Randall Yelverton Named Library Executive Director

The Peoria Public Library Board of Trustees voted to hire Randall Yelverton as the next Peoria Public Library Executive Director at the June 19 board meeting. He will assume his new duties on July 2 as Leann Johnson, current Executive Director, retires.

Edward Barry, President of the Library Board of Trustees said, “The Peoria Public Library is delighted and honored to have Mr. Yelverton join our terrific team. We are grateful to Director Johnson for her 30 years of outstanding dedication to Peoria Public Library.”

Mr. Yelverton has served as the Director of Washington District Library in Washington, Illinois since 2012, serving as Assistant Director for a year before that. He also held the position of Assistant Director at the Camden County Library District in Camdenton, Missouri and worked in various library positions at the Saint Louis Public Library and the University City Public Library in Missouri.

He holds a Masters Degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Missouri, Columbia and a B.A. in English from Mercer University in Macon, Georgia. He has been active in the Rotary Club of Washington, the American, Missouri and Illinois Library Associations and is an Eagle Scout.

Mr. Yelverton and his wife live in Peoria and have three children.

Summer Reading Continues Through July

Reading Takes You Everywhere, the Summer Reading program for all ages at Peoria Public Library, continues through Saturday, July 21. Those who signed up and continued to log in during June will earn their pass to the Summer Reading Party at the end of week six. Everyone, including new participants, will continue to earn weekly prizes as they log their three hours per week of reading.

The Summer Reading Party will take place on Tuesday, July 24 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Peoria Riverfront Museum. Partygoers will see the new exhibit Mythic Creatures, visit the planetarium to see Earth, Moon & Sun and the 3D movie Walking With the Dinosaurs as well as all the other exhibits. Special entertainment, an opportunity to vote for your favorite The Great American Read book and the Grand Prize Drawings will round out the night.

Remember to keep reading and signing your log at your favorite branch each week. Watch for special summer reading programs and contests on the library calendar and pick up your Summer Reading Party Pass!
**PEORIA READS! Receives 2019 NEA Big Read Grant**

Peoria Reads! is a recipient of a grant of $6,575 to host the NEA Big Read in Peoria in 2019 and has chosen the book *Can’t We Talk About Something More Pleasant* by Roz Chast. Chast is a longtime cartoonist for the *New Yorker* and the book tells the story of Chast’s parents’ final years through cartoons, family photos, found documents and narrative prose. Peoria Reads! chose this book as so many in the community have elderly family members who need assistance. Younger generations are dealing with conflicting emotions, memories and the many practical challenges of the last days and passing of older family members. Told with humor and pathos, *Can’t We Talk About Something More Pleasant* is a book that will launch discussion and entertain while it offers comfort. A variety of book discussions and programs will be offered in Spring 2019.

“The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support opportunities for communities across the nation, both small and large, to take part in the NEA Big Read,” said NEA Acting Chairman Mary Anne Carter. “This program encourages people to not only discuss a book together, but be introduced to new perspectives, discuss the issues at the forefront of our own lives, and connect with one another at events.”

Lead partners for Peoria Reads! are Peoria Public Library and Common Place. Each year a variety of other community organizations participate including Bradley University, Illinois Central College, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Delta Kappa Gamma, Methodist College, Peoria Public Schools and Notre Dame High School and others. Peoria Reads! was founded in 2002.

NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.

For more information about the NEA Big Read, please visit arts.gov/neabigread. Visit arts.gov to learn more about NEA. For more information about Arts Midwest, please visit artsmidwest.org.

**Catalog Glitch Fixed for Movie Checkouts**

Some users of Peoria Public Library had found recently that five movies could be checked out in each catalog category at a time, enabling them to check out many more than the intended five movies per card. The problem was allowing patrons to check out five DVDs, five BluRays, five from the New category and five Childrens all at the same time. This ability was simply a glitch in the RSACAT software that all the member libraries of Resource Sharing Alliance use. The problem has now been addressed and in order to make more movies available to all library patrons, only five movies total will be charged at one time to an individual card, as was intended.

