Heating and Air Conditioning Project Finishes at Main Library

The overhaul of the antiquated Main Library heating and air conditioning systems, that closed two floors of the building for several months, has reached an end with the building being fully open in late December. While heat became available early in the month, it took several more weeks to finish details and clean up from the massive project. Materials that were sent out to branches so they would continue to be available to the public started returning to Main Library in early December.

The project, while it caused some interruption in service, prevented a much longer shutdown that would have come as a result of the old system failing unexpectedly. Library users will find the building more comfortable and be assured that the new, efficient system will serve the Main Library well for decades to come.

Smoke Free Campus Policy Voted On at December Board Meeting

On December 18, the Peoria Public Library Board of Trustees considered implementing a new policy to make all Peoria Public Library property smoke free. At the time of this writing, it is expected that the policy will have passed and will be implemented on January 1. For confirmation and details visit the library website at www.peoriapubliclibrary.org.

The policy is aimed at making Peoria Public Library a welcoming, healthy and safe environment for both patrons and staff. Due to acknowledged health hazards arising from exposure to second hand smoke, the library will be a smoke and tobacco free environment.

The use of any smoke in any form, including inhaling, exhaling, burning or carrying any lighted or heated cigar as well as the use of all forms of tobacco including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookahs), electronic cigarettes (vaporizers), and smokeless tobacco will be prohibited on all Peoria Public Library property, although smoking in private vehicles that are parked at least 25 feet from an entrance or air intake vent will be allowed.

Nicotine Replacement Therapy products, known as nicotine patches, approved by the FDA are not considered a tobacco product.

Peoria Public Library joins many other institutions in the city in providing a healthier environment.

Peorians Begin Reading Can’t We Talk About Something More Pleasant? For Peoria Reads! 2019

Peorians have already begun reading the 2019 Peoria Reads! NEA Big Read selection Can’t We Talk About Something More Pleasant? by Roz Chast and planning for a series of events in February and March.

In January, the Peoria City Council will proclaim Peoria Reads! season and attendees of the Osher Life Long Learning Institute at Bradley University will discuss the book. A musical kickoff will take place on February 24, with a series of events and discussions scheduled throughout March. All will focus on themes found in the book, which is a graphic novel. Reading a graphic novel will be a new experience for some, but the author is Roz Chast, a long-time cartoonist for the New Yorker, so readers will find her work familiar.

Discussions of aging and death are not popular with Americans, but Chast’s memoir provides an excellent platform for discussing these themes. 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.

Copies of the book are available at Peoria Public Library. For more information on how to have your group participate by holding a discussion or other activity call (309) 497-2186. Watch for details on public programs and mark your calendar.

NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.
Exciting New Programs Announced for 2019

The new year will ring in a variety of interesting programs and activities for all ages, from new discussion groups to film series.

The Atlantic Monthly magazine covers the world with discussions of politics, culture, science, business, family and much more. A new discussion group will meet monthly beginning January 14 at North Branch from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Bring lunch or a snack and engage in lively and intellectual discussion. In a time when civil conversation is difficult to find, this group could be your answer. Just read the feature article and any other articles that interest you in print or online and join in. Free and open to the public.

A free afternoon movie is a great way to enjoy some time out of the house, especially when the movie is a musical! Each third Thursday at North Branch from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m., starting on January 17, with Cabaret, a musical will be shown on the big screen in the McKenzie Room. Some will be classics, some newer films and all are sure to be enjoyable. Bring a snack and some friends or family and start the weekend early. Be sure to pick up the schedule for the year so you don't miss any of your favorites.

Prefer morning movies? McClure Branch is airing its "The Book Was First" movie series on the second Monday of the month beginning January 14 from 10:30 to 12:30 a.m. Each movie in the series is based on a book. Read the book first to see how it compares to the movie, or just come to enjoy the movie and some light refreshments. It’s free and open to the public. In January view the 1994 film Forrest Gump based on the book of the same name by Winston Groom. Pick up a schedule to see what’s coming or check Passages or the web calendar every month to see the selection. It’s sure to be a great way to start your week.

