Legend – ABk – Adult Books; JBk – Children's Books; PBk – Paperback Books; AudBk – Audio books; JAudBk – Children's Audio books; ILL – Interlibrary loan; Vid/DVD – Videos/DVDs; JVid/DVD – Children's Videos/DVDs; Oth - Other

The TS Dept. added 552 items (-14%) and withdrew 184 (-17%) compared with February 2016. Staff also mended 348 items (-73%) and processed 1452 new items (-20%). Overall circulation decreased by (-13%) from the previous year/month and we were open 1 more day last year (26 to 27). All areas except ILL as lender and borrower decreased. Holds increased (+5% but renewal decreased (-12%). Patron traffic also decreased by (-13%) 41,764-compared with 48,056; ave. count 1419 compared to 1885.

Also our eMagazine/Zinio was at (-11%) with digital downloads (-9%), Hoopla was at 477 (+16%). Internet use (Adult +10%; YS -19%). Our study room use decreased by (-21%) but meeting room use increased by +54%. Programs for all age groups were up – (adult +10%; child/teen +5%). We have to look at long-term stats to see why certain circulation has decreased and attempt to reverse that trend. Staff is looking at some new services such as Notary and Passport services (charging for these services). Some libraries are having trained staff perform these functions and charging fees (Ela and Round Lake as examples).

UpComing Events and Projects

- CCS Gov. Bd. – to approve contract with Polaris – ILS (4/12 – Glenview PL)
- Library is polling place 4/4
- April 28th – library closed ½ day for staff in-service. CCS presentation.
- J. Scholtz working on FY17/18 budget
- RFID RFP responses due – May 2017; Scholtz responding to questions
- Board Members/Management staff travels to various local/regional libraries to view RFID.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES
MCHENRY PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Date: December 13, 2016

Time: 7:58 p.m.

Location: Library Board Meeting Room

Members Present: Kathy Baderstadt, Margaret Carey, Delphine Grala, Monica Leccese, Charles Reilly, Bradley Schubert, and Jill Stone

Members Absent: None

During Executive Session, the Board discussed the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body in compliance with the Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/2 section 2(c)(1) and review and release of the November 15, 2016 executive session minutes.

No action was taken during Executive Session.

Respectfully Submitted,

Monica Leccese, Secretary

Text for Motion Sheet

1. Roll Call

DATE: December 13, 2016 Called to Order: 7:58 p.m.	Kathy Baderstadt	Margaret Carey	Delphine Grala	Monica Leccese	Charles Reilly	Bradley Schubert	Jill Stone
1. Roll call	P	P	P	P	P	P	P

A=Abstain, M=Motion, N=No, NP=Not Present, P=Present, S=Second, Y=Yes



McHenry Public Library District
809 N. Front St.
McHenry, IL 60050
815.385.0036; FAX 815.385.7085

MEMO

TO: MPLD Board of Trustees
FROM: Jim Scholtz, Executive Director, MPLD
RE: **2017 Potential Projects – NEW board update**
DATE: 2/21/2017

The purpose of this memo is to outline some of the potential projects looming before the MPLD in 2017 and beyond so that the board/administration can prioritize them relative to the budget, calendar of events and the strategic plan. I would like to elicit board and staff opinions regarding these projects, budget and time schedules. Hopefully, we will begin discussion of these projects in January 2017 and beyond:

- 1) Retrofit and enlarge the existing solar panel array (scheduled for 4/2017, weather dependent)

Retrofitting and enlarging the solar array will hopefully begin in Mid-March 2017, weather dependent. P. Labera, Magiteck Energy Solutions, Inc. will meet with me 2/20. 20kWh total new panels + new structure, SREC credits to enhance payback. Est. \$53,000.

- 2) Staff/board visits to other area libraries concerning RFID, gates, self-checks, etc.

J. Scholtz completed RFID RFP. Board will authorize document to be sent out 2/21/17. Envisionware, MK Solutions, 3M, and Tech Logic will be sent RFP. Implementation of system to correspond with new ILS (CCS – Polaris) implementation, Spring 2018. Est. \$250,000.

- 3) Repair/replacement of main floor carpeting – project involves closing library, moving books/stacks, carpet removal + floor prep for new carpet, new carpet installation. Original carpet cannot be repaired easily/well and may cause a tripping issue for staff/patrons – needs to be replaced but only if we plan to occupy this building for 5+ years.

Mueller Interiors (Crystal Lake) contacted. Depending upon price/vendor, we may have to go out for bid but they have done work for us before – GSA pricing?? No pricing on carpeting removal/replacement yet. I've also been in contact with Hallett Moving Co. to look at moving library stacks relative to this project – \$19,760 for moving stacks.

- 4) Discussion with Gillespie Design concerning a new annex (for YS Dept.+ meeting rooms). This project could be combined with #3 (a necessity) and/or #5? Could we site the annex for use now and continued use if attached to a new building to the North/West? (Sometime in future)

- 5) Installation of a lift station for sanitary sewer to replace shared system (must this project be done to accommodate #4? It involves the DOT.) (est. \$256,000)

I attended 1st IDOT meeting for re-construction of Rte 31 (2/8). We can barter land acquisition of our property for replacement of our community sanitary sewer line (not recommended) or attachment to an already installed lift station (attaching to city owned sewer on East side of Rte. 31). Est. for lift station project, \$256,000). When is IDOT doing the project?

What kind of carpet repairs can we make to the existing carpet/seams to extend the life of the carpet (originally installed in 1994)? Could we do #3 without doing #4? – Yes. But, if we are thinking about doing #4, how long should we wait to do it because #3 only gets worse? How do we fund #3 and 4? Do we need to do #5 before OR co-incidentally with #4 (due to state/city building codes)? In terms of moving YS, what would we use the existing space for – how would we rearrange space for Adult? For # 3 and #4, we would need to be closed to the public for a period of time – possibly to staff as well. If there is a short period of time between the 2 projects, it would be best to link them together to be closed for the shortest amount of time, accomplishing the most activities/changes at one time (my opinion). We would also spend less money relative to the two projects.

Underlying these projects is the ultimate question – Are we going to stay in this building and, if ‘yes’, how long? Will it be worth it to build an addition/annex, install new carpeting, etc.? My initial answer to this question after being in the community for 9+ years is “Yes.” It would be much more expensive to build a new library and building referendums don’t have much success in this area. We could potentially do all of these projects with ‘saved’ money - very little financing.

McHenry Public Library Job Description

Job Title: Librarian I - Lead

Reports To: Department Manager

Date Created: April 18, 2015

March 21 , 2017

Status: Part & Full-time, Non-exempt

Date Revised:

Summary:

Provide excellent customer service to patrons and assist Department Manager in providing programs.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities include the following:

- Perform all aspects of an Associate Librarian position
- Performs complex searches in multiple databases
- Plan, coordinate and implements a broad range of professional library services including reference and reader's advisory service
- Designs, coordinates and implements programs of bibliographic instruction and library skills orientation including library tours, class visits and analyze the success of the programs in order to replicate
- Attend appropriate professional meetings at the local, state and regional level.
- Prepares publicity and press releases and may be responsible for the development of publicity for a broad area of library services
- Assists in the development and evaluation/refinement of departmental performance standards.
- Assist the Librarian-in-Charge in closing procedures on evening and weekend shifts.
- May assist Department Manager in preparing work schedules of department staff.
- Train and coordinate staff including volunteers.
- Be the "first line troubleshooter" for a broad range of library equipment.
- Assist in coordinating staff meetings and participating in library management meetings as needed.
- Help Department develop CE activities.
- Assist Department Manager with the generation and analysis of statistics and reports (monthly or annually).
- May act as a department liaison cooperating with others internal or external to the library.
- Serve as a liaison to the local schools.
- Participate in collection evaluation and development efforts
- May participate in the development of departmental and/or library budget
- May be responsible for monitoring one or more budget items
- Performs original cataloging of library materials in all formats.
- Promote the library and its resources to community organizations
- Other duties may be assigned

Supervisory Responsibilities

None

Staff Values Translate into Service Excellence

Our library staff has a set of values that guide how we serve the community and should be reflected in everything we do, say and publish. We want to create a culture of positivity using 5 principles: Actions speak louder than words; Fairness; Warmth and Friendliness; Courtesy; and Trust; and Excellence in stewardship of public funds (efficiency, economy).

Key Beliefs

- It is recognized that every library user in this area has a choice as to what library they want to use - we want that choice to be the McHenry Public Library.
- Get the patron what s/he wants, how s/he wants it, on time and do it with courtesy and a smile.
- Display a positive, friendly, open and communicative attitude to all staff and patrons.
- Follow the Golden Rule. Always 'treat staff and patrons as you would wish to be treated' – with integrity, respect and courtesy.
- Everything you do in front of anyone (staff member and patron) means something (whether you mean it or not).
- Be solution oriented – don't use the rules of the library as artificial barriers to service; go the extra mile in assisting patrons; give equitable service proportional to individual circumstances.
- Use cooperation and teamwork, both inter and intra-departmentally, when assisting patrons and other staff or accomplishing tasks and follow-through on all activities; value each other's time.
- Be responsible and proactive for your own training, understanding your job and understanding you place in the library.