**Coming in July 2018**

*Ghosted: A Novel* by Rosie Walsh is a romance with a twist. Sarah and Eddie meet and have six wonderful days together; it is a “love at first sight” relationship. When Eddie leaves on a vacation trip that he had booked months before, he promises to call but he never does. Sarah tries to get in touch with him with no success, and her friends tell her that he is more likely blowing her off. As weeks go by and no word comes from Eddie, she discovers that their meeting was not random and they both have a connection to an accident that happened many years ago. As both Sarah and Eddie’s pasts are revealed, the barriers between them seem to be larger than they can overcome but as their issues are resolved, their love story has a hopeful ending.

*Charlotte Walsh Likes to Win: A Novel* is the latest book by Jo Piazza. COO Charlotte Walsh leaves her high-powered job in California and moves back to Pennsylvania to run for a Senate seat that will have an effect on the balance of power in the Congress. She wants it all – political power, a happy marriage and family, but she does not realize how much of a sacrifice she is going to have to make. Once the campaign starts, she finds out how dirty politics can be and fatigue takes a toll on her as her family resents all the changes that they have had to make. She also has to deal with how harshly she is judged by the press and her peers and when a secret is uncovered, it could threaten not only her campaign but as their issues are resolved, their love story has a hopeful ending.

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**locations of Peoria Public Library will be CLOSED on Wednesday, July 4 for Independence Day**

All locations will close at 6:00 pm Tuesday July 3. Regular hours will resume Thursday, July 5
June 3–July 21
ALL LOCATIONS
Summer Reading: Reading Takes You Everywhere!
Readers of all ages! Sign up for Summer Reading 2018 at your favorite branch! Read 3 hours per week, then visit your library branch to report your reading and earn a weekly prize. If you read 6 weeks of the 7 week program, you will earn a pass to the Summer Reading Party at the Peoria Riverfront Museum on July 24.

July
ALL LOCATIONS
Illinois Reads Contest
Each year the state of Illinois runs a statewide project to promote reading for Illinois citizens by selecting six books in each of six different age categories ranging from read-to books for infants to adult readers. Pick up a reading log and read any four books from your age group. Turn it in by Family Reading Night, November 15, to be entered to win our drawing for a $20 Barnes & Noble gift card. Drawing will be held on November 17. One winner per age group.

July
ALL LOCATIONS
1000 Books Before Kindergarten
Read any 1,000 books to your child before they enter kindergarten and earn prizes for every 100 books. Once your child reads 1,000 books, they will be invited to a graduation party in August.

July 1–21
ALL LOCATIONS
Summer Reading Challenges
Stop by the information desk or visit our website for a list of Summer Reading Challenges. Present the sheet to library staff each time you complete a challenge. Each challenge completed will earn you one entry for a prize drawing at the end of Summer Reading. You'll get a stamp on your challenge sheet and a prize entry form each time you present a challenge to library staff.

July 1–21
ALL LOCATIONS
Walk to Mordor
One does not simply walk into Mordor... but one can try! Download the "Walk to Mordor" app on your phone and follow the Fellowship on their trip through Middle Earth. Anyone who makes it to the Council of Elrond at Rivendell will receive a prize, and the walker with the greatest overall distance will get a Lord of the Rings Funko Pop! figurine. Check in as often as you like by sending a screenshot of your progress to ProgramingDept@ppl.peoria.lib.il.us.

July 1–21
ALL LOCATIONS
Where Has Reading Taken YOU?
Reading really can take you anywhere! Whether you’ve been to Mars, Middle Earth, New York, or somewhere a little closer, tell us where your summer reading has taken you to enter the drawing for a chance to win a $10 Barnes & Noble gift card (one per branch). Stop in any location to enter. We will share responses throughout Summer Reading so you can see just where reading has taken our patrons. For extra fun, share a picture of where reading has taken you on our Instagram page. Tag @peoria_public_library and use #whereiread. All ages!

July
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Blind Date with a Book
Browse our display of wrapped up books, check one out, take it home, unwrap it, and be surprised by your book date! Will it be short, a mystery, something from another world, old fashioned, or long and drawn out? You'll have to check it out to find out!

July
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Caldecott and Newbery Reading Challenge
Pick up a Caldecott or Newbery Challenge sheet. You can do one challenge or both. Return your challenge sheet for a chance to win a $10 Barnes and Noble gift card. One prize per age level.

