



# Library IN THE LOOP

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP MONTH  
**FINE FREE × FARE FREE**  
Show your Public Library Card\*\* September 1-30 to Ride CityLink for FREE



## Fine Free + Fare Free Returns Sept. 1

Free CityLink Rides in September for National Library Card Sign-Up Month

### Get even more mileage out of your library card this September.

The Greater Peoria Mass Transit District (GPMTD) will offer free CityLink bus rides throughout September for Peoria, Peoria Heights, Pekin and Fondulac library patrons in honor of National Library Card Sign-up Month.

For this "Fine Free + Fare Free" campaign, all riders need to do is show a library card from one of these four libraries to ride for free on any of CityLink's fixed routes across Peoria, Peoria Heights, East Peoria and Pekin between Sept. 1-30.

In addition to promoting National Library Card Sign-Up Month, September is also the 3rd anniversary of Peoria and Fondulac libraries going fine free, thus the "Fine Free + Fare Free" promotion. Pekin Library, which already offered fine-free library cards for children, will extend this advantage to all Pekin Library card holders in September. Peoria Heights Public Library has been fine free since 2016.

CityLink schedule and route information is available at [ridecitylink.org](http://ridecitylink.org), and below is the list of routes with service to the participating public libraries.

#### Peoria Public Libraries

- **Main:** #10 Forrest Hill, #11 Western, #12 Heights, #14 Wisconsin
- **Lincoln:** #15 Lincoln
- **McClure:** #10 Forrest Hill
- **Lakeview:** #1 University
- **North:** #1 University

#### Fondulac District Library

- #8 East Peoria Sunnyland

#### Peoria Heights Public Library

- #12 Heights

#### Pekin Public Library

- #18 Pekin South

"We can't thank CityLink enough for offering this generous incentive to everyone who holds a library card from one of these libraries," said Randall Yelverton, Executive Director of Peoria Public Library. "Last year, when we debuted this partnership, we immediately saw such good will and so many new patrons seeking a library card so they could take advantage of the essential service CityLink provides. In fact, Peoria Public Library alone issued close to 1,700 new library cards during Fine Free + Fare Free last year, not counting the number of people who came in to renew their cards. Now that the public is

...making the number of people who came in to learn about censorship much more familiar with Fine Free + Fare Free, we hope to see even more new library cardholders across all the libraries."

CityLink buses stop at or near all of these libraries, which, combined, offer educational and entertaining resources and programming to more than 165,000 residents across Peoria, Peoria Heights, East Peoria and Pekin. CityLink, meanwhile, provided more than 1.7 million passenger trips on its fixed routes in fiscal year 2023.

### Need a library card?

Sign up at any of our five locations. Please bring photo identification and something that shows your Peoria address. [Learn more about applying.](#)



**CENSORSHIP IS THE CHILD OF FEAR AND THE FATHER OF IGNORANCE.**  
LAURIE HALSE ANDERSON  
AUTHOR OF SPEAK AND CHAINS

**LAURIE HALSE ANDERSON**  
Author of Banned Books Keynote Speaker for Central Illinois Reads

**Central Illinois Reads**

## Laurie Halse Anderson Rocks Peoria

Author of Banned Books Keynote Speaker for Central Illinois Reads

With humor, wit and a slide show of serious statistics, award-winning author Laurie Halse Anderson can bring the dangers of censorship into focus in a way only a writer who has topped the Most Banned Book List can.

Nearly 200 attendees enjoyed Anderson, the keynote speaker for Central Illinois Reads: Freedom to Read, a partnership of libraries and community organizations, during the Aug. 29 event at Peoria Public Main Library. Anderson also spoke to teens at Richwoods and Peoria High schools earlier in the day.

*The Freedom to Read is essential to our democracy, but also under attack. In response, several Central Illinois libraries and community organizations joined together to shine a light on our collective Freedom to Read. We call ourselves Central Illinois Reads.*

In addition to Peoria Public Library, partners include: Bradley University, Methodist College, Neighborhood House and partner libraries -- Chillicothe Public Library, Dunlap Public Library, District, Fondulac

schools earlier in the day.

