The Great American Read has started a debate about which one book of the 100 on the PBS list is the best, what books should be there, and what books should not, amongst book lovers. Peoria Public Library is offering a variety of programs about The Great American Read selections throughout the next few months, before and during the time the series is airing on PBS. These are great opportunities to hold discussions with fellow book lovers.

On Wednesday, August 1, at 6:30 p.m. at North Branch, join Dr. Melinda J. McBee Orzulak as she leads the local discussion of “Who Am I?” Young Adult (YA) Literature is a fast-growing field and offers stories that help us make sense of our own lives, as we observe characters on their own journeys. No matter our age, these books provide us with new perspectives. This Great American Read discussion reflects on, “How do our favorite books about self-discovery help us navigate our life's journey?” Melinda J. McBee Orzulak is an associate professor of English at Bradley University, where she teaches Young Adult Literature and enjoys working with teachers learning methods for teaching reading with YA literature.

Then on Thursday, August 23 at 6:00 p.m. at North Branch, explore the books of The Great American Read that deal with monsters and villains and why we like to read about them. Monsters vs. Villains with Colleen Karn explores the idea that in literature, not all monsters are the bad guys. Using examples from books on The Great American Read list, Colleen Karn will illustrate how monsters aren't always the villains and that often human beings are the villains. Colleen Karn is Assistant Professor of English and Humanities at Methodist College and her scholarship focuses on the cultural use of monsters.

Over the next few months, Peoria Public Library will present discussions on other topics that will be covered by The Great American Read. Compete in a trivia contest on Saturday, September 22 at 2:00 p.m. at North Branch or complete a Banned Books-The Great American Read Bingo card at your favorite branch to be entered into a drawing.

Library staff have gathered books from The Great American Read list into displays at each branch, so look for the ones you want to read there, or use the catalog to place one on hold or ask at any information desk for help finding the books on the list.

Remember to vote daily for your favorite book from The Great American Read list at http://www.pbs.org/the-great-american-read/home/ or pick up a checklist at any Peoria Public Library location.

Programming for The Great American Read is offered as part of a grant from the American Library Association and PBS.

Heating and Air Conditioning System Overhaul Planned at Main Library

After hiring apaceDesign to design a new HVAC system for Main Library, bids have gone out to contractors to have the actual work done. The Main Library HVAC system is the original system from the 1960s and was not replaced during the last major renovation. The original system can no longer be effectively repaired and the new system is expected to not only make the building more comfortable, but to save money on utility bills.

Details of how the major project will affect services at Main Library will be forthcoming. As contractors are approved by the Board of Trustees and address how the work will proceed, information will become available.

The original system that currently heats and cools the building includes massive boilers that fill an entire room as well as giant cooling towers that fill another entire room. The new system is expected to fill only a tiny portion of the behind-the-scenes rooms currently taken up by the old system. A new electrical panel will also be installed as part of the system to handle the new equipment.

Watch the Peoria Public Library website and newsletter for updates and more information.
Director’s Message

Hello! My name is Randall Yelverton, and I am the new Executive Director of the Peoria Public Library. I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself and let you know why I love the Peoria Public Library. My family and I have lived in Peoria for the past seven years while I served as Director of the Washington District Library. We have enjoyed living in Peoria, using its many wonderful library locations and taking advantage of the area’s great resources. I am excited about the opportunity to lead the library and serve its residents.

One of the first things we did when we became Peoria residents back in 2011 was to visit the many library locations that were just a short drive from our home. We brought the kids down to the Main Library and played with the super-sized light board. We visited the recently renovated Lakeview Branch and took advantage of their wonderful selection of books and films. We had a blast at the Lincoln Branch Easter egg hunt, read stories together at the North Branch, enjoyed the cozy comforts of the McClure Branch and even got a chance to hop aboard the Bookmobile at a local fair. I was excited to discover the many different libraries contained in the diverse and far-reaching Peoria Public Library system.

No matter where you live in Peoria, chances are there is a Peoria Public Library location near you. They are bustling places with great activities for visitors of all ages. They are excellent places to unwind for a leisurely read, meet with friends for a book club, or get some work done in one of our private study spaces. If you are new to town or haven’t been to one of our library locations in awhile, please stop by. You’re always welcome at the Peoria Public Library, and we hope to see you soon.