July
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
One-on-One Resume Writing Assistance
Do you have a copy of your resume on hand and need someone to look over it? Or are you having a hard time writing your resume and you feel like you are not getting anywhere? Please call Fran at 309-497-2200 to schedule in advance for a one-hour session to help you write your resume.

July
MCCLURE BRANCH
National Ice Cream Month
Celebrate National Ice Cream Month by voting for your favorite Peoria ice cream parlor! If your name is drawn at the end of the month, you could win a $10 gift card to the favorite you named.
**JULY CALENDAR**

**July**

**NORTH BRANCH**

**Puzzle Table**

Stop by the table next to the info desk and help us finish one of our jigsaw puzzles! All ages.

**Sunday, July 1**

**LINCOLN BRANCH**

Craft-to-Go: July Fourth Craft – 12:00-5:00 p.m.

Come make a fun July Fourth hat! While supplies last.

**Sunday, July 1**

**LAKEVIEW BRANCH**

Summer Movie Series – 1:30-3:30 p.m.


**July 2-21**

**MCCLURE BRANCH**

The Gnome is Roaming Peoria

The Gnome is on the move outside the library this month! Stop at the information desk to see the newest picture of where the Gnome has gone. Each correct guess will earn an entry for a $10 Barnes and Noble gift card.

**Monday, July 2**

**MCCLURE BRANCH**

Drop In: Patriotic Windsock Craft – 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Create this patriotic windsock decoration to help celebrate the Fourth of July. While supplies last.

**Monday, July 2**

**NORTH BRANCH**

**Tuesday, July 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31**

**MCCLURE BRANCH**

Fairy Garden Craft – 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Even the Fair Folk need a place to rest and relax. Design your own fairy-sized hangout in the Beehive! Ages 10 to 17.

**Tuesday, July 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31**

**MCCLURE BRANCH**

Terrific Tattles Painting – 10:00-10:30 a.m.

Ages 3 to 6.

**Tuesday, July 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31**

**MCCLURE BRANCH**

Fun Time Storytime – 10:00-10:30 a.m.

Ages 3 to 6.

**Tuesday, July 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31**

**MCCLURE BRANCH**

A-Z Storytime – 10:30-11:00 a.m.

Join us for letter-themed stories, songs, and crafts as we focus on learning the shapes of letters and the sounds they make! Ages 2 to 3.

**Tuesday & Thursday, July 5, 10, 12, 17 & 19**

**MCCLURE BRANCH**

Front & Center: Summer Math Mania – 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Basic Math tutoring will be provided for students in grades K-4. This program will provide resources to enhance basic concepts of Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, Division and Fractions. Designed to help students who struggle with the basics of math.

**Friday, July 6**

**MCCLURE BRANCH**

Dog Days Movie Series – 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Stay cool during the “dog days” with these fun movies! All ages welcome.


**Saturday, July 7**

**MCCLURE BRANCH**

Gnome Home Lawn Decoration – 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Every fairytale creature needs a home so here’s your chance to make one for a gnome! Ages 10 to 14.

**Saturday, July 7, 14 & 21**

**MCCLURE BRANCH**

Reading is Magic Movie Series – 1:00-3:00 p.m.

We know that “Reading Takes You Everywhere,” now come and see just where you’ll end up when you choose the right book!

July 7: *Hocus Pocus* (PG)

July 14: *The Spiderwick Chronicles* (PG)

July 21: *Goosebumps* (PG)

**Sunday, July 8**

**LAKEVIEW BRANCH**

Sensory Friendly Family Film – 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Join us for this sensory friendly showing of *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. The room will be lighter, the volume will be lower, and audience members will be welcome to move around, talk, and sing. The intended audience is children with special needs accompanied by siblings and caregivers, although everyone is welcome to attend.
Sunday, July 8
NORTH BRANCH
Biography and Nonfiction Book Club – 3:00-4:30 p.m.
This month: The Woman Who Smashed Codes: A True Story of Love, Spies, and the Unlikely Heroine Who Outwitted America’s Enemies by Jason Fagone

Monday, July 9
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Goodnight Moon Party – 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Enjoy a party set right out of the pages of Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown. We'll read the book, enjoy snacks, make a craft, and take a picture with the Goodnight Moon-inspired background. Space is limited so call 309-497-2200 to reserve yours!

