



# MESSENGER PUBLIC LIBRARY OF NORTH AURORA NEWSLETTER



## Kindness Hats November 1-January 31

Use your love of knitting or crochet to keep our community warm this winter. Stop by the Adult Services Help Desk starting November 1 to check out a kit with yarn, needles and patterns, or use your own materials. Your hats will then be donated to local charities. Make 1 or make 100! Every single hat is appreciated. We will take hats in any size and color. Bring completed hats to the library by January 31.



## National Library Card Sign-Up Month

Get in Your Element this September—sign up for a library card! From borrowing books, e-books, and museum passes to getting homework help, learning new skills, or attending story time, a library card helps you do more of what you enjoy. Get a library card and dive into a new hobby. Use your library card to spark your creativity. A library card is your most important school supply—it's elemental, really—and everyone should have one!



## Wonderful World of Insects Saturday, September 30 10-11 am

Ages 4 to 10. Appreciate the vast diversity of insect life by examining the shapes, sizes, and colors of local insects. Explore models and specimens to learn about insect anatomy and biodiversity.

Learn about insect life cycles and the benefits insects provide.



## THE GREAT GINGERBREAD HOUSE CHALLENGE 2023



## The Great Gingerbread House Challenge 2023 November 10-December 1

Want to put your gingerbread house making skills to the test? Design your own gingerbread creation and bring it to the library. Pick up a copy of the rules and entry form at any library service desk. Enter as a family team or individually! Awards will be given at our Holiday Open House on December 3.

# YOUTH SERVICES

Registration **R** is required for all youth and teen programs, unless noted, beginning on **Monday, August 21**, via the online events calendar at [messengerpl.org](https://messengerpl.org), by phone 630-801-4340, or in person. For drop-in programs, you may register online to receive a reminder email or text.

## BABIES-PRESCHOOL

### Baby Storytime **R**

Tuesdays • 9:30-10 OR  
10:15-10:45 am

Fall 1: Sept. 5 - Oct. 10

Fall 2: Nov. 7 - Dec. 12

*Ages 0-24 months with a caregiver.* Enjoy stories, songs, and movement to help foster early literacy skills.

### Family Storytime **R**

Thursdays • 10-10:30 am

Fall 1: Sept. 7 - Oct. 12

Fall 2: Nov. 9 - Dec. 14 (except 11/23)

*Ages 2-5 with caregivers.* Enjoy stories & songs with your family while building pre-literacy skills and learning about the world around us.

### Sensory Playtime

Mondays, September 11,  
October 16, November 6  
10-11 am

*Ages 0-4 with caregivers.* Enjoy sensory play experiences with your little ones! Stations are designed to stimulate your child's mind through sensory, discovery, and gross motor activities. *Register for a reminder email or text.*

### Special Storytimes **R**

Fridays • 10-10:45 am

Sept. 22: Dino-Mite Party

Oct. 27: Halloween Storytime

*All ages.* Enjoy stories, songs, and a special activity with your little ones!

### Read & Play Baby **R**

Mondays • 10-11 am

September 25: Bubble Mania

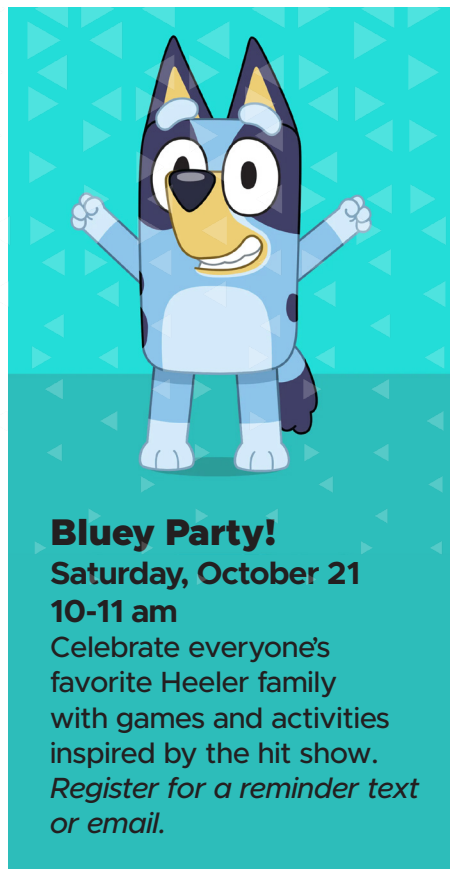
November 27: Play Ball

*Ages 0-2 with caregiver.* Enjoy a short storytime plus playtime with your babies and toddlers.

