



The Library Times

May/June 2019

From the Director

Back to Square One

I've told this story before, and I'm going to tell it again.

A young boy, new to Alpha Park Library, raced up the stairs to Youth Services. He stopped, looked around, and exclaimed, "Wow! This looks like a place where they really like kids!"

This *is* a place where we like kids. They are not only our patrons of the future—they are our patrons and fans *today*. Even more than when I arrived in 2001, we serve an increasingly diverse group of young people, from toddlers to teens. They keep our dedicated staff creatively planning programs, all within a space that is recently brightly painted, well-lit, and safe.

Libraries should be safe places, in more ways than one. One of those ways would include carpet. (Yes—carpet.) Since 1995, when the two-story portion of the library opened, thousands of little feet have walked, run, skipped, and jumped on our lovely, industrial-strength carpet. Adults using the upstairs meeting room have added their own footprints.

Our heavy-duty carpet has worn well—with the emphasis on "worn." Carpet is wrinkling, rolling, and rising up from the floor to meet the feet of those who step on it. Wavy, wrinkly carpet is *not* safe.

Beginning May 1 and continuing through July 27, the library will be moving "back to square one" in the Youth Services Department. We plan to replace our 24-year-old carpet with new, durable carpet squares. It's time!

The cost of this project is \$22,000. Old carpet must go, shelves emptied of books and moved, and squares put firmly into place.

Our referendum in 2016 paid for many library upgrades, but not for carpet. From May 1 through July 27, we are asking you, our generous public, to help us raise funds for carpet replacement. **Already, the Friends of Alpha Park Library have paid for 100 carpet squares at five dollars each, for a total of \$500. Another donor has bought ten squares, for a grand total of \$550.** Only \$21,450 more to go!

Please help us "get back to square one" by purchasing one square...10 squares...20 or more squares, at five dollars per square. We must cover 3,888 square feet of space.

You may contribute to the carpet cause in person at the Checkout Desk. Or mail us a check to our address, as shown on this newsletter. You may contribute using a credit card or through Paypal on our Facebook page. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/AlphaParkPublicLibrary> and click on the **Donate** button. Or visit our website, www.alphapark.org, and click on the **Donate** button at the bottom right-hand side of the screen.

Thank you. Your gift will provide for ongoing safety for both kids and adults, and will give a new, brighter look to this place where we "really like kids!"

John Richmond, Director

Alpha Park Public Library District
3527 S. Airport Road

Bartonville, Illinois 61607

Phone: (309) 697-3822

Fax: (309) 697-9681

E-mail: alpha@alphapark.org

Website: <http://www.alphapark.org>

Library Hours

Monday-Thursday 9-9

Friday 9-6

Board Meetings

Monday, May 20, 7:00 p.m.

Monday, June 17, 7:00 p.m.

Public is welcome!

Library closings

Monday, May 27

SUPPORT US!

Creative Strategies for Tax-Wise Giving to the Library

- Outright gifts of cash
- Living Trust
- Bequest in your will
- Life insurance gift
- Retirement plan gift
- Real estate gift
- Charitable remainder annuity trust
- Charitable remainder unitrust
- Charitable gift annuity
- Charitable lead trust

Note: Consult your attorney or financial advisor before selecting your chosen way of supporting Alpha Park Library.

Pick up a flyer on the table in the main entryway today, to learn more about the benefits of giving.

Youth Services

Summer Storytimes

Storytimes are held in six-week sessions throughout the year. Sessions may include books, fingerplays, crafts, songs, and games. Children should be the appropriate ages at the first class of each session.