Qualifications

- MLS (MLIS) degree
- Familiar with automated library services, ILS and use of social technology in general
- Familiarity with a broad range of professional library services and library trends
- Strong computer skills including MS Office, database setup and management
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Aptitude for leadership and the ability to mediate, delegate, and manage projects.
- Strong commitment to dynamic public service working in a team environment with a combined public service desk
- Excellent project management skills
- Website development skills, a plus
- 1-2 years of public library experience, a plus
- Bilingual Spanish, a plus

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed are representative of the knowledge, skill and ability required. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

Physical Demands

While performing the duties of this job, the employee is regularly required to talk, hear and see. The employee is frequently required to sit, stand walk and reach with hands and arms. The employee will occasionally lift, push, or move up to 20 pounds.

Work Environment

The noise level in the work environment is usually moderate.

READ
MORE MOVIE
REVIEWS
ON OUR
WEBSITE

"BEAUTY AND THE BOOK"

WHEN: 10 to 11:30 March 29
WHERE: McHenry Public Library, 809 Front St., McHenry
COST & INFO: Children ages 2 to 7 with an adult are invited for a "Beauty and the Book" storytime, crafts and a visit from their favorite book-loving princess. Children are encouraged to dress up in prince/princess attire. For information and to register, call 815-385-0036 or visit www.mchenrylibrary.org.



This image released by Disney shows Dan Stevens as The Beast (left) and Emma Watson as Belle in "Beauty and the Beast."

A 'Beauty and the Beast' with a new dimension

By JAKE COYLE
The Associated Press

The Disney "live-action" remakes, of which the new "Beauty and the Beast" is but one in an assembly line, are starting to resemble an iPhone software update. Click a button and that old cartoon interface changes Belle into Emma Watson, the Beast into Dan Stevens and maybe fixes a few bugs in the system.

"Beauty and the Beast," that "tale as old as time" (or, to pinpoint it, 1740, when the French fairy tale was published), certainly could use a few tweaks. It is, after all, a fable about finding beauty within that ends, curiously, with the once superficial prince falling for a beautiful woman he's kidnapped, whose name literally means beauty. If you'd like to untangle those ironies, please, be our guest.

Director Bill Condon's film — let's call it "Beauty and the Beast 2.0" — often feels in search of a purpose beyond the all-but-certain dollar signs. Much of the live-action/digital effects makeover is less lifelike than the Oscar-winning 1991 animated film: It's gained a dimension, but lost a pulse. The merely fine acting and the lavish production design (the sumptuous sets nearly swallow the performers whole) dutifully strive to make this a worthy enterprise.

Opposites attract, of course. And this "Beauty and the Beast" is equal parts dispiriting and enchanting: overflowing in handsome craft, but missing a spirit inside. Howard Ashman and

"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST"

STARRING: Emma Watson, Dan Stevens, Luke Evans

PLOT: An adaptation of the Disney fairytale about a monstrous-looking prince and a young woman who fall in love.

RATED: PG for some action violence, peril and frightening images

RUNNING TIME: 2 hours, 9 minutes

Alan Menken's songs still have their infectious kick, but most of the big musical moments feel more like very good covers of the originals. (There also are three less-memorable new songs by Menken and Tim Rice.)

And yet, "Beauty and the Beast" finds its own verve — or, to quote Lumiere, "reason d'être" — late. Condon (the "Dreamgirls" director who, having helmed much of the "Twilight" saga, knows a thing or two about young love and monsters), working from a script by Stephen Chbosky and Evan Spiliotopoulos, has taken many of the old tale's more cringe-worthy gender roles and mixed them up in the movie's bright swirling medley.

Belle's bookishness is more pronounced, thanks partly to the "Harry Potter" credentials of Watson. Her performance is a little minor key, still, but Watson lends Belle an intelligence and agency that she has lacked. She's less of a Stockholm Syndrome victim and more deserving of young girls' admiration. And the Beast, a pile of horns, makeup and effects on top of the

former "Downton Abbey" star Stevens, is more haunted and melancholy.

But as the film nears its celebratory coda, a buoyant pluralism bursts forth. Characters — large parts and small — are freed from their prescribed roles in a glorious dance, shortly after Mrs. Potts (Emma Thompson), Cogsworth (Ian McKellen), Lumiere (Ewan McGregor) and the rest come to life. (Be sure to shake your living room and see which British star tumbles out of the furniture.) Here is where that already much discussed "gay moment," as Condon has called it, arrives. It comes and goes in a flash.

Josh Gad, the MVP of many a Disney movie, plays LeFou, the doting sidekick of the caddish Gaston (Luke Evans), the dopey pursuer of Belle's hand. LeFou spends much of the movie hinting at his affection for his lecherous friend, but LeFou, too, earns a chance for redemption toward the end. That's all it is — an easy-to-miss suggestion that LeFou might find another love. And yet this slightest wink of homosexuality has drawn the ire of some who, it's worth noting, raised no concerns over a romance between an imprisoned girl and a beast or, for that matter, a candelabra and a feather duster.

In fact, "Beauty and the Beast" would be better if it dared more such moments and went further with them. Nevertheless, the uproar suggests even this must count as progress. Perhaps we'll be ready for a truly up-to-date "Beauty and the Beast 3.0" in another few decades.

Crystal Lake



FOOD PANTRY FUNDRAISER – The Crystal Lake Elementary Teacher's Association presents a check to The Crystal Lake Food Pantry. The group hosted a fundraiser to raise money for the pantry and raised \$4,585.30. Pictured (from left) are Bill Eich from the Crystal Lake Food Pantry and teachers Kristin Sempit, Heidi Marchetti and Patty Lezon.

Cary

Cary Park District to host March 18 spring craft show

The Cary Park District will host a spring craft show from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 18 at the Community Center, 255 Briaridge Road. Admission is free.

Shop from more than 25 crafters and vendors.

For information, call 847-639-6100 or visit www.carypark.com.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

March 16

- 10 to 11 a.m. – **Women's Gathering Group**, 5435 Bull Valley Road, McHenry. New topic or subject each week followed by a meditation. Information: www.mchenrychamber.com.
- 1 to 4 p.m. – **McHenry County Animal Control Rabies Vaccination Clinic**, McHenry County Department of Health, 100 N. Virginia St., Crystal Lake. Hosted by MCAC and Forever Husky. Vaccination waivers provided to the first 100 dogs of income-qualified residents. Appointments required at 815-459-6222. Information: www.mcdh.info.
- 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. – **Pizza & Pages Teen Book Group**, Jimano's Pizza, 366 Bank Drive, McHenry. For 12- to 18-year-olds. Meets every third Thursday. March title: "Before I Fall" by Lauren Oliver. Information: 815-385-0036 or www.mchenrylibrary.org.
- 5 to 9 p.m. – **Ladies Night Out**, downtown Crystal Lake. Deals at shops and businesses. Information: Find The Olive Tap Crystal Lake on Facebook or visit www.clchamber.com.
- 6 to 7 p.m. – **Beginning Tai Chi and Meditation**, First Congregational Church, 461 Pierson St., Crystal Lake. For those 18 years and older. Cost: \$5, cash or check only. Information: lyn@dailyharmony-mae.com or <http://dailyharmony-mae.com>.

• 6 to 8:30 p.m. – **Film Lovers Group screening and discussion: "Rebecca,"** Crystal Lake Public Library, 126 W. Paddock St., Crystal Lake. Free. Information: 815-459-1687 or www.crystal-lakelibrary.org.

• 6:30 to 8 p.m. – **Author Meg Fleming Book Reading**, Fox River Grove Memorial Library, 407 Lincoln Ave., Fox River Grove. Featuring the author of "I Heart You." Free. Information: 847-639-2274, jgehlin@frgml.org or www.frgml.org.

• 6:30 to 8:30 – **Mind Games: A Night of Self-Deception**, Johnsbury Public Library, 3000 N. Johnsbury Road, Johnsbury. For ages 12 to 18. Magician and mentalist William Pack explores the science of how our brains trick us into seeing and believing things that don't exist. Free. Registration required at 815-344-0077, hstewart@johnsburylibrary.org, <http://johnsburylibrary.org/event>.

• 7 to 8:30 p.m. – **"Diana, Princess of Wales,"** McHenry Public Library, 809 Front St., McHenry. Presented by Historian Jim Gibbons. Free. Information: 815-385-0036 or www.mchenrylibrary.org.

• 7 to 9:30 p.m. – **McHenry Mayor & 1st Ward Alderman Candidate Forum**, Parkland School – Gymnasium, 1802 N. Ringwood Road, McHenry. Hosted by The League of Women Voters of McHenry County. Information: www.mchenry.lwvnet.org or find the league on Facebook.

Have an event to share? Submit your information online at PlanItNorthwest.com. Photos may be emailed to neighbors@nwherald.com.

McHenry

Library to host fleece blanket making event for Project Linus

The McHenry Public Library is inviting children in grades 2 through 6 to come make an easy fleece blanket to donate to Project Linus, a nonprofit organization that provides homemade blankets to children who are seriously ill, traumatized or otherwise in need.

The program will be from 10 to 11 a.m. March 18 at the library, 809 Front St., McHenry. Parents are welcome to help out. For information, email mplyps@mchenrylibrary.org or call 815-385-0036.