### School Skills Storytime **R**

Tuesdays, September 12 &  
October 17 • 6-6:30pm

*Ages 3-5.* Join us for stories and a craft aimed at preschoolers who are starting to get ready for Kindergarten.



### Bluey Party!

Saturday, October 21  
10-11 am

Celebrate everyone's favorite Heeler family with games and activities inspired by the hit show. *Register for a reminder text or email.*

## ALL AGES

### Lego Club

Thursdays, Sept. 14, Oct. 12,  
Nov. 9 • 6-7 pm

*All ages.* Drop by for Lego building fun! *Register for a reminder email or text.*

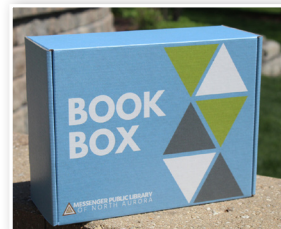
### Make and Take Crafts

October 28-31 &  
November 18-22

*All ages.* Drop by Youth Services to make a festive craft! Register for a reminder email or text.

### Fall Book Subscription **R**

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



### STEAM Activity Kits

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

### School Year Reading Challenges

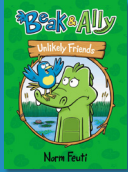
*Ages 0-18.* Track your reading during the school year and earn free books along the way! Register online at [messengerpl.beanstack.org](https://messengerpl.beanstack.org) or pick up a reading log at the library.



# KIDS (AGES 5-12)

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

## Early Reader Book Club Saturdays 10-10:45 am **R**



September 2:  
*Beak & Ally  
Unlikely Friends*  
by Norm Feuti



October 7:  
*Mercy Watson  
Something Wonkey  
This Way Comes*  
by Kate DiCamillo

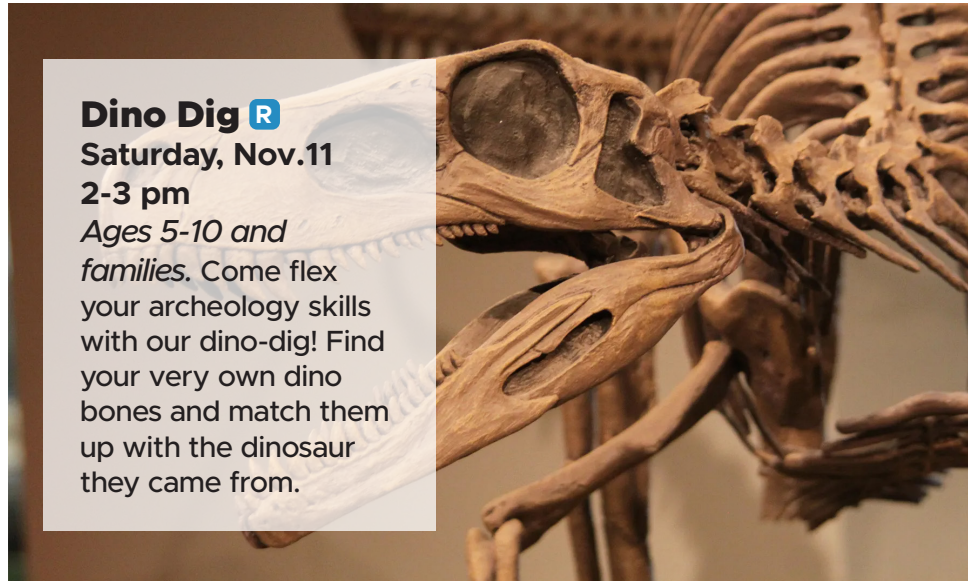


November  
4: *Bill & Rose  
Friends Forever*  
by Amy Hest

Aimed at ages 5-7 with a caregiver. Just starting to read or exploring early chapter books? Join us to read together, talk about books, and do a craft. Books and refreshments will be provided.