Toddler time: Storytime for 2-year olds with an adult.
Tuesdays, 10—10:30 a.m. June 4, 11, 18, 25

Thursday Tales: Storytime for 2 or 3-year olds with an adult.
Thursdays, 10—10:30 a.m. June 6, 13, 20, 27

Big Top Fun: Special summer evening storytime for 4—10 year olds.
Monday evenings, 7—7:30 p.m. June 3, 10, 17, 24

Book Babies: Parents and caregivers with babies aged 9—24 months are invited to the library for songs, books, and group play.
Wednesdays, 10—10:30 a.m. June 5, 12, 19, 26

Bookworms: Storytime for ages 3 to 6.
*Tuesdays, 10:30—11:15 a.m. June 4, 11, 18, 25
July 2, 9*

Wednesdays, 1—1:45 p.m. June 5, 12, 19, 26

Attention Artists!

Would you like to show off your talent to the entire Alpha Park Library District? Submit your best interpretation of the summer reading club theme, **It's Showtime at your Library!**, on a bookmark by May 20! A winner will be chosen, and their work will

Summer Volunteers @ Alpha Park

Interested volunteers who would like to sign up for hours in the Youth Services Department should sign up as soon as possible. You will be given information about a brief training meeting. Volunteers must be entering 7th grade or older. Please call 697-3822 x22 for more information.

Special Events

Construction Club

Tuesday, May 28, 3:30—5 p.m.

Attention architects! Builders can now join us each month for a building challenge and free design time. Materials will be provided. No registration required. Come by and join the fun!

Babysitter Training Course

Friday, June 7, 10—3:30 p.m.

Are you looking ahead to potential babysitting jobs? Register for this training course endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics. We will cover safety, first aid, ages and stages as well as best babysitting practices. Lunch provided. \$10 fee required with registration. For ages 11 and up. Space is limited to 15. Contact Sara at 697-3822 x14 to register.

Super Stolie

Friday, June 21, 10 a.m.

A **Super Stolie** show is a music-centered exhibition of creativity to explore and inspire the uniqueness and silliness in all of us! Her highly interactive shows get everyone involved, introducing dance moves to get bodies moving and catchy

Three Ring Rascals Book Club

Monday, June 17, 2—3:30 p.m.

We will meet to share the book *Three Ring Rascals: The Show Must Go On* by Peoria natives Kate and M. Sarah Klise. You'll enjoy this illustrated tale of circus adventures. We will read excerpts together and then do activities that relate to the book. Next month—*Three Ring Rascals, Book 2!* Copies of the book can be checked out directly from the circulation desk.

Martika the Magnificent!

Saturday, June 15, 10 a.m.

Martika is a performer extraordinaire. Her many talents include hula hoops, silk fans and spinning plates. She is a one woman circus act that you can join in on. Martika comes all the way from Kansas City, MO. Don't miss her APL debut!

Cold Blooded Creatures

Friday, June 28, 2 p.m. OR 4 p.m.

Have you ever been so close to an alligator that you could touch it? Well, here is your chance! Jim Nesci brings his

Teens

Teen Board

Thursday, May 2, 7:30—8:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 6, 7:30—8:30 p.m.

Teen Board members must be going into 7 through 12 grades. New members always welcome. Show up or call

Teen DIY: Duct Tape Keychain

Tuesday, May 28, 7—8 p.m.

Swing by the library between 7:00 and 8:00 p.m. to make your own duct tape keychain (while supplies last).

Registration is not required.

Teen Movie Night

Monday, May 20, 6:30—8:30 p.m.

Join us each month for a teens-only movie event! Each month will have a different movie theme. Snacks provided, bring your own drink.

May: Early 2000s

Teen Mental Health Support Series

Monday, May 13, 7—8:30 p.m.

Monday, June 10, 7—8:30 p.m.

Join us for this series investigating mental health topics as they apply to teens. We will meet with a professional who will share tips and resources and then have time for discussion

Teen DIY: Bath Bombs

Tuesday, June 4, 3 p.m.

Students ages 12 to 18 are invited to the library to make their very own bath bombs. All supplies are provided, but registration is limited. Go to www.alphapark.org to register

Cosplay Creations

Tuesday, June 18, 2—3 p.m.

