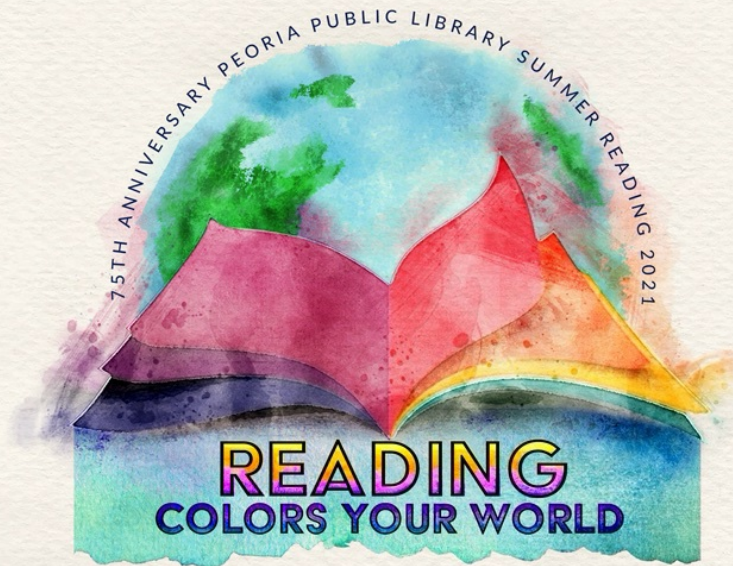




Library IN THE LOOP



Summer Reading 2021 Starts Now!

Starting May 10, anyone and everyone can sign up for Summer Reading because nothing stops Peoria Public Library's quest to build literacy – not even an ongoing global pandemic.

Last year, during the height of COVID-19, the library only offered online Summer Reading, but this year you get to pick. Track your reading online through our user-friendly online platform (or app) or track the traditional way with paper logs and check-ins at your favorite Peoria Public Library location.

2021 marks 75 years of Summer Reading at Peoria Public Library! Sign up starts this month, but it officially kicks off June 6 and runs through July 24. Over those seven weeks, you will need to read either three hours each week or complete our online challenges, which, of course, all involve reading. You can also mix and match – do some online challenges combined with some reading of your choosing.

All ages are invited to participate in Summer Reading, and those who complete all seven weeks of our reading challenge will be entered into a Grand Prize drawing for a "Day Out in Peoria." Look for more details in next month's newsletter.

Summer Reading, while fun, also serves a purpose in helping to stem what's commonly known as the "Summer Slide" or loss of reading and reading comprehension skills for students over the summer months.

Now, in addition to the Summer Slide, some researchers are adding in concerns about the COVID Slide, referencing academic setbacks tied to either school closures during the pandemic or the stress of online learning.

"What we love about Summer Reading is that it's easy and fun, but it also serves an incredibly important role in keeping kids sharp over the summer," said Peoria Public Library Executive Director Randall Yelverton. "But Summer Reading isn't just of kids. It's for everyone."

If you sign up in person, choose the Peoria Public Library location you visit most often. That's where you will do your weekly check-ins. To participate online, sign up via Beanstack, our online platform, at www.peoriapubliclibrary.beanstack.org. Don't worry if you sign up for Beanstack and don't see Summer Reading Challenge. It won't go live until May 10.

Questions about Beanstack, check out our tutorial on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=byKj9i9DU2E>

Attention Daycares and Summer Camps: We'd love to have you participate in Summer Reading as a group.

Email programming@ppl.peoria.lib.il.us if you have questions.



Happy Birthday to North Branch! Ten Years and Counting!

Peoria Public Library's North Branch will celebrate a decade of service to the community with a range of activities for all ages from May 9-15 at North Branch.

Join us for a scavenger hunt, contests, crafts and even a commemorative bookmark. Since tin is the traditional 10-year anniversary gift, we ask patrons to also join us for a canned food drive to benefit the Peoria Area Community Food Bank.