But My Family Isn’t From Peoria...

BY AMBER LOWERY

In a recent discussion, a person admitted they would like to do genealogy but their family was not from Peoria. They did not think Peoria Public Library would be helpful to their research. Naturally, I disagreed with this line of thought. However, it did get me thinking as I began helping this patron discover their family history. Do our patrons know that our collection goes beyond Peoria?

Trust me; I get the pleasure every day of re-shelving our not-Peoria materials in our Local History and Genealogy collection.

We have quite a diverse collection of resources from a growing number of places. Perhaps you need to research your family’s time in Virginia, or maybe you need to know more about your one line that came from Ohio. Or are you trying to discover more about County Donegal in Ireland? Possibly you have heard online that someone wrote a family history fifty years ago and you cannot locate a copy to look through. Do not discount the value the library can provide resources just because your family is not native to the Peoria area.

Admittedly, the larger portion of our collection focuses on the immediate and surrounding area, but that does not mean we cannot be of help. We have quite a few county history books from the area and beyond. We also have vital record indices for various counties outside of Illinois. We subscribe to and receive newsletters and journals from major research locations. Cemetery books, church records, early marriage records from early states and more are awaiting your perusal. Check in with us at the Peoria Public Library Local History and Genealogy collection. We may not have everything you seek; however, we might guide you to resources you never knew existed. Peoria Public Library is a good place to start!

Amber Lowery will talk about Irish Genealogy on August 25 at 2:30 and August 26 at 3:30 at Irish Fest on the Riverfront.

Coming in August 2018

Sweet Little Lies is a debut novel by Caz Frear that begins when Cat Kinsella overcomes a troubled childhood and becomes a Detective Constable with the Metropolitan Police Force. She is called to the scene of a murder of a young housewife named Alice Lapaine. Cat and her team first suspect that the murderer is Alice’s husband but when Cat receives a mysterious phone call that links the victim to Maryanne Doyle, a teenage girl who went missing in Ireland eighteen years earlier, it brings back a memory. Her family was on holiday and met Maryanne right before she vanished. At the time, Cat’s father denied knowing anything about Maryanne or her disappearance but Cat knew he was not telling the truth. This latest murder happened not far from the pub that her father runs. Could he have had something to do with Maryanne’s disappearance? Could he have murdered Alice Lapaine? Cat is not sure if you can trust a liar, even if he may be telling the truth. With a determination to close both cases, Cat crosses ethical boundaries and disregards professional codes to find answers.

Tiffany Blues is the newest book by M.J. Rose and is set in New York in 1924. Jenny Bell, an up and coming artist at twenty-four, gets invited along with a few other budding artists to attend the prestigious Louis Comfort Tiffany’s artists’ colony. Jenny plans to take full advantage of this chance and is determined to avoid any diversions or romantic situations. But Jenny has a past that has followed her to Long Island. Memories of her mother, her cruel stepfather, waterfalls, murder and the Andrew Mercer Reformatory for Women loom behind her, even as she falls for Tiffany’s grandson, Oliver. Competition between the artists for a spot at Tiffany’s New York gallery are fierce and there are a number of suspicious events that happen to Jenny that make her realize that someone may be trying to expose her. With close friends Minx Deering and Oliver by her side, Jenny’s past and present collide one night in a moment that will threaten her future, her love, her friendships and even her life.
August
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 they read. Sign up at any Peoria Public Library location. Details are given at the time of signup. Once your child reads 1,000 books, they will be invited to a graduation party in August.

August
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 six different age categories ranging from read-to books for infants to adult readers. Pick up a reading log at any location to participate. 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.

August
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Caldecott and Newbery Reading Challenge
Stop by to pick up a Caldecott or Newbery Challenge sheet. You can do one challenge or both. Return your challenge sheet to the Lakeview Branch when you’re finished for a chance to win a $10 Barnes and Noble gift card. One prize per age level.

August
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? The Lakeview Branch has a One-On-One Resume Writing Assistance Program for job seekers. Please call Fran at 309-497-2200 to schedule a one-hour session to help you write your resume.

