**New Service from Hayner Library**

**Text Message and E-mail Notifications Now Available!**

The Hayner Public Library District is now offering text message and e-mail notifications for your requests and overdue notices.

Please ask at the Circulation Desk if you would like to receive a text message or e-mail message when your requested items are ready for pickup. The staff will be happy to assist you in making this change to your library account.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Text message and e-mail notifications are automated. **These messages are NOT sent out in “real time.”** The Illinois Heartland Library System software generates text messages and e-mails at 10 a.m., 2 p.m., and 6 p.m. daily. You will receive a separate text message for each item that is ready to be picked up or is overdue. If you sign up for text message or e-mail notifications, you will receive BOTH overdue notices AND pickup notifications this way. You will no longer receive a phone call from a staff member regarding your items ready to be picked up or overdue materials.

**Note:** E-mails and texts will be sent from SHARE Notifications and NOT from Hayner Library. SHARE is the automated network of libraries within the Illinois Heartland Library System.

As always, you can view your library account online at www.haynerlibrary.org.

**Preparing for and Navigating College: What Do I Do Next?**

The Hayner Public Library District is offering a question-and-answer session on what college-bound high school students need to do to prepare for college: What tests do I need to take? How do I apply for scholarships? What can I do to make the transition from high school to college easier? How soon should I start applying to colleges? What’s the difference between a 2-year college and a 4-year university? What sort of long-term goals should I have before choosing a college? I’m in a 2-year college; how do I transition to a 4-year college? All of these questions and more can be answered in your quest to continue your education. It is a tricky field to navigate, and having extra information can make a big difference.

Dr. Brad Noble from Southern Illinois University–Edwardsville is the moderator of this session, providing guidance to those who are lost when it comes to college. He can also answer general questions about majors, especially in the hard sciences areas.

Dr. Noble earned a doctorate from Washington University in St. Louis, has won several teaching awards, and has served on many scholarship committees. Since 1996 he has been a member of the faculty in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at SIUE, where he has taught 19 different classes, three of which he developed. He co-authored a successful patent in 2013.

This program is for high school students, current college students, and their parents, or anyone else who may have questions about college. Be prepared to take notes! This program will be held Monday, March 14, 6:00–7:30 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room at the Alton Square location. Please call 1-800-613-3163 to reserve your spot.

**Need Medical or Health Information?**

We can show you how to navigate credible medical and health resources online at Hayner Public Library. The National Institutes of Health offers MedLinePlus, a website that has access to past and current issues of NIH MedLinePlus Magazine. Search an alphabetical listing of many health topics, a Medical Encyclopedia, a section on Drugs, Herbs, and Supplements, and much more. We are now offering one-on-one appointments (1 hour) to help you navigate the MedlinePlus website. Call Sharon in Reference at 618-462-0677, Ext. 2845, to schedule an appointment.
**SCORE Makes Generous Donation to The Hayner Public Library District**

SCORE, Counselors to America’s Small Business, has once again made a significant contribution to Hayner’s small-business collection.

SCORE is a volunteer organization of businesspeople that offers free confidential counseling to small business entrepreneurs. The Alton/Godfrey SCORE Chapter 423 serves seven counties of the Riverbend area and has helped many local businesspeople achieve success in planning and operating their own business ventures.

The Hayner Public Library District and SCORE have partnered through the years to develop resources and programs supporting our community’s small business development. SCORE also has provided generous funding to Hayner, contributing to the development of a premier small-business collection. These items are available for checkout at Hayner’s Alton Square Mall location.

For more information on SCORE, log onto their website at www.score.org or call 618-467-2280.

On behalf of SCORE, Southwestern Illinois, Chapter 423, Alton-Godfrey, the following titles have been added to the small-business collection of The Hayner Public Library District:

- **Baras, Jeremy.** PopUp Republic: How to Start Your Own Successful Pop-Up Space, Shop, or Restaurant October 2015
- **Benartzi, Schlomo.** The Smarter Screen: Surprising Ways to Influence and Improve Online Behavior October 2015
- **Blanchard, Ken.** The New One-Minute Manager May 2015
- **Browning, Beverly A.** Grant Writing for Dummies, 5th Ed. March 2014
- **Consumer Dummies.** Starting a Business All-in-One for Dummies April 2015
- **Ennico, Cliff.** The Crowdfunding Handbook: Raise Money for Your Small Business or Startup with Equity Funding Portals June 2015
- **Fishman, Stephen, J. D.** Deduct It!: Lower Your Small Business Taxes November 2015
- **Fotopulos, Dawn.** Accounting for the Numberphobic: A Survival Guide for Small Business Owners September 2014
- **Hannon, Kerry.** Getting the Job You Want After 50 for Dummies August 2015
- **Hill, Napoleon.** Your Right to Be Rich: Napoleon Hill’s Proven Program for Prosperity and Happiness September 2015
- **John, Daymond.** The Power of Broke: How Empty Pockets, a Tight Budget, and a Hunger for Success Can Become Your Greatest Competitive Advantage January 2016
- **Kim, W. Chan.** Blue Ocean Strategy, Expanded Edition: How to Create Uncontested Market Space and Make the Competition Irrelevant January 2015
- **Kohler, Mark J., CPA, Attorney.** The Tax and Legal Playbook: Game-Changing Solutions to Your Small-Business Questions April 2015
- **Lamb, Sandra E.** Writing Well for Business Success: A Complete Guide to Style, Grammar, and Usage at Work September 2015
- **Lawson, John.** Kick Ass Social Commerce for E-preneurs: It’s Not About Likes—It’s About Sales March 2014
- **McClatchy, Steve.** Decide: Work Smarter, Reduce Your Stress, and Lead by Example February 2014
- **Newport, Cal.** Deep Work: Rules for Focused Success in a Distracted World January 2016
- **Parker, Michael.** It’s Not What You Say: How to Sell Your Message When It Matters Most December 2015
- **Pimsleur, Julia.** Million Dollar Women: The Essential Guide for Female Entrepreneurs Who Want to Go Big October 2016
- **Ryan, Robin.** 60 Seconds and You’re Hired!: Completely Revised and Updated for 2016 January 2016
- **Tulgan, Bruce.** Not Everyone Gets a Trophy: How to Manage the Millennials January 2016
- **Weinberg, Gabriel.** Traction: How Any Startup Can Achieve Explosive Customer Growth October 2015

You don’t have to be able to read to enjoy a good library book! Babies love looking at the faces, bright colors, and contrasting patterns in board books. Come check out our board book collections at the Alton Square and Downtown library locations and share the joy of reading with your youngest family members!


