The Hayner Public Library District

Serving Alton, Godfrey & Foster Township  Spring 2022

Hayner Laptops and Hotspots Available for Check Out

The Hayner Public Library District is pleased to announce that we now have laptops and hotspots available for check out at the Downtown Library and Hayner Library at Alton Square Mall.

Each laptop is equipped with a mouse, Microsoft Office programs (Word, Excel, and PowerPoint), a web camera, and ports for flash drives (so you can save your work). The hotspots allow users (both individuals and groups) to link a laptop, phone, or tablet to a free high-speed internet connection. For security purposes, the memory on each laptop is erased every time the computer is restarted. Patrons should use a flash drive to save all work; flash drives are available for purchase at the library for $3.00 each if needed.

Funding for this program was made possible through the Illinois State Library’s Expanding Digital Inclusion: Transforming Library Services grant.

- Patrons must be a Hayner Library cardholder in good standing (unexpired card and no outstanding fines over $5.00).
- Patrons must be age eighteen or older to check out a laptop or hotspot.
- Patrons must fill out a Library Electronic Device Agreement form when checking out a laptop or hotspot.
- Laptops and hotspots can be checked out for two weeks and can be renewed once if no other patrons are waiting for a device.
- Overdue fees are $5.00 per day, per device. Wi-Fi service will be turned off to any overdue hotspot devices.
- For security and privacy reasons, the laptops are programmed to delete any information saved to the computer each time the device is rebooted. Therefore, patrons must use their own flash drive to save all work.
- Laptops and hotspots cannot be returned in the book drop; patrons must return the devices to the Hayner Library location from which they were checked out.
- Patrons are responsible for returning the devices in working order and with all components intact. Patrons are responsible for replacement costs for any lost or damaged devices and components.

Check it Out!

Hayner Library Offers Fort Building Kits for Children

The Hayner Public Library District will soon offer fort building kits for our young patrons. The 120-piece kits contain plastic tubes and connectors, as well as instructions to create a variety of different shapes and structures.

These building kits are an exciting way for children to utilize hands-on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) skills while designing and building their ultimate fort. The kits provide an opportunity for children to share new and creative structures with friends and family.
Join us for our Spring 2022 semester of special events. These events are great for all ages, and they’re all free of charge. All programs do require registration. To register, please call 1-800-613-3163. All programs will be held in 225 Alton Square Mall, upper level.

NOTE: 225 Alton Square Mall is located on the east side of the mall, on the second floor between the escalators and J.C. Penney.

REMEMBER: Often, program registration fills up and rolls over to a waiting list. If you are not going to attend a program for which you have registered, PLEASE call 1-800-613-3163 and let us know so that we can fill your reservation from the waiting list.

Jared Hennings

Tuesday, April 26, 6:30 p.m.

Local vocalist Jared Hennings always attracts a full house. Jared will be presenting a program of music for romance. Ballads, Broadway tunes, and more will be on Jared’s playlist. He will also perform a selection of spirituals that showcases his beautiful musical range.

Register at 1-800-613-3163

Wood You Be My Neighbor? The Benefits of Trees

Wednesday, May 4, 6:00 p.m.

Join Trees Forever Field Coordinator Emily Ehley to learn the who, what, when, where, and why of urban forestry. This presentation will include information about the benefits of trees to communities as well as tips on selecting, planting, and maintaining trees in your urban habitat. Come curious: questions, discussion, and engagement welcome!

Register at 1-800-613-3163

Note: This program will take place in the Multipurpose Room at Hayner Library at Alton Square Mall.

Mark Dvorak

Tuesday, May 17, 6:30 p.m.

Mark has performed all over the United States and Europe. In 2018 he was awarded the Woodstock Folk Festival Lifetime Achievement Award and in 2012 he was recognized as Chicago’s “official troubadour.” His concerts are a mix of the familiar and the new, traditional folk, and standards from the Great American Songbook. He plays authentic country blues guitar and picks a great old-time banjo. Join us for a delightful evening of music and laughter.

Register at 1-800-613-3163

George Portz & The Friends of Bluegrass

Tuesday, June 7, 6:30 p.m.

George Portz & The Friends of Bluegrass is one of the most versatile performing groups in the area as they blend their fiery bluegrass roots with some traditional Irish and Louisiana Cajun. Their “Cajun Set” has won raves from crowds throughout the Midwest. This five-piece musical group’s enthusiasm, top-notch musical ability, wit, and humor are always evident during their performances. George, the group’s leader and founder, has won more than 130 first-place fiddling championships, played for two presidents, and performed at the Grand Ole Opry. George’s musical philosophy is to always “leave’em wanting more” and they always do!

Register at 1-800-613-3163
Happy Fiftieth Birthday to The Hayner Public Library District!

Since 1852, the creation, maintenance, and expansion of (what is now) The Hayner Public Library District has been made possible by the tireless work and dedication of staff, volunteers, donors, Jennie D. Hayner Library Association, and The Hayner Public Library District Board of Trustees. The amount of strategy, effort, and creativity that has gone into the success of this library district is truly inspiring.

This article focuses on the years 1972 to 2022, in celebration of the Golden Anniversary of The Hayner Public Library District. For more information about the early years of Hayner Library, please see Better Than They Knew: A History of Public Library Service in Alton, written by Pamela R. Klipsch. This book, written for the celebration of the Hayner Memorial Building Centennial (1891-1991), and others related to Hayner Library history are available in the Hayner Genealogy & Local History Library, 401 State Street, Alton.

