Things to Know...
About The Hayner Public Library District

MAILING LIST UPDATE
The mailing list for the quarterly newsletter is being updated. Please contact the library if your address has changed, a correction is needed, or you would like to be added to or deleted from the mailing list.

HOLIDAYS
The library will be closed for the following holidays:
Easter Sunday, April 21
Memorial Day, May 26, 27

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
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NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Bernadette Duvernoy

COPY EDITOR
Mary Cordes

It’s spring fever. That is what the name of it is. And when you’ve got it, you want—oh, you don’t quite know what it is you do want, but it just fairly makes your heart ache, you want it so!
—Mark Twain

Spring is finally here! It’s time to shake off winter and head outside to enjoy the warmer days. Hayner Library has everything you need to enhance your enjoyment of the great outdoors. We offer gardening kits, fishing poles, and telescopes, all of which can be checked out for free with a library card.
Meet the Pups

Did you happen to admire the pictures of the cute dogs in the Alton Square Library display window last month? Well then meet the dogs in person at one of our Bow-wow Pow-wow programs! These canines are professionally-trained therapy dogs and they enjoy meeting new people, especially kids.

Just like all of Hayner Library's programs, Bow-wow Pow-wow is absolutely free. No registration is needed for this program. Tails begin wagging at 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of every month at the Alton Square Library. Be sure to bring the whole family—it's a doggone good time!

Food for Fido

Help us Help Them

Do you have Hayner Library materials that are still checked out and are embarrassingly overdue? Do you keep getting notices in the mail and are scared of what your fine is? Then breathe a sigh of relief. From April 1 through April 30, if you have an overdue item, you may pay your fine with an item of pet food. This amnesty applies to Hayner materials only. Library materials must be returned with the donation and at least one donation made for each fine.

All the donations will go to our furry friends residing at the 5A's Animal Shelter. The devoted staff of this no-kill shelter relies entirely on donations to provide proper care to the adoptable animals that have been abandoned, neglected, or abused...animals like Melissa and Karma (pictured below.) For more information about this worthy organization, call (618) 466-3702, visit their website at www.fiveas.org, visit their Facebook page, or pay them a visit at 4530 N. Alby St., Godfrey, IL.
5-Minute Star Wars Stories, which you can read to your little

- Lego: Star Wars adventures. But why stop at the movies? The library has over two hundred Star Wars themed books, suitable for every age, including fiction and non-fiction; the intergalactic titles include the family-friendly craft book The Star Wars Craft Book by Bonnie Burton as well as 5-Minute Star Wars Stories, which you can read to your little

- It's a movie marathon? The library has all of the essential movies on DVD or Blu-ray.

- Any self-respecting Star Wars fan knows that Star Wars Day is May 4. Let Hayner Library help you celebrate! Are you planning a movie marathon? The library has all of the essential movies on DVD or Blu-ray. We also have the Star Wars: The Clone Wars animated series and several Lego: Star Wars adventures. But why stop at the movies? The library has over two hundred Star Wars themed books, suitable for every age, including fiction and non-fiction; the intergalactic titles include the family-friendly craft book The Star Wars Craft Book by Bonnie Burton as well as 5-Minute Star Wars Stories, which you can read to your little

- First, we need to access the databases from home or your mobile device, visit www.haynerlibrary.org and click on the Online Resources link at the top of the page. You will need a valid Hayner Library card to access the databases from home. The databases are also available for use on any Hayner Library computer during normal library hours.

- Hayner Library offers several research databases, which are available 24/7 on the library’s website. All you need is a Hayner Library card to use these FREE resources from the comfort of your own home. Our databases cover a wide range of topics, including:
  - AutoMate: Auto repair and maintenance information. Includes diagnostic manuals, diagrams, labor times, recall information, repair information, etc.
  - NoveList Plus: Readers’ advisory database for fiction. Includes recommendations and reviews, what-to-read-next information, read alike information, etc.
  - NoveList Plus K-8: Readers’ advisory database for children’s fiction. Includes recommendations and reviews, what-to-read-next information, read alike information, etc.
  - Primary Search: A full-text database providing popular children’s magazines, easy-to-read encyclopedic entries and a vast image collection. Students can learn about a variety of topics.
  - MasterFILE Premier: This database provides full-text magazines, reference books and primary source documents. It also includes an extensive image collection containing photos, maps and flags.
  - Consumer Health Complete: Supports the information needs of patients and fosters an overall understanding of health-related topics. This resource provides content covering all key areas of health and wellness, from mainstream medicine to the many perspectives of complementary and holistic medicine.
  - ConsumerReports.org: Digital archive of Consumer Reports magazine. Includes product reviews, tests, etc.