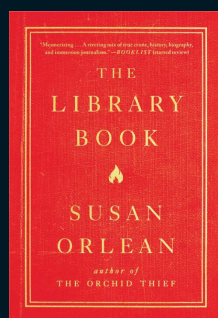
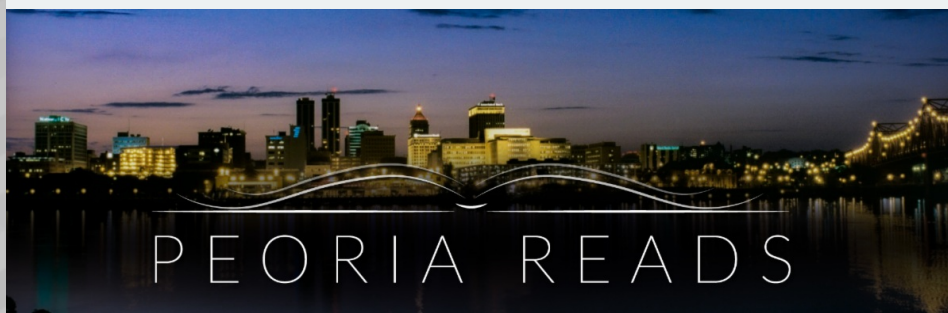
While its opening weekend in May 2011 attracted more than 4,500 visitors, this year, due to the pandemic, such a flood of patrons would not be possible even though the library is open.

"North Branch is everything our city wanted and needed it to be," said Peoria Public Library Executive Director Randall Yelverton. "We built it to provide equal library service across the city due to the growth of North Peoria, and in the past decade it's become a key part of Peoria Public Library with more checkouts and meeting room reservations than any other location in a normal year. Unfortunately, we haven't had a normal year for awhile."

After the initial lockdown in mid-March 2020 due to COVID-19, Yelverton chose North Branch as one of the first PPL locations to offer curbside service since the large parking lot and 30,000-square-foot building allowed for easy access and space for the thousands of books put on hold by patrons from across the Tri-County.

"Each of our locations brings something special to our community, but many of them are constrained by space in one way or another. North Branch is not," Yelverton said. "Adding North Branch was a wise investment in our city's future, and if you've been there, it still looks brand new."

The only major change since North Branch opened was the addition of the StoryWalk on the back patio, which was dedicated in September 2020.



Peoria Reads! 2021 - *The Library Book*

We launched our 20th anniversary of Peoria Reads! last month, but our tie-in events will continue through July. So, if you haven't started reading *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean, our Peoria Reads! 2021 book, it's not too late.

In *The Library Book*, Orlean chronicles the 1986 suspicious and destructive fire at the Los Angeles Public Library, as well as its aftermath, to highlight the crucial role libraries play in our personal lives and our communities. From the humble beginnings of libraries to their current status as a cornerstone of national identity, Orlean brings libraries – even the charred remains of one – to life. Part history. Part mystery. All heart.

We kicked off Peoria Reads! during National Library Week (April 4-10) in the hope of increasing awareness of the importance of libraries, in good times and bad. COVID has changed so much of life, including how you use your local library. We hope to use this year to remind you of all we have to offer.

[Visit our website to see what programs we have scheduled for May](#)

Peoria Public Library Offers Vaccine Clinics

Peoria Public Library is partnering with the Peoria City/County Health Department to host vaccine clinics at Main Library and Lincoln Branch this month. Free and open to anyone 18 or older. This is the Moderna vaccine so be prepared to visit us again four weeks from your first shot for your second dose.

**COVID-19
VACCINE CLINIC**

Thursday, May 6 at Lincoln Branch, 1312 W. Lincoln Ave. | 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Walk-ins welcome or [register in advance here](#)

Saturday, May 8 at Main Library, 107 NE Monroe St. | 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Walk-ins welcome or [register in advance here](#)

All locations of Peoria Public Library
will be **CLOSED** in observance of

Memorial Day
weekend

Saturday, May 29
through
Monday, May 31

