

Blogs at the Library

Whether you're looking for up-to-the-minute information, something fun to do this weekend, a good read, or even a joke to lift your spirits, check out the wide variety of blogs and bulletin boards available through our Web page at www.mppl.org. You can even share your reading insights with us and others through blog postings and get reading recommendations based on the types of books you enjoy sent right to your home computer. Kids can post their favorite jokes and recommend their favorite reads, too. Check these out!

On the "Research & Reference" page

Notes from the Reference Desk: The purpose of this blog/bulletin board is to provide current useful information with relevant Web links. The emphasis is on government-related information that is frequently requested at the Reference Desk. Recent updates included Swine Flu information, job search strategies, and changes to COBRA coverage.

Village Vibe: This bulletin board is updated weekly and lists upcoming events in and around Mount Prospect. Art fairs, rummage sales, charity events, concerts, and even a little trivia make this a fun read each week. Let us know what your club or organization has planned, and we'll make sure it's included.

Ask a Librarian: E-mail your question and we'll get



back to you. You can also get information in real time through your IM server during regular Library hours. (MPPLIBRARY in AOL and Yahoo!; MPPLIBRARY@HOTMAIL.COM in MSN chat.)

On the "Books, Movies, & Music" page

Check It Out: Join in this ongoing conversation about books, music, movies, and the talent behind them, and find exciting reading and viewing suggestions. Be sure to leave a comment telling us what you think, too.

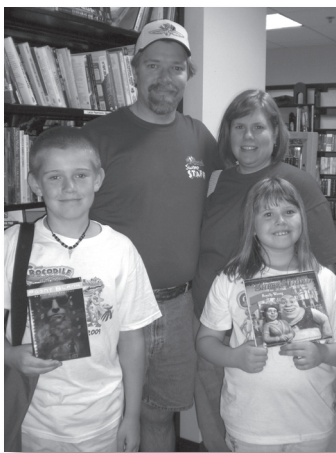
We Recommend: Find out what our staff members are reading, listening to, and watching, and leave your comments as well.

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Book Sale Delivers Bargains and Treasures for Those With Time and Change to Spare

It's a Sunday afternoon at the Mount Prospect Public Library, and Mark McPherson of Mount Prospect and his girlfriend Chris Vodnansky of Chicago, are on a mission to find books—cookbooks in particular. They both agree; they've come to the right place—the ground floor of the Library where it's day three of the Friends of MPPL's quarterly book sale.

Mark and Chris browse through several shelves of books with titles promising tips and easy methods on everything from grilling to heart-healthy recipes. They easily fill a plastic handbasket with six cookbooks plus three popular paperback novels. After a few more minutes of browsing and two more books added to their basket, it's time to tally. Grand total—\$8.50!



The Johnson Family of Mount Prospect share their finds at the Friends Book Sale.

This scene is typical and will play out hundreds of times over the course of the weekend event. Volunteers eagerly wait on people like Mike and Chris, self-described book-loving junkies, as they pony up to the checkout table with armloads of books—most times all purchased for \$20 or less.

"The prices are such that, even if you find a book that is on a topic that may just be a hobby, or you only need to reference a few pages of the book," says McPherson, "you'll still buy it and take it home. It's hard to go wrong for fifty cents."

This hard-to-resist-a-bargain formula has been working its magic at the Friends Book Sales for more

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Your Guide

Your Guide is a section that will appear twice a year in this newsletter. It includes information about the various resources available at the Library as well as suggestions and handy tips. The main section of *Preview* will continue to provide timely information about programs and events taking place at the Library. *Your Guide* is designed to be a pull-out section that can easily be saved for future reference. If there are specific topics you would like to see covered in this new section, please feel free to contact the Community Services staff of the Library.

From the Board of Trustees

One of the major duties of the MPPL Board of Trustees is to envision the future of our Library and to put policies, financing, and structure in place to enable achievement of that future. This is accomplished through a process called strategic planning. The recently approved strategic plan for 2009 through 2012 is the most ambitious since the construction of our new building and promises to deliver new innovative services, an expanded Library presence throughout the community, and an early literacy program for our prekindergarten children designed to develop lifelong learners. The selection of these particular initiatives is intended to satisfying the needs of the Mount Prospect community. These needs were identified through a MPPL-sponsored community survey, Village of Mount Prospect community studies, MPPL Board/staff interactions, and individual discussions with various community leaders.