Monday, July 9
MCCLURE BRANCH
The Book Was First Movie Series – 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Join in a viewing of the 2001 film Along Came a Spider based on the book of the same name by James Patterson. Read the book to see how the film measures up or just come to enjoy a movie!

Monday, July 9
NORTH BRANCH
Wizard Tree Craft – 2:00-3:30 p.m.
These tiny trees are the perfect complement to any wizard’s laboratory. Come sculpt your own piece of art! Ages 10 to 17.

Monday, July 9
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Sci Fi & Fantasy Book Club – 6:30-7:30 p.m.
This month: Ranks of Bronze by David Drake

Tuesday, July 10
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Bibliophiles Book Club – 1:30-2:30 p.m.
This month: Little Man, What Now? by Hans Fallada

Tuesday, July 11, 18 & 25
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Bookin’ It Walking Club – 10:00-11:30 a.m.
We will walk inside on yucky days and outside in the nice weather. We will keep track of goals and milestones. Members who complete 24 weeks will be entered into a drawing for a prize!

Wednesday, July 11 & 18
NORTH BRANCH
My First Fairy Tales – 10:30-11:00 a.m.
Ages 3 to 5.

Wednesday, July 11, 18 & 25
NORTH BRANCH
Brainy Baby Storytime – 1:30-2:00 p.m.
Develop your baby’s pre-literacy skills with books, songs, rhymes and finger plays. Age 0-23 mo.

Wednesday, July 11
NORTH BRANCH
Fairytale STEAM Challenge – 3:30-4:30 pm
These characters have problems! Solve them using science, technology, engineering, art, and math. Ages 5 to 8.

Thursday, July 12 & 19
NORTH BRANCH
World of Fairy Tales – 2:30-3:00 p.m.
Join us as we discuss stories we know and learn similar stories from across the globe. Ages 6 to 10.

Thursday, July 12
NORTH BRANCH
Peoria Speaks – 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Peoria Speaks is aimed at strengthening the democratic process through community dialogues on topics of interest to Peorians. Funding is being provided by Illinois Humanities through their Illinois Speaks program. Jennifer Mann has her masters in Social Service Administration from the University of Chicago and has been working at Human Service Center for 7 years. She is the manager of Outpatient Substance Use Services and has also worked as a Mental Health Clinician at the Peoria County Jail and at True North Solutions. She is a trained instructor for Mental Health First Aid. Participants will learn ways to help if someone they know has a mental illness, decreasing the stigma, and available community resources. "Illinois Humanities (IH) is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Illinois General Assembly [through the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency], as well as by contributions from individuals, foundations and corporations. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed by speakers, program participants, or audiences do not necessarily reflect those of the NEH, IH, our partnering organization or our funders."

Friday, July 13
NORTH BRANCH
Pixie Invasion!
It's Friday the 13th, and the library has been overrun by mischievous pixies! If you catch one, bring it to the information desk for a prize! All ages.

Saturday, July 14
NORTH BRANCH
Broken Beauty: The Wreck of the Steamer Columbia – 2:00-4:00 p.m.
The worst maritime accident in the history of the Illinois River, the 1918 wreck of the steamboat Columbia is today a mostly forgotten tragedy. Nearly 500 passengers embarked from Pekin, Illinois, for a midnight cruise. On the return trip a hole was torn in the ship’s hull, the Columbia founders, and 86 lives were lost. The story, recounted in Ken Zurkski’s book The Wreck of the Columbia, has been adapted by Mark Henry Larson for the stage. Presented as a multi-media stage reading, Broken Beauty features 15 actors portraying 57 roles and an original musical score performed live. Mr. Zurkski and Mr. Larson will be on hand for a Q&A session after the performance. Copies of Mr. Zurkski’s book will be available. A portion of book sales will benefit the Friends of Peoria Public Library.

Saturday, July 14
MCCLURE BRANCH
Drop In Scrumptious Science: Homemade Ice Cream – 3:00-4:00 p.m.
Celebrate National Ice Cream Day by stopping in to make your own personal serving of ice cream. You'll also learn the science behind this scrumptious summer favorite snack!

Saturday, July 14
NORTH BRANCH
Drop In: Crafting Free-for-All – 4:00-5:30 p.m.
All the cabinets are open, and all the craft supplies are available. Come and make whatever you can dream up! Ages 7 to 14.