A public library district differs from a city or county library in that it is a wholly independent local governmental unit. Public library districts are created by an election or a conversion of a pre-existing library. On January 25, 1972, Alton voters approved the referendum to establish the independent Hayner Public Library District. Prior to this election, the library had operated first as a subscription library and then a city library.

A library center in the Godfrey Town Hall opened in the late spring, Monday through Friday, with over 1,500 items. The new district began operation on July 5, 1972. Just weeks later, and despite expanded services, including the Godfrey library center, bookmobile services, children's programming, and mail-order paperback services, Godfrey and Foster Township voters opted not to join the library district by a five-to-one margin. Godfrey and Foster Township residents who lived in the Alton School District could still purchase non-resident library cards to use Hayner Library services.

In 1973, the library's collection was 80,000 books and periodicals, 3,000 recordings, 300 8mm and 6mm films, and subscriptions to 200 magazines and fifteen newspapers.

On October 6, 1974, an open house was held to celebrate the newly-refurbished Hayner Memorial Library building as the Hayner Children's Library. The library has offered a children's Summer Reading Program annually since at least the 1950s, and Hayner Library has always tried to be a welcoming place to children. Also in October 1974, Hayner Library began offering Sunday hours for the first time in its history.

In 1978, the library purchased the former Tri-City Grocery building at 326 Belle Street, which now houses the current Downtown Library. The library had leased this property and two adjoining properties since 1970.

In June 1981, the Friends of the Hayner Public Library District group was formed.

In 1985, the Alton Square branch library opened at the Alton Square Mall. It was one of the first full-service branch libraries to operate in a shopping mall in the United States and the very first in Illinois. The library branch, whose storefront was covered with gift wrap and a giant bow, was “unwrapped” by Illinois Secretary of State Jim Edgar and Hayner Board Chairman Forrest Cook. The Alton Square Mall library branch was made possible by a grant from the Illinois Library System. Its continuation beyond the first year depended entirely on the expansion of the district to the rest of the Alton School District. Luckily, the following year, on March 18, 1986, a new referendum on Godfrey and Foster Townships joining the library district passed with a margin of seventy-nine percent.

The annual Hayner Library “Food for Fines” drive began in the late 1980s and continues to this day. Each fall, Hayner Library patrons with overdue materials can pay their fines with non-perishable food items, which the library then donates to the Crisis Food Center in Alton.

In June 1987, increasing maintenance costs and the success of the Alton Square branch led the library to discontinue the bookmobile service. In the fall of 1987, the library began providing delivery of books to library users who were temporarily or permanently homebound through the Hayner Homebound service. The service also provided books to area nursing homes and retirement centers.

In August 1987, Hayner Library announced that the Children's Library had become the Young People's Library. The young adult books were moved to the Hayner Memorial Library building in the fall, and services for teens ages thirteen to sixteen increased. The young adult area had a record player with headphones and a record collection that included a selection of rock music.

On Sunday, October 1, 1989, the renovated Main Library (now the Downtown Library) at 326 Belle Street reopened to the public. The renovation featured a new brick exterior, new windows, carpeted floors, new books shelves, and a new computer. The renovation and restoration of the Hayner Memorial Library building at 401 State Street then began. The library’s ninety-nine-year-old slate roof was replaced. Other repairs included repairing mortar, installing a new air conditioning system, and making the restrooms and doors accessible to all patrons. The grand opening and rededication of the building occurred on May 19, 1991. More than 100 visitors came to the celebration, and harpist Amy Conrady played at the event.

In 1992, The Hayner Public Library District began mailing the quarterly newsletter to every address in the district.

In 1993, Hayner Library's card catalog was replaced by a computerized catalog of the library's 184,000 holdings. The task of entering titles and holdings into computer files took more than three years. Hayner Library's newly-computerized catalog was then linked with other members of the regional Lewis & Clark Library System, allowing Hayner Library patrons to see the holdings of other system libraries and electronically request those items through interlibrary loan.

In 1995, the Hayner Youth Library became the first site in Illinois to launch the rod and reel loaner program in a partnership with the Urban Fishing Program of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Hayner Library is still part of the program to this day.

In late 1999, Hayner Library upgraded the computers and began offering internet access thanks to a per capita grant through the state.

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In 2001, Hayner Library began the annual “Food for Fido” program. Every April, Hayner Library patrons with overdue materials can pay their fines in pet food, which the library then donates to the Alton Area Animal Aid Association.

In 2003, Therapy Dog International (Chapter 310) and The Hayner Public Library District staff joined forces to create our Bow-wow Pow-wow reading program. The program enables children of all ages to read an age-appropriate short story of their choice to a certified pet therapy dog. The program intends to make reading fun and boost children’s confidence in reading aloud. As word of the success of this program has spread, Hayner Library staff have been contacted by libraries as far away as Colorado and North Carolina who are interested in starting their own reading programs.

In 2006, The Hayner Public Library District was presented with the Illinois Centennial Award by the Illinois State Historical Society. The award is presented to Illinois businesses and not-for-profit corporations celebrating 100 or more years of continuous operation in recognition of their economic and cultural contributions to the state. Also honored at the 2006 Centennial Awards Banquet were the State Journal-Register, the Chicago History Museum, the Lincoln Park Zoo, and the Chicago Cubs.