August
NORTH BRANCH
Puzzle Table
Have a few extra minutes before you check out? Waiting for a program to start? Stop by the table next to the info desk and help us finish one of our jigsaw puzzles! All ages.

August
MAIN LIBRARY & LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Crafts-to-Go
In a hurry? Can't stay and craft? Get your crafts to go. Kids ages 5 through 12 can pick up a craft packet at the Information Desk any time we're open. Ask for a Craft-to-Go, take it home and the fun begins. While supplies last.

Wednesday, August 1
NORTH BRANCH
Brainy Baby Storytime – 1:30-2:00 p.m.
Develop your baby’s pre-literacy skills with this lapsit program, designed to introduce children and their caregivers to books, songs, rhymes and finger plays that will help them understand new concepts and enhance their love of learning. Caregivers will be encouraged to engage their child through one-on-one interactions, making reading time fun. Age 0 to 23 months.

Wednesday, August 1
NORTH BRANCH
Who Am I? : YA Literature in The Great American Read- 6:30 p.m. -7:45 p.m.
The fast-growing field of Young Adult (YA) literature offers stories that help us make sense of our own lives, as we observe the characters on their own journeys. No matter our age, these books provide us with new perspectives. This Great American Read discussion reflects on, “How do our favorite books about self-discovery help us navigate our life’s journey?” This discussion explores how these books provide us with new perspectives. This Great American Read discussion reflects on, “How do our favorite books about self-discovery help us navigate our life’s journey?” This discussion explores how these favorites help us answer, Who Am I? All readers are welcome to join a discussion of the YA literature titles on the Great American Read list, including Ghost, The Book Thief, The Outsiders, Looking for Alaska, the Harry Potter series, The Giver, and The Coldest Winter Ever. Discuss your favorites and learn about new ones. What next reads on the list would continue your reading journey (or be a great book to share with a teen in your life)? This program may be particularly interesting to teens, secondary English teachers, parents, and adult readers of YA.

Wednesday, August 1
NORTH BRANCH
Campfire Mystery Book Club–7:00-7:45 pm
It’s late night at the library, and there are mysteries to be solved! Bring your pajamas, sleeping bags, and flashlights, and listen to the first chapter of a book under the stars in the Beehive. Then take home a copy to finish on your own! Ages 8 to 12.

Thursday, August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
MCCLURE BRANCH
Fun Time Storytime – 10:00-10:30 a.m.
Ages 3 to 6.

Thursday, August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
NORTH BRANCH
A-Z Storytime – 10:30-11:00 a.m.
We’re learning the alphabet! 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.

Friday, August 3
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Toddler Art – 10:15-11:00 a.m.
Crafts-to-Go
Main Library & Lakeview Branch
Information Desk any time we're open. Ask for a Craft-to-Go, take it home and the fun begins. While supplies last.

Friday, August 3
MCCLURE BRANCH
Baby Playground – 10:15-11:15 a.m.
Calling all babies! Join us for a special playgroup designed to help you explore your world through creative play. Ages 9 months to 24 months.
**AUGUST CALENDAR**

Friday, August 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31
NORTH BRANCH
Busy Bees Storytime – 10:30-11:00 a.m.
Children of all ages.

Friday, August 3
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Drop In: LEGO Builders Club–3:00-5:00pm
Drop in any time to play. Parental supervision is required.

Friday, August 3 & 10
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. August 3: Hotel for Dogs
August 10: The Secret Life of Pets

August 4 – 25
MAIN LIBRARY GALLERY
Curious Metaphors: An Exhibit by Michael Amis, William Butler, and Nichole Gronvold Roller
William Butler curates an art exhibition including artists from Bloomington and Tremont and his own work. Amis creates glass sculpture, Butler and Gronvold Roller are painters. Exercising the muscles of play and curiosity, these artists give the viewer permission to explore the inner child, to revert to a time when we all were serious artists. A public reception will be held on Saturday, August 4 from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. The Gallery is free and open to the public Monday through Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 4
NORTH BRANCH
Family Caregiver Day – 10:00 am-1:00 pm
Are you a caregiver for a family member with special needs? Join us at the Peoria Public Library North Branch on Saturday, August 4, 2018, for a day of helpful information and family fun. The event will begin at 10:00 with a sensory story time, craft for all ages at 10:30, and a panel discussion with audience questions and answers from 11:00 to 1:00. The panel will include representatives from local organizations including the Alzheimer’s Association, EPIC, and the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Refreshments will be served.