**A Gentleman with a Zeal for Detail**

John Gibbons is a generous soul with a zeal for detail. Many years ago John began volunteering at the library, graciously doing any and all things asked of him. He didn’t just volunteer his time and talents; he poured his whole heart into many varied tasks.

Always with a smile, John walks into the library with a calm yet vibrant cheerfulness. His laughter, which always follows his entrance, makes everyone around him feel happy.

Recently, after years of hard work and an unfailing determination, John finished two large research projects documenting the history of two local parochial schools, St. Matthew and St. Patrick. John didn’t just sit at a table and wait for information to come to him; he took hold of his projects and hit the road. To supplement his own research work, he travelled to Springfield, Illinois, to visit the Catholic Diocese and search through historical documents archived in their collection.

John sent numerous letters to people who had been connected with the schools asking for photographs or their help in identifying subjects in photos. He spent countless hours searching through back issues of The Telegraph newspaper to find interesting stories, graduation listings, and historical tidbits about each school. He never put an end to a project without exhausting all the resources he could find, and even then he did it reluctantly. He was always in hunt mode, unhurriedly looking just a little longer and a little farther.

When John had gathered all the information and photos he could locate, he began the daunting task of organizing the copious amounts of material he had collected. He also made any needed copies, typed up the entire text, made cover pages, indexed each project, and then printed it out and put it into a large binder. He then submitted the entirety to the Genealogy & Local History Library to be added to the Illinois Room collection.

The library, recognizing John’s efforts in producing such a detailed collection of historical records, sent the first binder to be professionally bound. John was so pleased with the result that, out of his own pocket, he sent the second book to the bindery.

When the books were returned they were cataloged, processed, and quickly added to the collection.

Over the next few months, the books were used almost every day. In fact, the staff of the Genealogy & Local History Library decided to stop re-shelving the books each night and instead leave them on the counter of the service desk because they were being requested so frequently. There were a few times the books were in use as another patron waited.

John is currently working on the history of his third parochial school project, the history of St. Mary’s Catholic School.

The parochial school projects are not the only work of this wonderful volunteer. John has also donated copies of his own family histories. And, yes, all were compiled by John himself. He is a man who wears many hats.

John Gibbons is a fine example of a giving heart. If there were an award for being an “exceptional human being,” John would be nominated, elected, and re-elected many times more. The staff of the Genealogy & Local History Library is delighted to pat John on the back, give him a big high-five, and tell him how much we appreciate his years of service and the many charms he bestows upon us each time he walks through the door. We offer him permanent placement in our volunteer chair for as long as he wants a seat. Thanks, John!

—Pam Bierman

The books mentioned in this article are only available for review at the Genealogy & Local History Library located in the Hayner Building at 401 State Street. The library also has other local church- and school-related books, including histories, directories, yearbooks, and cookbooks. Check the online card catalog, or just come visit us for a more detailed list of what is available.

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**Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps—Not Your Typical Road Map!**

In 1867 Daniel Alfred Sanborn, a surveyor from Massachusetts, began creating a unique type of map of several United States cities. These maps were tools for helping insurance companies assess the potential risks of fire hazards for urban area buildings. This talented entrepreneur’s undertaking would soon become the mapping enterprise known as the Sanborn Map Company.

Today these richly detailed maps are a valuable resource for anyone interested in historical land or property research. They also are beneficial in preservation and restoration efforts. Widely used by architects, urban planners, and land developers, they can be an informative resource for anyone involved in researching individual properties, neighborhoods, or whole towns.

The maps provide an abundance of information such as building outline and size; construction materials used in the framing, flooring, and roof; the placement of windows, doors, and chimneys; street names; and house numbers. Also represented on the maps are details on the roadways such as street and sidewalk widths, boundaries, underground pipelines, wells, water mains, fire hydrants, and railroads. In short, the Sanborn Maps enable researchers to trace the architectural history of an individual building or the development of entire communities.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps (1867–1970) for the state of Illinois are available in digital format at the Hayner Genealogy & Local History Library at 401 State Street. Come browse this database collection of historical state maps and see what you can find out about your house or neighborhood. Digital images of the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps can be viewed and printed in just a few easy steps.
**New in Our Illinois Room**

2005–2015 Alton Area Paintings by Michael B. Mossman 977.386 MOS
Alton Area Churches IR 277.386 ALT
Amish in Illinois: Over One Hundred Years of the “Old Order” Sect of Central Illinois IR 289.7773 BRO
Captain William D. Fluent IR B FLUENT
Eastern European Historical Repositories IR 943 DIC
History of Western Military Academy, Alton, Illinois 1879–1971 IR 373.243 SCO
Land of Big Rivers: French & Indian Illinois, 1699–1778 IR 977.301 MOR
Life on the County Line: Recollections of an Illinois Childhood IR 977.3582 DER
Remembering Elijah Parish Lovejoy IR B LOVEJOY
The Riveroad Gallery Ice Cream Shop and Art Gallery in Alton, Illinois, Historic Rivertown on the Mississippi: A Memoir by Marianne Hanson IR 977.386 HAN
Rural Schools of Macoupin County IR 977.3582 RUR
The Schrimpf Family Scrapbook IR 929.2 SCHRIMPF
Sharing Our Best: Cookbook by Senior Widows Network, Senior Services Plus IR 641.5 SEN
Site Investigation Report: Alton former MGP site, Alton, Illinois prepared by ERM Environmental Resources Management IR 665.7720977386 SIT
The State of Southern Illinois: An Illustrated History IR 977.39 RUS
State-wide Conservation Lake Construction Program, 1947 IR 333.91 ILL
Veterans of the Korean War IR 951.90428 VET
Waggoner Family History 1753 to 1861 IR 929.2 WAGGONER