On March 21, 2009, Hayner Library at Alton Square Mall moved to its present location on the mall’s lower level. State Senator Bill Haine (who worked as a Page at Hayner Library when he was a teenager) cut the ribbon. Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White and his Jesse White Tumbling Team were there to celebrate. Musical ensemble Bach to the Future performed, and Izzy the Grizzly, mascot of the Gateway Grizzlies baseball team, greeted patrons. During the first week, presentations by staff from the St. Louis Science Center, the St. Louis Zoo, and the Butterfly House added to the excitement. WBGZ Radio conducted its morning broadcast from the library on March 23.

The renovated Hayner Memorial Library building opened as the Genealogy & Local History Library on May 21, 2011, the 120th anniversary of the library building. During the renovation, the stained glass windows were moved from the annex to the current position above the Illinois Room doorways. The display cases and the circular desk area were also added, as well as the Tiffany-style chandelier in the foyer. The Illinois Room now houses the Genealogy & Local History collection, which contains more than 9,000 books and other cataloged items.

In 2017, the Genealogy & Local History Library became a Passport to Your National Parks stamp site. Alton is part of the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area (ALNHA) and was named an official “Looking for Lincoln” community in September 2017. That designation allowed local organizations to become part of the ALNHA’s National Park Service passport program. The library has many historic books about Abraham Lincoln and Lincoln photographs and artifacts are generally on display. In the mid-1850s, Lincoln’s law partner, William Herndon, was a speaker in the Alton Library Association’s lecture series.

In 2018, Hayner Library began providing a StoryWalk® at several local parks. StoryWalk® is an outdoor reading experience in which the library staff deconstructs a children’s book (chosen by our children’s librarian), laminates the pages, and places them in a weatherproof metal storyboard along a path. There are now permanent Hayner Library StoryWalk® markers on the Frog Trail at The Nature Institute in Godfrey.

The yoke of the printing press thrown into the Mississippi River the night that an angry mob murdered Elijah P. Lovejoy on November 7, 1837, can be seen in the lobby of the Genealogy & Local History Library. The press yoke had been displayed for more than eighty years in the lobby of The Telegraph building in Downtown Alton. The Hearst Corporation bought The Telegraph in 2017, and they donated the yoke to the library in 2018 when the newspaper’s offices moved to a new building.

In 2019, a small group of Alton High School students and their teacher, Mrs. Lexa Browning-Needham, collaborated with Renée B. Johnson of the Genealogy & Local History Library to publish a rhyming alphabet picture book Alton ABC. Copies are available at the Genealogy & Local History Library, and a new coloring book, Color Me Alton, will also be available this May.

In 2020, the Coronavirus pandemic struck, and The Hayner Public Library District staff worked to develop innovative ways to serve patrons during this uncertain time. Dial-A-Story, which had first been popular in the 1970s, made a comeback. The Downtown Library and Hayner Library at Alton Square Mall started offering curbside pickup. The Genealogy & Local History Library digitized hundreds of books and photographs, and all databases were accessible remotely.

In 2022, things are somewhat back to normal, but we’ve retained some of the pandemic-related services that made using the library easier for patrons. Curbside pickup will remain an option indefinitely. Newspaper databases are still available remotely, and we’re adding more historical photographs to the Illinois Digital Archives every day. Both the Downtown Library and Hayner Library at Alton Square Mall have children and teen areas and offer programs in-person and virtually. Science with Sam, Dial-A-Story, story time programming, and take-home crafts are all available for children. Teens have movie theater outings, take-home-art projects, virtual escape rooms, and other specialized programming. Free musical performances, lectures, and genealogy programs are being offered in-person once again.

The Hayner Public Library District collection contains over 225,000 items. Nearly ten million items are available through interlibrary loan within the Illinois Heartland Library System. The library offers free e-books and audiobooks through the Cloud Library app. You can access free databases on crafting, auto repair, Consumer Reports, health, readers’ advisory, The Telegraph digital archives, and more from home using your Hayner Library card through our website or SHARE Mobile Library app. Computers, internet, and Wi-Fi access are available for use by patrons at all library locations. The library also provides laptops and hotspots for check out at the Downtown Library and Hayner Library at Alton Square Mall. You can also check out unique items such as telescopes, binoculars, fishing poles, 3D models, gardening kits, STEAM kits, and more for free with your Hayner Library card. The Hayner Public Library District has come a long way in the first fifty years, and we look forward to serving the Riverbend community for the next fifty and beyond.

By Lacy McDonald
The Genealogy & Local History Library Manager
Virtual story times, designed for young patrons ages 2-5, will be available on the Hayner Library Facebook page on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Sam’s Tuesday story time dates are April 5, 12, 19, and 26; May 3, 10, 17, and 24, 2022. Ms. Mary Kay’s Thursday story time dates are April 7, 14, 21, and 28; May 5, 12, 19, and 26, 2022. The story times will also be available on our Hayner KidsSpace YouTube channel.

Take-Home Crafts
Each Thursday, we will offer take-home craft kits to young patrons ages 3-6 in KidsSpace at Hayner Library at Alton Square Mall. Dates for craft distribution are: April 7, 14, 21, and 28; May 5, 12, 19, and 26, 2022. The craft kits will be available at 10:00 a.m. We will distribute the craft kits while supplies last.