Anderson's book, *Speak*, which follows a teenage girl's journey through her trauma after a sexual assault, is often challenged and/or banned due to its mature content. But as Anderson explains, her book may be a novel, but it's real life for many teens. Herself included.

Statistics from the National Sexual Violence Resource Center note that one in three females (ages 11 to 17) will be the victim of a completed or attempted rape. For males in that age range, it's one in four. Anderson said she used to be on the road, visiting schools across the U.S., about 150 days every year and, without fail, teens would come up to her, tears in their eyes, telling her they lived through this too. Now, with the surge in censorship and accompanying fear of reprisals, she only has two school visits this year – the Peoria visits and one in California.

"We are in an unprecedented wave of censorship across America. From 2020 to the end of 2022, we've seen a tenfold increase in the number of censorship attempts and successful attempts in states like Texas, Florida and Pennsylvania." Anderson's books deal with mature themes – sex, sexual assault, drugs, suicide ideation – so she understands why some parents feel it's their job to protect their children from that content.

"I know how scary it is to raise kids," Anderson says, noting that parents have always had, and continue to have, the right to guide or restrict their child's choices. "But you don't get to dictate and tell me what my kid gets to read."

As she likes to stress, "The false innocence you render for them by censoring truth protects only you."

[Listen to Laurie Halse Anderson's interview with local NPR station, WCBU.](#)

Public Library District, Fondulac District Library, Illinois Prairie District Public Library, Morton Public Library and Pekin Public Library.

We have the following events scheduled in September, with more events in October, culminating during Banned Books Week, Oct. 1-7.

### [Talking About Trauma Symposium](#)

**Presented by Methodist College  
Tuesday, Sept. 12 | 6 p.m. @  
Methodist College, 7600 N.  
Academic Dr.**

Almost everyone has experienced some type of trauma. Yet, talking about trauma is often still taboo. In order to become a more trauma informed and, hopefully, trauma engaged community, we need to normalize the discussion of trauma.

This symposium will feature several speakers who will discuss different types of traumas, such as childhood trauma and systemic trauma, from different perspectives, such as professionals in healthcare and human services and as a parent. Please join us for this important conversation.

Free and open to all. Refreshments provided.

### **Armed with Intellectual Freedom: Current Challenges and Next Steps**

**Tuesday, Sept. 26 | 6:30 p.m. @  
Fondulac Library, 400 Richland St.** Joyce McIntosh, Assistant Program Director for the Freedom to Read Foundation, discusses the current state of book challenges in the U.S. and how the First Amendment is related to libraries. Learn more about laws related to information access for both adults and minors and ways to advocate for intellectual freedom in your community. Free and open to all.

*Laurie Halse Anderson's visit was made possible through the generosity of Friends of Peoria Public Library, Chillicothe Public Library, Dunlap District Public Library and the Peoria Public Schools Foundation.*



## Upcoming Events

### Pride in the Park Debuts Sept. 9

PPL and Peoria Proud offer Queer Artist Showcase at Columbia Park



Join us for a queer artist showcase in this partnership between Peoria Public Library and Peoria Proud. Featuring live music from local musicians, including Emily the Band, Aspen Albright and DJ KC, and art from artists Alexander Martin, Caspian Voss, Brenda Pagan, Hannah Offut.

Music. Art. Crafts. Food -- all in beautiful Columbia Park, connected to McClure Branch

Inside the library, we'll have a display called Authentic Selves, which is a traveling exhibit from Family Diversity Projects. This is a photography exhibit celebrating trans and nonbinary individuals and their families. We'll also have an LGBTQ checkout challenge where patrons can find fiction and nonfiction (we'll have a lot of displays) to check out.

The entire event is free and open to all.

Community organizations taking part include: Peoria Proud, PFLAG Peoria, Youth Outlook Center, Jolt, and Central Illinois Friends.

This event is made possible by a grant from the Community Foundation of Central Illinois.