Longing for the good old days of those landmark TV series? Come to ReRun Review at Lakeview Branch this January for a viewing of episodes 1 to 6 of Dallas (1978-1991) starring Larry Hagman, Barbara Bel Geddes, Donna Reed and Patrick Duffy. We will binge watch on Monday through Wednesday, January 28-30 from 6:00 to 7:45 p.m. Super fans, newbies and costumes are invited, but spoilers are discouraged. Then, vote on the selection for another ReRun Review!

Take advantage of these interesting and enjoyable programs in 2019. For more information, call (309) 497-2000.

I Seek Dead People BY AMBER LOWERY

I was once asked to describe my job in the worst way possible. My response was, “I seek dead people.” Truly, one of the important tasks for the staff at Peoria Public Library is finding obituaries. Obituaries are a staple to genealogy research. Family historians are always hopeful for that exceptionally detailed written record of an ancestor’s family. We seek out names of parents, with hopefully a maiden name for the mother. We trace down through their children and siblings, eager for married names of lost daughters or sisters. We exclaim over the rare obituary that mentions a loved one of the deceased that time has forgotten to record thoroughly. We pout when we realize that an obituary we are seeking does not exist. That is the power of obituaries.

The Local History and Genealogy department at the Main Library does offer obituary lookup services for those who cannot come in to do the research themselves. We do ask that those wishing to use our services follow some guidelines. Requests are limited to four lookups per week, per patron. Obituaries can be requested through our Ask A Librarian feature on our website, or through the mail. While our microfilm does cover Peoria papers back to 1837, we are not fully indexed, so we will need name of the deceased and date of death for them. We generally are able to reply with our results in two to three days. While we do not charge a fee for this service at this time, we are always happy to receive donations to the library for our efforts. If you are local to the area, drop by the Main Library and make it a day of research. Our Local History and Genealogy staff will be available to help guide you through this fantastic collection.
January
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. Once your child reads 1,000 books, they will be invited to a graduation party.

January
MCCLURE BRANCH
You-Pick Flick
Visit to vote for the movie we will show in February. The winning movie will air on February 9. Stop in or call 309-497-2700 for more details.

Wednesday, January 2 - 30
MAIN LIBRARY GALLERY
22VA: Veterans Art Exhibit
View a wide range of artistic expression, created by Veterans. Some were artists before, while some are using art to understand their military experience. The exhibit is organized by 22VA, a group of talented Veteran Artists that want to help other Veterans express themselves through visual and creative arts. 22VA wants to help reduce the number of Veteran suicides, which claim the lives of 22 veterans a day. This equates to around 30 suicides per 100,000 veterans, more than double the rate for the civilian population.

January 2, 3 & 4
MCCLURE BRANCH
Winter Break Movies: Despicable Me - 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Enjoy watching the Despicable Me movies! We’ll provide the hot chocolate.
January 2: Despicable Me
January 3: Despicable Me 2
January 4: Despicable Me 3

Friday, January 4
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Drop In: LEGO Builders Club–3:00-5:00 pm
Calling all LEGO fans! Drop in any time to play. Parental supervision is required.

January
MCCLURE BRANCH
Slow Cooker Recipe Exchange
Submit your favorite slow cooker recipes for a chance to win a $10 Kroger gift card. All recipes will be kept in the binder for others to peruse. Each recipe you submit will gain you an entry.

Friday, January 4
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Toddler Art – 10:15-11:00 a.m.
Let your child explore the world of colors and shapes while learning fine motor skills along the way. Dress for a mess.

Thursday, Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31
MCCLURE BRANCH
Fun Time Storytime – 10:00-10:30 a.m.
Ages 3 to 6.

Thursday, Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31
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, January 4
LAKEVIEW 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.

Friday, January 4
NORTH BRANCH
Busy Bees Storytime – 10:30-11:00 a.m.
Children of all ages.

Friday, January 11 – LAKEVIEW 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.

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Monday, January 7
LINCOLN BRANCH
Coding Unplugged! – 4:00-5:00 p.m.
Coding Unplugged is a monthly program that teaches children coding concepts all without using a computer. This month we will be focusing on binary numbers by making our own binary message necklaces and/or bracelets! Ages 5 to 12.

Monday & Tuesday, January 7, 8, 14, 15, 22, 28 & 29
LINCOLN BRANCH
Project Next Generation – 4:00-6:00 p.m.
Project Next Generation helps teach our kids how to use new technology while providing mentors who offer guidance and friendship. Students will learn how to code and build Servo Pom Pom Robots. Students that complete the session will be invited on a field trip to Chicago Museum of Science & Industry! Ages 10 to 18. Register today by calling 309-497-2600! Funding for this grant was awarded by the Illinois State Library, a Department of the Office of Secretary of State, using funds provided by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).