**Branching Out Is Back!**

After the success of our Genealogy & Local History Library Branching Out classes in 2013–2015, we are happy to announce that Branching Out is back with a new two-part format, updated classes, and several completely new topics. Utilize time-honored research methods and innovative technologies to unravel the mysteries, support the stories, and piece together your family history. Each 90-minute class is offered on the second Thursday of the indicated month followed one week later by a collaborative follow-up session. Join us at the Genealogy & Local History Library for the whole series or just the topics of interest to you. Make sure to check the Special Events section of each newsletter for a reminder of what classes will be offered that quarter. We look forward to seeing you in class!

January 14 & 21 Let’s Get Physical: Organizing the Stuff of Your Family History
February 11 & 18 Bridging the Digital Divide: Scanning, Software Programs, and Storage
March 10 & 17 Sharing and Collaborating on Social Media
April 14 & 21 Ancestry.com: the Forest and the Trees
May 12 & 19 Family Search: More Than the Census
June 9 & 16 Heritage Quest: Revolutionary War, Freedman’s Bank, PERSI
July 14 & 21 From the Courthouse to the Church: Using Official Records
August 11 & 18 All That’s Fit to Print and More: Newspaper Research
September 8 & 15 Where We’ve Lived: Researching Property
October 13 & 20 Uncovering Family Details Through Cemetery Research
November 10 & 17 Heroes in our History: Military Records
December 8 & 15 Making a Home in a New Land: Immigration, Naturalization, and Asylum

Don’t see a topic listed that you’d like to know more about? Tell us; we may be able to add it to next year’s schedule or create a research guide to assist you. Just getting started with genealogy and not sure if these classes are right for you? Call to schedule Branching Out Basics, a 60-minute tutorial on beginning genealogy research.

**Illinois History Day: Student Historian Program for Middle and High School Students**

**Calling All History Nerds!**

Create a website, write an essay, or build a display.
Do it all for History Day!
Need an idea, a place to start?
Visit the Genealogy & Local History Library—we’ll do our part.
Want to create a website about a really cool old place? How about writing a play about a person who did something incredible long ago? Maybe you’d rather do a presentation or build a display. OK, do it! That’s what History Day is all about. It’s like a Science Fair but with history at the core. History Day is a competition for middle school and high school students displaying their history-related papers, exhibits, films, performances, or websites. There’s a regional competition at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, advancement to the state level in Springfield, and some projects make it all the way to nationals in College Park, Maryland. For more information on where to start, go to http://cola.siu.edu/history/history-fair/. Student registration deadline to participate in the Illinois History Day is February 27, 2016. The staff of the Hayner Genealogy & Local History Library is here to help formulate ideas, develop research plans, and cheer you on.

**Attention Family Historians: Are your ancestors from Cuba?**

If so, you have a new source of Cuban genealogy available to search online!

Books, handwritten and typed letters, photos, church and other primary documents relating to Cuba and Cuban genealogy were collected over four decades by Felix Enrique Hurtado de Mendoza.

Mr. Mendoza’s collection includes rare 17th- and 18th-century books and thousands of unpublished family genealogies and manuscripts.

These records have been digitized and put online by Florida International University.

Search for your ancestors in this collection at: http://dloc.com/ifihurtado. Click Advanced Search and enter your ancestor’s name.
ALTON SQUARE

❖ Movers and Shakers Story Time — Come join us for this fun and interactive story time for 3-5-year-olds. Meeting dates are Mondays, January 4, and 11; February 1, 8, and 22; March 7, 14, and 21, 2016, at 10 a.m. Limited space is available. Please register at 433-2881.

❖ Mommy and Me Story Time — This story time is exclusively for the little ones ages birth–2 years old accompanied by an adult. This 30-minute story time includes themed stories, songs, finger plays, and manipulative. Meeting dates are Thursdays, January 7, 14, 21, and 28; February 4, 11, 18, and 25; March 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31, 2016, at 10 a.m. Please register at 433-2881.

❖ Spanish Story Time — Come join us in the KidsSpace at Hayner Public Library at Alton Square for Stories with Hector. Hector Lozano, from Hayner Public Library’s downtown location, will be assisting us for this special story time. This 45-minute activity is a lively combination of books, finger plays, and songs in both English and Spanish for preschool children ages 3 to 5. Hector will be there at 10 a.m. on the following Mondays: January 25, February 29, and March 28, 2016. Please register at 433-2881.

❖ Legos @ Your Library — Bring your imagination and join us for an hour of building and creating Lego masterpieces. The library will supply the Legos, or feel free to bring your own. Legos stay at the library and will be displayed between sessions. Legos @ Your Library will meet in the KidsSpace the second Thursday of each month. Meeting dates are: Thursdays, January 14, February 11, and March 10, 2016, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Please register at 433-2881.

❖ KidsSpace Easter Egg Hunt — Come join the fun at this year’s annual Easter Egg Hunt in the KidsSpace at Hayner Public Library at Alton Square. The fun begins at 10 a.m. on March 12, 2016. All children will receive an Easter bag, hear a few stories with the Bow-wow Pow-wow dogs, and have a chance to sit on the Easter Bunny’s lap. Parents, don’t forget your cameras! Register at 433-2881.