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  - NoveList Plus K-8: Readers’ advisory database for children’s fiction. Includes recommendations and reviews, what-to-read-next information, read alike information, etc.
  - Primary Search: A full-text database providing popular children’s magazines, easy-to-read encyclopedic entries and a vast image collection. Students can learn about a variety of topics.
  - MasterFILE Premier: This database provides full-text magazines, reference books and primary source documents. It also includes an extensive image collection containing photos, maps and flags.
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A Civil War Muster Roll Journeys North

Jean Shimunek, Hayner Reference Librarian:

While cleaning out our mother’s house, my sisters and I came across a document tucked away in one of her drawers. It was rolled up in a cardboard cylinder and could easily have been tossed out. Thank goodness we saved it!

As it turned out, the document was a long-missing muster roll (a handwritten list of names of prisoners) from the Alton Penitentiary, dated April 30–June 30, 1865. We actually did not know the real historical value, just that it was from the Civil War and that it had to do with my mother’s grandfather, Charles H. Bartlett, and his two year service as clerk at the Alton Penitentiary.

Charles H. Bartlett migrated with his family by canal boat from Boston and in 1858 settled on a farm located near Scarritt’s Prairie in Godfrey (originally known as Monticello). He was a farmer who was a former member of The Bach Society of Boston and the Literary Guild of St. Louis. An incident during his service as clerk at the Alton Penitentiary became part of family lore. When he was out exercising the prisoners, a wagonload of parched corn came down the hill traveling towards the river. The starving prisoners eyed the corn as it started to pass by. Understanding their dire need to eat, he compassionately turned his back so they could get handfuls of the corn.

Soon after I discovered the muster roll, I called Hayner Genealogy & Local History Manager Lacy McDonald. She was ecstatic and knew exactly where the muster roll would be best preserved.

Lacy McDonald, Hayner Genealogy & Local History Manager:

Alton was an extremely important city during the Civil War, and when Jean called to tell me that she had found an original muster roll, I was shocked. The 144th Illinois Infantry Regiment was organized at Alton, Illinois, and was mustered into Federal service on October 21, 1864. The regiment served in garrisons in the Saint Louis, Missouri area and at the Alton Penitentiary and was mustered out of service at the end of the war, on July 14, 1865. At the end of the war, the muster rolls were supposed to go the state of Illinois, but for some reason the 144th Illinois Infantry Regiment’s rolls never made it. Some of their muster rolls have been found here and there, like Jean’s family’s, but most have been missing for the last 150 or so years, so Jean’s discovery is a big deal for the state. I emailed the director of the Illinois State Archives, Dave Joens, and he immediately got back in touch to say that they would love to have the roll and that he would come down from Springfield personally to pick it up. Dave and his colleague Cathy Popovitch arrived a week later. Neither Dave nor Cathy had ever been to Alton before (though Dave mentioned how fondly their boss, Secretary of State Jesse White, talks about Alton, his hometown), and they both enjoyed the visit to the library and lunch at My Just Desserts.

After the muster roll made it to the Archives it needed some TLC. Staff humidified it, flattened it, and gave it a light cleaning. They removed the tape to prevent future deterioration and solidified the gaps with heat-set tissue (mending tape). They then placed it in a large acid free folder which was placed in a temperature and humidity controlled vault for storage. The muster roll will be scanned and a digital copy will be added to the Hayner collection.