The plan is in place, and the implementation phase has started with the unveiling of our new catalog to assist you with finding what you are looking for, the opening of our first Library branch, and new programs to assist parents with early reader development. More is coming that will further enrich your Library experience and keep you coming back for more.

John A. Zulaski
Secretary/Treasurer

Readers Advisory: Think Outside the Book

Remember when a visit to the Library meant going to get books? How times have changed! We still have more books than you'll ever be able to read, but now we offer so much more. *Do you commute? Are you planning a trip? Are you finding your exercise routine monotonous?* If you answered yes to any of those questions, why not enjoy a book in a different format?

Audiobooks are a wonderful way to make your commute to work or trip across the country speed by. Instead of fuming in gridlock, you can be transported to Botswana and solve a mystery with Precious Ramotswe from Alexander McCall Smith's *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency* or listen to the latest book to hit the New York Times Bestsellers List. Are you tired of answering the age-old question, "Are we there yet?" Pop in a family-friendly humorist like Garrison Keillor or Bill Cosby and enjoy their wit and wisdom together. You'll find the time passing much more quickly.

If you exercise at the gym or enjoy a good walk you should try a **Playaway**, a handheld, self-playing digital audiobook about the size of an MP3 player. It's the simplest way to listen to audio on the go. Each Playaway holds an entire audiobook, regardless of length. It's easy to navigate through chapters, and automatic bookmarking remembers where you stopped listening. Simply plug in earphones and enjoy. No Cassettes. No CDs. No Downloads. Just play. Our collection has a wide variety of popular items from bestselling authors (Janet Evanovich, Jodi Picoult, David Baldacci) to the classics (William Shakespeare, Jane Austen, Nathaniel Hawthorne). Nonfiction options include memoirs, self-help, and history. You can even learn one of ten different languages!

Did you know you can check out an audiobook without even leaving your home? Available to MPPL cardholders through the Library Web site, MyMediaMall, offers free downloads of recorded books 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Titles can be downloaded to a personal computer and enjoyed on a wide range of portable devices, including MP3 players, Smartphones, and CDs. Since titles are automatically returned when due, there are never overdue items or late fees. You even have the option to choose the length of your checkout. MyMediaMall offers both popular and classic fiction for adults and a wide range of children's and young adult materials.

Not just for pleasure reading, downloadable resources also include a large collection of reference materials and study aids. *Need help in writing your resume? Want to try a new recipe? Planning a trip?* Try downloading a book to guide you as you make preparations for that next great venture.

If you prefer to use your eyes rather than your ears, you will be glad to know that MyMediaMall also offers eBooks, electronic versions of published books. These can be read on your home computer, laptop, or on special eBook readers. Even popular series such as Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight* and James Patterson's *Women's Murder Club* series are available to download directly to your computer screen.

Movie lovers, we haven't forgotten you. MyMediaMall also offers downloadable videos. The diverse collection includes stand-up comedy, documentaries, and movie classics. Whether your taste runs to music concerts, horror films, or PBS home video, you need only sit back and enjoy the show.

No matter what format you prefer, the Readers Advisors at the Fiction/AV/Teen Desk can help you find something of interest.



Book Sale

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than 25 years. Generally, the sales raise anywhere from \$8,000 to \$10,000 per event.

"Ninety to ninety-five percent of what we earn goes directly back into the Library," says George Luteri, president of the Friends of MPPL and one of the organizers of the book sales for more than 25 years. "The list goes on and on of what we've been able to do for the Library with the money raised at the book sales. We sponsor the reading programs and the babysitting clinics. We have purchased about half of the artwork here at the Library, including Monty (the duck bench) over in Youth."

What You Need to Know Before You Go

The Friends Book Sales are held at the Library four weekends a year, typically in the months of January, April, July, and October.

Inventory includes hardcover and paperback books for adults and children, records, audiocassettes, videotapes, CDs, magazines and maps, computer software, puzzles, and games.

"What people need to know is that ninety-eight percent of what is for sale is donated by the public, not Library rejects," explains Laura Luteri, a volunteer who has been working the Friends book sales since the mid-1980s. "Sometimes it's a brand new book that's never been opened. Sometimes it's a hundred-year-old book that is an absolute treasure and then everything in between."