DOWNTOWN

❖ Evening Story Time — Kids can wear their pajamas and bring their favorite stuffed animal to Hayner Library Downtown KidsSpace for stories, puppets, and finger plays before bedtime. For ages 2–5. This story time meets at 6:30 p.m. on Mondays, January 4, 11, and 25; February 1, 8, 22, and 29; March 7, 14, 21, and 28, 2016. Register at 462-0677, ext. 2836.

❖ Mary Kay’s Story Times — Come join Panda Bear and Ms. Mary Kay for an hour of fun and play! This story time encourages children to participate in songs, stories, finger plays, and crafts. Ages 3–5 years. Meeting time is 10 a.m. on Tuesdays, January 5, 12, 19, and 26; February 9, 16, and 23; March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29, 2016. Register at 462-0677, ext. 2836.

❖ After-School Fun — Kids, come join us for After-School Craft at Hayner Public Library Downtown KidsSpace. The craft will be for children ages 5–10 years of age. The fun begins at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, January 19, February 16, and March 15, 2016. Please register at 462-0677, ext. 2836.

Curiouser and Curiouser!
This year marks the 150th Anniversary of Lewis Carroll’s classic *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*. If you dare, fall down the rabbit hole and encounter a few fun facts about this beloved book that will leave you as mad as a hatter and seeing Cheshire cats!

- Lewis Carroll’s real name was Charles Lutwidge Dodgson.
- It is said, but never proven, that the *Dodo* character was based on Charles Dodgson (AKA Lewis Carroll), who had a terrible stutter and would often stammer his last name: Do-Do-Dodgson.
- Alice’s character was based on a real-life little girl named Alice Liddell. However, unlike the character, who is blonde, Liddell was a brunette.
- The novel began as a way to entertain Alice Liddell and her sisters during a rowboat excursion. The story expanded over the course of several more rowboat trips when the girls, especially Alice, persistently wanted to hear more.
- The very first copy of the book was a Christmas present to Alice Liddell in 1864. A year later Lewis Carroll expanded the book and self-published it for the public.
- The original book given to Alice Liddell in 1864 did not include The Mad Hatter and The Cheshire Cat. It was after Carroll expanded the story that they appeared.
- It is speculated that Lewis Carroll suffered from dysmetropsia. This rare neurological disorder, discovered in 1955, causes strange hallucinations, making the affected person feel bigger or smaller than they really are—just like Alice in the book! It is so widely believed that Lewis Carroll suffered from this disorder that it has even been dubbed Alice in Wonderland Syndrome.
- The novels were banned in China in 1931, on the grounds that “animals should not use human language.” The ban has since been removed.
- The original title was *Alice’s Adventures Underground*. Rejected titles include *Alice’s Hour in Elfland*, *Alice Among the Goblins*, and *Alice Among the Fairies*.
- The original novel was illustrated by Carroll.
- The Mad Hatter is one of the most classic characters in Wonderland. Although he and the March Hare are described as being mad, his actual name in the book is only The Hatter.
- The Hatter’s riddle: *Why is a raven like a writing desk?* was never intended to have an answer. However, the most popular answer created over the years is: *Poe wrote on both*.
- The character name The Mock Turtle is taken from a popular dish of the time: *Mock Turtle Soup*.
- In film adaptations, The Mock Turtle is played by a diverse group of actors, including Cary Grant, Ringo Starr, and Gene Wilder!
- Within the 150 years since its release *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland* has never been out of print.
- Early fans of the book included Queen Victoria and Oscar Wilde.
Join us for our winter 2016 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 J. C. Penney.

**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, Ill.

- **Saturday, January 9**
- **Saturday, February 13**
- **Saturday, March 12**

10:00–11:00 a.m.

Join us for a Bow-wow Pow-wow. Certified therapy dogs will be in 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 absolute fun for everyone. Bring your camera!

### Branching Out

**Note:** Branching Out classes are now 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.

- **Let’s Get Physical: Organizing the Stuff of Your Family History**  
  January 14 & 21
- **Bridging the Digital Divide: Scanning, Software Programs, and Storage**  
  February 11 & 18
- **Sharing and Collaborating on Social Media**  
  March 10 & 17

10:00–11:30 a.m.

These classes include many aspects of genealogical research and are suitable for the beginner as well as the more experienced researcher. Register at 1-800-613-3163.

**Steve Davis**

**Elvis! Live!**

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

Elvis (yes, THE Elvis) returns to Hayner Library with his Las Vegas–style revue that will have you rockin’ in your blue suede shoes. Elvis sings and reminisces about his career in this great show that will take you back to Elvis’s Vegas performances of the 1970s. Don’t miss this chance to see The King, live, onstage! Register at 1-800-613-3163.

**Jared Hennings Trio**

**An Evening of Romance**

Tuesday, February 2, 6:30 p.m.

Welcome back one of our favorite local vocalists as he performs a program that will get you in the mood for an extra special Valentine’s Day. This performance will include music that celebrates various types of love songs such as classics “I Wish You Love,” “There But for You Go I,” “Autumn Leaves,” “Misty,” and more. You will hear songs from Broadway musicals, beloved jazz standards, and heartwarming ballads. Who doesn’t love a stirring ballad? So bring your special loved one, or be prepared to think of the apple of your eye as you’re reminiscing with the Jared Hennings Trio. Jared will be accompanied by the husband/wife duo of Marty and Eric Johnson. Register at 1-800-613-3163.

**Elvis! Live!**

**Tuesday, January 26, 6:30 p.m.**

Elvis (yes, THE Elvis) returns to Hayner Library with his Las Vegas–style revue that will have you rockin’ in your blue suede shoes. Elvis sings and reminisces about his career in this great show that will take you back to Elvis’s Vegas performances of the 1970s. Don’t miss this chance to see The King, live, onstage! Register at 1-800-613-3163.