## Fiber Art Program: Little Boo Ghost **R** Monday, October 16 6:30-7:30 pm

*Ages 5-9 with caregiver.* Learn the craft of wet felting to create a ghost for Halloween. Wet felting is done with wool fibers, water, soap, and heat.



## Dino Dig **R** Saturday, Nov. 11 2-3 pm

*Ages 5-10 and families.* Come flex your archeology skills with our dino-dig! Find your very own dino bones and match them up with the dinosaur they came from.

## Spy School **R** Mondays • 4:45-5:30 pm

Sept. 11: Codebreakers and Makers

Oct. 2: Gadgets and Tools

Nov. 13: Art of Blending In  
*Ages 8-12.* Art, science, and technology, oh my! Join us for a new hands-on activity every month.

## Read with Rover **R** Sundays, September 17, October 15, November 19 2-3 pm

*For readers.* Love reading? Or dogs? Practice reading aloud with a licensed therapy dog from the Fox Valley Therapy Dog Club. Register for a 15-minute time slot.

## Paint a Pumpkin! **R** Saturday, October 14 10:30-11:30 am

*All ages.* Bring the family to get ready for Halloween with this Paint a Pumpkin program! Kids will each have a small pumpkin and a variety of paint colors to create their own spooky decorations.

## Wonderful World of Insects **R**

Saturday, September 30  
10-11 am

*Ages 4 to 10.*

Appreciate the vast diversity of insect life by examining the shapes, sizes, and colors of local insects. Explore models and specimens to learn about insect anatomy and biodiversity. Learn about insect life cycles and the benefits insects provide.



## No School Game Day Monday, Oct. 9 • 10 am-8 pm

*All ages.* Have the day off school? Drop in and have some fun with the Youth Services Board Game Collection! Register for a reminder email or text.



# TEENS

Registration **R** is required for all teen programs, unless noted, beginning on Monday, August 21, via the online events calendar at [messengerpl.org](http://messengerpl.org), by phone 630-801-4340, or in person. For drop-in programs, you may register online to receive a reminder email or text.



## Teen Taste Test: Pizza **R**

**Thursday, Sept. 21 • 7-8 pm**  
*Ages 11-18.* Ever wondered where to get the best pizza? Let's figure it out! We are going to taste test different pizza joints to determine the best of the best. Come hungry!

## Teen Yum Club **R**

**Thursday, October 19**  
**7-8 pm**  
*Ages 11-18.*

Come try snacks from a different country!



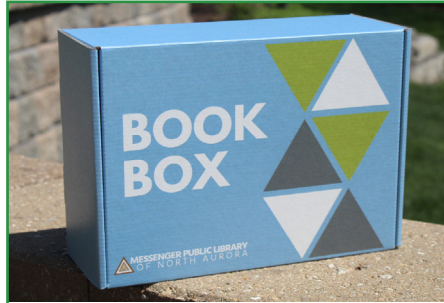
## Murder Mystery Night **R**

**Thursday, Oct. 5 • 6:30-8 pm**  
*Ages 11-18.* Do you have what it takes to solve a mystery? Help look through clues and examine evidence to figure out who the culprit is. Better come with your thinking cap on!



## The Financial Aid Process **R**

**Thursday, Nov. 16 • 7-8 pm**  
*Grades 11-12 + adults.* Come hear about your financial aid options for college and get your questions answered from Illinois Student Assistance Commission instructor Lauren Waitt.



## Teen Book Box Subscription **R**

*For grades 6-12.* Register for the Fall Book Subscriptions! Pick up a box on the 10th of each month with books chosen just for you, plus some treats for you to keep. Turn in your box each month to be eligible for next month's books. *Messenger Library card required.*

# TEEN VOLUNTEERS

Students in grades 6-12 are welcome to volunteer at the library! Visit [messengerpl.org/teenvolunteers](http://messengerpl.org/teenvolunteers) for requirements and applications.