The materials are sorted and displayed in several rooms throughout the Library with the better books individually priced, categorized, and displayed in Meeting Room A. At a recent sale of the better books, a pristine, hardback copy of the children's book "On the Day You Were Born" by Debra Frasier was selling for \$2.50 as was a like-new Janet Plum novel, "Mean Green Thirteen" by Janet Evanovich.

Otherwise, stroll downstairs to the ground level of the Library and enter the Friends Meeting Room, a bookstore setting where nearly 30,000 books await on eight aisles of shelves, conveniently categorized by subject or genre. Here books and materials can be found for even less.

Book prices are \$1 for hardcovers, most CDs, and videotapes; \$.50 for paperbacks, and audiocassettes; \$.25 for records, magazines, and maps. All transactions are cash or personal check; no credit cards are accepted.

"Twice a year we hold our twenty-five cent sale," explains George Luteri as he takes a break from helping customers. "Everything in the room sells for a quarter: paperbacks, magazines, and, recently, we've added videos, too. You can't find a better bargain."

For those who want first dibs on those potential bargains and treasures, the book sales begin on Friday nights with a members-only shopping session from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Check-in opens at 5:30 p.m. Annual memberships are available for purchase at the door and range in price from \$5 for an individual to \$10 for a family, \$25 for a Good Friend membership, and \$100 for a lifetime membership.

The general public is then invited to shop on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and again on Sundays from noon to 4:30 p.m.

With the wide variety of materials available, the sale literally has something for all ages, which is one of the reasons Gail and Michael Johnson of Mount Prospect along, with their two children, 11-year-old Steven and 8-year-old Micaela, are regulars at the book sales. As a second grade teacher at St. Paul of the Cross in Park Ridge, Gail often finds books for her classroom, not to mention something for two other very important young readers.

"My kids love to read," says Gail. "and this sure is cheaper than a bookstore. It's fun to come with them; today we even brought one of their friends. We go up and down the aisles and, if something pops out, chances are we get it."



Mark McPherson and Chris Vodnansky browse for books

BOOKS to go

Book discussion kits for Adults or Kids

In a book club or want to start one?

Try one of our Books-to-go kits.

The kits include multiple copies of popular titles, information about the author, and discussion questions. The six-week loan period gives everyone plenty of time to read. Stop by to check out the available titles and host your own book discussion!





Your Guide to Reference Services

In days gone by, before Google...before Wikipedia...before tweeting...if you had a question, you would travel to your local library and ask a Reference Librarian for help. However, in today's busy, linked-in world, more and more people think that it is easier and better to simply, "look it up on the Internet." Maybe. Or, maybe not. When you get your information from a Reference Librarian, you can be assured that what you are finding (electronic or not) is accurate, verifiable, and up-to-date information.

Not to mention that we are eager to assist you. We enjoy sharing our expertise—we have a wide range of specialty backgrounds—and would love to talk with you. We are easy to reach using IM, e-mail, or by visiting the Library. You can even call us anytime the Library's open; dial 847/253-5675 and ask to speak to a Reference Librarian.

OUR SPECIALTIES

Business

The Business Reference area serves patrons in job-seeking mode, entrepreneurs looking to plan and start a new small business venture, business owners interested in generating leads, or those developing creative strategies to boost their existing sales base. We provide access to prime electronic resources, such as *LexisNexis*, *Plunketts*, *Morningstar*, *S&P NetAdvantage*, and *Business & Company Resource Center*, that can help guide you to track financial investments and monitor portfolios. You may also gain a better understanding of trends in consumerism, industry sectors, and market changes. One of our experts is always available to help you.

Government and Legal

MPPL is a designated Federal Depository Library, meaning that, since 1990, the Library has received U.S. government publications directly from the Government Printing Office (GPO) for free in exchange for providing access to these materials. The U.S. Government is the largest data gatherer in the nation and provides a multitude of publications covering health and disease facts, census figures, employment data, congressional activities, endangered species lists, water and air quality reports, and more.

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Surviving a Rainy Day With Your Kids



When the weather keeps you stuck indoors, you don't need a lot of money or energy to have a blast with the kids. Keep these ideas handy for the next time you hear those famous words— "I'm bored!"