### Armchair Traveler: Ireland

This quarter’s presentation of Armchair Traveler will feature the wonderful green isle of Ireland. With the help of our patron Patrick Coyle, a native of Ireland, we will explore and discover the wonders of Ireland. The island of Ireland is divided into two distinct regions:
SPECIAL EVENTS AT HAYNER

North Ireland, which is part of the United Kingdom, and Ireland. Samples of the cuisine will be served. Please register at 1-800-613-3163.

Spook Handy
Remembering Pete Seeger
Tuesday, February 23, 6:30 p.m.
Spook had the honor of performing with the great Pete Seeger in over 50 concerts. He says, “Pete taught me to always know the first song or two you are going play at a concert. After that, you should have a good feel for what the audience appreciates, and you tailor the rest of your set to that.

“Whether the thread turns out to follow the chronology of Pete’s life, trace the wisdom he collected over the years and embedded into his songs, or express the values of community, environment, peace, and justice he lived, every concert is chock-full of songs everyone can sing: old classics, newer songs written late in his life, songs others wrote that he popularized, and songs I have written or revised under Pete’s tutelage. You’ll also hear some of the stories behind the songs as they were told to me by Pete.” Join us for a great evening remembering a folk master. Register at 1-800-613-3163.

Save Time and Money on Cooking
Monday, February 29, 6:00 p.m.
Note: This event will be held in the Multipurpose Room in the Alton Square library.
Do you want to save money at the grocery store? Learn how to make easy and less-expensive meals? Use apps to make meal-planning more convenient and easier to shop for? Now you can! A representative from Scott Credit Union will be on hand with a presentation to help make meal-time less expensive and easier. The representative will also discuss how and when to buy fresh produce, and how to store it once you buy it. Please register at 1-800-613-3163.

Mark Dvorak
Just Something My Grandma Used to Sing
Tuesday, March 8, 6:30 p.m.
Mark returns to Hayner Library bringing one of his most popular programs. Mark performs classical material from the American songbook, folk favorites, and singalongs, accompanying himself on the guitar and 5-string banjo. He weaves stories from his childhood and shares experiences from the Old Town School of Folk Music. Humorous and engaging, Mark is one of our audience’s favorites! Register at 1-800-613-3163.

Nancy Alexander
Mary Todd Lincoln: A Second Look
Wednesday, March 9, 6:30 p.m.
To be presented at the Genealogy & Local History Library at 401 State Street, Alton, Ill.
William Herndon and other biographers of Abraham Lincoln have shaped the often negative opinions we have of Lincoln’s wife, Mary Todd. In recent years, however, the judgment of Mary has not been so harsh. Local historian Nancy Alexander of the Alton Museum of History and Art will discuss the changing perception of Mary Todd Lincoln, how her ambition aided Abraham in his quest for the presidency, and how illnesses and grief marred her later years. Seating is limited. Register at 1-800-613-3163.

Troubadours of Divine Bliss
Tuesday, March 22, 6:30 p.m.
Troubadours of Divine Bliss is an internationally touring music duo from Louisville, Kentucky, featuring accordion, guitar, and “harmonies that could melt a stone statue” as noted by BBC Radio. They have been recognized as “Best Folk Band” in New Orleans, La., and Louisville, Ky. Their style is as varied as their travels, from Bluegrass to Gypsy to Folk to New Orleans Jazz to Singer-Songwriter but always full of heart, joy, and inspiration. Register at 1-800-613-3163.

Please note: These programs will take place in the Multipurpose Room at Hayner Library at Alton Square Mall.

Social Media Basics (Class limit: 15)
Saturday, January 23, 10:00 a.m.–12 noon
We’ll start with an overview of Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest; what they are and what they do. We’ll discuss pitfalls of social media and what you should avoid doing with each site. We will try to set up an account on at least one site, and cover a brief overview of how to upload photos to each site, as well as one on how to interact with other users. This class is presentational only. You do not need to bring laptops and tablets.

Facebook Revealed (Class limit: 15)
Saturday, February 27, 10:00 a.m.–12 noon
This class will start with the creating of a Facebook account and will then proceed to finding friends, uploading photos and videos, navigating the different applications, and finding a group to fit you. We’ll learn little tricks to make Facebook easier and more accessible, as well as cover some of the privacy settings. This class is presentational only. You do not need to bring laptops and tablets.

Exploring Pinterest and Twitter (Class limit: 15)
Saturday, March 26, 10:00 a.m.–12 noon
Starting with the creation of accounts, we will then explore the uses and benefits of both sites, including sending Tweets and Pinning to a Board, uploading a Pin, and the art of “Following” people. This class is presentational only. You do not need to bring laptops and tablets.


Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Library is a great organization of volunteers that supports the library through quarterly book sales, donating the funds to the library for special projects. Located at 327 State Street in Alton, they collect donations from the community as well as recycling books from the libraries’ shelves.

This great group of friendly people meets every Monday from 9:30 until 12 noon and is always looking for new volunteers. Even if you only have an hour or two, your help would certainly be welcome. Opportunities for volunteer activities include accepting donations, sorting and putting books on shelves, maintaining the book carts in the libraries, and staffing the quarterly book sales.

A fun perk of volunteering for the Friends is that you get first choice of all the great materials they collect—a great benefit for book lovers!

The book sales are held the second weekend in October, February, May, and August. Everything is incredibly priced: paperbacks $.25, hardbacks $.50, all children’s materials $.25, and records and magazines $.10.

If you have materials contributions you would like to give to the Friends, you can drop them off at 327 State Street on Monday mornings, or just leave them at any Hayner Library circulation desk.

Please consider volunteering. For more information, you can contact the Friends at 618-462-4396.