Monday, January 7
NORTH BRANCH
Learn Something at the Library: Lettering Works – 6:00-7:30 p.m.
All ages are invited to learn lettering basics with Chelsie Tamms from Lettering Works. A fee of $5 for will be required for supplies. Please call 309-497-2150 to register.

Tuesday, January 8
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Front & Center: Magazine Strip Art – 5:00-6:00 p.m.
Design the perfect piece of art using strips from magazines, canvases and a silhouette of your choice. Ages 12-17.

Tuesday, January 8
LINCOLN BRANCH
Board in the Library – 6:00-7:45 p.m.
Bring a friend or meet a new friend while playing a board or card game. Ages 18 and up.

Wednesday, January 9
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Sensory Storytime – 4:00-4:45 p.m.
Books, activities, and music to engage the senses with sensory play and socialization for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder or other needs.
Saturday, January 12
NORTH BRANCH
Teen Craft: Picture Frame – 2:00-2:45 p.m.
Come decorate a picture frame to personalize your space. Ages 11 to 18.

Sunday, January 13
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Sensory Friendly Family Film – 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Join us for this sensory friendly showing of Incredibles 2. 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. Rated G

Sunday, January 13
NORTH BRANCH
Biography and Nonfiction Book Club – 3:00-4:30 p.m.
This month: Empire of Sin: A Story of Sex, Jazz, Murder, and the Battle for Modern New Orleans by Gary Krist

Monday, January 14
MCCLURE BRANCH
The Book Was First Movie Series – 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Join in a viewing of the 1994 film Forrest Gump based on the book of the same name by Winston Groom. Read the book before you come or just enjoy a movie and light refreshments on a Monday morning!

Monday, January 14
NORTH BRANCH
Atlantic Monthly Discussion Group – 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Just read the feature article (and any others that interest you) of the current issue of Atlantic Monthly in print or on the web at theatlantic.com/magazine/. Then bring your lunch or a snack and engage in lively and intellectual discussion. Facilitators are Marge Semmens and Catriona Ritenhouse.

Monday, January 14
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, January 14
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Screen Free Afternoons – 3:30-5:30 p.m.
Spend your afternoon playing an educational board game that helps with reading, spelling, and math, or working on a puzzle. We’ll also have a list of recommended reading to continue screen free time at home. Ages 6 to 9.

Monday, January 14
LINCOLN BRANCH
Build a Polar Bear Den – 4:00-5:00 p.m.
Come help the polar bears build a new den with the supplies that they have ready for you—toothpicks and marshmallows. Ages 6 to 11.

Monday, January 14
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Sci Fi & Fantasy Book Club – 6:30-7:30 p.m.
This month: Semiosis by Sue Burke

Tuesday, January 15
LINCOLN BRANCH
Puppet Show: Witch’s Winter Garden – 10:00-10:30 a.m.
Come on in and warm up as we help Witch make a hot bowl of her special soup! Ages 3 to 6.

Tuesday, January 15
LINCOLN BRANCH
Front & Center: Remembering Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. – 5:00-6:00 p.m.
Commemorate the life and legacy of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by joining us for trivia, games, and crafts. You can also write your own “I Have a Dream” speech. Children of all ages.

Tuesday, January 15
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 us to discuss the best in YA literature. As a bonus, there are always snacks! This month: Geekerella by Ashley Poston

Thursday, January 17
NORTH BRANCH
Third Thursday Film Fest: A Year of Musicals – 2:00-4:30 p.m.
Join us on the third Thursday of each month for a musical! Bring a snack and enjoy a movie on the big screen. This month: Cabaret (PG, 1972)

Thursday, January 17
LINCOLN BRANCH
Monthly Writing Group – 4:00-5:00 p.m.
Join our monthly writing group as we explore different types of writing styles. This month we will be exploring the short story and doing a brainstorming activity to prepare us to write our own short story. Ages 12 to 18.

Friday, Jan. 18–MCCLURE BRANCH
Friday, Jan. 25–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.

Saturday, January 19
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Autism Resource Group – 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Are you a parent with a child or teen with Autism Spectrum Disorder? Join us for resource sharing and support.