Woodstock

Substitute golfers sought for senior golf league this spring

The 10:30 a.m. Senior Golf League seeks substitute players for its season, which runs from May 3 through Oct. 4.

The co-ed league for those ages 55 and older plays at 10:30 a.m. every Wednesday at Craig Woods Golf Course, 5818 S. Route 47, Woodstock.

Those interested in becoming substitute players can call 815-337-0726 for information.

Harvard

Life of Alexander Hamilton program coming to library

The Life of Alexander Hamilton will be presented from 1 to 3 p.m. March 17 at Harvard Diggins Library, 900 E. McKinley St., Harvard.

After being out of the limelight for more than 200 years, Alexander Hamilton recently has taken center stage again, starring in a popular Broadway musical. With an influential stance in founding the U.S. financial system and ratifying the Constitution, he also founded the U.S. Coast Guard, The New York Post Newspaper and the Federalist Party. Hamilton, who was born in 1757 and came to America at age 15, fought in the American Revolution alongside President George Washington. Appointed by Washington, he was the first U.S. Secretary of the Treasury.

Historian Jim Gibbons will present his rollercoaster life, from his skyrocketing in popularity and fame to his sudden downfall due to scandal and ultimately, his tragic death.

This program is free and open to the public. Register by calling the library at 815-943-4671.



school youth group and some families from St. John's Lutheran Church in Hebron went bowling Feb. 19 at J's Lanes in Harvard. Pictured (from left) are Ben Quint, Noah Higgins, Toby Behrens, Tristan Shepard-Davis, Dawn Higgins, Joe Higgins, Austin Kastning, Lily Leedle, Laura Leedle, Dan Higgins, Daisy Leedle, Beau Leedle, Faith Higgins, Ben Leedle and Dennis Bischke. Not pictured is the Rev. Sarah Wilson, pastor.

3/13

tion. Tickets: \$25. Tickets and information: 815-338-5300 or www.woodstockoperahouse.com.

• 1 to 2:30 p.m. – **Screening of "Equal Means Equal,"** McHenry County College, 8900 Route 14, Crystal Lake. The documentary film focuses on how women are treated in the U.S. today. Light refreshments served. A panel discussion will follow. Not recommended for children younger than 13. The film also will be shown 10 a.m. March 18 at Classic Cinemas in Woodstock. Free. Information: 815-455-8740.

• 1 to 4 p.m. – • 1 to 4 p.m. – **McHenry County Animal Control Rabies Vaccination Clinic,** McHenry County Department of Health, 100 N Virginia St., Crystal Lake. Hosted by MCAC and Forever Husky. Vaccination waivers provided to the first 100 dogs of income-qualified residents. Appointments required at 815-459-6222. Information: www.mcdh.info.

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• 6:30 to 8 p.m. – **Author Meg Fleming Book Reading,** Fox River Grove Memorial Library, 407 Lincoln Ave., Fox River Grove. Featuring a former Fox River Grove resident and author of "I Heart You." Fleming will preview her next book, "Ready, Set, Build." Free. Information: 847-639-2274, jgehlin@frgml.org or www.frgml.org.

• 7 to 8:30 p.m. – **"Diana, Princess of Wales,"** McHenry Public Library, 809 Front St., McHenry. Presented by Historian Jim Gibbons. Free. Information: 815-385-0036 or www.mchenrylibrary.org.

March 17

• 1 p.m. – **Marengo Woman's Club meeting,** Marengo United Methodist Church, 119 E. Washington St., Marengo. Group meets third Fridays. New members welcome. Dues: \$30. Information: 815-568-0704 or www.marengo.gfwcillinois.org.

• 1 to 3 p.m. – **"The Life of Alexander Hamilton,"** Harvard Diggins Library, 900 E. McKinley St., Harvard. Presented by historian Jim Gibbons. Free. Registration requested. Information: 815-943-4671 or www.harvard-diggins.org.

• 4 to 10 p.m. – **Play Light'ning and swap stories,** Woodstock VFW Post 5040, 201 N. Main St., Woodstock. Snacks and drinks available. Information: 815-338-5040 or 815-861-2014 or www.vfw5040.org.

March 18

• 8:30 to 10:45 a.m. – **Crystal Lake Toastmasters,** Exemplar Financial Network, 413 E. Terra Cotta Ave, Crystal Lake. Guests welcome. Free. Information: 847-899-1210 or <http://crystal-lake.toastmastersclubs.org>.

• 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. – **Spring Craft Show,** Community Center, 255 Briargate Road, Cary. Hosted by the Cary Park District. Shop from 25 vendors. Free admission. Information: 847-639-6100 or www.carypark.com.

• 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. – **Used Book & Media 25¢ Flash Sale,** Johnsburg Public Library, 3000 N. Johnsburg Road, Johnsburg. Information: 815-344-0077 or <http://johnsburglibrary.org/event>.

• 10 to 11 a.m. – **Blanket Making for Project Linus,** McHenry Public Library, 809 Front St., McHenry. Make an easy fleece blanket to donate to Project Linus, a non-profit organization that provides homemade blankets to children who are seriously ill, traumatized or in need. For grades 2-6. Free. Information: 815-385-0036 or www.mchenrylibrary.org.

• 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. – **Annual District 3 Spring Fling,** Galati's Hideaway, 800 Feinberg Court, Cary. A fundraiser for Fox River Grove School District 3 featuring dinner, a silent auction, raffle tickets and more. Cash bar. Bid on hundreds of items tickets cost \$37.71 a person at <https://ticketbud.com/events/d7b6e150-d3ab-11e6-bc37-4bdf5e38fe0c>. Information: www.facebook.com/frgspringfling or www.carygrovechamber.com.

• Noon to 4 p.m. – **St. John's Algonquin**

School Open Enrollment Fair, St. John's Algonquin School, 300 Jefferson St., Algonquin. Featuring free lunch, games, tours, balloons and bouncy houses. Information: www.stjohnsalgonquin.org or 847-658-9311.

• 1 to 2 p.m. – **Adventure Riding Clinic,** Woodstock Triumph, 2235 South Eastwood Drive, Woodstock. Presented by Chad Berger with Loan Wolf Expeditions with information on navigation of the Trans Wisconsin Adventure Trail. Free. Information: 815-337-3511 or matthew@woodstock-triumph.com.

• 2 to 4:30 p.m. – **Wellness Rally,** Hearstone Communities, 840 N. Seminary Ave., Woodstock. Featuring local holistic and integrative health practitioners. Free. Information: <http://happyandhealthylifestyles.com/events/> or 847-754-1593.

• 2 to 3 p.m. – **Big Bang Science Club,** McHenry Public Library, 809 Front St., McHenry. For ages 6-10. Free. Information: 815-385-0036 or www.mchenrylibrary.org.

• 3 p.m. – **Supporting You and Your Community,** Fox Pointe Senior Living 3350 Charles Miller Road, McHenry. Educating veterans on their increased risk for Alzheimer's disease. Free. Information: 815-484-1300 or looyen@alz.org.

• 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. – **Forts On The Courts,** The Racket Club, 9101 S. Route 31, Algonquin. Sheets of cardboard and duct tape provided. Prizes awarded for best construction, original design and fan favorite. Families or teams of four (ages 4-16) encouraged to participate. Registration required. Cost: \$20 a team/family. Information: 847-658-5688 or www.crystal-lakeparks.org.

• 7 to 9 p.m. – **Line dance party,** Grand Oaks Auditorium, 1401 W. Route 176, Crystal Lake. Complimentary dance lesson with traditional country music from 7:15 to 8 p.m. Cost: \$10 residents, \$12 nonresidents before March 15; \$12 residents, \$14 nonresidents after March 15. Registration required. Information: 815-459-0680 or www.crystallakeparks.org.

• 7:15 p.m. – **"Leprechaun Lindy" dance,** St. John Lutheran Church Activity Center, 300 Jefferson St., Algonquin. Hosted by The Greater Fox Valley Chapter of USA Dance. Free Lindy Hop dance lesson. Dress code is dressy casual. No jeans or gym shoes. Admission: \$8 members, \$10 seniors, \$12 nonmembers. Information: 847-639-8699, www.dancefoxvalley.org or www.dancewithfrankandjackie.com.