The surprising benefits of reading before bed

We’re all commitment phobes. We scan, we skim, we browse, but rarely do we read.

Our eyes pingpong back and forth from Facebook posts to open chat boxes, unclicked e-mails to GIFs of dancing cats, scanning for keywords but barely digesting what we see. Average time spent on an online article is 15 seconds.

In 2014, the Pew Research Center revealed that one-quarter of American adults hadn’t read a single book in the previous year.

And that’s a shame because those who read consistently exhibit significantly greater memory and mental abilities at all stages in life. They’re also better public speakers, thinkers and, according to some studies, better people in general.

Cracking open a book before you go to bed could help combat insomnia, too: A 2009 study from researchers at University of Sussex showed that six minutes of reading reduces stress by 68% (more relaxing than either music or a cup of tea), thus clearing the mind and readying the body for sleep.

The reasoning, per psychologist and study author Dr. David Lewis, is that a book is “more than merely a distraction, but an active engaging of the imagination,” one that “causes you to enter an altered state of consciousness.”

It doesn’t matter if your book of choice is by James Patterson or James Joyce, fiction or fact, so long as it you find it fully absorbing.

Because when the mind is engaged in a world constructed by words, tension evaporates and the body relaxes, paving the way for sleep.

Computer Classes

These classes will be held in the Multipurpose Room in the library at Alton Square Mall

PC Basics: Introduction to Computers* (Class limit: 12)
Part 1, January 20, 6 p.m.–8 p.m.
Part 2, January 27, 6 p.m.–8 p.m.
An introduction to personal computers. Overcome your fears and gain skills to use personally and professionally. After this class, you will be able to identify basic computer terminology as well as the components and operating systems features; execute basic mouse techniques, use the keyboard features, and printer; open and exit software programs; utilize storage media such as CDs and flash drives; and identify and use the various toolbars.

Part 1
• Interacting with the computer, keyboard, and mouse

Part 2
• Windows: Desktop/Taskbar/Start menu/Open files/Save files/Flash drive/Print documents

Although the courses are free, registration is requested. Please note the skills taught in each session. You may register for one or more sessions at a time. To register, call 1-800-613-3163. Please leave your name, phone number, and the name of the section(s) for which you are registering.

*If you already use a computer and a mouse, this course is not for you.

Internet Basics (Class limit: 12)
Part 1, February 3, 6 p.m.–8 p.m.
Part 2, February 10, 6 p.m.–8 p.m.
An introduction to Web-surfing, e-mail, and online job search and application. This class is designed for individuals with little to no experience in using the Internet. This class will teach you how to set up an e-mail account, use basic e-mail features, use a search engine to locate information and search for employment, and the basics of filling in electronic job applications.

Part 1
• Internet basics/Searching the Internet/Creating & navigating e-mail

Part 2
• Review e-mail basics/Job searches/Job applications (actual job application does not occur)

Although the courses are free, registration is requested. Please note the skills taught in each session. You may register for one or more sessions at a time. To register, call 1-800-613-3163. Please leave your name, phone number, and the name of the section(s) for which you are registering.

Microsoft Word for Beginners (Class Limit: 12)
Part 1, February 17, 6 p.m.–8 p.m.
Part 2, February 24, 6 p.m.–8 p.m.
This class is for the beginning or novice user of Microsoft Word. It totals 2 progressive sessions, which will teach you to create, save, copy, move, and retrieve electronic files. You will also be able to produce a document using a word processing program, edit it, use spell checker, and use editing features such as bold, italics, etc., to produce a finished product. You may register for both sections or register for each separately, according to your need. Topics that will be covered are listed below for each of the 2 sessions.

Part 1
• Getting Started • Saving Documents/Page Formatting • Spacing/Columns
• Printing/Indenting/Tabs

Part 2
• Using Shapes/Text Boxes • Clip Art/Formatting Pictures • Templates

Although the courses are free, registration is requested. Please note the skills taught in each session. You may register for one or more sessions at a time. To register, call 1-800-613-3163. Please leave your name, phone number, and the name of the section(s) for which you are registering.

Flash Drives and Saving Files (Class limit: 12)
March 9, 6 p.m.–8 p.m.
Flash Drives, USB Drives, Thumb Drives, they’re all the same thing. In this class you will learn how to use your flash drive properly, regardless of what you call it. Save, copy, and move files from your flash drive to your computer and back again. You do need to have basic computer knowledge for this class. You may bring your own flash drive to practice with. Flash drives will NOT be provided.

Although the courses are free, registration is requested. Please note the skills taught in each session. You may register for one or more sessions at a time. To register, call 1-800-613-3163. Please leave your name, phone number, and the name of the section(s) for which you are registering.

Computer Maintenance and Security (Class limit: 12)
March 30, 6 p.m.–8 p.m.
Explore your computer’s Control Panel. Learn the ins and outs of maintaining your computer, and what you should be doing to keep your machine preforming at top speeds. Learn about virus protection, and when you should run virus scans on your computer to keep it safe. Basic computer knowledge is preferred. You do NOT need your computer or tablets for this class.

Although the courses are free, registration is requested. Please note the skills taught in each session. You may register for one or more sessions at a time. To register, call 1-800-613-3163. Please leave your name, phone number, and the name of the section(s) for which you are registering.

e-Book and e-Audio Help for 3M Cloud Library and OverDrive

For help downloading e-books and e-audios to your e-reader from the library catalog, librarians Jean Shimunek and Miriam Lozano will conduct a class on Saturday, February 6, 2016, on the basics of downloading e-books and e-audios.

The class will be held in the Multipurpose Room of Hayner Library at Alton Square Mall from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Bring your personal reading device so we can help you download e-books or e-audios to it.