I cannot stress enough how important this muster roll is to future researchers. Dave told Jean and me that the Archives possessed the enlistment muster roll for the 144th and the muster out muster roll for the 144th, but did not have an active duty muster roll until Jean’s family’s generous gift. This greatly helps their collection and, considering this is for the Alton prison, Dave believes these muster rolls will be utilized by researchers in the future. Thanks to the instinct by Jean’s mother, Alice Bartlett Marsh, to save this document, a little piece of history is preserved for future generations. It always amazes me what treasures can be found tucked away in attics, closets, and drawers.
**April**

- **Monday, April 1, 2019**
  - Movers & Shakers Story Time
  - 10 a.m. Ages 3-5

- **Monday, April 1, 2019**
  - Evening Story Time (Downtown)
  - 6:30 p.m. Ages 2-6

- **Tuesday, April 2, 2019**
  - Mary Kay's Story Time (Downtown)
  - 10 a.m. Ages 3-5

- **Thursday, April 4, 2019**
  - Mommy and Me Story Time
  - 10 a.m. Ages Birth-2

- **Friday, April 5, 2019**
  - Staff Development Day
  - Library Closed

- **Monday, April 8, 2019**
  - Movers & Shakers Story Time
  - 10 a.m. Ages 3-5

- **Monday, April 8, 2019**
  - Evening Story Time (Downtown)
  - 6:30 p.m. Ages 2-6

- **Tuesday, April 9, 2019**
  - Mary Kay's Story Time (Downtown)
  - 10 a.m. Ages 3-5

- **Thursday, April 11, 2019**
  - Mommy and Me Story Time
  - 10 a.m. Ages Birth-2

- **Thursday, April 11, 2019**
  - Legos @ Your Library
  - 3:30 p.m. Ages 6-12

- **Saturday, April 13, 2019**
  - KidsSpace Easter Egg Hunt
  - 10 a.m. Bring your cameras!

- **Monday, April 15, 2019**
  - Movers & Shakers Story Time
  - 10 a.m. Ages 3-5

- **Monday, April 15, 2019**
  - Evening Story Time (Downtown)
  - 6:30 p.m. Ages 2-6

- **Tuesday, April 16, 2019**
  - Mary Kay's Story Time (Downtown)
  - 10 a.m. Ages 3-5

- **Tuesday, April 16, 2019**
  - After-School Fun (Downtown)
  - 3:30 p.m. Ages 6-12

- **Thursday, April 18, 2019**
  - Mommy and Me Story Time
  - 10 a.m. Ages Birth-2

- **Monday, April 22, 2019**
  - Movers & Shakers Story Time
  - 10 a.m. Ages 3-5

- **Monday, April 22, 2019**
  - Evening Story Time (Downtown)
  - 6:30 p.m. Ages 2-6

- **Tuesday, April 23, 2019**
  - Mary Kay's Story Time (Downtown)
  - 10 a.m. Ages 3-5

- **Thursday, April 25, 2019**
  - Mommy and Me Story Time
  - 10 a.m. Ages Birth-2

- **Monday, April 29, 2019**
  - Movers & Shakers Story Time
  - 10 a.m. Ages 3-5

- **Monday, April 29, 2019**
  - Evening Story Time (Downtown)
  - 6:30 p.m. Ages 2-6

- **Tuesday, April 30, 2019**
  - Mary Kay's Story Time (Downtown)
  - 10 a.m. Ages 3-5

**May**

- **Monday, May 6, 2019**
  - Movers & Shakers Story Time
  - 10 a.m. Ages 3-5

- **Monday, May 6, 2019**
  - Evening Story Time (Downtown)
  - 6:30 p.m. Ages 2-6

- **Tuesday, May 7, 2019**
  - Mary Kay's Story Time (Downtown)
  - 10 a.m. Ages 3-5

- **Thursday, May 9, 2019**
  - Mommy and Me Story Time
  - 10 a.m. Ages Birth-2

- **Thursday, May 9, 2019**
  - Legos @ Your Library
  - 3:30 p.m. Ages 6-12

- **Monday, May 13, 2019**
  - Movers & Shakers Story Time
  - 10 a.m. Ages 3-5

- **Monday, May 13, 2019**
  - Evening Story Time (Downtown)
  - 6:30 p.m. Ages 2-6

- **Tuesday, May 14, 2019**
  - Mary Kay's Story Time (Downtown)
  - 10 a.m. Ages 3-5

- **Thursday, May 16, 2019**
  - Mommy and Me Story Time
  - 10 a.m. Ages Birth-2

- **Monday, May 20, 2019**
  - Movers & Shakers Story Time
  - 10 a.m. Ages 3-5

- **Monday, May 20, 2019**
  - Evening Story Time (Downtown)
  - 6:30 p.m. Ages 2-6

- **Tuesday, May 21, 2019**
  - Mary Kay's Story Time (Downtown)
  - 10 a.m. Ages 3-5