ONLINE: NWHerald.com/forms/birthday
EMAIL: neighbors@nwherald.com
MAIL: Birthday Club, Northwest Herald, P.O. Box 250, Crystal Lake, IL 60039-0250

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March 12

- 9 and 11 a.m. – **"Welcome Back, Billy Best,"** First Congregational Church, 461 Pierson St., Crystal Lake. A cantata featuring the third-through eighth-grade Carol and Chancel Choirs. The story of the prodigal son set in the '20s. Information: 815-459-6010 or www.fcc-cl.org.
- 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. – **Yonder Prairie East restoration workday,** Yonder Prairie East, 1100 S. Rosefarm Road, Woodstock. Join The Land Conservancy of McHenry County to help clear invasive species. Wear old clothes, sturdy shoes and prepare for weather. Free. Information: 815-337-9502 or http://conservemc.org.
- 1 p.m. – **McHenry St. Pat's Parade,** Waukegan, Green and Pearl Streets downtown McHenry. A 7th annual event hosted by the McHenry Downtown Business Association to honor service organizations. Parade will start at McHenry High School-East Campus, continue north on Green Street and end at Veterans Park. Donations of nonperishable food items for McHenry High School's Food for Thought program sought. Information: www.facebook.com/mchenryareadba/.
- 1 to 3 p.m. – **Free Sunday Movies @ Your Library: "Sully,"** McHenry Public Library, 809 Front St., McHenry. Rated PG-13. Information: 815-385-0036 or www.mchenrylibrary.org.
- 3 to 7 p.m. – **Salsa Sundays,** Cinnamon's DanceWorks, 2025 E. Algonquin Road, Algonquin. Lessons at 3 p.m., dance the dance at 4 p.m. and Sunday social at 5 p.m. Appetizers and nonalcoholic beverages are included. Cost: \$15 a class, \$5 discount for couples. Information: 224-333-0822 or www.cinnamondanceworks.com.
- 4 p.m. – **"Cotton Patch Gospel,"** Bethany Lutheran Church, 76 W. Crystal Lake Ave., Crystal Lake. A bluegrass musical as part of the 2017 Bethany Arts Series featuring the reverential retelling of the Gospels of Matthew and John. Recommended for ages 12 and older. Information: 815-459-2690 or www.bethanycl.com.
- 5 to 6:30 p.m. – **Sunday evening commu-**

nity dinner, First United Methodist Church, 236 W. Crystal Lake Ave., Crystal Lake. A free dinner. Information: 815-459-0785 or foodministries@firstchurchcl.org.

March 13

- 10 to 11 a.m. – **Beginner Qi Gong and Meditation,** First Congregational Church, 461 Pierson St., Crystal Lake. Chair options available. For those age 18 and older. Cost: \$5, cash or check only. Information: lyn@dailyharmony-mae.com http://dailyharmony-mae.com.
- 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. – **Hennen Conservation Area Workday,** Hennen Conservation Area, 4622 Dean St., Woodstock. Join The Land Conservancy of McHenry County to help clear invasive species. Wear old clothes, sturdy shoes and prepare for weather. Information: 815-337-9502 or http://conservemc.org.
- Noon to 2:30 p.m. – **SNAP Benefits Assistance,** McHenry Public Library, 809 Front St., McHenry. Northern Illinois Food Bank will help members of the community fill out SNAP (food stamp) applications and answer questions. Free. Information: mplyps@mchenrylibrary.org or www.mchenrylibrary.org.
- 1 p.m. – **McHenry Senior Citizens Club meeting,** McHenry Township Hall, 3703 N. Richmond Road, Johnsburg. Featuring Steve Askins on guitar singing vintage music. Visitors welcome. Information: 815-347-1742.
- 3:30 to 5 p.m. – **Drop-in LEGO® Mondays, Ages 4 and Older,** Crystal Lake Public Library, 126 W. Paddock St., Crystal Lake. Using the library's LEGO® collection and your imagination. Free. Information: 815-459-1687.
- 7 to 8:30 p.m. – **Contemporary Book Discussion Group,** McHenry Public Library, 809 Front St., McHenry. Read and discuss "Every Last One" by Anna Quindlen. Copies at the check-out desk. For ages 18 and older. Free. Information: 815-385-0036 or www.mchenrylibrary.org.

March 14

- 9:15 a.m. to 2 p.m. – **AARP free tax help for seniors,** Heartland Bank and Trust Co., 12101

Regency Square Parkway, Huntley. Continues 9:15 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 16. By appointment only. Appointments must be made in person.

- 10 to 11 a.m. – **Together Time,** McHenry Public Library, 809 Front St., McHenry. Enjoy coffee and chat with other parents and caregivers while children socialize. Free. Information: 815-385-0036 or www.mchenrylibrary.org.
- 4 to 7 p.m. – **Corned beef & cabbage dinner,** Harvard High School cafeteria, Harvard. Hosted by the Harvard Lions Club. Proceeds benefit the Harvard High School Harmony Club and Harvard Leos. Carryout available. Cost: \$15.
- 5 to 7 p.m. – **Multi-Chamber Mixer,** Achieve Footwear, 1 Crystal Lake Plaza, Crystal Lake. Information: www.carygrovechamber.com.
- 6 to 7:30 p.m. – **Club House Artists,** Crystal Lake Park District, 1 E. Crystal Lake Ave., Crystal Lake. For ages 6-13. Learn to draw in 3-D. Materials provided. Cost: \$15. Information: www.crystallakeparks.org.
- 6 to 8:30 p.m. – **Tuesdays with Movies – "Hacksaw Ridge,"** Crystal Lake Public Library, 126 W. Paddock St., Crystal Lake. Rated R. Bring your own dinner. Free. Information: 815-459-1687 or www.crystallakelibrary.org.
- 6:30 to 9 p.m. – **Mindshifters Group,** Unity Spiritual Center of Woodstock, 225 W. Calhoun St., Woodstock. Information: 815-337-3534 or http://unitywoodstock.org.
- 7 to 8:45 p.m. – **McHenry County Civil War Round Table,** Woodstock Public Library, 414 W. Judd St., Woodstock. Ed Urban will speak about the Civil War effort. All welcome. Free. Information: www.mchenrycivilwar.com.

March 15

- 9 a.m. – **Senior coffee, games and lunch,** St. John's Lutheran Church, 9812 St. Albans St., Hebron. Coffee and games at 9 a.m., Salvation Army Golden Diner lunch at 11 a.m. Other activities at noon. Continues every Wednesday. Call 630-232-6676 to reserve a meal. Information: www.stjlutheran.com.
- 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. – **Village Quilters meeting,** Trinity Lutheran Church, 504 E.

lected as knight of the month for January for his work as the chairman of St. Mary's Knights of Columbus free-throw championship competition Jan. 7.

Diggins St., Harvard. A workshop to sew quilts for cancer patients, followed by a 1 p.m. business meeting and "Taking the Mystery out of Making T-Shirt Quilts." Visitors welcome. Cost: \$5. Information: 815-943-0922 or srl1935@mc.net.

• 9:30 a.m. to noon – **Storytelling Sessions: The Art of Storytelling,** Woodstock Public Library, 414 W. Judd St., Woodstock. Local resident Joy Aavang, a speaker, author and storyteller, encourages interested parties to tell their stories. Light refreshments served. Information: www.woodstockpubliclibrary.org.

• 9:30 to 11 a.m. – **Bookies Fiction Book Club Author Visit – Mary Kubica, "The Good Girl,"** Crystal Lake Public Library, 126 W. Paddock St., Crystal Lake. Meet best-selling author Kubica as she discusses her book, a kidnapping-gone-wrong thriller set in Chicago. Free. Information: 815-459-1687 or www.cipl.org.

• 9:30 a.m. – **Quilt Basting Day,** McHenry County Historical Society Museum, 6422 Main St., Union. Get a sneak peek at the 2018 Raffle Quilt, "Forever Poppies." Those wishing to help set up and ready the quilt on the rack should come at 9:30 a.m. Basting starts at 10 a.m., followed by a brown bag potluck. Free. Information: 815-923-2267 or www.gothistory.org.

• 10 to 10:30 a.m. – **Storytime at Panera Bread,** Panera Bread McHenry, 1711 N. Route 31, McHenry. Stories, songs and fingerplays with milk and cookies. Free. Information: 815-385-0036 or www.mchenrylibrary.org.

• 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. – **WINGS "Woman of Accomplishment" luncheon,** McHenry County Club, 820 N. John St., McHenry. Cost: \$25. Information: 815-385-4300 or www.mchenrychamber.com.

• 2 to 3:30 p.m. – **Genealogy – Start Your Search!** Crystal Lake Public Library, 126 W. Paddock St., Crystal Lake. Learn about resources including Ancestry and Heritage Quest. Keyboard skills required. Free. Registration required at www.cipl.org or call 815-459-1687.

• Continued on page 18



TOURNAMENT WINNERS - Johnsburg Junior High School's sixth-grade girls' basketball team took second place at the St. Bede Basketball Tournament. Pictured are (front row, from left) Cassie Heimos, Molly Buchanan, Maddie Ambroz and Gwyn Reel-Gurevitz; and (back row, from left) Manager Michael Ambroz, Brooke Klosowicz, Payton Toussaint, Ellie Bauer, Coach Mike Sommerfield, Isabella Martinez-Orlando, Emmy Wizceb and Jordan Haze.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

March 9

• 7:30 a.m. - **Crystal Clear Toastmasters**, Panera Bread, 6000 Route 14, Crystal Lake. Find your voice, build confidence and improve communication and leadership skills. Information: www.crystalcleart Toastmasters.org.

• 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. - **Rummage Sale**, Faith Community United Church of Christ, 2023 Route 176, Prairie Grove. Continues 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 10. Free. Information: 815-479-1307 or faithcommucc@aol.com.

• 10 to 11 a.m. - **Women's Gathering Group**, 5435 Bull Valley Road, McHenry. A group for women who want to get together with other women to nurture and grow, as well as form relationships with like-minded women. A new topic or subject each week discussed, followed by a meditation. Information: www.mchenrychamber.com.

• 4 to 7 p.m. - **Spring Book Sale**, Algonquin Area Public Library, 115 Eastgate Drive, Algonquin. Hosted by Friends of the Algonquin Area Public Library District, offering a variety of books, DVDs, CDs and more. Continues 4 to 8 p.m. March 10, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 11 and 1 to 4 p.m. March 12. A \$10 entry free on March 10 only. Light refreshments available at the Book Bistro. Information: 847-458-4343,

ext. 207, or www.aapld.org.