Saturday, August 4
LINCOLN BRANCH
Craft-to-Go: Back to School – 12:00-5:00 p.m.
Make a craft to get ready for school! While supplies last. Children of all ages.

Saturday, August 4, 11, 18 & 25
NORTH BRANCH
Busier Bees Storytime – 10:30-11:00 a.m.
Children of all ages.

Monday, August 6, 13, 20 & 27
NORTH BRANCH – 10:30-11:00 A.M.
Wednesday, Aug. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
LAKEVIEW BRANCH – 10:15-10:45 A.M.
Tiny Tots Storytime
Ages 12 to 23 months.

Monday, August 6 & 13
NORTH BRANCH
Ready for Kindergarten Stories and More – 4:00-4:30 p.m.
Kindergarten is just around the corner. Is your little one excited, nervous, or both at once? Bring your child to the Beehive room for some stories about the fun that awaits them, as well as a sneak peek at what they might expect on their first day!

Tuesday, August 7 & 21
LINCOLN BRANCH
Terrific Tattletale Storytime – 10:00-10:30 a.m.
Ages 3 to 6.

Tuesday, August 7, 14, 21 & 28
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Bookin’ It Walking Club – 10:00-11:30 a.m.
Need help starting a consistent fitness routine? Join the Bookin’ It Walking Club and get a little support! The club will meet each Tuesday for a 30 minute (or longer if you’re up for it!) walk at Lakeview Branch. 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! All ages welcome.

Tuesday, August 7
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Bibliophiles Book Club – 1:30-2:30 p.m.
This month: The Best of It: New and Selected Poems by Kay Ryan

Tuesday, August 7
LINCOLN BRANCH
Front & Center: Dancing Popcorn Experiment – 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Bring life to your popcorn kernels with this easy DIY experiment using ingredients found on your shelves at home. Children of all ages.

Tuesday, August 7
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Drop In: Sensory Art – 6:15-7:30 p.m.
This non-structured art session allows you to choose the materials of your preference to create your own unique masterpiece. Lights will be dimmed, and ear muffs and fidgets are available if desired. Designed with our patrons with Autism Spectrum Disorder in mind, but inclusive to everyone.

Wednesday, August 8
MCCLURE BRANCH
Drop In: Back to School Picture Frame – 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Create a picture frame to hold your photo from your first day back to school! Children of all ages. While supplies last.

Wednesday, August 8
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 screws and wedges. Ages 6 to 11.

Thursday, August 9 & Tuesday, August 14
Lincoln Branch
Puppet Show: Back to School Blues – 10:00-10:30 a.m.
Come enjoy the funny things that happen in this back to school show! Ages 3 to 6.

Saturday, August 11
MCCLURE BRANCH
Chocolate Chip Cookie Taste Testing – 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
It’s National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day this month! There's no better way to celebrate than by testing out some different types of chocolate chip cookies and voting for your favorite! All ages welcome.
Sunday, August 12
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Sensory Friendly Family Film – 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Join us for this sensory friendly showing of Wreck It Ralph. 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. Noise canceling ear muffs and fidgets will be supplied. Rated PG

Monday, August 13
MCCLURE BRANCH
The Book Was First Movie Series – 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Join in a viewing of the 2010 film Eat Pray Love based on the book Eat, Pray, Love: One Woman's Search for Everything Across Italy, India and Indonesia by Elizabeth Gilbert. Read the book before you come to see how the film measures up or just come to enjoy a movie and light refreshments on a Monday morning!

Monday, August 13
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, August 13
MCCLURE BRANCH
International Left Handers’ Day – 4:00-5:00 p.m.
We’ll learn about some famous lefties in history, and play some leftie-oriented games. Fun for lefties and righties alike! This program is intended for children ages 6 to 12 and their caregivers.