- **Tuesday, May 21, 2019**
  - After-School Fun (Downtown)
  - 3:30 p.m. Ages 6-12

- **Thursday, May 23, 2019**
  - Mommy and Me Story Time
  - 10 a.m. Ages Birth-2

- **Monday, May 27, 2019**
  - Library closed in observance of Memorial Day

**Summer Reading Program 2019**

- **Saturday, June 1, 2019**
  - Summer Reading Program Kickoff
  - 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

- **Monday, June 3, 2019**
  - Stories and Puppets
  - 10 a.m. Ages Birth-6

- **Tuesday, June 4, 2019**
  - Stories and Art (Downtown)
  - 10 a.m. Ages 2-6

- **Tuesday, June 4, 2019**
  - Movie Tuesdays
  - 2 p.m. Ages 2-12

- **Wednesday, June 5, 2019**
  - Tommy Wizard
  - 10 a.m. All Ages

- **Thursday, June 6, 2019**
  - Drop-In Craft
  - 10 a.m. Ages 5-12

- **Thursday, June 6, 2019**
  - Lego Quest
  - 2-3 p.m. Ages 2-12

- **Monday, June 10, 2019**
  - Stories and Puppets
  - 10 a.m. Ages Birth-6

- **Tuesday, June 11, 2019**
  - Stories and Art (Downtown)
  - 10 a.m. Ages 2-6

- **Tuesday, June 11, 2019**
  - Movie Tuesdays
  - 2 p.m. Ages 2-12
Wednesday, June 12, 2019  
- Swords and Roses (A Hero for Hire)  
  10 a.m. All Ages

Thursday, June 13, 2019  
- Drop-In Craft  
  10 a.m. Ages 5-12

Thursday, June 13, 2019  
- Lego Quest  
  2-3 p.m. Ages 2-12

Monday, June 17, 2019  
- Stories and Puppets  
  10 a.m. Ages Birth-6

Tuesday, June 18, 2019  
- Stories and Art (Downtown)  
  10 a.m. Ages 2-6

Tuesday, June 18, 2019  
- Movie Tuesdays  
  2 p.m. Ages 2-12

Wednesday, June 19, 2019  
- OMG Josh  
  10 a.m. All Ages

Thursday, June 20, 2019  
- Drop-In Craft  
  10 a.m. Ages 5-12

Thursday, June 20, 2019  
- Lego Quest  
  2-3 p.m. Ages 2-12

Monday, June 24, 2019  
- Stories and Puppets  
  10 a.m. Ages Birth-6

Tuesday, June 25, 2019  
- Stories and Art (Downtown)  
  10 a.m. Ages 2-6

Tuesday, June 25, 2019  
- Movie Tuesdays  
  2 p.m. Ages 2-12

Wednesday, June 26, 2019  
- Yo-Yo Matt  
  10 a.m. All Ages

Thursday, June 27, 2019  
- Drop-In Craft  
  10 a.m. Ages 5-12

Thursday, June 27, 2019  
- Lego Quest  
  2-3 p.m. Ages 2-12

Monday, July 1, 2019  
- Stories and Puppets  
  10 a.m. Ages Birth-6

Tuesday, July 2, 2019  
- Stories and Art (Downtown)  
  10 a.m. Ages 2-6

Tuesday, July 2, 2019  
- Movie Tuesdays  
  2 p.m. Ages 2-12

Wednesday, July 3, 2019  
- Mad Science (Sounds like Science)  
  10 a.m. All Ages

Thursday, July 4, 2019  
- Library closed in observance of Independence Day

Sunday, July 7, 2019  
- LAST DAY TO TURN IN READING SHEETS!

Monday, July 8, 2019  
- Stories and Puppets  
  10 a.m. Ages Birth-6

Tuesday, July 9, 2019  
- Stories and Art (Downtown)  
  10 a.m. Ages 2-6

Tuesday, July 9, 2019  
- Movie Tuesdays  
  2 p.m. Ages 2-12

Wednesday, July 10, 2019  
- Jeanie Bryan Puppets  
  10 a.m. All Ages

Thursday, July 11, 2019  
- End-of-the-Summer-Reading-Program Party – 5-7 p.m. Performer: Leonardo By Invitation Only!