• 4 to 5 p.m. - **STEM Hands-On Science: Magnets**, Crystal Lake Public Library, 126 W. Paddock St., Crystal Lake. Learn scientific concepts using a hands-on approach. Work with magnets. For library cardholders only. Free. Registration required at www.clpl.org or call 815-459-1687.

• 6 to 7 p.m. - **Beginning Tai Chi and Meditation**, First Congregational Church, 461 Pierson St., Crystal Lake. Become centered and relaxed while toning and strengthening your body with this combination of movement and meditation that provides a gentle, yet full body workout and a soothing mind, body spirit connection. For those 18 years and older. Cost: \$5 a person a class, cash or check only. Information: lyn@dailyharmony-mae.com or <http://dailyharmony-mae.com>.

• 7 to 8 p.m. - **Murder & Mayhem Book Club**, Woodstock Public Library, 414 W. Judd St., Woodstock. Meets the second Thursday of the month. Group members read two to three mysteries on a certain theme each month. Request a copy of the book using the Online Catalog. Copies sometimes are available at the front desk. No registration required. Information: www.woodstockpubliclibrary.org.

• 7 to 8:30 p.m. - **Teen Anime Club**, Crystal Lake Public Library, 126 W. Paddock St., Crystal Lake. View some anime episodes, share opinions, play games and enjoy treats. Free. Information: 815-459-1687 or www.clpl.org.

• 7 to 8:30 p.m. - **Cary Grove Toastmasters**, Panera Bread, 730 Northwest Highway, Fox River Grove. Find your voice and build confidence in a friendly and supportive environment. A "Back to Basics" theme, including prepared and impromptu speeches. Free. Information: 847-975-0601, jimaka71@gmail.com or <http://carygrove.toastmastersclubs.org>.

• 7 to 8 p.m. - **Get Lit(erary)**, Le Petit Marché Café, 19 N. Williams St., Crystal Lake. Presented by Williams Street Repertory featuring poetry, prose and plays read and performed. Free. Information: 815-356-9212 or <https://rauecenter.ticketforce.com>.

• 7:30 p.m. - **William Chandler Peterson American Legion Post 171 Monthly Meeting**, Park Place, 406 W. Woodstock St., Crystal Lake. American Legion monthly meeting. Free. Information: 815-459-0481.

• 7 to 8:30 p.m. - **The Life of Winston Churchill with Historian Jim Gibbons**, McHenry Public Library, 809 Front St., McHenry. Historian Jim Gibbons will present the life of Sir Winston Churchill, who stood alone against the tyranny and slaughter of Adolf Hitler, his troops and the German Nazi Party. Free. Information: 815-385-0036 or mpref@mcHenrylibrary.org.

*Have an event to share?
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PlanItNorthwest.com.
Photos may be emailed
to neighbors@nwherald.com.*



RETREAT – The Ridgefield Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church confirmation class the confirmation tour 2017 retreat at Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center in ass spent the weekend learning and living in the castle built in 1928-1930 by ong family. Attendees included (from left) Mitchell Dec, Naomi Stange, Caroline Raechel Sowa, Daniel Sowa, leader Lou Rabe and Jack Koenig.

Boot Camp will teach art of welding as a hobby

g Boot Camp will be McHenry County College's Education Department to t of welding as a hobby. work in a variety of its, both indoors and out, o melt and fuse metal for a nd. Since so many prod- today involve welding, the es in the welding industry

re available from 6 to ndays and Wednesdays, ough April 12 (course C01 016) or April 17

through May 24 (course code: NWL C01 019); 6 to 9:20 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, March 7 through April 13 (course code: NWL C01 017) or from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, April 1 through May 20 (course code: NWL C01 018).

Classes take place at the Woodstock Center, 912 Trakk Lane, Woodstock. The cost is \$1,000 a student. To register, call the MCC Registration Office at 815-455-8588 or visit www.mchenry.edu/myMCC. For information, call Tracy Berry at 815-455-8758 or Dori Sullens at 815-455-8559.

COMMUNITY LENDAR

m. – **Beginner Qi Gong and** First Congregational Church, 461 stal Lake. This centering combination ind meditation offers a gentle, yet out and a deeper connection within. re available. For ages 18 and older. s, cash or check only. Information: tony-mae.com or <http://dailyharmo>

noon – **Cloud Storage Basics,** blic Library, 126 W. Paddock St., opular cloud storage services will be is introductory class including Drop ive, One Drive and others. Informa-

tion: www.clpl.org.

• 10 a.m. to noon – **Hennen Conservation Area restoration workday,** Hennen Conservation Area, 4622 Dean St., Woodstock. Join The Land Conservancy of McHenry County's volunteers and restoration ecologist to help clear invasive species and restore the natural habitat of this conservation site. Wear old clothes, sturdy shoes and prepare for weather conditions. Free. Information: 815-337-9502, mgrycan@conserveinc.org or <http://conserveinc.org>.

• 3:30 to 5 p.m. – **Drop-in STEM Crafts, Grades K-3 with cardboard building squares,** Crystal Lake Public Library, 126 W. Paddock St., Crystal Lake. Making crafts builds self-confidence for children, increases their imagination and helps with problem-solving abilities. Information: www.clpl.org.

• 6 to 7:30 p.m. – **Adult Coloring Night,** Harvard Diggins Library, 900 E. McKinley St., Harvard. Back by popular demand, a relaxing evening of music, coloring and light refreshments. All supplies

Crystal Lake

A-TEC Ambulance to host March 7 all-day job fair, open house

A-TEC Ambulance Company Inc., the leading EMS provider in northern Chicago, will host a March 7 job fair and open house. Due to explosive growth in the areas A-TEC serves and beyond, A-TEC now is hiring EMTs, paramedics and critical care nurses.

"Our unique set of services, like our bariatric transport capability, critical care transport and advanced life support are being used more frequently by current customers and new ones alike," said Dave Davis, president of A-TEC Ambulance. "The reason for this increase no doubt has to be the reputation that A-TEC has earned as the most professional and caring ambulance company in the Chicago suburbs – the one that never misses an ETA."

The job fair will be from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. so interested candidates can attend before work, at lunch, after work or anytime they can drop in. The event will take place at A-TEC's Crystal Lake headquarters at 340 Commerce Drive and will feature stations where candidates can speak to seasoned professionals about EMT, paramedic and critical care nurse positions. Applicants are encouraged to bring an up-to-date résumé. Applications will be filled out onsite.

"Newly graduated or soon to graduate ambulance professionals, as well as those seeking new opportunities, excellent benefits and a flexible work schedule, are encouraged to come," said Laura Portera, head of A-TEC human resources. "Our needs are immediate, as we are planning to hire 30 EMS personnel within the next 60 days."

are provided, but participants are welcome to bring their own as well. Room will be open only to those ages 16 and older. Free and open to the public. Information: 815-943-4671.

• 7 to 8:30 p.m. – **Lights! Cameras! Book Trailers!** McHenry Public Library, 809 Front St., McHenry. Love watching trailers for the newest movies? Come make your own – for a book. Learn the basics in celebration of Teen Tech Week at the library. For teens and tweens in grades 6-12. Free. Information: 815-385-0036, mplyps@mchenrylibrary.org or www.mchenrylibrary.org.

• 7:30 to 9 p.m. – **Fox Valley Rocketeers meeting,** Woodstock North High School, 3000 Rafael Road, Woodstock. Local club of model rocketry enthusiasts. Information: 815-337-9068 or www.foxvalleyrocketeers.org.

Have an event to share? Submit your information online at PlanitNorthwest.com. Photos may be emailed to neighbors@nwherald.com.



FOOD PANTRY FUND-RAISER - Chris Scheibhofer of Spring Grove and the 16U Richmond Burton Baseball Association team he coaches did charitable work Feb. 11 at the Spring Grove Jewel. They raised \$350 and a truck full of groceries for the Richmond/Spring Grove Food Pantry. Pictured are team members (from left) Matt Eskuri, Sean Rodriguez, Clayton Jarocki, Robbie Copenharve, Nate Scheibhofer, Bill Kirkelie, Connor Donohoe and Alex Kriz. Not pictured are players Chase Duncan and Kyle Klicker and coaches Jim Donohoe, Gary Kriz and Scheibhofer.

Crystal Lake

Forts on the Courts, obstacle course, sundae bar event to be offered at Park District

The Crystal Lake Park District Racket Club will host a Forts on the Courts family or team event from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. March 18 at 9101 S. Route 31, Algonquin.

Teams of four, ages 4 to 16, will compete to build the best cardboard forts. Prizes will

be awarded in the categories of Most Likely to Survive an Earthquake, Most Original and Fan Favorite. The event also will include an ice cream sundae bar and a cardboard obstacle course.

American Eagle Packaging in Elgin will donate the

cardboard. Teams should bring additional materials, such as fabric, cardboard tubes, colored duct tape, stickers, battery powered light, etc., to add to their forts. No glue, glitter, paint or other liquids may be used. A full list of approved

supplies is available at www.crystallakeparks.org.