Saturday, January 19
LINCOLN BRANCH
Craft to Go: Snowman Coaster – 12:00-5:00 p.m.
Make a snowman coaster, and join us for a cup of hot cocoa while you check out some new books!

Sunday, January 20
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Book’Em Mystery Book Club – 2:00-3:30 p.m.
This month: The Late Show by Michael Connelly

Sunday, January 20
NORTH BRANCH
Music in the McKenzie Presents: Bones Jugs – 2:00-4:00 p.m.
From Urbana, IL Bones Jugs has emerged as the premier xylophone driven roots Americana act in the country. With bones, jug, xylophone, kazoo, resonator guitar, 6-string banjo, upright bass, trap kit, horns, washboard and a medley of knick-knacks and noise makers Bones Jugs conjures up their eclectic acoustic sound. It’s a 21st century spin on early American music, that includes ragtime, dixieland, jugband, bluegrass, blues, string band, skiffle, spasm, swing and more. A portion of CD sales support The Friends of Peoria Public Library.
Tuesday, January 22 & 29
LINCOLN BRANCH
Terrific Tattletale Storytime – 10:00-10:30 a.m.
Ages 3 to 6.

Tuesday, January 22
LINCOLN BRANCH
Lego Challenge – 4:00-5:00 p.m.
January is National Creativity Month, and we challenge you to make unique things out of Lego bricks. Ages 6 to 11.

Tuesday, January 22
LINCOLN BRANCH
Front & Center: Snowmen at Night Story Hour – 5:00-6:00 p.m.
Join us for a story and winter crafts based on Snowmen at Night by Caralyn Buehner. Ages 5 to 8.

Tuesday, January 22
MAIN LIBRARY
Friends of Clonmel and Peoria Public Library present Connla – 6:30-8:00 p.m.
Connla have been quickly making an impact on the folk/traditional scene. They are an exciting new band with strong traditional roots as well as influences from across the globe. Their innovative arrangements of traditional and modern folk songs have earned them praise across the folk community. This program is being made possible with the support of the Friends of Clonmel. The Friends of Clonmel endeavors to foster and facilitate exchanges between Peoria and Clonmel.

Wednesday, January 23
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Family Pottery Night – 6:00-7:00 p.m.
Join us for a night of pottery painting as we team up with Fired Up! Recommended for ages 5 and up. Supplies will be provided. Registration is required. Please call 497-2150.

Thursday, January 24
LINCOLN BRANCH
Snowflake Design – 4:15-5:15 p.m.
Did you know that no snowflake is the same but each snowflake is symmetrical? Using household materials like cotton balls and Q-tips, we will make wonderful snowflakes that are both symmetrical and beautiful! Ages 6-11.

Thursday, January 24
NORTH BRANCH
Sherlock Holmes Story Society – 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Whether you’ve read the classic Sherlock Holmes stories a million times or none at all, all are welcome to experience The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes in this new reading discussion group. Each month, we’ll tackle another short story. Like our hero bid his loyal companion over one hundred years ago, we invite you to “Come at once if convenient – if inconvenient come all the same!” This month: “The Adventure of the Empty House.”

Friday, January 25
LINCOLN BRANCH
Animal Warmth – 3:45-4:45 p.m.
Have you ever wondered how animals like polar bears and penguins are able to keep warm in icy water? We will be using the scientific method, with a bucket of ice water, some gloves, and other fun materials, to figure out what is the best insulator. Is cotton a better insulator than wool or even Crisco? Is the best insulator than wool or even Crisco? Is the best insulator than wool or even Crisco? Does cotton beat other fun materials?

Saturday, January 26
MCCLURE BRANCH
Drop In: Snowman Soup – 10:00am-5:00pm
Stop in anytime today to get the ingredients for the perfect snowman soup. Make a kit for yourself or to share with a friend to keep warm on these cold winter days. While supplies last.
Join a book club at Peoria Public Library this month. New members are always welcome!