This class is free of charge but does require registration. To register, call 1-800-613-3163. Please leave your name, phone number, the number in your party, and the type of device you have.
Volunteer Profile

It is funny how life comes full circle sometimes. Carol Sobotta and I have known each other for many years. Her husband, Don, was my history teacher in high school. My husband, Harry, started teaching with Don his first year of teaching at Central Jr. High. Carol taught with Harry for many years at East Middle School. So our lives have intertwined with each other for the last 40 years.

Carol began volunteering for Hayner Library in 2009. She has a very busy life but finds her love of reading keeps her interested in our library. You may find Carol in the summer months working at our Alton Square library collecting and checking in all the summer reading books that have been brought back to the library. She volunteers in the Interlibrary Loan Department and keeps the library at Glenview Gardens replenished with fresh books.

I love to ask questions about my volunteers’ lives. I usually send them a questionnaire when we feature them in our newsletter. This is what I have learned about Carol.

Carol grew up in Dwight, a small community in Illinois. When she was in third grade her family moved from a farm into town. Carol had to change schools and had a very hard time adjusting to the new school. Her teacher was a very kind person who influenced Carol’s love for reading. Carol loved to hear her teacher read out loud to the class. Her family had an old chicken house in the back yard, and Carol converted it to her schoolhouse where she bossed all the neighborhood children and pretended to be the teacher. So that is when she knew that she wanted to be a teacher when she was older.

Carol was the second oldest of four children. There were two boys and two girls. Her parents expected the children to do chores around the house and to eventually earn their own spending money. Carol babysat and delivered newspapers. She rode her bike or pulled the papers in the snow with a sled. She always earned good tips. Her parents always encouraged them to save their earnings and spend wisely.

She joined the 4-H Club and learned sewing, crafts, and cooking. She was president one year and was selected at the Livingston County Fair to go to State Fair for her coffeecake demonstration. Her other activities included piano lessons, church, and various clubs in high school.

Carol loved going to school. Her grades were very important to her. She was on the honor roll all through high school and was awarded a four-year teacher scholarship to Illinois State University in Normal, Ill. After graduation her first teaching position was in Streator, Ill., as a second-grade teacher.

After two years of teaching she decided to move to a bigger city. Her new teaching position was in Alton teaching first grade. The first fall her assistant principal introduced her to her future husband, Donald Sobotta. He was a high school history teacher. They were married the next spring. She and Don have celebrated 46 years of marriage. Don became assistant principal in various junior high schools until he resigned to pursue his dream of having his own printing business.

Carol and Don have a daughter, Melissa, who is a substitute teacher in Streator, Ill. The Sobottas have two wonderful grandsons, who are 8 and 12 years old. The boys are excellent readers and great students. The Sobottas make frequent visits to see the kids and Carol’s mother, who is 96 years old and still living in her own home. Carol’s mother is an avid reader, and they often recommend books to each other. Carol’s younger brother and sister live in Dwight, and her older brother lives in Kankakee. Her father passed away in 1994.

When her daughter was in sixth grade, Carol was offered a position in sixth grade teaching language arts, social studies, and sometimes science. One of her greatest hopes was to be able to foster a love of reading in her students. There is no doubt in my mind that she got her wish. Carol and her team partner, Sandy Dean, applied for a grant and started the Accelerated Reading program at East Middle School. Students earned points when answering questions about books that they read. Those points earned prizes for the students. This program is still used in middle school. This was a great accomplishment for Carol and Sandy. Carol was also involved with Young Authors, Student Council, and a drug prevention program.

After 32 years of teaching, Carol retired in 2004. She became a substitute librarian for four years in the Middle School library. She loved working in the library and joined Hayner volunteers in 2009. That was certainly a lucky day for Hayner.

Besides volunteering for Hayner, Carol keeps busy with many activities. She belongs to Old Friends and New and two book clubs and enjoys cooking, gardening, and jigsaw puzzles, computer games, walking, and Zumba gold classes. She and her husband are members of Messiah Lutheran Church, where she started a library and taught Sunday school for many years. She and Don are Jeopardy fans and Cardinal fans. She has kept her love of reading—as Don says, when she is not doing all these activities, her nose is in a book.

Carol’s love of reading brought her full circle into the lives of many children and adults in our community.

We are so lucky to have Carol as a volunteer for Hayner.

—Stephanie Munson

Thank You, Patrons!

For the month of October 2015, we ran a fine amnesty program that allowed patrons to return overdue materials and have their fines waived if the materials were returned with a nonperishable food item. Look at what we collected! This was a win-win event. Patrons were relieved of their fines, and Hayner got the overdue materials back on the shelves. All the food items have been delivered to the Crisis Food Center in Alton. Thanks, everyone, for participating.
What Makes a Cozy Just That?

Imagine your terror at finding out that Jessica Fletcher was moving from Cabot Cove to your neighborhood! Would you stay up at night just wondering when this unassuming, friendly woman was going to befriend you? Would you wonder which of your friends would be the first, and then second, third, even fourth to die? I have loved watching Jessica solve all the murders in Cabot Cove, and then, when she ran out of neighbors, have to move to New York. If you are reading this article about cozy mystery books, you probably have enjoyed watching Jessica solve her way through one community after the next. She is a prime example of a Cozy Mystery Heroine. Cozy mysteries have become a booming business. Many cozy mystery readers are intelligent women looking for a “fun read” that engages the mind, as well as provides entertainment . . . something to “look forward to getting back to.” This is not to say that intelligent men don’t read cozies . . . they do!

The crime-solver in a cozy mystery is usually a woman who is an amateur sleuth. Almost always, she has a college degree, whether she is using it or not. Her education and life’s experiences have provided her with certain skills that she will utilize in order to solve all the crimes that are “thrown her way.” The cozy mystery heroine is usually a very intuitive, bright woman. The occupations of the amateur sleuths are very diverse: caterer, bed and breakfast owner, quilter, cat fancier/owner, nun, gardener, librarian, bookstore owner, herbalist, florist, dog trainer, homemaker, teacher, needlepoint store owner, etc. These are just a few examples of what the amateur sleuth does. When she’s not solving crimes, that is!