The cost is \$20 a team.

Register at www.crystallakeparks.org for program code #RCFOTC-03. For information, call Rob Laue at 847-585-5688 or email rlaue@crystallakeparks.org.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

March 2

• 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. - **Dr. Seuss's Birthday**, Crystal Lake Public Library, 126 W. Paddock St., Crystal Lake. Stop by the Youth Department and check out the Dr. Seuss books on display in honor of his birthday. The library also will have Dr. Seuss projects to work on in the library or to take home. A celebration of the 113th anniversary of Dr. Seuss' birth. Information: www.clpl.org.

• 10 to 11 a.m. - **Women's Gathering Group**, 5435 Bull Valley Road, McHenry. The group picks a topic or subject each week to discuss and then meditates. Information: www.mchenrychamber.com.

• 3:30 to 5 p.m. - **High School Tech Club**, Algonquin Area Public Library - Har-

nish Main Library, 2600 Harnish Drive, Algonquin. For high school students interested in tech tools, computer programming, 3D printing, Minecraft and more. No registration required. Friends welcome. Free. Information: 847-458-3146, kduray@aapl.org or www.aapl.org/do.

• 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. - **Drop-in Drawing Frenzy: Matisse Collage**, Crystal Lake Public Library, 126 W. Paddock St., Crystal Lake. Each month we explore different art techniques. Information: www.crystallakelibrary.org.

• 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. - **Cary Park District Summer Job Fair**, Community Center, 255 Briargate Road, Cary. Adult and teen seasonal positions available. Visitors can meet park staff, complete job applications and drop off résumés. Free. Information: 847-639-6100 or www.carypark.com.

• 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. - **Kindergarten registration**, Harrison School, District 36, 6809 McCullom Lake Road, Wonder Lake. Any child who will be age 5 on or before Sept. 1 is eligible. Bring three proofs of residency and

the child's birth certificate. Information: 815-653-2311, nkumarsk@hsd36.org or <https://hsd36-k12-ct.schoolloop.com>.

• 7 to 8:30 p.m. - **Betty Trummel: "Poles Apart: Journeys and Learning in the Arctic and Antarctic,"** Crystal Lake Public Library, 126 W. Paddock St., Crystal Lake. Hear the story of local educator and scientist Betty Trummel who recently returned from Antarctica. Information: www.crystallakelibrary.org.

• 7 to 8:30 p.m. - **Spring Cardinals: A Painting Workshop**, McHenry Public Library, 809 Front St., McHenry. Artist Christine Thornton hosts hands-on painting workshop. For ILPLD cardholders ages 18 and older. Registration required. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Free. Information: 815-385-0036 or workshop@mcHenrylibrary.org.

*Have an event to share?
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PlainForthwest.com.
Photos may be emailed
to neighbors@nwherald.com.*

THINGS TO DO
IN & AROUND
McHENRY COUNTY

GREEN DRINKS

WHEN: 5 to 7 p.m. March 1
WHERE: Duke's Alehouse and Kitchen, 110 N. Main St., Crystal Lake

COST & INFO: On the first Wednesday of each month, environmentally minded people gather to network and talk about "greening" the future. This month's topic is alternative vertical farming utilizing Hydroponics & Vermiponics, producing local food, using organic methods and alternative energies. Information: www.facebook.com/greendrinksmchenrycounty or www.thedukeabides.com.

SPRING FLING OPEN HOUSE

WHEN: 4 to 8 p.m. March 1
WHERE: Tattered Tiques, 22029 Pepper Road, Unit 2, Lake Barrington

COST & INFO: Celebration of spring featuring antiques and vintage, resale and seasonal goods. There also will be sangria and appetizers. Hosted by Tattered Tiques and the Ten Shops of Pepper Road and Friends. Free admission. Information: Julie Abernathy, 224-633-9750 or www.tatteredtiques.com.



Harvard



HONORING VETERANS - Rob Zielinski, Harvard High School principal, presents World War II veteran and Harvard High School alumni Ray Carlson a plaque at a celebration of veterans in the high school gymnasium. The plaque is in honor of Carlson's and all veterans' service. The event honored all Harvard-area veterans and their families.

McHenry

Stateline SHRM to host 'Hot-Button Benefits' program at MCC Shah Center

Stateline SHRM will host a breakfast program at the MCC Shah Center titled "Benefits Panel Conversation: Hot-Button Benefits Topics" presented by Wendy Williams, Wendy Donahue and Joshua Gertz with Mesrirow Benefits.

The program, from 7:45 to 9:45 a.m. March 9,

will offer human resources professionals and anyone dealing with benefits the chance to better understand benefit trends and the potential impact of changes to the Affordable Care Act.

For information or to register, visit www.statelineshrm.org. The cost is \$15 members, \$30 nonmembers.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

March 1

• 9 a.m. - **Senior coffee, games and lunch**, St. John's Lutheran Church, 9812 St. Albans St., Hebron. Coffee and games at 9 a.m., Salvation Army Golden Diner lunch at 11 a.m. Other activities at noon. Continues every Wednesday. Call 630-232-6676 to reserve a meal. Information: 815-648-2671 or www.stjlutheran.com.

• 10 to 11 a.m. - **Piggies Everywhere!**, McHenry Public Library, 809 Front St., McHenry. Celebrate National Pig Day with a piggy storytime and craft. For children ages 3 to 6 with an adult. Free. Information: 815-385-0036 or www.mchenrylibrary.org.

• 11:30 a.m. - **McHenry Senior Citizens Club's Lunch Bunch**, Stucky's, 4000 N. Johnsbury Road, Johnsbury. Visitors welcome. Call for reservations. Information: 815-578-1224.

4:30 to 5:30 p.m. - **NatureKids! Here Come the Birds**, McHenry Public Library, 809 Front St., McHenry. Explore the outdoors to learn about bird adaptation and identifying common birds, create a bird feeder and participate in a hands-on activity called "Bird Beak Buffet." Free. Information: 815-385-0036 or mplyps@mchenrylibrary.org.

• 6 p.m. - **Spark Session**, Vitamin Shoppe, 1496 S. Randall Road, Algonquin. "Flexibility Tips Using Bands and Balls" workshop. Free. Information: 847-854-8218 or www.vitaminshoppe.com/sl/algoinquin.

• 7 to 9 p.m. - **Candidates Forum - McHenry High School District 156 and Elementary District 15**, Parkland Jr. High School gymnasium, 1802 N. Ringwood Road, McHenry. Hosted by the League of Women Voters of McHenry County. Information: mchenrycounty.ilwnet.org.

Have an event to share? Submit your information online at PlanitNorthwest.com. Photos may be emailed to neighbors@nwherald.com.



McHenry

Library program to focus on Winston Churchill

"The Life of Winston Churchill with Historian Jim Gibbons" will be from 7 to 8 p.m. March 9 at the McHenry Public Library, 809 Front St., McHenry.

"Never, never, never give in!" This was the creed Sir Winston Churchill lived by his entire life. Gibbons will present information on Churchill, who, as prime minister of Great Britain during World War II, stood alone against the tyranny and slaughter of Adolf Hitler, his troops and the German Nazi Party. Churchill inspired the British people by rejecting defeat, surrender and compromise. He truly lived by his motto to "Never, never, never, give in!" For information, email mpref@mchenrylibrary.org or call 815-385-0036.

Ingleside

Friends of Volo Bog board openings

Friends of Volo Bog, a nonprofit membership organization established in 1983 for the support of Volo Bog State Natural Area, seeks to fill four openings on its Board of Directors.

The board meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month - except December (no meeting) and June (third Sunday is annual meeting and picnic) - at the Volo Bog library at 28478 W. Brandenburg Road in Ingleside. Some of the skills sought in new board members are membership database management, membership correspondences and grant application writing, but interested individuals with other skills are encouraged to inquire. Those interested are asked to contact the Friends through email at fovb@myd3.com. A statement of interest and a list of applicable skills and background should be included. For information, email dnr.volobog@illinois.gov or call 815-344-1994.

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ART CAMP – Art student Lily Drolin shows off a drawing completed in Summer Art Camp during drawing time at Amber's Art Place. Registration is now open for 2017 summer camps at ambersartplace.com, and an open house will be from noon to 4 p.m. March 4 to highlight the camps that will be offered and special discounts.

will cherish for a lifetime.
 each additional child.
 \$60, recreation@lith.org

Illinois veterans benefits. Slice of pizza and beverage provided. Free. Information: 815-943-2740 or glenda.stewart@harvardseniorcenter.org.

• 6:30 to 8 p.m. – **Calm Coloring for Adults**, McHenry Public Library, 809 Front St., McHenry. Supplies provided, or bring your own. For ages 16 and older. Free. Information: 815-385-0036 or mpref@mchenrylibrary.org.

Feb. 28

• 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. – **AARP Senior Tax Appointments**, Woodstock Public Library, 414 W. Judd St., Woodstock. Volunteers from the AARP will assist senior citizens with their income taxes. Appointments must be scheduled ahead of time at 815-344-3555.

• 9:15 a.m. to 2 p.m. – **AARP Free Tax Help for Seniors**, Heartland Bank and Trust Co., 12101 Regency Square Parkway, Huntley. Free tax help for seniors by appointment made in person only.