To register for any of our spring programs, please call Alton Square KidsSpace at (618) 433-2881 or Downtown KidsSpace at (618) 462-0677, ext. 2836.

Summer registration will begin on Saturday, June 1, 2019, at our Alton Square location.

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**TeenSpace TEEN SUMMER READING PROGRAM EVENTS 2019**

**Please note: All teen events will take place at the Riverbender.com Community Center.**

**Wednesday, April 3, 2019**  
- GN Book Club  
  4 p.m.

**Wednesday, April 10, 2019**  
- Glow in the Dark Egg Hunt  
  3:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, April 17, 2019**  
- Teen Movie @ Riverbender.com Community Center  
  3:45 p.m.

**Wednesday, April 24, 2019**  
- Succulent Terrariums  
  3:45 p.m.
A Little Digging Required: A Beginner’s Guide to Uncovering Your Family’s Roots

Filling in the empty boxes on your family tree diagram can be an intimidating project, especially if you have limited knowledge of the past generations in your family. Luckily, Hayner Library has an entire Genealogy & Local History Library dedicated to helping you along your ancestral journey. And knowing your grandparents’ information might just be enough!

Knowing just a grandparent’s name will allow you to perform a basic newspaper archive search. The newspaper archive search may reveal an obituary or wedding announcement, which may reveal a great-grandparent’s name (along with other family members’ names).

Once your great-grandparents’ names are found, the library offers resources such as Ancestry.com and fold3.com, which will allow you to look into past census and military records in the hopes of uncovering more information on their families. And just like that, an impossible project is underway!

But why limit yourself to finding only names and dates when a wealth of other information is waiting to be found? With the resources available at the Hayner Genealogy & Local History Library, you might be able to uncover details about your ancestors such as passport records, family businesses, church membership records, and more. And if your family lived locally, you might even be able to find pictures of the house in which they lived!

Still need a little help getting started? No problem! One of our knowledgeable staff members is more than willing to assist you any time the Genealogy & Local History Library is open. You can even make an appointment for one-on-one assistance by calling 462-0677, option 3. We look forward to helping you find out more about your family’s history!

Who is Mother Goose?

Most children will hear a Mother Goose nursery rhyme well before they are aware of other narrative rhymes, such as the classic children’s book The Cat in the Hat. But is the fabled mother of children’s rhymes a real person?

The answer is a bit tricky, as variants of the name “Mother Goose” have appeared in numerous places throughout history.

According to Boston legend, the “real” Mother Goose might have been one of the city’s dearly departed residents. According to legend, in 1719, a prominent Boston printer by the name of Thomas Fleet published a book entitled Songs for the Nursery; or, Mother Goose’s Melodies for Children. The book was a compilation of silly songs and nursery rhymes his mother-in-law, Elizabeth Foster Goose, would sing throughout the day while tending to her grandchildren. The songs and rhymes were those she invented in her younger days.

However, literary historians point to the existence of various French texts, some as far back as the tenth century, when discussing the origin of Mother Goose. King Robert II of France (A.D. 972-1031) had a wife who told tales to entertain children. And texts, dating as early as 1626, show the French terms “mere l’oie” or “mere oye” (Mother Goose) being used.

In 1697, French author Charles Perrault published a popular collection of rhymes and stories subtitled Les Contes de ma Mère l’Oie (Tales of My Mother Goose). In 1729, British writer and translator Robert Samber translated Perrault’s collection into English under the title Histories or Tales of Past Times, Told by Mother Goose. Samber’s collection was republished in 1786 and gained popularity in the United States.

While the identity of the “real” Mother Goose may be up for debate, one thing is certain: the popularity of the rhymes endure.

All locations of The Hayner Public Library District will be closed Friday, April 5, 2019, for our annual staff in-service and training day.
SPECIAL EVENTS AT HAYNER

Join us for our Spring 2017 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, call 1-800-613-3163. Unless otherwise stated, 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 JCPenney.

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

Bow-wow Pow-wow
Note: This program is held the second Saturday of each month at the Hayner Alton Square Library, 132 Alton Square Mall, Alton, IL.
Saturday, April 13, 10–11 a.m.
Saturday, May 11, 10–11 a.m.
Saturday, June 8, 10–11 a.m.
Join us for a Bow-wow Pow-wow. Certified therapy dogs will be at the Hayner Library at Alton Square Mall and your child can read stories to them or just visit to receive furry hugs and wet kisses. It’s a great way to increase your child’s reading skills and is absolute fun for everyone. Bring your camera!