Science with Sam
Science with Sam is a fun STEAM-themed program that happens on the first Friday of each month. Ms. Sam will prepare interactive kits for children ages 7-10 to take home that demonstrate different STEAM concepts such as surface tension, Earth science, anatomy, and robotics! Each kit will include an item list and the ingredients needed to complete the activity. We will also post an instructional video online for families to watch! Adult assistance is required for some of the activities. Kits may be picked up at the KidsSpace desk at Hayner Library at Alton Square Mall. Kits will be available for pick up on the following dates: April 1 and May 6. We will distribute the science kits while supplies last.

Library Easter Egg Hunt
April 11-16 - Each child who finds an Easter egg at Hayner Library at Alton Square Mall during this week can turn it in at the desk for an Easter surprise!

Jelly Bean Guessing Game
April 11-16 - Stop by KidsSpace at Hayner Library at Alton Square Mall and see if you can guess how many jelly beans are in the jar. The participant whose guess is the closest wins an Easter basket!

StoryWalk at The Nature Institute
Saturday, May 7 - 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. All ages. Note: The first twenty-five families will receive a free copy of the StoryWalk book.

Summer Reading Program 2022 “Read Beyond the Beaten Path”
Registration for our Summer Reading Program begins Monday, June 6. To register, please visit haynerlibrary.beanstack.org. Everyone who registers on June 6 will be entered for a chance to win a Summer Reading Program-themed basket.

Monday, June 6 - Summer Reading Program Kickoff. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Little Campers Drop-In Craft. 10:00 a.m. Ages 2-5. Mondays, June 6, 13, 20, and 27; July 11, 2022
Stories and Art (Downtown). 10:00 a.m. Ages 2-6. Tuesdays, June 7, 14, 21, and 28; July 5, and 12, 2022.

Wednesday, June 8 - Fred & His Feathered Friends. 10:00 a.m. All ages.

Wednesday, June 15 - Riverbend Raptor. 10:00 a.m. All ages.

Wednesday, June 22 - Mike Anderson Campfire Sing-Along. 10:00 a.m. All ages.

Wednesday, June 29 - Rusty Pliers Comedy Show. 10:00 a.m. All ages.

Wednesday, July 6 - No performer this week.

Sunday, July 10 - LAST DAY TO RECORD YOUR READING IN BEANSTACK.

Wednesday, July 13 - Mad Science. 10:00 a.m. All ages.

Thursday, July 14 - End-of-the-Summer Reading Program Party. 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Hayner Library Performance Room at Alton Square Mall. Celia and Little Celia will perform at 6:00 p.m.

Note: Depending upon future COVID-19 rates and possible mandates, the library may have to switch from in-person programming to virtual programming. For updates, please check Hayner Library's website or Facebook page.
Teen Take-Home Crafts
Do you love making crafts? If so, stop by Hayner Library at Alton Square Mall and pick up a teen take-home craft! We will distribute craft kits on the following Wednesdays: April 20 and May 18. We will distribute crafts while supplies last.

Not-Just-for-Teens Escape Rooms
Visit Hayner Library’s Facebook page every Monday for a new virtual escape room challenge. Figure them out by yourself or with your friends! Answer questions, find clues, and solve riddles to complete these fun virtual games. We will post a new escape room each Monday.

Color Your Stress Away
Visit Hayner Library’s Facebook page every Friday for a new printable coloring sheet. Break out the colored pencils, turn on some relaxing music, and color your stress away.

Teen Movie Event
Hayner Library invites teens ages 12-18 to join us on Monday, April 18, at the new Alton Square Mall movie theater! We have rented one of the NCG Cinema theaters for a Monday evening. Participants will enjoy popcorn and soda during the movie. 

Note: Registration is REQUIRED to attend the NCG movie on April 18. Limited space is available. To register, please call Shannon at (618) 433-2872.

Spring 2022 Activities

Teen Summer Reading Program Events 2022
“Read Beyond the Beaten Path”

Monday, June 6 - Summer Reading Program Kickoff. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Summer Reading Program Kickoff. All participants who register on this day will be entered into a drawing for a $50 gift card. Please register at haynerlibrary.beanstack.org, or on the Beanstack app.

Virtual Escape Room (Hayner Library Facebook page). Mondays, June 6, 13, 20, and 27.

Wednesday, June 8 - Board Games @ RBCC. 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.


Color Your Stress Away coloring sheet (Hayner Library Facebook page). Fridays, June 10, 17, and 24.

Wednesday, June 15 - NCG Movie (Jurassic World: Dominion) Call for time. Note: Registration is REQUIRED to attend the NCG movie on June 15. Limited space available. To register, please call Shannon at (618) 433-2872.

Wednesday, June 22 - Free Play @ RBCC. 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 29 - Paranormal Speaker @ RBCC. 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. Please visit our website for more information about this program.

Wednesday, July 6 - End-of-the-Summer Reading Party (date and time to be announced).