Sunday, July 15
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Summer Movie Series – 1:30-3:00 p.m.
**JULY CALENDAR**

**Sunday, July 15**
LAKEVIEW BRANCH  
Book’Em Mystery Book Club – 2:00-3:30pm  
This month: *The Woman in Cabin 10* by Ruth Ware

**Sunday, July 15**
NORTH BRANCH  
Music in the McKenzie Presents: Sally Weisenburg – 2:00-4:00 p.m.  
Enjoy this diversely talented singer who is comfortable with any style of music. A portion of CD sales support The Friends of Peoria Public Library.

**Monday, July 16**
NORTH BRANCH  
Storytime Lab – 1:30-2:00 p.m.  
Join us for stories about early concepts in science, technology, engineering, art, and math followed by hands-on exploration! Ages 3 to 6.

**Monday, July 16**
NORTH BRANCH  
Gnome Craft – 2:00-3:30 p.m.  
Come to the Beehive to create your very own gnomish friend – where they choose to roam after that is up to you! Ages 10 to 17.

**Tuesday, July 17**
LAKEVIEW BRANCH  
YA for Adults Book Club – 6:30-7:45 p.m.  
Are you in your 20s or 30s and enjoy reading Young Adult books? Join this fun group to discuss the best in YA literature. As a bonus, there are always snacks! This month: *Chaotic Good* by Whitney Gardner

**Wednesday, July 18**
LAKEVIEW BRANCH  
Exercise in the Park – 2:30-3:00 p.m.  
Get some fresh air and exercise by doing some easy stretching and exercises in Lakeview Park. We will exercise inside if it rains. Ages 3 to 7.

**Monday, July 18**
NORTH BRANCH  
STEAM Explorations – 4:30-5:30 p.m.  
Discover the Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math topics that are all around us! This month we will be exploring buoyancy. Ages 6 to 11.

**Wednesday, July 18**
NORTH BRANCH  
Family Activity Night – 6:30-7:30 p.m.  
Get some quality family bonding time. Every month, the library will host a different activity to engage parents and children of all ages to play a game or make a project. Children and adults of all ages. This month: Build the perfect paper airplane.

**Thursday, July 19**
NORTH BRANCH  
Third Thursday Film Fest: Books into Movies – 2:00-4:30 p.m.  
Join us on the third Thursday of each month for movies based on books! Which was better — the movie or the book? It’s your decision to make! Bring a snack and enjoy a movie on the big screen. Free and open to all ages. This month: *The Secret Garden* (1993)

**Friday, July 20**
MCCLURE BRANCH  
Friday, July 27 – LAKEVIEW BRANCH  
Toddler Play Zone – 10:15-11:15 a.m.  
Join us for a special playgroup for toddlers to interact with other kids, play with educational toys, and read books with their parents. Ages 2 to 4.

**Friday, July 20**
NORTH BRANCH  
Percy Jackson Celebration–3:00-4:00 pm  
Calling all demigods! Join us at our own Camp Half-Blood, where we’ll test our knowledge of Greek and Roman mythology and complete quests. Ages 10 to 17.

**Saturday, July 21**
LAKEVIEW BRANCH  
Autism Resource Group–10:00am-1:00pm  
Are you a parent with a tween or teen with Autism Spectrum Disorder? Join us for resource sharing and support. We will provide a movie showing each month for children whose parents are attending the meeting.

**Monday, July 23**
MCCLURE BRANCH  
Monday Morning Movie–10:30am-12:30pm  
Enjoy a classic movie with popcorn! We’ve found some timeless treasures that are at least fifty years old. This month: *The Unsinkable Molly Brown* with Debbie Reynolds (1964)

**Monday, July 23**
NORTH BRANCH  
Les Paul & Mary Ford Tribute Show – 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
Come witness history! Les Paul was the Godfather of the electric guitar and inventor of multi-track “sound on sound” recording. A musical pioneer, inventor, and innovator that literally changed the music as we know it, forever. Tom Doyle, Les Paul’s right hand man of over 45 years, will play Les Paul’s hits and show you how “The Master” did what he did. Don’t miss a once in a lifetime opportunity to get an up close and personal view of the one and only Mr. Les Paul.