Dennis Stroughmatt and His Swingin’ Band
The Western Swing Sounds of Bob Wills, Ray Price and Wade Ray
Tuesday, April 9, 6:30 p.m.
Western swing is a musical style that continues to influence musicians across the planet. Southwestern Illinois was home to one of the most influential of Western swing musicians, the legendary Wade Ray. Wade was a contemporary of Bob Wills, mentored Willie Nelson, worked with Ray Price, and was well known in the St. Louis area for his KSD Radio road shows. Fiddler, vocalist, and historian Dennis Stroughmatt studied fiddling and singing styles with Wade in the 1990s and continues to perform many of the songs he learned while studying with him. His performance and presentation will include a mix of songs from the era of Bob Wills, Ray Price and Wade Ray. Like his mentor Wade Ray, Dennis will make you want to swing! Register at 1-800-613-3163.

Branching Out
Note: Branching Out classes are two-part. They are held the second Thursday of each month with a collaborative session offered on the following Thursday. All classes will take place at the Genealogy & Local History Library, 401 State Street.

Sharing & Collaborating on Social Media
April 11 & 18, 10–11:30 a.m.
Ancestry.com: the Forest & the Trees
May 9 & 16, 10–11:30 a.m.
Family Search: Records, Books, and Family Tree
June 13 & 20, 10–11:30 a.m.

Color Me Stress Free
Thursday, April 18, 5–7 p.m.
Thursday, June 13, 5–7 p.m.

Gigi Stavros Darr & Jackie Tolson
Tuesday, April 30, 6:30 p.m.

The Scott Laytham and Karl Holmes Duo
Tuesday, May 7, 6:30 p.m.

All library special events are funded by grants and/or private endowment. Photos may be taken during library programs. Your enrollment in our programs will be assumed as your consent to allow the library the right to use these photos in promotional material.
impressionists in the country. Some of his impressions include Louis Armstrong, Al Green, Ray Charles, Barry White, Michael Jackson, Prince, Marvin Gaye, Nat King Cole, Elvis, Frank Sinatra, Tom Jones, Johnny Mathis, and the Temptations (he performs all five Temptations voices by himself). You must see it and hear it to believe it! Register at 1-800-613-3163.

**Dave Foraker and Triple Play**

**Tuesday, May 14, 6:30 p.m.**

Three of the area’s finest multi-instrumentalists—together in a new trio! Bob Warner, Ed Eckert and Dave Foraker perform rockin’ rhythm and blues and classic rock. Highly danceable rhythms, popular songs and good times guaranteed! Register at 1-800-613-3163.

**Wanda Mountain Boys**

**Tuesday, June 4, 6:30 p.m.**

Southern gospel music has always been known for its smooth harmonies, strong vocals and powerful, straightforward lyrics. For the last twenty-five years, the Wanda Mountain Boys have displayed all three of these qualities while establishing themselves in the gospel music community in the Midwest. Register at 1-800-613-3163.

**Incredible Bats**

**Tuesday, June 18, 6:30 p.m.**

This program, “Incredible Bats”, features live fruit bats! This is a multimedia presentation in which live Egyptian fruit bats and African straw-colored fruit bats are displayed. It is a program well-suited for children and adults. The multimedia program starts with an interactive PowerPoint presentation which dispellings common myths and gives an overview of bats worldwide. The latter part of the talk focuses on local bats and the challenges facing them. After the talk, two different species of fruit bats are displayed for Q&A. At least one striped skunk is brought along for petting and photo ops. You can see four other skunks on the Incredible Skunks Facebook page. There may be other animal surprises as well! Register at 1-800-613-3163.

**Gerald McWorter and Kate Williams-McWorter**

**“New Philadelphia”**

**Saturday, June 29, 2019, 10–11:30 a.m.**

*To be presented at the Genealogy & Local History Library at 401 State Street, Alton.*

Gerald McWorter, a professor emeritus of information sciences and African American studies, and his wife, Kate Williams-McWorter, a professor of information sciences, have written a book telling the story of the town founded by McWorter’s great-great-grandfather, Frank McWorter. Their book, *New Philadelphia*, was published last September, and will be available for purchase at the presentation ($20). Williams-McWorter describes the book as, “200 years of history in 200 pages with 200 photos.” Please see the book review of *New Philadelphia* (also located in this newsletter) to learn more. Seating is limited. Register at 1-800-613-3163.