Note: Unless otherwise stated, all in-person teen programs will take place at the Riverbender.com Community Center, located at 200 West 3rd Street, Alton.
**New in Our Illinois Room**

- **Elm Street Presbyterian Church: 101 W. Elm Street, Alton, IL 62002.** IR 285.177386 ELM
- **Illinois Vignettes** by John H. Keiser. IR 977.3 KEI
- **Information Bulletin of the Community High School: School Officers, Faculty, Courses of Study, School Calendar, General Information. Published by the Board of Education of the East Alton-Wood River Community High School, District Number 144, 1930. (Volume: 1930/Aug).** IR 573.77386 INF
- **Jersey County, Illinois, Early Marriages, 1839-1876: With Index to Brides.** IR 977.38557 JER
- **Marriages of Jersey County, Illinois, 1877-1915.** Compiled by Jersey County Genealogical Society. IR 977.38557 JER
- **New Hope** written and illustrated by Henri Sorensen. IR 977.38557 JER
- **One Hundred Years: Historical Sketch - First Baptist Church, Alton, Illinois (1933).** IR LOCKED CASES 286.77386 WAR (also available digitally through the SHARE online catalog)
- **Piasa Indians Drill Team.** IR 977.386 PLA
- **Preservation & Progress at the Urban/Rural Edge** by the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois. IR 977.3 PRE
- **Register of Invalid Pensions: Revolutionary Service, 1789.** IR 973.34 CLO
- **St. Michael’s Catholic Cemetery, Beltrees, Illinois.** IR 977.3857 STM
- **Six Artists of St. Louis** by Thomas Morrissey. IR 759.77865 MOR (Circulating copies also available at the Downtown Library and Hayner Library at Alton Square Mall)
- **Stark County, Illinois: Marriage Record, 1831-1866.** IR 977.3513 TAY
- **Strasburg, Illinois, Hundertjahrfest, 1874-1974.** IR 977.3798 STR (also available digitally through the SHARE online catalog)
- **Travel Talk by Carolyn Scroggins.** A collection of articles that appeared in the “Travel Talk” column in the Bunker Hill, Illinois Gazette-News in the 1980s. IR 929.2 SCROGGINS
- **Topsin: The Story of Dr. James Bazell Stafford, Jr.** by James B. Stafford, III. IR B STAFFORD
- **Vintage Voices: Scripts of Decedent Portrayals.** Compiled by The Hayner Public Library District Genealogy & Local History Library. IR 977.386 VIN

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**Improve Your Outdoors with a Gardening Kit or Gardening Books**

Have you ever wanted to try your hand at gardening but don’t know where to start? Gardening kits are available at the Downtown Library and Hayner Library at Alton Square Mall. Each kit contains a sun calculator (to help you determine whether your outdoor space is full sun, part sun, part shade, or full shade), a soil pH analyzer, and a soil thermometer.

The library also offers hundreds of gardening books for all skill levels, including books on container gardening, water gardens, vegetable gardens, organic gardening, rock gardens, and many other types of gardens. We also offer books on patio design, shed and deck building, and more.

Stop by Hayner Library and check out all of our resources for better outdoor living!

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**Color Me Alton Book Signing**

Alton High School’s Graphics Communication students and Hayner Genealogy & Local History Library staff member Renée B. Johnson are at it again! This year’s publication, *Color Me Alton,* is a multi-generational coloring book exploring the seasons in the Alton area. The book will be released Saturday, May 7, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the Genealogy & Local History Library, 401 State Street, Alton. Renée, the student illustrators/design team, and project manager Lexa Browning will be on hand to sign copies of this fun new publication.

If you are a book lover, published or unpublished author, poet, songwriter, wordsmith, editor, designer, illustrator, publisher, agent, or creator, you’ll want to stop by Maeva’s Coffee, 1320 Milton Road, Alton, on June 11, from 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., for Writers of the Riverbend: Mix and Mingle. This is a unique opportunity to talk with local authors and find your next favorite book. Both *Alton ABC* and *Color Me Alton,* books created through a joint project with Alton High School Graphics Communications students and the Hayner Genealogy & Local History Library, will be available for purchase.

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**Improve Your Outdoors with a Gardening Kit or Gardening Books**

**During the month of April, you may bring back overdue items and pay your fine with pet food and supplies.**

- Applies to Hayner Library materials only.
- Applies to items still checked out to you, not to fines previously returned.
- Pet items must be brought in at the same time you return the materials.
- One pet item per overdue item.

All collected items will be donated to the 5A’s.
African American Newspapers in Alton

Before today’s instant communications and twenty-four-hour news cycle, the only way to know what was going on in your neighborhood, state, or across the country and internationally was to check in with the neighbor who knew all, be in the thick of the happenings, or read about it in a newspaper. Historians and genealogists haunt these relics for evidence of individuals and families; economic, social, and cultural trends; geopolitical developments; and the occasional bit of gossip. In addition to the larger mainstream weeklies and dailies, many newspapers focused on labor, politics, ethnicity, and community. One of the earliest (1862-1900), and believed to be the first to subsequently become a daily newspaper published by a Black man in Illinois, was *The Cairo Gazette*. Such newspapers carried commentary on local, national, or international happenings but with the constituency’s lens. Many of these papers are lost to history because they weren’t published for very long, had a small circulation, or simply because no one thought to save them for the legacy they offered.

Family stories suggest that from 1903 through 1925, Mary Anne Green Hindman wrote a recurring column with highlights from the Rocky Fork area of Godfrey, Illinois. Mrs. Hindman carefully cut and pasted articles, advertisements, and columns in a scrapbook saved by her family. Several pieces include Mrs. Hindman’s byline and the column heading, “Godfrey, Illinois,” but they do not carry the name or date of publication. Perhaps her column, full of personal tidbits and community happenings, was a regular feature of a newspaper for which there is no other record.