• 6 p.m. – **Club House Artists – Drawing**, Administrative Building, 1 E. Crystal Lake Ave., Crystal Lake. Learn to draw in 3-D. Students will learn more realistically, using perspective techniques. Materials provided. For ages 6 and older. Cost: \$15. Information: www.crystal-lakeparks.org.

• 6:30 to 9 p.m. – **Research Your Crystal Lake Home**, Crystal Lake. For ages 18 and older. Two-night workshop will take you through the resources available at the Crystal Lake Historical Society. Cost: \$25-\$35. Information: www.crystallakeparks.org.

• 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. – **Building the Social Justice Narrative on Our Environmental Crises**, McHenry County College, 8900 Route 14, Crystal Lake. Great Lakes Bioneers Speaker Series presentation by Shalini Gupta Shalini Gupta, co-founder and executive director of the Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy (CEED) in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Information: www.mchenry.edu/bioneers, 815-455-8778, khankins@mchenry.edu or www.facebook.com/events/1792009607704727.

[com/events/1792009607704727](http://www.facebook.com/events/1792009607704727).

• 7 to 8 p.m. – **Chicago Wolves Hockey Player Bryce Gervais Visit**, Crystal Lake Public Library, 126 W. Paddock St., Crystal Lake. Gervais will talk about his career in hockey and why reading is so important. Free. Registration required. Information: www.clpl.org or 815-459-1687.

• 7 p.m. – **Taize service**, First Congregational Church, 461 Pierson St., Crystal Lake. Pray for peace and reconciliation for our troubled world. Free. Information: 815-459-3321 or www.fcc-cl.org.

March 1

• 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. – **NatureKids! Here Come the Birds**, McHenry Public Library, 809 Front St., McHenry. Explore the outdoors to learn about bird adaptation and identifying common birds, create a bird feeder and participate in a hands-on activity called "Bird Beak Buffet." Free. Information: 815-385-0036 or mplyps@mchenrylibrary.org.

• 6 p.m. – **Spark Session**, Vitamin Shoppe, 1496 S. Randall Road, Algonquin. "Flexibility Tips Using Bands and Balls" workshop. Free. Information: 847-854-8218 or www.vitaminshoppe.com/sl/algonquin.

March 2

• 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. – **Drop-in Drawing Frenzy: Matisse Collage**, Crystal Lake Public Library, 126 W. Paddock St., Crystal Lake. Each month we explore different art techniques. Information: www.crystallakelibrary.org.

• 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. – **Cary Park District Summer Job Fair**, Community Center, 255 Briargate Road, Cary. Adult and teen seasonal positions available. Visitors can meet park staff, complete job applications and drop off résumés. Free. Information: 847-639-6100 or www.carypark.com.

• Continued on page 20

ds' Sake, The Palace, Johnsburg. Fundraiser for McHenry County. No hours of bowling, tea and soda and T-shirt. mchenry.org/bowl. 555 or linda.coonen@

etric Therapeutic Area Public Library 2600 Harnish Drive, playgroup for children therapeutic play. Siblings ch therapist from Elgin jes baby to 5 years old rmation: 847-458-3139, www.aapld.org/do.
nd Greet with Illinois k, Harvard Community ard Hills Road, Harvard. ics such as senior fraud e property tax bill and

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• 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. – **Kindergarten registration**, Harrison School, District 36, 6809 McCullom Lake Road, Wonder Lake. Any child who will be age 5 on or before Sept. 1 is eligible. Bring three proofs of residency and the child's birth certificate. Information: 815-653-2311, nkuretski@hsd36.org or <https://hsd36-k12-ct.schoolloop.com>.

• 7 to 9 p.m. – **Wine, Women & Words**, The Pointe, 5650 Route 14, Crystal Lake. Meet local authors and get the inside scoop on their latest works. Raise funds for Girls on the Run scholarships. Free. Information: 815-451-9376, k_avallon@yahoo.com or www.avallonsvoice.com/winewomenwords.

• 7 to 8:30 p.m. – **Betty Trummel: "Poles Apart: Journey and Learning in the Arctic and Antarctic,"** Crystal Lake Public Library, 126 W. Paddock St., Crystal Lake. Hear the story of local educator and scientist Betty Trummel who recently returned from Antarctica. Information: www.crystallakelibrary.org.

• 7 to 8:30 p.m. – **Spring Cardinals: A Painting Workshop**, McHenry Public Library, 809 Front St., McHenry. Artist Christine Thornton hosts hands-on painting workshop. For MPLD cardholders ages 18 and older. Registration required. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Free. Information: 815-385-0036 or mpref@mchenrylibrary.org.

March 3

• 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. – **Miller Park Tour**, Park Place, 406 W. Woodstock St., Crystal Lake. For ages 18 and older. Trip includes tour and transportation by Park District bus. Register by April 1. Cost: \$75 residents, \$80 nonresidents. Information: www.crystallakeparks.org.

March 4

• 9 a.m. – **2017 Huntley Chamber Expo**, Huntley Park District, 12015 Mill St., Huntley. Information: <http://huntleychamberchambermaster.com>.

• 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. – **Magnificat Day of Renewal**, St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 451 W. Terra Cotta Ave., Crystal Lake. The McHenry Chapter of Magnificat, a ministry to Catholic women, will host the Rev. Kyle Manno, parochial vicar at St. Patrick Parish in St. Charles, who will present "God's Desire." Free. Registration required by March 1 to Dee Slowey at 815-893-4061. Information: www.magnificatmchenry.com.

• 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. – **Festival of the Sug-**

help prospective members with applications. Registration required. Information: 815-527-5049, marciaflanagan@gmail.com or <https://il.evanced.info/woodstock/lib/eventsignup.asp?ID=5029>.

• 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. – **My Sister's Dress Sale**, Sage YMCA, 701 Manor Road, Crystal Lake. Gently used and new dresses for sale for \$25, and affordable accessories available. Proceeds benefit Home of the Sparrow. Free. Information: 815-271-5444, knighton@hosparrow.org or www.facebook.com/My-Sisters-Dress-117041645033272/.

• 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. – **Show-in, Pop Up Gallery & Expo**, Smith Central Garage, 3315 Pearl St., McHenry. Continues 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 5. Presented by BeckerArt, The Studio McHenry and Smith Central Garage. See dozens of artists displaying and selling original art, prints, books, cards and more as well as demonstrating their talents. Free. Information: 847-546-6031 or beckerart@gmail.com.

• 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. – **Salsa 101**, Loyola University Retreat and Ecology Campus, 2710 S. Country Club Road, Woodstock. Learn how to make 12 authentic Mexican salsas and condiments to go along with tacos. Lots of sampling and cerveza. Cost: \$55. Information: 815-338-1032 or www.luc.edu/cookingclasses.

• Noon to 4 p.m. – **Art School Open House**, amber's art place, 9243 S. Route 31, Lake in the Hills. Featuring artist instructors demonstrations, kids summer camp project preview, adult and kids workshops and more. Free Face painting and snacks. Free. Information: 815-404-6520, artart13@gmail.com or www.ambersartplace.com.

• 2 to 3 p.m. – **Repto-Mania!**, Johnsburg Public Library, 3000 N. Johnsburg Road, Johnsburg. Learn the real facts about reptiles with award-winning naturalist Deb Krohn (aka the Frog Lady), and meet reptiles and amphibians. Registration required. Children younger than 8 must be accompanied by an adult. Free. Information: 815-344-0077, jschoen@johnsburglibrary.org or <http://johnsburglibrary.org/event>.

• 3 to 4 p.m. – **Tween D.I.Y. – Duct Tape Crafts**, McHenry Public Library, 809 Front St., McHenry. For kids in grades 4-8. Free. Information: 815-385-0036 or mplyps@mchenrylibrary.org.

• 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. – **St. Baldrick's Casino Night fundraiser**, Richardson Adventure Farm, 909 English Prairie Road, Spring Grove. Hosted by Watlow in Richmond to benefit the St. Baldrick's Foundation and March 16 head saving event at McHenry High



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FAMILY STORYTIME, 11 to 11:30 a.m. March 1, Woodstock Public Library, 414 W. Judd St., Woodstock. For families with children of all ages. Information: <https://il.evanced.info/woodstock/lib/events/signup.asp?ID=4937>.

PIGGIES EVERYWHERE!, 10 to 11 a.m. March 1, McHenry Public Library, 809 Front St., McHenry. Celebrate National Pig Day with a piggy storytime and craft. For kids ages 3-6 years old with adult. Free. Information: 815-385-0036 or mplyps@mchenrylibrary.org.

4 AND OLDER STORYTIME, 9:30 to 10 a.m. March 2, Crystal Lake Public Library, 126 W. Paddock St., Crystal Lake. For children age 4 and older. Information: www.crystallakelibrary.org.

CHAT 'N CHEW TWEEN BOOK GROUP, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. March 2, Jimano's Pizza, 366 Bank Drive, McHenry. Everyone will read a nonfiction book to share with the group. Free. Information: 815-385-0036 or mplyps@mchenrylibrary.org.

DR. SEUSS'S BIRTHDAY, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. March 2, Crystal Lake Public Library, 126 W. Paddock St., Crystal Lake. Dr. Seuss books on display in the youth department in honor of his birthday with Dr. Seuss projects. Information: www.crystallakelibrary.org.