## Teen DIY: Air Dry Clay **R**

**Thursday, Sept. 7 • 7-8 pm**  
*Ages 11-18.* Learn the basics of air dry clay and make a small creation.

## Hunger Games Party **R**

**Thursday, November 2 • 7-8 pm**  
*Ages 11-18.* May the odds be in your favor during this night of trivia, crafts, and games.

## Teen Take Out

**SEPTEMBER:** Salted Chocolate Pretzel Bark

**OCTOBER:** Easy Sew Pumpkins

**NOVEMBER:** DIY Board Games

Stop by the Teen Space each month to pick up a fun craft or activity you can take home and make on your own time. New kits debut on the 1st of the month, so grab one before they disappear! While supplies last.



**SEPTEMBER**



**OCTOBER**



**NOVEMBER**



# ADULT PROGRAMS

Call or check our online events calendar for more details, up-to-date information, and registration. All programs are held in the library unless otherwise noted: please register **R** in advance. Teens over the age of 16 are always welcome to register; Art Club requires a registered adult with any teen.

**NEW! Genealogy Drop-in**  
**Fridays, Sept.29, Oct.20,**  
**Nov. 17 • 2-4 pm**

Thinking about tracing your roots but don't know where to start? Librarian Nancy will show you how to access free genealogical resources, including Ancestry, through the library and , offer search tips, and advice. No registration necessary.

**Scams and Identity Theft for Seniors **R****

**Thursday, Oct. 19 • 6-7 pm OR**  
**Thursday, Oct. 26 • 10-11 am**

In partnership with the North Aurora Police Department, we are hosting presentations on Scams and Identity Theft for seniors to help spread the word on how to avoid becoming a victim and what to do if you or someone you know has been scammed.



**Korean Flower Lanterns **R****  
**Sat., Sept. 30 • 10 am-12 pm**

Join the Messenger Public Library and The Korean Spirit and Culture Promotion Project (KSCPP) to help you make a beautiful lotus flower lantern craft. This program will be a hybrid adult crafting session, all supplies provided.

**Fall Foliage Walk **R****  
**Saturday, October 7 • 10-11 am**

The Kane County Forest Preserve will lead our walk through the Glenwood Forest Preserve, off Route 25. We will meet at the forest preserve, exact spot and directions will be sent out after you register.



**How to Self-Publish with Alina Rubin **R****

**Saturday, October 14 • 2-3 pm**

Winner of the 2022 Illinois Author Project, Alina Rubin will lead a discussion on the importance of storytelling, the stages of launching a self-published book, and the ins and outs of publishing through Amazon.



**Navigating Medicare **R****  
**Wednesday, September 20**  
**7-8:30 pm**

David Wyllly from the Medicare Solutions Network will get you up to speed on what Medicare covers, what it doesn't, and your potential out of pocket exposure.

**Vibrational Sound Healing**  
**Saturday, Sept.23 • 10-11 am OR**  
**Tuesday, Sept. 26 • 7-8 pm **R****

Lay back and let the healing sounds wash over you. The clanging of the gongs and the tinkling of chimes will stir and then soothe you. Please bring a blanket and a yoga mat if you have one.

**Historic Recipe Road Show **R****

**Saturday, October 21 • 1-3 pm**

The Culinary Historians of Northern Illinois (CHNI) wants your vintage handwritten recipes (50+ years old) for their Cookery Manuscript Project. Meet with a Culinary Historian about your recipes, and have them digitally preserved in the CHNI's collection. Register on the library's event calendar for a 15-minute appointment.



**The Basics of Paranormal Investigating **R****

**Monday, October 23 • 7-8 pm**

Learn the basics of paranormal investigating from Quantum Paranormal Investigators. They will also discuss well-known haunted locations in the Chicago area and Illinois.

**Chickasaw Heritage and History Documentaries **R****

**Saturday, Nov. 18 • 2-3:30 pm**

We are celebrating Native American History Month by showing two documentaries by members of the Chickasaw Nation. Bearer of the Morning & Pearl Carter Scott: On Top of the World.