One such publication was produced at St. John’s Baptist Church in Alton, Illinois. Rev. Thomas P. Wright, the church’s pastor from 1917 through 1984, studied printing at Shurtleff College. He employed this knowledge to print the church’s bulletins, programs, and a weekly community newspaper. To encourage young people in the church to be informed about their community, Rev. Wright taught them how to run the press and other trade skills. No known copies of their efforts remain.

Another alumnus of Shurtleff College, Fred L. Penny, established a club at the Booker T. Washington Community Center which focused on publishing a community newspaper. Established in 1936 by the Alton Negro Council and the city’s Playground and Recreation Commission, the Center stood at 5th and Belle streets in Alton, Illinois. The newspaper club continued under Mr. Penny’s direction after he became principal of Dunbar School (1937-1939). No known copies or details exist related to the club’s output.

By 1943, members of the Alton NAACP raised concerns about unfair, biased portrayals of the Black community in the Alton media. In answer, *The Question* newspaper was created on September 1, with Harold D. Johnson, editor, and Alton High School student Conway K. Graves, first as circulation manager and then as associate editor. Several prominent African Americans served as directors of the publication and feature writers. Just a few issues of *The Question* are known to have been in the files of the Black Pioneers Committee of the Alton Museum of History and Art. In those pages are articles on community issues and African American Altonians serving in World War II.

*Madison County Courier* began in 1985 with the following editor’s note:

“This paper is being published in the hope that communications between these towns will be greater enhanced and the various communities of Alton, Godfrey, Madison, Edwardsville, and surrounding towns will be linked in a chain of information and ideas. It is hoped that this chain will serve to bring about the greater development of leadership and fellowship among its citizens.

It is the Courier’s objective to publish a weekly newspaper that you feel is an asset to you and your community. Our objective is to bring to the forefront the positive things that are and can be found in our daily activities.”

Once again, a small group came together to both highlight and inform their community. They were dedicated to reaching beyond the boundaries of individual towns to highlight a collective need. Lead by editor Grace Monroe, a renowned educator and activist, the *Courier*, carried articles on local happenings, regional and national race politics. In less than a year, the *Courier* fell victim to financial issues and discontinued publication. Examples of these publications are held in local private collections.

Would that we had an uninterrupted view of how the African American community saw itself and its role in the larger community. Imagine the events, people, camaraderie, and examples of patriotic citizenship lost to time. Likewise, imagine the student and scholar who, at some distant time, take in hand a copy of one of these gems and finds themselves. From such humble bits of paper, ink, and dreams comes the legacy of people, time, and place.

By Charlotte E. Johnson & Renée B. Johnson
Support Hayner Library While Shopping on Amazon

Does the Amazon delivery truck make frequent stops at your house or business? Consider shopping at AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), Amazon’s program that donates 0.5% of your eligible Amazon purchases to a public charitable organization of your choice. With AmazonSmile, you shop as you normally would on the site (there's no extra cost or need to make a separate account) and select “Hayner Public Library” as your organization. Help support the library with the click of a mouse or tap of a phone or tablet!

Project READ Looking for Tutors

Let’s change the world through intentional and meaningful service right in our own community.

Project READ, Lewis & Clark Community College’s volunteer tutoring program serving our community in reading, math, or English language instruction, is looking for tutors to train and match with community members in need. If you would like to participate in an enjoyable online or face-to-face tutor training, or if you or someone you know could benefit from their free services, please call 618-468-4141. They look forward to hearing from you.

National Arbor Day Celebrating 150 Years

Arbor Day was first established 150 years ago after newspaper editor J. Sterling Morton of Nebraska City, Nebraska, proposed a tree-planting holiday on April 10, 1872. It is estimated that more than one million trees were planted in Nebraska on the first Arbor Day! Americans now celebrate Arbor Day by planting trees annually to enrich the earth for future generations.

Plant a tree to celebrate! Studies have shown that when you are around trees, stress is reduced, moods improve, and blood pressure lowers. Trees are good for your health and well-being. Urban street and park trees are just as important as rural forests.

Recommended books for a better understanding of trees:

- *The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate: Discoveries from a Secret World* by Peter Wohlleben
- *The Songs of Trees: Stories from Nature’s Great Connectors* by David George Haskell
- *Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest* by S. Simard
- *The Wild Trees: A Story of Passion and Daring* by Richard Preston
- *Forest Bathing: How Trees Can Help You Find Health and Happiness* by Qing Li

Branching Out 2022 - Genealogy Classes

The Hayner Genealogy & Local History Library is happy to resume in-person Branching Out classes at the Genealogy & Local History Library, 401 State Street, Alton.

April 14 - Sharing and Learning Family History on Social Media
April 21 - Discussion group

May 12 - Ancestry.com: Find Our Elusive Ancestors
May 19 - Discussion group

June 9 - FamilySearch.org: Images, Catalog, and the WIKI
June 16 - Discussion group

July 14 - From the Church to the Courthouse
July 21 - Discussion group

August 11 - Where We’ve Lived: Property Research
August 18 - Discussion group

September 8 - Making a New Home in a New Land: Immigration, Asylum, Naturalization
September 15 - Discussion group

October 13 - Uncover Family Details with Cemetery Records
October 20 - Discussion group

November 10 - Heroes in Our History: Military Records
November 17 - Discussion group

December 8 - All That's Fit to Print and More: Newspaper Research
December 15 - Discussion group

On the second Thursday of each month, library staff presents a discussion of a genealogy research topic.