The cozy mystery usually takes place in a small town or village. The small size of the setting makes it believable that all the suspects know each other. The amateur sleuth is usually a very likeable person who is able to get the community members to talk freely (i.e., gossip) about each other. There is usually at least one very knowledgeable and nosy (and of course, very reliable!) character in the book who is able to fill in all of the blanks, thus enabling the amateur sleuth to solve the case.

Although the cozy mystery sleuth is usually not a medical examiner, detective, or police officer, a lot of times her best friend, husband, or significant other is. This makes a very convenient way for her to find out things that she would otherwise not have access to. . . . Do you know any caterers or dog trainers who have access to autopsy reports? I don’t! (Unless you count some of my favorite cozy characters.)

At the same time, it is probably safe to say that the local police force doesn’t take the amateur sleuth very seriously. They dismiss her presence, almost as if she doesn’t exist. This, of course, makes it convenient for her to “casually overhear” things at the scene of a crime.

More and more, cozy mystery books are being written as parts of a series. The reader becomes emotionally involved and connected with the reoccurring characters. It’s almost as if the reader is “going home” to a familiar place when she reads her next cozy mystery book in a series. (Of course, publishers of these series must enjoy knowing that fans of a series guarantee the success of each book in the series. It’s not uncommon for fans of a cozy mystery series to pre-order a book before it is available at the stores.)

In a series, it is important that the characters are likeable, so that the reader will want to visit them again. The supporting characters are equally important to the reader. It is for this reason that there are so many funny, eccentric, and entertaining secondary characters. Can you imagine wanting to read the second book in a series that has all of its characters as scummy, lowlife people, perpetrating evil deeds and being downright mean all the time?

* Cozy mysteries are considered “gentle” books . . . no graphic violence, no profanity, and no explicit sex. Most often, the crime takes place “offstage” and death is usually very quick. Prolonged torture is not a staple in cozy mysteries! The victim is usually a character who had terrible vices or who treated others very badly. Dare I say . . . the victim “deserved to die”? And there are usually connections between the victims (if indeed there are multiple victims . . . which usually, in a cozy mystery, there are!), even though the reader is not aware of the obvious connections until the amateur sleuth solves the crimes.

* Sex (if there is any) is always behind closed doors. It is implied . . . at most! Two characters may go from having a late-night, romantic dinner to—fast forward—one person taking a cup of coffee up to their partner, who is enjoying the delicious luxury of sleeping in. Enough said!

Cozy mysteries tend to be fast-paced, with several twists and turns throughout each book. There are usually several red herrings to provide distracting clues to the reader. The amateur sleuth is able to sift through the clues, tossing the useless information out while analyzing the good clues. There is a lot of puzzle solving involved in a cozy mystery.

The cozy mystery puts an emphasis on plots and character development. You definitely could not convert a cozy mystery novel into an “action movie” with a lot of car chases and young, gratuitously topless actresses! An expression comes to mind that could easily differentiate the cozy mystery from other types of mysteries . . . “Brains over Brawn” every time.

—Danna, Cozy-Mystery.com

Check out our great collection of cozy mysteries at Hayner. Authors like Carolyn Hart, Mary Daheim, Joanne Fluke, M. C. Beaton, Diane Mott Davidson, and many more wait for you on our shelves. Go to Cozy-Mystery.com for a full list of cozy mystery authors.
Get your garden growing at Hayner Library! Join us for a series of gardening classes to help you learn what to grow and how to grow it. Classes offer hands-on experience in sowing seeds and planting, taught by local gardening experts. In addition to being a source of fresh healthy produce, gardening can reduce stress, provide exercise, and even improve your emotional well-being. Children can learn new skills, have fun, and develop self-confidence by spending time in the garden tending plants and growing their own food. Parents and grandparents, bring your kids or grandkids, or come alone, and join us in gardening for fun and for health!

**Sign up for one or all of the following classes:**

- **Pizza Garden.** Start your own pizza garden from seed with Kris Larson of Riverbend Roots Farm. Come back later to see your seedlings grow under the Grow Lights at the library. Plants will later be potted up to take home. At the end of this class, sample some homemade pizza! **Wednesday, March 2, 6:30 p.m.**

- **Getting Started – The Soil.** The key to successful seed-to-table gardening is to start with good seed and good soil. Faye Krause, Master Gardener, will talk about good soil and the how-tos of gardening. You will sow nutrient dense microgreens or lettuce to take home. **Wednesday, March 16, 6:30 p.m.**

- **Backyard Composting/Worm Composting.** See worm composting up close while you learn about composting from Michele Berg-Vogel, Ag and Natural Resources Program Coordinator, University of Illinois Extension Service. **Wednesday, March 23, 6:30 p.m.**

- **Prairie Plants.** Learn about prairie plants from Patti Brown, Education Director at The Nature Institute. Plant nasturtium seed in recycled pots to grow and give to mom for Mother’s Day. Also, participants will receive free prairie plants. **Wednesday, April 6, 6:30 p.m.**

- **Practical Ecology for Suburban Gardens.** Learn about the benefits of planting native plants and what to plant to attract bees and other beneficial insects. Free Blue Borage seed packets for participants. **Wednesday, April 20, 6:30 p.m.**

Classes will be in the Multipurpose Room at the Alton Square library location. To register, call 1-800-613-3163. Class size is limited to 20 participants. You can register for all five sessions or individual ones.

**IRS Forms**

In years past, the IRS has provided the libraries with a booklet of reproducible tax forms. They are no longer providing this service so we will not have any forms available for you this coming tax season. They are available online at https://www.irs.gov/forms-pubs.