Monday, August 13
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Sci Fi & Fantasy Book Club – 6:30-7:30 pm
This month: United States of Japan by Peter Tieryas Liu

Wednesday, August 15
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: Play a giant game of Word Winder.

Thursday, August 16
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 Jungle Book (2016)

Friday, August 17
MCCLURE 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.

Saturday, August 18
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Autism Resource Group-10:00 am-1:00 pm
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.

Saturday, August 18
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Sensory Storytime – 10:15-11:00 a.m.
Books, activities, and music designed to engage the senses with part of each session reserved for sensory play and socialization for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder or other special needs. Fidgets and ear muffs are available. Geared for patrons ages 4 to 8 with special needs.

Saturday, August 18
NORTHMOOR OBSERVATORY AT DONOVAN PARK
International Observe the Moon Night – 6:30-10:30 p.m.
Join us for the 8th year of collaboration with the Peoria Astronomical Society as we celebrate International Moon Night at Northmoor Observatory. We will have a Moon Storytime and you will have a chance to look through the big telescope! Peoria Astronomical Society members will be on hand to let us know exactly what we are seeing in the night sky. Sunset is estimated for 7:50pm with complete darkness around 8:30pm, so it should be a great night for viewing! Northmoor Observatory is located in the Donovan Park on North Knoxville in Peoria. Park in the main parking lot and walk approximately 500 feet south to the dome. Flashlights come in handy for the walk across the grass. This event is free and all ages are welcome! **Weather permitting** Please call 497-2143 with questions.

Sunday, August 19
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Book ‘Em Mystery Book Club–2:00-3:30pm
This month: The Stranger You Seek by Amanda Kyle Williams

Monday, August 20
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Retirement Planning Workshop – 6:00-7:30 p.m.
When should I retire? Will I have enough money to retire? What can I do now? What are my health insurance options? What about my spouse? These are some of the questions that will be answered, and more, by Steve Buttice, Living By Your Design, Inc., with help from Beth Cooper, retired from Social Security Administration, and now working for Living By Your Design, Inc. Come hear what they have to say about planning for retirement. Please bring a friend and your questions!

Tuesday, August 21
LINCOLN BRANCH
Front & Center: Cookie Cutter Bird Feeder – 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Create cute cookie cutter bird feeders for our feathered friends. Children of all ages.
Tuesday, August 21
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: *Children of Blood and Bone* by Tomi Adeyemi

Thursday, August 23
NORTH BRANCH
The Great American Read: Monsters vs. Villains – 6:00-7:45 p.m.
In literature, not all monsters are bad guys. Using examples from books on The Great American Read list, Colleen Karn will illustrate how monsters aren’t always the villains and that often human beings are the villains. Colleen Karn is Assistant Professor of English & Humanities at Methodist College. Her scholarship focuses on the cultural use of monsters.

Saturday, August 25
MCCLURE BRANCH
Drop In: Weather Chart – 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Wondering if the weather will be nice today so you can go out and play? Have a grown-up check the weather and then you can report it on your new weather chart you create so you’ll always know! Ages 3 to 6.

Saturday, August 25
NORTH BRANCH
Teen Craft: Stress Ball – 2:00-2:45 p.m.
Does the new school year have you frazzled? Do you like to keep your hands busy while studying? Learn how to make a stress ball. Ages 11 to 18.

Saturday, August 25
NORTH BRANCH
Drop in: Crafting Free-for-All – 4:00-5:30 pm
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, August 26
NORTH BRANCH
Music in the McKenzie Presents: Nathan Taylor Band – 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Nathan Taylor and Friends perform a range of vintage American roots music. Enjoy classic roots songs, blues of the delta, jazz of early New Orleans, and some great originals that fit right in with the old styles. You’ll want to dance to the tasty tunes these guys have put together. Their feel-good music will transport you back to simpler time, and it’s a show that you won’t want to miss! A portion of CD sales support The Friends of Peoria Public Library.