On the third Thursday, we gather around the fireplace, and each of us gets a chance to share family stories, photos, and projects. We just relax and listen when we don’t have anything to share. We learn from each other and have some laughs too!

Please call 1-800-613-3163 to register for the programs you would like to attend. You can attend as many or as few as you like.
Fiction -
Albert, Susan Wittig. The Darling Dahlias and the Red Hot Poker
Andrews, Mary Kay. The Homewreckers
Atheron, Nancy. Aunt Dimity and the Enchanted Cottage
Baldacci, David. Dream Town (Archer Novel)
Barton, Fiona. Local Gone Missing
Bentley, Don. Tom Clancy Zero Hour (Jack Ryan, Jr.)
Berry, Steve. The Omega Factor
Bohjalian, Chris. The Lioness
Brennan, Allison. The Wrong Victim
Briggs, Patricia. Soul Taken
Brooks, Geraldine. Horse
Brown, Dale. Countdown to Midnight
Brown, Graham. Clive Cassler's Dark Vector (NUMA Files)
Burke, James Lee. Every Cloak Rolled in Blood
Cameron, Marc. Cold Snap (Arliess Cutter)
Carr, Robyn. A Family Affair
Clark, Mary Higgins. Where Are the Children Now?
Dailey, Janet. Somebody Like Santa
Dallas, Sandra. Little Souls
Egan, Jennifer. The Candy House
Estleman, Loren D. Monkey in the Middle: An Amos Walker Mystery
Fechan, Christine. Red on the River
Giffin, Emily. Meant to Be
Graham, Heather. Crimson Summer
Graham, Heather. Sound of Darkness (Krewet of Hunters)
Green, Jane. Sister Stardust
Grisham, John. Sparring Partners
Henry, Emily. Book Lovers
Hepworth, Sally. The Younger Wife
Hilderbrand, Elin. The Hotel Nantucket
Horowitz, Anthony. With a Mind to Kill: A James Bond Novel
Jackson, Lisa. The Girl Who Survived
Jenner, Natalie. The Bloomsbury Girls
Johansen, Iris. A Face to Die For
Kingsbury, Karen. The Baxters: A Prequel
Lauren, Christina. Something Wilder
Lupica, Mike. Robert B. Parker’s Revenge Tour (Sunny Randall)
Lustbader, Eric Van. Omega Rules
Mallery, Susan. The Boardwalk Bookshop
Mandel, Emily St. John. Sea of Tranquility
Michaels, Fern. Secrets
Novak, Brenda. Summer on the Island
Paretzky, Sara. Overboard
Patterson, James. 22 Seconds (Women’s Murder Club)
Patterson, James. Death of the Black Widow
Patterson, James. Escape (Billy Harney)
Perrotta, Tom. Tracy Flick Can’t Win
Perry, Anne. Three Debts Paid (Daniel Pitt)
Pinborough, Sarah. Insomnia
Quick, Amanda. When She Dreams
Reich, Christopher. Once a Thief
Richardson, Kim Michele. The Book Woman’s Daughter
Roberts, Nora. Nightwork
Rovin, Jeff. Tom Clancy’s Op-Center: Call of Duty
Sager, Riley. The House Across the Lake
Sandford, John. The Investigator
Shalvis, Jill. The Friendship Pact
Steel, Danielle. Beautiful
Steel, Danielle. Suspects
Straub, Emma. This Time Tomorrow
Thayer, Nancy. Summer Love
Thayne, RaeAnne. Summer at the Cape
Trigiani, Adriana. The Good Left Undone
Ward, Amanda Eyre. The Lifeguards
Weiner, Jennifer. The Summer Place
Weir, Alison. The Last White Rose: A Novel of Elizabeth of York
White, Kate. The Second Husband

Non-Fiction -
Alford, Terry. In the Houses of Their Dead: The Lincolns, the Booths, and the Spirits
Blair, Selma. Mean Baby: A Memoir of Growing Up
Brown, Tina. The Palace Papers: Inside the House of Windsor - The Truth and the Turmoil
Burroughs, James. Directed by James Burroughs: Five Decades of Stories from the Legendary Director of Taxi, Cheers, Frasier, Friends, Will & Grace, and More
Cain, Susan. Bittersweet: How Sorrow and Longing Make Us Whole
Conway, Kellyanne. Here’s the Deal: A Memoir
Davis, Viola. Finding Me: A Memoir
Fischer, Jenna and Angela Kinsey. The Office Bffs: Tales of the Office Miseducation
from Two Best Friends Who Were There
Gates, Bill. How to Prevent the Next Pandemic
Gilbert, Melissa. Back to the Prairie: A Home Remade, a Life Rediscovered
Grey, Jennifer. Out of the Corner
Hegseth, Pete. Battle for the American Mind: Uprooting a Century of Miseducation
Holes, Paul. Unmasked: My Life Solving America’s Cold Cases
Jacobs, A. J. The Puzzler: One Man’s Quest to Solve the Most Baffling Puzzles Ever, from Crosswords to Jigsaws to the Meaning of Life
McGrath, Ben. Riverman: An American Odyssey
McShane, Wulfhart, Nell. The Great Stewardess Rebellion: How Women Launched a Workplace Revolution at 30,000 Feet
O’Brien, Keith. Paradise Falls: The True Story of an Environmental Catastrophe
O’Reilly, Bill. Killing the Killers: The Secret War Against Terrorists
Patterson, James. James Patterson by James Patterson: The Stories of My Life
Quindlen, Anna. Write for Your Life
Rabin-Havt, Ari. The Fighting Soul: On the Road with Bernie Sanders
Rinella, Steven. Outdoor Kids in an Inside World: Getting Your Family Out of the House and Radically Engaged with Nature
Shannon, Molly. Hello, Molly!: A Memoir
Sedaris, David. Happy-Go-Lucky
Tur, Katy. Rough Draft: A Memoir
Wohleben, Peter. Forest Walking: Discovering the Trees and Woodlands of North America
New! Hayner Library’s Walking Book Club