## AARP Driver Safety Class

Wednesday, November 29 

12:15-4:30 pm AND

Thursday, November 30

12:30-4:30 pm 

Refresh your driving skills and find out how to operate vehicles safely in today's increasingly challenging driving environment. This classroom style program will not include any on-road driving. Both sessions must be completed to qualify for your insurance carrier's discount. Cost \$25 (AARP members \$20) cash or check made out to AARP.

## DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

### Introduction to Dungeons and Dragons

Mon., Oct. 30 • 6:30-8:30 pm

Have you heard about Dungeons and Dragons and wondered what all the fuss was about? Join our informational session to learn the basics of (arguably) the most famous role-playing game out there. We will go over the first steps of role-playing, character creation, and combat.

### A Mystery at Candlekeep: A One-Shot Dungeons and Dragons Adventure

Saturday, November 4  
12:30- 4:30 pm

This is a game designed to be played in one sitting, and is especially for the new or inexperienced player. Bring your own character sheet or play a pre-made adventurer. We will provide all the supplies and snacks, you bring your imagination, cunning, and teamwork mindset.

## Wits Workout

Friday, Sept. 8 • 10:30-11:30 am

The Best Medicine  
(stress management)

Friday, Nov. 10 • 10:30-11:30 am  
Songbirds (socialization)

Wits Workout is an engaging, interactive, and educational brain health program designed especially for seniors. Learn about brain health and participate in activities to strengthen your memory and increase your brain power!

## Mysteries at MPL

Monday, Nov. 13 • 6:30-8:30 pm

Join us for another night of mystery solving and teamwork. Make sure to bring a smartphone because you'll need it, along with your intelligence and puzzle solving abilities to crack the case!

## NORTH AURORA Community Group MEETINGS

### Fox Valley Writers Group

Alternating Tuesdays • 6:45 pm  
Contact: foxvalleywriters@gmail.com

### North Aurora Garden Club

First Monday of each month • 6:30 pm  
Contact: Gail Wilke (630) 618-6467

### North Aurora Lions Club

Second Tuesday of each month • 7 pm  
Contact: northauroralions@gmail.com

### Toastmasters: Timely Talkers

1st, 3rd & 4th Wed. of each month  
7 - 8:30 pm  
4th Wednesday is on Zoom only

### Toastmasters: Advanced Expressives

Fourth Saturday of each month  
10:15 am - 12 pm  
Contact: John Jerrard (630) 688-8438



## BOOK NOOK

Books are available for \$1.00 apiece at the new Book Nook shelf located by the User Services Desk. Please note, at this time we are not accepting donations but may consider it in the future.

## Music @ Messenger

6:30 - 8 pm

### The Music @ Messenger concert series

closes out a successful second season highlighting the talents of local Fox River Valley artists. Bring your lawn chair and picnic for an outdoor show on the rear lawn of the library, all ages are welcome. All shows are outdoors as weather allows, no registration required.

### Aaron Kelly and Demi Clara

Tuesday, September 12

The duo of Aaron Kelly and Demi Clara is not to be missed, as songs and stories reflect the landscape of the unique Americana folk music. When they aren't covering John Prine, they perform unique original music that reflects the talent of both.



### Jake Mack

Tuesday, September 26

Inspired by the likes of Petty, the Stones, and Wilco, Jake brings bluesy rock tunes perfect for a fall night. Over 200 shows are performed solo each year, and fronting with other bands including St. Malarkey and The Heavy Lifting. Jake brings musical maturity, unique hooks, and powerful lyrics to every show he performs.



# ART CLUB FOR ADULTS

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



## Rainbow Jellyfish Painting **R**

Sat., Sept. 9 • 10 am-12 pm

OR Tuesday, September 19 • 6:30-8:30 pm

Explore simple watercolor techniques as you capture the alien beauty of the jellyfish, one of the most unique species in the animal kingdom. Registration starts August 1.

## Spooky Spiderweb Dream Catcher **R**

Saturday, October 14 • 10 am-12 pm

OR Tuesday, October 17 • 6:30-8:30 pm

Get in the Halloween spirit while creating a spooky spiderweb dream catcher. Registration starts September 1.