Monday, August 27
MCCLURE BRANCH
Monday Morning Movie – 10:30am-12:30pm
Enjoy a classic movie with popcorn! Let’s return to yesteryear! We’ve found some timeless treasures that are at least fifty years old. This month: *The Alamo* with John Wayne (1960)

Monday, August 27
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Movies by Decade – 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Each month we will screen a movie from a different decade starting with the 1920s and moving towards modern films. This month: *Fargo* (1996)

Tuesday, August 28
LINCOLN BRANCH
Front & Center: Canvas String Art Graffiti – 5:00-6:00 p.m.
Create a bright and colorful canvas art piece using string and paint. Children of all ages.

Tuesday, August 28
LINCOLN BRANCH
Read On Book Club – 5:30-7:00 p.m.
This month: *An American Marriage* by Tayari Jones

Curious Metaphors in Gallery in August

Michael Amis of Bloomington, William Butler of Peoria and Nichole Gronvold Roller of Tremont will exhibit an exciting variety of artwork August 4 through 25, in the Lower Level 1 Gallery at Main Library. The public is invited to a reception in the Gallery on Saturday, August 4 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. to meet the artists and talk about their work. The Gallery is free and open to the public Monday through Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Amis will show glass sculpture, Butler and Gronvold Roller will display paintings. Although each artist has a very different approach to art making, they are linked by a synthesis of form and imagery, a dream-like existence where disparaging elements of known reality are joined in a surreal landscape. One may observe an assemblage of layers that one can see inside of as well as the exterior, creating either real three-dimensional objects or imagery that appears to be three-dimensional. The artists intentionally create a paradox of something that is false but seems even more real. The objects perform a function and we capture a glimpse of them in process. Exercising the muscles of play and curiosity, these artists give the viewer permission to explore the inner child, to revert to a time when we all were serious artists.
SEPTMBER BOOK CLUBS

Join a book club at Peoria Public Library this month. New members are always welcome!

The Biography and Non-Fiction Book Club will meet on Sunday, September 9 at 3:00 p.m. at North Branch to discuss Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis by J. D. Vance. To understand the rage and disaffection of America’s working-class whites, look to Greater Appalachia. In Hillbilly Elegy, J.D. Vance confronts us with the economic and spiritual travails of this forgotten corner of our country. Here we find women and men who dearly love their country, yet who feel powerless as their way of life is devastated. “A beautifully and powerfully written memoir about the author’s journey from a troubled, addiction-torn Appalachian family to Yale Law School, Hillbilly Elegy is shocking, heartbreaking, gut-wrenching, and hysterically funny. It’s also a profoundly important book, one that opens a window on a part of America usually hidden from view and offers genuine hope in the form of hard-hitting honesty. Hillbilly Elegy announces the arrival of a gifted and utterly original new writer and should be required reading for everyone who cares about what’s really happening in America.”

The Book ‘Em Mystery Book Club will meet on Sunday, September 16 at 2:00 p.m. at Lakeview Branch to discuss Dying for Mercy by Mary Jane Clark. A very suspicious death and a sprawling mansion with secrets and puzzles built into the very architecture are among the elements that make Dying for Mercy an “unputdownable” mystery. The third riveting thriller from New York Times bestselling Mary Jane Clark to feature Eliza Blake and her KEY News television colleagues, Dying for Mercy combines the gripping suspense of Faye Kellerman with the kind of brilliant twists, turns, and surprises that would make Agatha Christie proud.

The Sherlock Holmes Story Society will meet at North Branch at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 27 at North Branch to discuss “The Adventure of the Resident Patient,” one of the 56 Sherlock Holmes stories written by British author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and one of 12 stories in the cycle collected as The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes. Doctor Percy Trevelyan brings Holmes an unusual problem. Having been a brilliant student but a poor man, Dr. Trevelyan has found himself a participant in an unusual business arrangement. A man named Blessington, claiming to have some money to invest, has set Trevelyan up in premises with a prestigious address and paid all his expenses. In return, he demands three-fourths of all the money that the doctor’s practice earns, which he collects every evening, going over the books thoroughly. Blessington is himself infirm, it turns out, and likes this arrangement because he can always have a doctor nearby. Everything has gone fairly well for the doctor since the arrangement began. Now, however, something has happened to Blessington. A Russian nobleman requires the services of Dr. Trevelyan and something is not quite right. Blessington is even more agitated and claims someone has been in his rooms. Holmes and Watson pay a visit and realize things are not as they seem.