Hayner Library is happy to introduce a new program, the Walking Book Club, starting in April.

A walking book club is like a regular book club, except you meet at a walking trail and get some exercise while chatting about books. Studies have shown that walking stimulates our brain and helps us to focus and be more creative. Our Walking Book Club integrates mental, physical, and social activities, improving brain health while enjoying the company of others! Come enjoy the fresh air and beautiful trails!

Join us in the great outdoors for our first meeting on Wednesday, April 13, at 12:00 p.m., at The Nature Institute. Frances Young, manager of Rehabilitation Services at OSF HealthCare, will talk about proper walking techniques. Afterward, we will walk the nature trail and discuss what books we wish to read as a group. Jean Shimunek, Reference librarian and Walking Book Club leader, will adjust the walk to be conducive to talking.

- *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Nora Zeale Hurston. An all-time classic novel and masterpiece of the Harlem Renaissance.
- *52 Ways to Walk: The Surprising Science of Walking for Wellness and Joy, One Week at a Time* by Annabel Streets. Explores the good things that can happen when walking.
- *The Power of Fun: How to Feel Alive Again* by Catherine Price. Fun isn’t optional, it is a must in our world today.
- *The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate: Discoveries from a Secret World* by Peter Wohlleben. Tells the story of species interaction in the forest.
- *Watership Down* by Richard Adams. Chronicles the adventures of a group of rabbits searching for a safe place to establish a new warren where they can live in peace.

Registration is required for the Walking Book Club. Forms are available online at www.haynerlibrary.org, or pick one up at the library. For more information, please contact Jean at reference@haynerlibrary.org or call 618-462-0677, ext. 2849.

Pedometers Available at Hayner Library

Mall walkers and outdoor walkers! Stop by Hayner Library and check out a pedometer with your library card. Pedometers can be borrowed for two weeks and possibly renewed (if there are no outstanding holds). Keep track of your steps and enjoy the physical activity of walking. And be sure to pick up a copy of the library’s *Area Nature Walking Guide* for information on great local walks!

They’re Back! Children’s Learning Kits, Study Room Use, and Patron Seating Areas Return to the Library

Starting April 1, 2022, the use of many of the library items and services that were suspended during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic will resume.

Our children’s learning and activity kits, study rooms at Hayner Library at Alton Square Mall, and seating areas at all three library locations will be available for patron use.

A complete list of our children’s learning and activity kits can be found on the KidsSpace page at www.haynerlibrary.org and at the KidsSpace service desk at Hayner Library at Alton Square Mall.

The study rooms at Hayner Library at Alton Square Mall are available during regular library hours. Patrons can make reservations at the Circulation Desk or by calling the library at 618-462-0677, option two. Walk-in study room use is also available if there are no pending reservations. There is a two hour limit when using the study rooms.

For the convenience of our patrons, curbside service will remain available at the Downtown Library and Hayner Library at Alton Square Mall.

Our adult programming will resume in the spring. We will continue to offer our children’s story time virtually through the spring, and in-person children’s programming and story time will resume with the kickoff of our annual Summer Reading Program on Monday, June 6.
Due to the delay in the 2020 Census, the 2022 Illinois primary election will be three months later than normal.

**Illinois Primary**  
March 30-June 23  Vote by mail applications accepted  
May 19  Early voting begins, vote by mail ballots mailed  
June 27  Last day for early voting  
June 28  Primary election day

**U.S. General Election**  
November 8  General Election Day

For more information on elections, visit the Madison County Clerk's office at www.madisonvotes.com.

**Looking for Your Polling Place?**  
Visit the Madison County Clerk's website at www.madisonvotes.com. Click on "Elections," select "Where to Vote" from the drop-down menu, then choose "Polling Place on Election Day." Fill in the "Voter Information Search" box. From here, you will be shown your polling place, congressional district, legislative district, and representatives.

**Register to Vote**  
Hayner Library offers voter registration at our Downtown Library and Hayner Library at Alton Square Mall. Please call ahead before arriving at the library to ensure that a voter registrar is available. You must present two forms of identification, one of which must include your current name and residential address.

You can register to vote throughout the year except during the twenty-seven days before an election. Between twenty-seven and seven days before an election you must use Grace Period Registration.

**Grace Period Registration**  
You may register to vote in the County Clerk's office starting the day after the close of registration through Election Day. You must also vote at the time of registration during Grace Period Registration.

You may register and vote at any early voting location starting fifteen days before the election through Election Day.

**Madison County Clerk's Office**  
157 North Main Street, Suite 109  
Edwardsville, IL 62025  
Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.