Tuesday, June 25, 2—3 p.m.

Swing by the library this summer for our cosplay creations series! On June 18, we will work on costumes (please bring your own t-shirt and/or other clothing items) and on June 25,

Recurring Adult Programs

Book Discussion

2nd Thursday of Every Month, 2:30—3:30 p.m.

Copies of the books are available for check out one month before the discussion. Please let us know if you prefer a sound recording or large print edition of the book and we'll try our best to get it.

May 9: *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens

Book Bingo for Adults

1st Monday of the month, 2—3 p.m.

Join us at the library for Book Bingo! Bring some friends, play Bingo, enjoy snacks, and win books! FREE. Registration is required. Register online at www.alphapark.org or call

APL Yarners and Needlers

Every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

The Yarners and Needlers meet every Tuesday to work on projects of all kinds including knitting, crocheting, embroidery, tatting, quilting, mending, and more. Free

Crafternoon Delight

Thursday, May 16, 2—3:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 20, 2—3:30 p.m.

Sign up for this new crafting program for adults! Each month we will explore making a new craft. All supplies provided. Free! Register online or contact 697-3822 x13.

Yoga

Every Tuesday in May-June, 9:15—10:15 a.m.

Start your Tuesday mornings fresh with yoga! Please wear comfortable clothes and bring a yoga mat. All levels welcome.

Cookbook Club

1st Monday of Every Month, 7—8 p.m.

Bring a copy of your favorite recipe, and a sample if you wish, to the Cookbook Club to share with other members. All adults are welcome to attend.

Friends, Pets, and Autumn Flowers

The Friends of the Library, who have committed \$500 toward the purchase of the first 100 carpet squares for the second floor—see the Director’s column, page one—will hold their next meeting on **Tuesday, May 14, at 10:30 a.m.** Come on down!

Reliable rumors about the Friends are going around. As in...come Summer Reading Club time, the Friends will present a “Cutest Pet” contest, as they did last year. Cutest pets were truly cute, people had fun (don’t know about the pets), and the library received \$400 in proceeds from the competition. This year, funds will apply to the purchase of carpet squares for the Youth Services Dept.

The second pretty/fairly/almost-certainly-reliable rumor is that the Friends will host a fall garden walk. Later September is a distinct possibility. Lots of gardening groups hold spring or summer garden walks, but fall will be a bit...different. Unless another polar vortex hits the Midwest, as it did this winter/spring, gardens can be quite lovely in early autumn. The Friends’ last garden walk earned at least \$2,000 for the library.

Explore More Illinois!

Alpha Park Library patrons and families have enjoyed free passes to the Peoria Riverfront Museum for quite some time now. And will continue to do so. But—there’s more!

Explore More Illinois is a new program which allows library users to visit other museums/attractions around the state, either without charge or at a discounted price. Folks will no longer need to pick up a pre-printed pass at the library, though some attractions still require a pass. Here’s how it will work—and, yes, we will get a link on our website to Explore More Illinois, but in the meantime....

- Using a computer, go to the website <https://exploremore.quipugroup.net/?AlphaPark>
- Log into the site using your library card number—on your card; it begins with “D080...”—and the password that you use to access your library account online
- On the “Available Attractions” page, all participating institutions are listed, with instructions about requiring or not requiring a printed pass, etc.
- Click the green “Reserve” button to get a pass for the day
- For a different day, click on “Reserve Different Date”
- Once a date has been chosen, click on “Continue” to confirm your reservation

Please note that the Peoria Riverfront Museum DOES require a printed pass, so you will need to print one to have in hand when you go to the museum.

Alpha Park will receive one pass per day, and each library card is limited to two passes per calendar year. One pass will admit two adults and their children (must be under the age of 18).