Okay, so where to begin? Books, of course! You might think a book is just a nice thing to curl up with and escape into a story—and it is, but it can also provide endless creative ways to spice up a day at home. Instead of just reading a book, try giving the characters different voices, performing it as a play, or starting a kids' book club. The Library's Kids-Books-to-go kits include everything you need for your book group—multiple copies of a book, discussion questions, and information about the author. Check out *Reading Raps* by Rita Soltan or *The Kids' Book Club Book* by Judy Gelman from our Parent/Teacher (P/T) section of the Library for fun reading suggestions, themed activities, and ideas for making stories come to life.

For children who have caught the acting bug, try one of our American Girl Theater Kits featuring Samantha, Felicity, Kirsten, Addy, or Molly. If it's a puppet show you're doing, look no further than our extensive puppet collection (available for check-out) for your cast of characters. Or make your own sock and paper bag puppets from patterns you can print right at home (www.dltk-kids.com and www.first-school.ws are two great sites). No matter what type of show you're doing, the practices and preparations can be as much fun as the performance!

Music is a great way to brighten up a dreary day. Get your kids moving with songs that will make them want to dance! Many children's songs come with instructions right in the lyrics—remember "Head, Shoulders, Knees, & Toes?" Play "Freeze Dance" and let them strike a goofy pose each time you stop the music, or just let them shake their sillies out with their favorite songs. Add your own sounds by making your own musical instruments. Find simple ways to turn baby wipes containers, shoe boxes, and cans into drums, rainsticks, tambourines, and more from one of the Library's many craft books or magazines such as *Family Fun*. For example, *Nifty Thrifty Music Crafts* by Felicia Lowenstein Niven shows you how to make a ukulele out of a cereal box and maracas out of juice cans. Play along with children's favorites that both you and the kids will enjoy, like Ella Jenkins, Laurie Berkner, Ralph Covert, and Jim Gill.

Beat the blues (and sneak in some math skills) by letting your kids help measure, pour, mix, (and, of course, taste) a new recipe from one of the Library's great cookbooks for kids, like the *Pillsbury Kids Cookbook* or Clare Crespo's *The Secret Life of Food*. The latter's recipes for "Tarantula Cookies" and "Dinosaur Dip" are not only fun, easy, and artful to make, but they're also made from things kids love to eat!

When all else fails, go with an old standby like Hide & Seek, hopscotch (masking tape instead of chalk), or Go Fish. Bust out a board game like Checkers or Chutes and Ladders. Or change it up a bit with one of our games available for check-out, such as Brain Quest, Mancala, or The Rainbow Fish Game.

Then, of course, there's always a field trip...to the Library. Our puppet theater, puzzles, computers, reading nooks, and more can turn any day into an adventure.

Blogs

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Next Reads eNews: Sign up for these regularly issued newsletters providing selected titles of new and interesting reads. Choose from 25 categories—everything from history, armchair travel, mystery, teens, and more. These newsletters come right to your e-mail and link directly to our catalog to see if the title is available.

Ask A Question: Need a recommendation? Got a question about a book, author, movie, or music? Send it in and we'll track down the answer.

On "Teen Zone" page

Teens Talk Blog: Send in a review of your favorite book, movie, or music. Three to five lines will do. Then see what other teens are reading, too.

Kids can get in on the fun too! Go to the "Kids" page for these.

Duckling Digest: Here's your chance to share your favorite books and see what other kids are reading. You're the author!

Beakly Book Blog: Our Youth staff shares their recent reads. Get some great ideas for books and more.

Jokes: Can't stop laughing? Let everybody in on your great joke. Send it to us and we'll put it on our Web site for everybody to see!

Get the information you need right from your home computer, and join in the conversation at Mount Prospect Public Library's Web site at www.mpppl.org. It's just that easy!

Reference Services

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Most of this material is available in electronic format via our Web site. As trained librarians, we understand “government speak” and can help you navigate and translate this confusing array of government information. Interested in the rule of the land? The Library has an online subscription to *Westlaw*, the comprehensive legal resource for both national and Illinois case law that can help you find, understand, and apply the law and legal concepts. Just talk with one of us at the Reference Desk, and we would be happy to introduce you to the world of government information.

Genealogy

The Library has many books and magazines for researching your family and local history, and we offer the two most prominent genealogical online resources: *Heritage Quest* and *Ancestry® Library Edition*. Most important of all, we have actual people who can help you navigate the often confusing pathways of family history research. Anne Shaughnessy is our local history and genealogy librarian, and she can help you locate books, Web sites, and other repositories that might have the records you need. Other experienced genealogy volunteers are here to help you from 9 a.m. to noon on Mondays and Fridays.