**Tuesday, July 24**
LINCOLN BRANCH  
Front & Center: Rainbow in a Jar – 2:00-3:00 p.m.  
Make this beautiful and easy rainbow craft project with colorful sand.

**Tuesday, July 24**
LINCOLN BRANCH  
Read On Book Club – 5:30-7:00 p.m.  
This month: Stalker by Brenda Hampton

**Thursday, July 26**
NORTH BRANCH  
Sherlock Holmes Story Society – 6:30-7:30 p.m.  
All are welcome to experience The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes in this discussion group. This month: *The Adventure of the Reigate Squire*.

**Saturday, July 28**
LAKEVIEW BRANCH  
Summer Movie Series – 2:30-4:30 p.m.  
Join us for a showing of the movie *Splash* (1984). Rated PG.

**Monday, July 30**
LAKEVIEW BRANCH  
What Can You Do With a Box? – 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
From our variety of boxes, kids can make, decorate, and construct with boxes to create artwork or a new favorite play space. Ages 3 to 7.

**Monday, July 30**
LAKEVIEW BRANCH  
Movies by Decade – 6:00-8:00 p.m.  
This month: *Gremlins* (1984)
Join a book club at Peoria Public Library this month. New members are always welcome!

The Bibliophiles Book Club will meet on Tuesday, August 7 at 1:30 p.m. at Lakeview Branch to discuss The Best of It: New and Selected Poems by Kay Ryan. The author is the sixteenth Poet Laureate of the United States from 2008-2010. Here are her own selections of more than two hundred poems, offering both longtime followers and new readers a retrospective of her earlier work as well as a generous selection of new poems.

The Book ‘Em Mystery Book Club will meet on Sunday, August 19 at 2:00 p.m. at Lakeview Branch to discuss The Stranger You Seek by Amanda Kyle Williams. When offered the chance to catch a serial killer who has eluded the police for years, former FBI profiler and alcoholic Keye Street begins a cat-and-mouse chase with an adversary who has taken a personal interest in her.

The Sci-Fi Fantasy Book Club will meet on Monday, August 13 at Lakeview Branch at 6:30 p.m. to discuss United States of Japan by Peter Tieryas Liu. Decades ago, Japan won World War II. Americans worship their infallible Emperor, and nobody believes that Japan’s conduct in the war was anything but exemplary. Nobody, that is, except the George Washingtons – a shadowy group of rebels fighting for freedom. Their latest subversive tactic is to distribute an illegal video game that asks players to imagine what the world might be like if the United States had won the war instead. Captain Beniko Ishimura’s job is to censor video games, and he’s tasked with getting to the bottom of this disturbing new development. But Ishimura’s hiding something... He’s slowly been discovering that the case of the George Washingtons is more complicated that it seems, and the videogame’s origins are even more controversial and dangerous than the censors originally suspected.

The Biography and Non-Fiction Book Club will meet on Sunday, August 12 at 3:00 p.m. at North Branch to discuss Megafire: The Race to Extinguish a Deadly Epidemic of Flame by Michael Kodas. A brilliant exploration of the rising phenomenon of megafires—forest fires of alarming scale, intensity, and devastation—that explains the science of what is causing them and captures the danger and heroism of those who fight them. In Megafire, a world-renowned journalist and forest fire expert travels to the most dangerous and remote wildernesses, as well as to the backyards of people faced with these environmental disasters, to look at the heart of this phenomenon and witness firsthand the heroic efforts of the firefighters and scientists racing against time to stop it—or at least to tame these deadly flames. From Colorado to California, China to Canada, the narrative hopscotches the globe and takes readers to the frontlines of the battle both on the ground and in the air, and in the laboratories, universities, and federal agencies where this issue rages on. Megafire describes the profound impact of these fires around the earth and will change the way we think about the environment and the essential precariousness of our world.

Friends of Clonmel Intercontinental Readers will meet at 1:00 p.m. on September 11 at Main Library on LL1 to hold a Skype discussion with the group in Clonmel, Ireland about Hillbilly Elegy by J. D. Vance. Hillbilly Elegy is a passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis—that of white working-class Americans. The decline of this group, a demographic of our country that has been slowly disintegrating for forty years, has been reported on with growing frequency and alarm, but has never before been written about as searingly from the inside. J. D. Vance tells the true story of what a social, regional, and class decline feels like when you were born with it hung around your neck.