Alpha Park Public Library would like to thank the Country Gardeners Club for their generous donation of seeds to our seed library! Our seed library offers a variety of vegetable, flower, or herb seeds for checkout any time during the year. Patrons may borrow from our selection of seeds anytime to plant in their own garden. At harvest time, collect the seeds and bring them back in for the next round of gardeners to enjoy!



BACK TO SQUARE ONE

Alpha Park Library Youth Services

CARPET FUNDRAISER



\$5 DONATION PER SQUARE

**DONATE IN PERSON BY JULY 27
AT THE CIRCULATION DESK,
ONLINE AT WWW.ALPHAPARK.ORG
or on FACEBOOK**

If you would like a receipt please stop in and make your donation.

Donate



Adult Programs

Vision, Reading, & Learning

Wednesday, May 8, 6—8 p.m.

This presentation by local optometrist Dr. Tim Cundiff will discuss the role of the visual system and its impact on reading and learning. Registration required. Register online or by

Digital Eye Strain

Monday, June 24, 6—8 p.m.

Dr. Tim Cundiff joins us once again! This presentation is geared to address the challenges that our digital age of technology is having on our eyes. Register online or contact

Intro to Watercolor

Wednesday, June 12, 7—8:30 p.m.

Dip your toes into watercolor painting. Instructor Kristen Woodley will teach basic techniques and you will end the night with your own masterpiece to take home. Register online or

Intro to Skype

Wednesday, May 15, 2—3 p.m.

Learn the basics of using Skype to make video calls!

Prerequisites: Must be comfortable using a computer, keyboard, and accessing the internet. Must have a working

Basic Photography

Wednesday, June 12, 2—3 p.m.

Learn the basics of photography in this introductory course! Jim Burnham of Burnham Graphic Arts will cover topics such as camera functions, camera recommendations, tips & tricks, and much more! You may bring your camera or camera phone with you. A camera is not required, but strongly recommended. **No previous experience required.** Register

Simplify Your Spending & Saving Strategies

Monday, June 17, 6—8 p.m.

Financial advisor Jenni Case will provide tips and tricks to simplify your spending and saving! Topics will include budgeting, identifying your goals, and prioritization. Please

Laughter: The Healthy Medicine

Wednesday, May 22, 1—2 p.m.

Come and enjoy hilarious and interactive activities with Evergreen Senior Living! Games, jokes, and riddles will be sure to have you on the floor laughing. Find out why laughter is truly the best kind of medicine and what it can do for your

Special Events

Summer Reading Kickoff

Wednesday, May 29, 1—4 p.m.

Sign up the **WHOLE FAMILY** for the summer reading club at Alpha Park Library! **Registration begins at the Kickoff Event.**

The program will run until July 27. The kickoff party is a great time to drop in and get signed up, pick up all the club information as well as enjoy snacks, a craft, and face-painting! (The party marks the *beginning* of registration, but you may

Harry Potter Book Night

Thursday, June 13, 6—8 p.m.

Rescheduled from January Harry Potter Book Night is a worldwide celebration created by Bloomsbury, the publisher of Harry Potter. This year's theme is *Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry*. We will attend classes, make a wand,

Concerts in the Park

6—8 p.m. at the Alpha Park Pavilions

Located at the pavilions inside Alpha Park in Bartonville, IL. Food trucks & concession stands open at 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 8: Brian Dennison—Country Rock Music

Saturday, July 20: RipChordz—Classic Rock Music

Free Comic Book Day

Saturday, May 4, 1—4 p.m.

Swing by the library for comic book fun! Free comic books will be given away on a first come, first serve basis (while supplies last). We will also have activities such as DIY comic book

Popcorn Challenge

*Entries due Thursday, June 27 by 6 p.m.
Public Sampling & Winner Reveal 7:30 p.m.*

Are you a master chef in the making? Use your talents to create a popcorn themed snack that will wow the crowd. Our judges will select a winner in each of 4 age groups. Winners will receive a \$15 gift card, golden spatula, and bragging rights.