Reference at Your Service

We are readily available to assist you with your information needs, big and small. For our undivided attention, we encourage you to set up one-on-one reference appointments for your research projects. We will sit with you and guide you through our online subscriptions and/or our print collection to assist you in finding the information you need. Appointments can be made via the phone or online.

So next time you need an answer or have a research project, give us a try. We are as easy to reach as Google or Wikipedia and a lot more personable.

ONLINE HOMEWORK HELP

www.mppl.org/kids

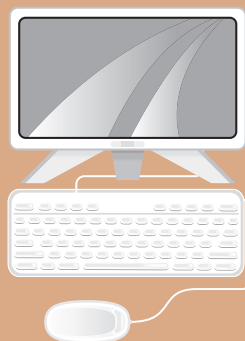
Live Homework Help: one-on-one tutoring

World Book Online: 24/7 access to one of the premiere encyclopedias

Amazing World of Animals: everything you want to know about nearly every species

America the Beautiful: complete details about every state in the union

New Book of Popular Science: information to help you with your science projects



www.mppl.org/teens

LearningExpress Library: practice AP, ACT, and SAT tests

Infotrac One File: more than 9,200 journal, magazine, and newspaper titles, including full-text access to the New York Times from 1995 to present.

Issues and Controversies: articles about issues in today's headlines, useful for debates, and reports on current events and issues.

Mango Languages: develop your conversation skills for a wide variety of languages, including Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, French, and Japanese.

Live Homework Help: one-on-one tutoring

Information Services: aka 411

The Information Services Desk handles most of the incoming phone calls to the Adult Services area on the second floor. It turns out that phone numbers are among our most frequent information requests!

Since most phone companies now charge for “information,” the Library can save you that money. We can find residential and business numbers throughout the country through various databases.

Here's a list of some of our most frequently requested phone numbers. The Library is at the top because you can count on us to have these and other numbers at our fingertips.

Mount Prospect Public Library

847/253-5675

Village of Mount Prospect

Main Number: 847/392-6000

Public Works: 847/870-5640

Human Services/Senior Services: 847/870-5680

Mount Prospect Police and Fire Departments

Police (non-emergency number): 847/870-5656

Fire (non-emergency number): 847/870-5666

Mount Prospect Post Office

847/392-2731

Park Districts

Mount Prospect Park District: 847/255-5380

River Trails Park District: 847/255-1200

UTILITIES

NiCor Gas: 888/NICOR4U (888/642-6748)

Commonwealth Edison: 800/EDISON-1
(800/334-7661)

Illinois American Water: 800/422-2782

Comcast: 800/COMCAST (800/266-2278)

AT&T/SBC: 800/288-2020

Wide Open West (WOW): 866/496-9669

J.U.L.I.E.: 800/892-0123

TOWNSHIPS

Elk Grove Township (south of Central Rd.)
847/437-0300

Wheeling Township (north of Central Rd.)
847/259-7730

ELECTED OFFICIALS LOCAL OFFICES (Give them a call and let them know what you think!)

U.S. SENATORS

Richard Durbin: 312/353-4952 (Chicago office)

Roland Burris: 312/886-3506 (Chicago)

U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

Peter Roskam (6th Dist.) 630/893-9670

Mark Kirk (10th Dist.) 847/940-0202

Illinois Governor Pat Quinn 312/814-2121 (Chicago)

Illinois Atty. General Lisa Madigan 312/814-3000 (Chicago)

STATE SENATORS

Matt Murphy (Dist. 27): 847/776-1490

Susan Garrett (Dist. 29): 847/433-2002

Dan Kotowski (Dist. 33): 847/797-1192

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

Sidney Mathias (Dist. 53): 847/222-0061

Elaine Nekritz (Dist. 57): 847/257-0450

Rosemary Mulligan (Dist. 65): 847/297-6533

Mark Walker (Dist. 66): 847/640-8645

Of course, if you don't see the number you need, just call the Information Services Desk at the Mount Prospect Public Library, and we'll track it down for you. Happy dialing!



Mount Prospect Public Library
explore the opportunities



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www.mppl.org