The Read on Book Club will meet at Lincoln Branch on Tuesday, August 28 to discuss An American Marriage by Tayari Jones. Newlyweds Celestial and Roy are the embodiment of both the American Dream and the New South. He is a young executive and she is an artist on the brink of an exciting career. But as they settle into the routine of their life together, they are ripped apart by circumstances neither could have imagined. Roy is arrested and sentenced to twelve years for a crime Celestial knows he didn’t commit. Though fiercely independent, Celestial finds herself bereft and unmoored, taking comfort in Andre, her childhood friend, and best man at their wedding. As Roy’s time in prison passes, she is unable to hold on to the love that has been her center. After five years, Roy’s conviction is suddenly overturned, and he returns to Atlanta ready to resume their life together.

The Sherlock Holmes Story Society will meet at North Branch at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 23 at North Branch to discuss “The Adventure of the Crooked Man.” Holmes calls on Watson late one evening to tell him about a case that he has been working on, and also to invite him to be a witness to the final stage of the investigation. Colonel James Barclay, of The Royal Malloys based at Aldershot Camp, is dead, apparently by violence, and his wife, Nancy, is the prime suspect. Holmes believes that the case is not what it at first appears to be. Although the staff are quite sure that they only heard the Colonel’s and his wife’s voices as Nancy spoke of “David,” Holmes is convinced that a third person came into the room at the time of the Colonel’s death. This Holmes deduces from footmarks found in the road, on the lawn, and in the morning room. Odder still, the mystery man seems to have brought an animal with him. Judging from the footmarks it made, it is long with short stumpy legs, like a weasel or a stoat, but bigger than either of those animals. Holmes and Watson are on the case!
Over 20 years ago, I took a class in high school sociology class. One of the subjects we covered was death and dying. The teacher offered extra credit in this section as a way to make teenagers more comfortable with cemeteries. The task was to visit cemeteries in the local area and look for unusual headstones and epitaphs, then report back with our findings. Being an overachiever, I immediately took up the task. This is probably when my fascination with cemeteries and their stories started.

Interestingly enough, many cemeteries were set up to be not only a resting place for the dear departed, but also a picturesque setting for the living. For example, in the library's archives, a description of Springdale Cemetery from the 1930s refers to the miles of walking trails, the native flora and fauna, and the views to be had. It speaks of the tranquility and peace among the headstones and goes so far as to call the stately cemetery "the most beautiful park."

Prior to beginning my genealogy journey, I would not have considered any cemetery as a place of serenity. But then, I have a vivid and active imagination that likes to play boogie man with my mind. However, in the last few years, I have come to appreciate the quiet grandeur of cemeteries. In my quest to locate the burial places of my ancestors, I have made several unexpected discoveries. Given the expanse of Springdale cemetery, it is no surprise that visitors should bring a map with them until they are completely sure they know how to navigate the narrow and winding turns of the cemetery.

When you are ready to start exploring the historic cemeteries of Peoria, stop by the Peoria Public Library to see what information is available to help guide you. We have resources and staff available to assist you in your journey. Whether you are looking for your own ancestors, a peaceful walking trail, or fulfilling a homework assignment, we would be happy to help you discover your own appreciation for the secrets and the beauty of our cemeteries.

**HVAC Overhaul Coming at Main Library**

In spite of having undergone a major remodeling project six years ago, Main Library has continued to rely on its 1960s era heating and cooling system – a system that can no longer be repaired and repeatedly breaks down. In fact, the system is so out of date that it is the last remaining system of this type in existence in a wide surrounding area.

The Board of Trustees, after seeking bids, awarded the design contract to APACE for a new heating and cooling system and this summer the construction portions of the project will go out for bid. Massive boilers in a lower basement boiler room will be replaced with smaller, modern units and much of the duct work throughout the main floors will also be replaced. In addition, a massive electrical panel will be removed and replaced.

Some of this work will require that the Main and Second Floor levels of Main Library be closed to the public this fall for a period of time, however all branches will be available for normal library service. Watch the library website, newsletters and social media for updates on the progress of this project.