The Bibliophiles Book Club will meet on Tuesday, September 4 at 1:30 p.m. at Lakeview Branch to discuss What She Left Behind by Ellen Marie Wiseman. Ten years ago, Izzy Stone’s mother fatally shot her father while he slept. Devastated by her mother’s apparent insanity, Izzy, now seventeen, refuses to visit her in prison. But her new foster parents, employees at the local museum, have enlisted Izzy's help in cataloging items at a long-shuttered state asylum. There, amid piles of abandoned belongings, Izzy discovers a stack of letters, a decades-old journal, and a window into her own past.

The YA Book Club for Adults will meet on Tuesday, September 18 at 6:30 p.m. at Lakeview Branch to discuss Barbed Wire Heart by Tess Sharpe. Harley McKenna is the only child of North County’s biggest criminal. Duke McKenna’s run more guns, cooked more meth, and killed more men than anyone around. Harley’s been working for him since she was sixteen—collecting debts, sweet-talking her way out of trouble, and dreading the day he’d deem her ready to rule the rural drug empire he’s built. Her time’s run out. The Springfields, her family’s biggest rivals, are moving in. Years ago, they were responsible for her mother’s death, and now they’re coming for Duke’s only weak spot: his daughter. With a bloody turf war threatening to consume North County, Harley is forced to confront the truth: that her father’s violent world will destroy her. Duke’s raised her to be deadly—he never counted on her being disloyal. But if Harley wants to survive and protect the people she loves, she’s got to take out Duke’s operation and the Springfields. Blowing up meth labs is dangerous business, and getting caught will be the end of her, but Harley has one advantage: She is her father’s daughter, and McKennas always win.

The Read on Book Club will meet at Lincoln Branch on Tuesday, September 25 to discuss Her Secret Life by Tiffany L. Warren. Scarred by poverty and life with a crackhead mother, Onika Lewis had a rough start. Still, thanks to her sharp mind she graduated with honours from a prestigious college. But her achievements weren’t enough to earn her the elite status she craved and she became a rich man’s trophy... until he dumped her for a younger model. Now Onika is unemployed, broke and homeless. When she meets Graham, she can’t bring herself to tell him the truth, but her secrets soon catch up with her. Now she must remember what really matters – faith, love and forgiveness.
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 over 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 Sci-Fi Fantasy Book Club will meet on Monday, September 10 at Lakeview Branch at 6:30 p.m. to discuss The Big Sheep by Robert Kroese. ‘Los Angeles of 2039 is a baffling and bifurcated place. After the Collapse of 2028, a vast section of LA, the Disincorporated Zone, was disowned by the civil authorities, and became essentially a third world country within the borders of the city. Navigating the boundaries between DZ and LA proper is a tricky task, and there’s no one better suited than eccentric private investigator Erasmus Keane. When a valuable genetically altered sheep mysteriously goes missing from Esper Corporation’s labs, Keane is the one they call. But while the erratic Keane and his more grounded partner, Blake Fowler, are on the trail of the lost sheep, they land an even bigger case. Beautiful television star Priya Mistry suspects that someone is trying to kill her - and she wants Keane to find out who. When Priya vanishes and then reappears with no memory of having hired them, Keane and Fowler realize something very strange is going on. As they unravel the threads of the mystery, it soon becomes clear that the two cases are connected - and both point to a sinister conspiracy involving the most powerful people in the city. Saving Priya and the sheep will take all of Keane’s wits and Fowler’s skills, but in the end, they may discover that some secrets are better left hidden.

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After seven weeks of reading three hours a week and signing in each week, over 3,000 readers of all ages picked up prizes from our generous sponsors and about 1,000 readers attended the fabulous Summer Reading Party at the Peoria Riverfront Museum on Tuesday, July 24. Friends of Peoria Public Library paid for the party and attendees saw the Mythic Creatures Exhibit, a planetarium show, a 3D movie in the giant screen theater, a magic show, enjoyed Belle telling stories, got balloons from The Unique Twist Balloon Artists and enjoyed all the other exhibits at the museum. Attendees also had the opportunity to win Prize Bundles and one of the Grand Prizes.

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