## Needle Felted Owls **R**

Saturday, November 11 • 10 am-12 pm

Needle felt 3D whimsical owls. Stage your masterpiece by creating a home for your owls with a tree branch and mini terra-cotta pot. Registration starts October 1.

## Block Printed Tote Bag **R**

Tuesday, November 21 • 6:30-8:30 pm

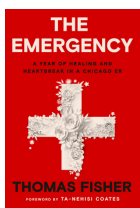
Learn basic relief printing techniques by creating a linoleum stamp from design to carving to printing. After practicing on paper, you will print your own custom tote bag. Registration starts October 1.

# ADULT DISCUSSION GROUPS

Digital copies of book discussion titles may be available on Hoopla, Libby, or Axis360, print copies are available for checkout at the User Services Desk. Please register **R** in advance.

## Narrative Nonfiction Book Group **R**

Mondays • 7-8 pm

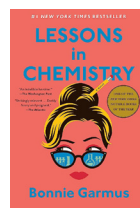


September 11

*The Emergency: A Year of Healing and Heartbreak in a Chicago ER* by Thomas Fisher

## Morning Book Discussion Group **R**

Wednesdays • 10:30-11:30 am



September 6

*Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus

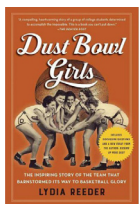
## Evening Book Discussion Group **R**

Thursdays • 7-8 pm



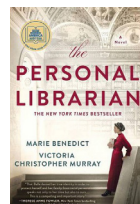
September 7

*The Girl from the Channel Islands* by Jenny Lecoat



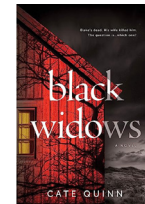
October 9

*Dust Bowl Girls: The Inspiring Story of the Team That Barnstormed Its Way to Basketball Glory* by Lydia Reeder



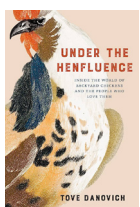
October 4

*The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict



October 5

*Black Widows* by Cate Quinn



November 13

*Under the Henfluence: Inside the World of Backyard Chickens and the People Who Love Them* by Tove Danovich



November 1

*The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig



November 2

*Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano



MESSENGER PUBLIC LIBRARY OF NORTH AURORA | Fall 2023

## LIBRARY HOURS

**Monday-Thursday**  
9 am - 9 pm

**Friday-Saturday**      **Sunday**  
9 am - 5 pm              1 - 5 pm

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mark Saperston, President  
Mary Steed  
Tanya Berley  
Peggy Carlson  
Elizabeth Cranford  
James R. Hicks  
Pending Position

### The Library will be closed on the following dates:

Sunday, Sept. 3 and Monday, Sept. 4  
**Labor Day**

Friday, October 13  
**Staff Development Day**

Wednesday, November 22 (at 5 pm)  
and Thursday, November 23  
**Thanksgiving Holiday**



## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

We've been busy at MPL! Due to the popularity of outdoor programming and events, we have installed two patios on the rear lawn of our Library. The patios will be used for summer concerts, book circles, and outdoor storytimes. We utilized funds from the **Community Foundation of Fox River Valley**, where our patrons have generously given to support programming and enhancements to our Library. Your donations are very appreciated.

Other updates include the installation of two new park benches on our front walkways, a needed replacement for worn and cracked benches. We hope you enjoy sitting and reading on the comfortable design, with a view overlooking our pretty roses and freshly mulched landscaping.

We welcome fall garden bulb donations as we will be working on touching up our plantings for grounds beautification in the coming year.



A new little Book Nook book sale shelf is available by our User Services desk, perfect to buy the occasional title that can make for a worry-free vacation travel read. All titles are \$1.00, which is a great price for a keeper book.

Stop by to visit us, and our welcoming staff will be happy to help you "fall" for the Library!

**Shannon Halikias**  
Library Director  
[shannon@messengerpl.org](mailto:shannon@messengerpl.org)