### The Power of Story with Colson Whitehead

Illinois Libraries Present Kicks off 3<sup>rd</sup> Season with Two-Time Pulitzer Prize Winner



Meet two-time Pulitzer Prize winning author Colson Whitehead during this virtual conversation on the Power of Story. The New York Times bestselling author of *The Underground Railroad*, *The Nickel Boys*, *Harlem Shuffle*,

His highly anticipated latest book, *Crook Manifesto*, is a darkly funny tale of a city under siege, but also a sneakily searching portrait of the meaning of family. His reviews, essays, and fiction have appeared in the New York Times, The New Yorker, New York Magazine and Harper's. Whitehead has received a MacArthur Fellowship and Guggenheim Fellowship and the Library of Congress Prize for American Fiction, among others. In 2023, President Biden awarded Whitehead a National Endowment for the Humanities Medal. He has taught

*The Noble Hustle, Zone One, Sag Harbor, The Intuitionist, John Henry Days* and more, Whitehead is only the fourth writer to win two Pulitzers in the Fiction category (for *Underground Railroad* in 2018 and *The Nickel Boys* in 2020).

Endowment for the Humanities medal. He has taught extensively, including at Columbia University, Princeton University, and Brooklyn College, and has been a Writer-in-Residence at Vassar College, the University of Richmond, and University of Wyoming. He lives in New York City.

[Register here](#)

*This event is made possible by Illinois Libraries Present, a statewide collaboration among public libraries, including Peoria Public Library, offering premier events. ILP is funded in part by a grant 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). ILP is committed to inclusion and accessibility. To request accommodations, please email [illinoislibrariespresent@gmail.com](mailto:illinoislibrariespresent@gmail.com)*

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## Adam Larson Trio

Thursday, Sept. 14  
6:00 PM at Main Library

Well-known and loved jazz saxophonist Adam Larson returns to his Central Illinois roots for a special concert on Sept. 14 at Peoria Public Main Library.

Come see the Adam Larson Trio for yourself. Free and open to all.



Larson, who has seven albums, has toured the world, from intimate jazz clubs to concert halls with his groups and also as a sideman. Spending more time teaching now, Larson's Trio still received a South Arts "Jazz Road Touring Grant" in 2022.

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## Senior Fair: Sponsored by TRIAD

Friday, Sept. 22  
9:30 AM – 12:30 PM @  
Main Library

Drop in for free health care checks, vision checks, a flu shot and visit other vendor tables with information for senior citizens during this free Senior Fair sponsored



## SENIOR FAIR

SPONSORED BY TRIAD

FRIDAY  
**September 22**  
9:30 AM – 12:30 PM  
MAIN LIBRARY

Enjoy light refreshments and register for door prizes. If you have old prescriptions you no longer take, and/or have old cell phones, both may be brought to the Senior Fair to be disposed of properly.

Free Senior Fair, sponsored  
by Peoria County TRIAD.

CEFCU will make a  
presentation on scams, and  
Humana will give a  
presentation on Medicare  
101.

The goal of Peoria County TRIAD is to promote working  
relationships between seniors, law enforcement,  
community and business leaders in order to provide  
educational and training venues that address the crime,  
health and safety issues of our senior citizens and the  
communities they live in.

## COMING IN OCTOBER....

Friday, October 6 | 6:30-  
8:30 pm | North Branch,  
3001 W. Grand Pkwy.  
Clue Murder Mystery



Was it Miss Scarlet in the  
Billiards Room with the lead  
pipe?  
Don't wait to sign up for our  
Clue Murder Mystery on  
Friday, Oct. 6 at North  
Branch!

Our staff has worked hard to bring the board game to life  
throughout the entire library. Space is limited so if you  
want to play, call (309) 497-2100 to RSVP.  
Must be 18 or older.

ALL LOCATIONS OF  
**PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY**

will be closed for

# LABOR DAY

Saturday, September 2  
through Monday, September 4

**PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY**

107 NE Monroe St., Peoria, Illinois 61602

[www.peoriapubliclibrary.org](http://www.peoriapubliclibrary.org)

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