**Gardening Classes**

**Importance of Pollinators**

**Wednesday, April 17, 6:30–8 p.m.**

*Note: This class will be held in the Multipurpose Room in the Alton Square library.*

Bill Klopfenstein, Illinois Master Gardener and retired chemistry professor, will present a class on pollinator insects and how they help our gardens and their valuable role in nature. Please register at 1-800-613-3163.

**Kokedama String Garden**

**Wednesday, May 8, 6:30–8 p.m.**

*Note: This class will be held in the Multipurpose Room in the Alton Square library.*

Kokedama is a centuries-old Japanese garden artform related to the practice of bonsai. In this class, you will make a kokedama—a moss ball—with an indoor house plant and a ball of moss surrounding it, all tied up with string. This is a living planter as well as a unique display piece. Class size is limited to 10. Please register at 1-800-613-3163.

**Creating Soil in the Home Landscape**

**Wednesday, June 19, 6:30–8 p.m.**

*Note: This class will be held in the Multipurpose Room in the Alton Square library.*

Eleanor Schumacher, Resource Conservationist from the Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District, will present a very interesting class on how one woman turned her suburban lawn into a lush garden by tearing up her sod and generating new soil. Eleanor will go through the steps and ingredients needed to create good soil for your home landscape. Please register at 1-800-613-3163.
New Philadelphia

Book review by George Fuller, Hayner Genealogy & Local History Library

New Philadelphia is the greatest social experiment you’ve never heard of. Bought, planned, and founded by a self-freed slave, New Philadelphia became an integrated community and active stop along the Underground Railroad. Author Gerald A. McWorter (also known as Abdul Alkalimat) descended from “Free” Frank McWorter, founder of New Philadelphia. McWorter is a professor emeritus of information sciences and African American studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Co-author Kate Williams-McWorter, wife of Gerald, is an associate professor of information sciences, also at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The book covers the entire timeline for New Philadelphia and also provides biographical information about Frank McWorter and his family. The six chapters of the book cover each phase in the life of the town of New Philadelphia. The first chapter introduces the place that New Philadelphia holds in United States history. We are then given the quite marvelous and compelling McWorter family history. Chapters three through six cover the life cycle of New Philadelphia from its purchase and founding to its decline, and then to its re-emergence via historical research and archaeology.

Having no prior knowledge of New Philadelphia, I found the history quite inspiring. This is not the first book written about New Philadelphia; however, I would suggest it as a starting point for anyone with an interest. The tale of Frank McWorter and his lifelong quest to buy the freedom of his entire family out of slavery is in itself a story that stands alone. He had a tireless sense of duty to his family—beginning with his wife, then himself, then his children and eventually even grandchildren: Frank freed them all. Frank set the precedent, and his family, and eventually the community he founded, followed suit in the mission to free those enslaved.

Gerald and Kate have collected information compiled by the New Philadelphia Association and created a thorough narrative that brings New Philadelphia to life. Utilizing information that has been preserved by the founding families, oral histories that have been handed down generation to generation, newspaper clippings, court documents, and now archaeology, the McWorter’s have made the facts and artifacts of New Philadelphia available to the reader in the quotations and wealth of photos within the book.

Authors: Gerald A. McWorter and Kate Williams-McWorter for the New Philadelphia Association
Publisher: Path Press, Inc
Publication Date: 2018
THE MANY BENEFITS OF READING

Cognitive
Improves Memory: Reading activates the parts of your brain that create new synapses for memory.

Lengthens Life: One study shows that those who read as little as 30 minutes a day live on average 2 years longer than non-readers.

Makes You Smarter: Reading has been shown to enhance vocabulary, improve articulation, and increase creativity.

Physical
Relieves Stress & Lowers Blood Pressure: Just 6 minutes of reading has been shown to lower heart rate and muscle tension.

Improves Sleep: Incorporating a reading routine into your bedtime ritual tells your body it's time to wind down and get some sleep.

Emotional
Makes You More Empathetic: Reading literary fiction, in particular, has been shown to improve one's understanding of others' beliefs and views.