The Bibliophiles Book Club will meet Tuesday, February 5 at 1:30 p.m. at Lakeview Branch to discuss Home Fire by Kamila Shamsie. Isma is free. After years of watching out for her younger siblings in the wake of their mother’s death, an invitation from a mentor in America has allowed her to resume a dream long deferred. But she can’t stop worrying about Aneeka, her headstrong sister, or their brother, Parvaiz, who’s disappeared to prove himself to the dark legacy of the jihadist father he never knew. When he resurfaces half the globe away, Isma’s worst fears are confirmed. Then Eamonn enters the sisters’ lives. Son of a powerful political figure, he has his own birthright to live up to—or defy. Suddenly, two families’ fates are inextricably, devastatingly entwined, in this searing novel that asks: What sacrifices will we make in the name of love?”—

The Biography and Non-Fiction Book Club will meet on Sunday, February 10 at 3:00 p.m. at North Branch to discuss The Plot to Destroy Democracy: How Putin and His Spies Are Undermining America and Dismantling the West by Malcolm Nance. In the greatest intelligence operation in the history of the world, Donald Trump was made President of the United States with the assistance of a foreign power. The Plot to Destroy Democracy reveals how blackmail, espionage, assassination, and psychological warfare were used by Vladimir Putin and his spy agencies to steal the 2016 U.S. election—and attempted to bring about the fall of NATO, the European Union, and western democracy. Career U.S. Intelligence officer Malcolm Nance will examine how Russia has used cyber warfare, propaganda, and manipulation of our perception of reality to weaponize American media to attack democratic institutions, and what we can expect should we fail to stop their next attack.

The Sherlock Holmes Story Society will meet at North Branch at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 28 to discuss “The Adventure of the Norwood Builder.” Lawyers are generally believed to be staunch upholders of the law. But, in this story, a lawyer named John McFarlane finds himself at the center of a serious accusation: murder. The deceased is one of McFarlane’s clients, Jonas Oldacre, for whom McFarlane recently created a will. While the police believe the lawyer is guilty, Holmes is less certain.

The Book ‘Em Mystery Book Club will meet on Sunday, February 17 at 2:00 p.m. at Lakeview Branch to discuss I’ve Got My Eyes On You by Mary Higgins Clark. Aline Dowling, older sister of murdered Kerry Dowling, puts her own life in danger trying to assist the Prosecutor’s Office in learning the truth.

The YA Book Club for Adults will meet on Tuesday, February 19 at 6:30 p.m. at Lakeview Branch to discuss Yvain: The Knight of the Lion by M.T. Anderson and Andrea Offermann. Eager for glory and heedless of others, Sir Yvain sets out from King Arthur’s court and defeats a local lord in battle, unknowingly intertwining his future with the lives of two compelling women: Lady Laudine, the beautiful widow of the fallen lord, and her sly maid Lunette. In a stunning interpretation of a 12th century epic poem by Chrétien de Troyes, readers are transported into a classic Arthurian romance complete with errant knights, plundering giants, and fire-breathing dragons. A closer look, however, reveals a world rich with unspoken emotion. Striking, evocative art by Andrea Offermann sheds light upon the lives of medieval women and the consequences Yvain’s oblivious actions have upon Laudine and Lunette. Renowned author M.T. Anderson embraces a new form with a sophisticated graphic novel that challenges Yvain’s role as hero, delves into the honesty and anguish of love, and asks just how fundamentally the true self can really change.

The Sci-Fi Fantasy Book Club will meet on Monday, February 11 at Lakeview Branch at 6:30 p.m. to discuss End of Eternity by Isaac Asimov. Andrew Harlan is an Eternal, a member of the elite of the future. One of the few who live in Eternity, a location outside of place and time, Harlan’s job is to create carefully controlled and enacted reality changes. These changes are small, ex-actingly calculated shifts in the course of history, made for the benefit of humankind. Though each change has been made for the greater good, there are also always costs. During one of his assignments, Harlan meets and falls in love with N0’s Lambent, a woman who lives in real time and space. Then Harlan learns that N0’s will cease to exist after the next change, and he risks everything to sneak her into Eternity.