GRAPHIC NOVEL BOOK CLUB, GRADES 6-8, 4 to 5 p.m. March 2, Crystal Lake Public Library, 126 W. Paddock St., Crystal Lake. This month's graphic novel is "Smile" by Raina Telgemeier. CLPL card holders only. Registration

required. Information: www.crystallakelibrary.org.

NEW! MYSTERY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. March 2, McHenry Public Library, 809 Front St., McHenry. Our first meeting. We'll talk about the scope of the group, reading tastes and the April and May titles we've chosen to get us started, plus we'll get your input for future titles to read. For ages 18 and older. No registration required. Free. Information: 815-385-0036 or mpref@mchenrylibrary.org.

DROP-IN STORYTIME, 10:30 to 11 a.m. March 3, Woodstock Public Library, 414 W. Judd St., Woodstock. Stories, crafts and fun. Open to all. Information: <https://il.evanced.info/woodstock/lib/events/signup.asp?ID=4947>.

FAMILY STORY AND PLAYTIME, 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. March 4, Crystal Lake Public Library, 126 W. Paddock St., Crystal Lake. Stories, songs and rhymes followed by playtime. For families with children from birth to age 6 years old. Information: www.crystallakelibrary.org.

STORYTIME WITH AUTHOR PATRICIA J. MURPHY, 10:30 a.m. March 4, Read Between the Lynes, 111 E. Van Buren St., Woodstock. Award-winning children's author Patricia J. Murphy will be reading and signing her latest picture book "Mama, Look!" Come for what Kirkus Reviews calls "a cheery springboard for small nature lovers to have their own 'Mama, look!' opportunities." Free. Information: 815-206-5967, arlene@readbetweenthelynes.com or www.readbetweenthelynes.com/event/storytime-author-patricia-j-murphy.

SHAW media

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MISTLETOE MAGIC - On Dec. 18, leaders of Mistletoe Magic Boutique presented checks for \$8,000 to three local charity organizations. The 35th annual benefit is presented by members of Grace Lutheran Church, and all items are handcrafted. Pictured are (front row, from left) Chairperson Cathy Meyer, co-chair Karen Reinhard and Erica Schwanke, president of Woodstock Area Community Ministry representing the Direct Assistance Program; and (second row) Hank Engstrom, coordinator of the Wednesday night PADS program, Jane Farmer, director of Turning Point of McHenry County, and co-chair Sue Aavang; and (not pictured) Judith Reilly, co-chair of Mistletoe Magic.

Crystal Lake

McHenry County College to conclude Bioneers Speaker Series

McHenry County College will conclude its 2017 Great Lakes Bioneers Speaker Series at 7 p.m. Feb. 28 with "Building the Social Justice Narrative on our Environmental Crises," presented by Shalini Gupta, founder and executive director of the Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy (CEED).

The series is free and open to the public. Selected area organizations will be available, along with the speakers, for

further discussion after the presentation, which will take place in MCC's Luecht Conference Center in Building B located on the main campus at 8900 Route 14 in Crystal Lake.

The speaker series is sponsored by the McHenry County College Sustainability Center and the Bioneers Steering Committee. For information, call the MCC Sustainability Center at 815-479-7765 or visit www.mchenry.edu/bioneers.

Bernotas principal named a Golden Apple finalist

Jeffrey Prickett, principal of Burr Middle School, was among 10 finalists named by Golden Apple for the 2017 Stanley C. Golder Leadership Award. The award honors the exemplary performance of a principal or head of school from the Chicago area. The award is presented in memory of Stanley C. Golder, a founding member of Golden Apple. Finalists are nominated by educators and community members. Selection is based on personal excellence, balanced and collaborative leadership, commitment to student achievement and expertise in curriculum, instruction and assessment.



Jeffrey Prickett

Prickett joined District 47 in 2011. Previously, he served as principal of an elementary and middle school in Round Lake, and as an assistant principal in McHenry. During the 2015-2016 school year, he was named Kishwaukee Region's Middle School Principal of the Year by the Illinois Principals Association. He recently completed his doctorate degree in educational leadership from National Louis University and served on the board at the National Alliance for Mental Illness McHenry County. Celebration of Excellence in honor of the 10 finalists will be March 4 at the Hilton Rosemont Chicago O'Hare. 2017 Golden Award recipient will receive \$10,000 to be used for his/her own professional development and a school of the recipient's choosing. The winner also will be recognized May 20 at a

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Feb. 27

• 10 to 11 a.m. - **Beginner Qi Gong and Meditation**, First Congregational Church, 461 Pierson St., Crystal Lake. A combination of movement and meditation for a gentle, yet full body workout. Chair options available. For those 18 years old and older. Cost: \$5 a person a class. Pay onsite with cash or check only please. Information: lyn@dailyharmony-mae.com or <http://dailyharmony-mae.com>.

• 10 to 11 a.m. - **Pediatric Therapeutic Playgroup**, Algonquin Area Public Library - Harnish Main Library, 2600 Harnish Drive, Algonquin. An inclusive playgroup for children who may benefit from therapeutic play. Siblings welcome. This group is run by a speech therapist from Elgin Pediatric

Therapy. Contact the library if your child requires any special accommodations. For babies to age 5 with caregivers. Free. No registration required. Information: 847-458-3139 or www.aapld.org/do.

• 3:30 to 5 p.m. - **Crypto Club**, McHenry Public Library, 809 Front St., McHenry. A fun way to learn how to make and break secret codes and cyphers using puzzles, coding, math and more. For grades 5-8. Free. Information: 815-385-0036, mplyps@mchenrylibrary.org or www.mchenrylibrary.org.

• 6:30 to 8 p.m. - **Calm Coloring for Adults**, McHenry Public Library, 809 Front St., McHenry. Listen to soothing music while you color your worries away. Supplies provided, but feel free to bring your own coloring projects from home. For ages 16 and older. Free. Information: 815-385-003 or www.mchenrylibrary.org.

Have an event to share? Submit your information online at PlanitNorthwest.com. Photos may be emailed to neighbors@nwherald.com.

Crystal Lake

Crystal Lake Park District to host Mother Son Luau

The Crystal Lake Park District will host a Mother Son Luau for ages 4 to 10 and their mom, aunt, grandma or older sibling.

Don grass skirts and Hawaiian shirts for a night of dancing, games and dinner from 6 to 8 p.m. March 10 and 11 at Grand Oaks Recreation Center, 1401 W. Route 176, Crystal Lake.

Register by March 3 at www.tallakeparks.org or at the Crystal Lake Park District Administration Office, 1 E. Crystal Lake Ave., Crystal Lake. The cost is \$18 a person.

For information, call Jessica Ortega at 815-459-0680, ext. 1213 or email jortega@crystallakeparks.org.



CRYSTAL LAKE PARK DISTRICT

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Library tech helps get pages turning again

Somewhere along the line, reading for pleasure fell by the wayside. When one reads for a living, perhaps it's just a job hazard.

Oh sure, there were sporadic forays, when a book of some note would pique my curiosity. A recommendation here and a book review there, but nothing to keep the pages turning.

Sometimes the desire would be there to read one book after another. Inevitably the next book would not be compelling, and once it was put down, that was it. The momentum would be lost and inertia once more would seize the day.

Things became even bleaker when life became more complicated, when caregiving duties would leave precious little time to wander the stacks at the McHenry Public Library looking for the next novel or work of nonfiction. A pity, too, since the library is mere blocks from home.

E-books would seem to be the most obvious answer. However, some of us prefer the feel of books in our hands. Call us purists, traditionalists, whatever.

However, beggars, they say, can't be choosers. So, armed with my library card, I began an online foray with an app called OverDrive, which provides access to e-books through the North Suburban Digital Consortium. Audio-books and videos are available, too. After a few stops and starts, which probably could have been avoided had I bothered to seek help, I was good to go.

Like a child at a pool, I gingerly stuck a toe into the water to see whether this was something worth wading into. A book by organizing guru Marie Kondo was the first choice, soon followed by essays by Bill Bryson.

Then, more difficulties arose when it became apparent that I had been out of the literary loop for so long that I had no idea what to choose next.



VIEWS

Joan Oliver

To the rescue was another app, this one called Goodreads. Not only was it something a number of my friends were using to track their own reading progress, but it also provides recommendations based on one's interests.

Even better, it allows users to set a goal for the number of books to read for the year. It keeps track of the progress made and allows one to see what everyone else is doing.

Admittedly, my initial goal (10) was artificially low, in deference to my track record.

Happily, the easy access of OverDrive and the accountability of Goodreads has been just what I've needed to get going again.

So far, I've finished 13 books, ranging from novels ("Commonwealth" by Ann Patchett) to essays (two by comedian Mindy Kaling) to young adult ("Wonder" by R.J. Palacio) to nonfiction ("The Reason I Jump" by Naoki Higashida) to even a graphic memoir ("Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?" by Roz Chast).

Needless to say, I've had to increase my goal. Next up is another work of nonfiction, "Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis" by J.D. Vance.

However long this streak lasts, I'm just happy to have my nose stuck in a book again – even if it's via the screen on my tablet.

• Joan Oliver is the former Northwest Herald assistant news editor. She has been associated with the Northwest Herald since 1990. She can be reached at jolivercolumn@gmail.com.

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