The Read on Book Club will meet at Lincoln Branch on Tuesday, February 26 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss Becoming by Michelle Obama. In her memoir, Michelle Obama invites readers into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her years as an executive balancing the demands of motherhood and work, to her time spent at the world’s most famous address. With her honesty and lively wit, Michelle describes her triumphs and her disappointments, both public and private. As First Lady of the United States of America, the First African-American to serve in that role, she helped create the most welcoming and inclusive White House in history, while also establishing herself as a powerful advocate for women and girls in the U.S. and around the world, dramatically changing the ways that families pursue healthier and more active lives, and standing with her husband as he led America through some of the most harrowing moments. Warm, wise, and revelatory, Becoming is the deeply personal reckoning of a woman of soul and substance who has steadily defied expectations and whose story inspires us to do the same.
Music in the McKenzie Returns for 2019

Peoria Public Library will offer a new year-long series of free Sunday afternoon concerts in 2019, starting January 20 at North Branch from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Concerts feature talented acoustic acts from across the country and sometimes the world. When CDs are offered for sale, a portion of the proceeds supports The Friends of Peoria Public Library. Mark your calendar now for these remarkable performances.

January 20: Bones Jugs - From the depths of Urbana, IL Bones Jugs has emerged as the premier xylophone driven roots Americana act in the country. It’s a 21st century spin on early American music.

February 17: Anne Hills - One of the most beloved voices of the contemporary folk music scene. Whether she is singing her own songs or those written by others.

March 10: Dana & Sue Robinson - Americana-roots and folk duo who combine vivid, songwriting and storytelling with fiddle tunes, clawhammer banjo, elegant melodies, and rich harmony singing.

April 7: Fox Crossing Stringband - These ladies bring high harmonies plus driving rhythm of dobro, fiddle, mandolin, banjo, guitar, and bass. Six instruments across four vocalists will leave you chancing these foxes for their bluegrass sound.

May 19: Banjovi & Hawkins and Anne - a three piece band playing bluegrass, country, 60’s, and 70’s. Featuring three part harmonies, with banjo, guitar, and trumpet.

June 9: Turas - Meaning trip or journey in Gaelic, Turas brings traditional Irish music to central Illinois. Playing a wide variety of Irish/Celtic music, Turas never fails to deliver on good music and good times.

July 14: The Sweet Potatoes - Featuring acoustic guitars, ukulele, accordion and harmonica, this trio will bring a smile to your face with their sweet harmonies and songwriting.

August 25: Shawna Caspi - Shawna performs solo, but there is a whole band under her fingertips. She believes in poetry and the power of one person and one instrument, accompanying herself with a lyrical fingerpicking guitar style.

September 29: Switchback - Switchback draws on traditional Celtic music and original Americana songs that reflect their Irish heritage and Midwestern roots.

October 13: Still Shine - Still Shine is a group of like-minded, seasoned musicians blending acoustic roots and progressive bluegrass. They mix mandolin, harmonica, banjo, acoustic guitar, upright bass, and tight harmonies.

November 17: James Herr - James Herr is an acoustic artist who performs authentic versions of James Taylor, Paul Simon, Jim Croce and other acoustic classics.

December 1: Goodnight Gracie - Goodnight Gracie plays music from many genres including pop, blues, indie, country and a few originals! They love audience interaction and encourage you to get up and dance if the music moves you.

Genealogy DNA Class Offered Through Year

Genetic genealogy, using the results of a DNA test to help build a family tree, has gotten so popular and so many questions are asked of library staff, that a new class will be offered in 2019 for those who want to learn more. The entire series is four classes, but the classes will be repeated three times and those interested are invited to attend one class, an entire series or attend as convenient.

In class one learn about the history of DNA testing for genetic genealogy purposes, how to use it with traditional genealogy, and how DNA companies keep your information safe. During class 2 learn about five of the most popular DNA testing companies, types of testing, and the differences between the services they offer and information they provide. The third class will teach how to read results, understand new terminology and why ethnicity estimate are only a small part of your results. The final and fourth class will show how to make family connections, use third party tools, and break through your brick walls on your research with DNA evidence.

The class will be taught by Amber Lowery of the Local History and Genealogy staff and will be offered at different locations and times, giving everyone an opportunity to attend. The first session will be offered on the first Saturday of the month at Main Library at 2:00 p.m. in Classroom A on Lower Level 1 on January 5, February 2, March 2, April 6. The second session will be held on the first Sunday of the month at Lakeview Branch at noon on May 5, June 2, July 7 and August 4. The final and third session will be taught on the first Wednesday of the month at North Branch in the McKenzie Room on September 4, October 2, November 6, December 4. The classes will be listed on the library calendar each month and can be found on the webpage.

Attend one class or attend them all, they are free and open to the public. For more information please call (309) 497-2000.