

## Your Hopes, Your Library, OUR Community

What are your hopes for the community? Why are those important to you? What stands in the way? What needs to happen to make your hopes come true?

This summer, Library staff have begun conversations at community events to find out what is most important to residents about living in Mount Prospect. You may have seen us recently at our booth or in front of a giant block game at the Mount Prospect Downtown Block Party, National Night Out, Green Farmers' Market, or Boxwood Bash. In addition to sharing information about the Library, we have been taking the time to listen to our neighbors.

Why are we asking these questions?

As a public entity that welcomes everyone, part of our mission is to build community. Many libraries across the country, MPPL included, are renewing and strengthening their role as a key resource through community engagement.

"The Library wants to continue to be a vital and vibrant presence within the community while actively working to make the Village an even better place for all to live," says Nancy Kim Phillips, Deputy Director Strategic Operations. "By identifying the shared priorities of our community, we can have an even greater impact. So far, we have been delighted by the willingness of people to stop and share their thoughts and to be involved in additional future conversations."

Community engagement involves developing relationships with local institutions, organizations, and individuals to identify aspirations for Mount Prospect and doing what we can to address priority needs through Library's services and programs, practices and policies, and, importantly, in partnership with others.

"We are continuously looking for ways to nurture existing partnerships, develop new relationships, and participate in joint ventures in order to strengthen our community," says Kim Phillips.

A Library-wide emphasis on engaging with the community will ideally help MPPL identify needs and trends not just among our existing Library patrons but in Mount Prospect as a whole. Because we want to hear what is important to residents, we will be asking you to share your ideas, your hopes, and your aspirations for Mount Prospect at other community events this year and with future conversations at the library. We'll be at the Randhurst Block Party on September 9. Come talk with us!

## Reaching Out, Making Connections

While the Library is a destination for individuals, families, and groups, you'll also find us out in the community, delivering services and making connections with residents. Here are some recent examples of how the Library is working with local organizations. Whether it is inside or outside our building, partnerships with others increase our impact on the community.

1. Kids learned how fun reading can be when they joined South Branch staff for storytime at La Michoacana. Their visit was topped off by a paleta (ice cream) of their choice, donated by the neighborhood ice cream shop.

2. Shoppers at Walmart in Mount Prospect received friendly greetings from none other than Library staff, who registered many of them for the Summer Reading Program on Wellness Day at the store.



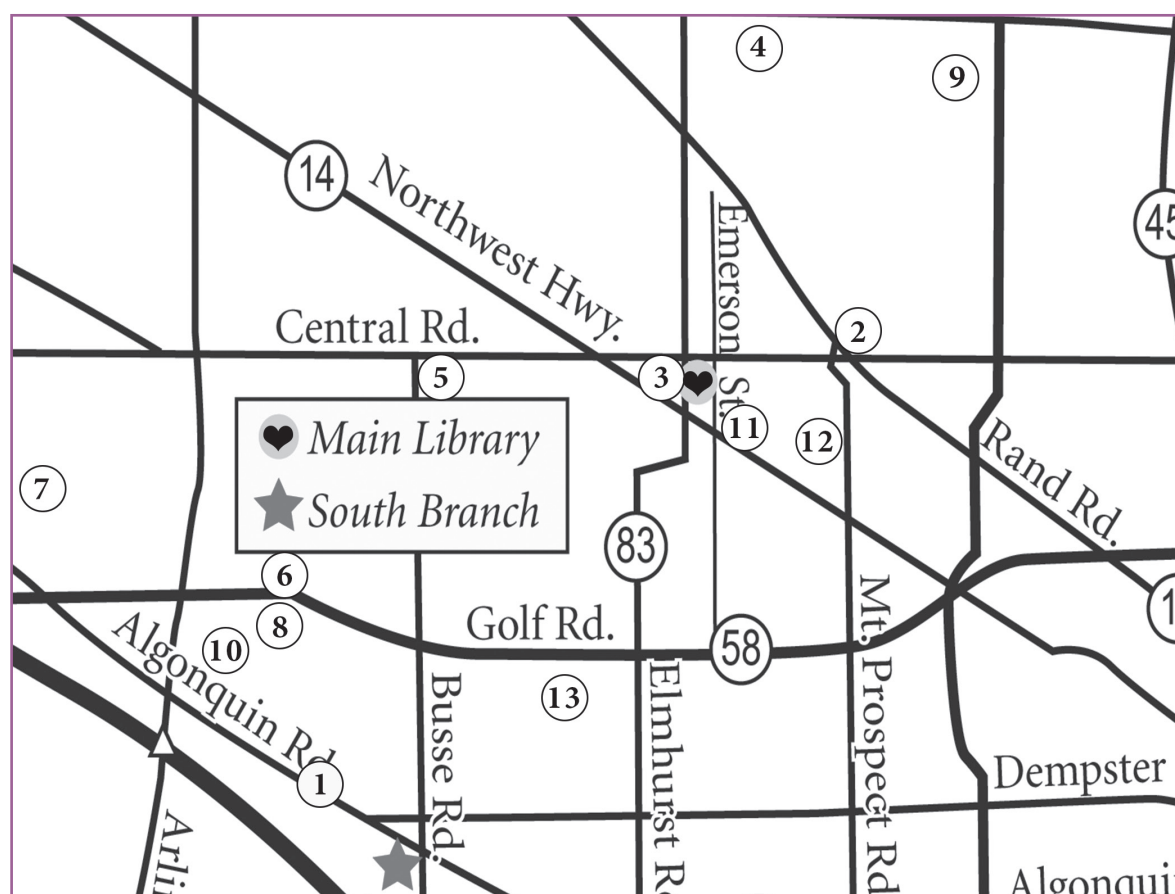
South Branch staff lead a storytime at La Michoacana ice cream shop.



3. Capannari Ice Cream helped judge the creations for the teen Candy Sushi Iron Chef program.

4. MPPL staff helped celebrate back-to-school and the beginning of autumn at Randhurst's Block Party.

5. Rotating around stations set up like a campfire, cave, and treehouse, students at District 57's Westbrook Elementary School pored over books they might want to read over the summer, selected by Youth Services staff in collaboration with the school librarian.



**SPECIAL PULLOUT  
SECTION**  
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## The Web Resources Librarian Recommends:



**Hoopla:**  
Enjoy free movies, music, e-books, and audiobooks from Hoopla on your mobile device or computer with your library card.



**The New Oxford Shakespeare:**  
Has “read Shakespeare” been on your list of things to do for too long? With this resource, you can access the complete works of Shakespeare along with modern annotations and links to the original text.



**Mango Languages**  
Mango prepares learners for realistic conversations and strengthens everyday communication skills in over 70 world languages, including English.

# Bosch Grants Are Catalysts for Learning and Discovery

The Mount Prospect Public Library Foundation worked with Library staff to secure generous grants from the Bosch Community Fund, part of the Robert Bosch Tool Corporation, to purchase a zSpace 3-D computer as well as kits and programming items for STEAM explorations both in and out of the Library.

A highlight of our many Full STEAM Ahead and Mad Scientist programs, zSpace’s interactive 3-D technology lets users dissect frogs, create models, and more, making STEAM subjects come to life before their eyes. It’s a portable device, so not only does it make appearances in the Discovery Zone for school-aged children, but it can also be the virtual star of family STEAM nights at local schools.

Scheduling and transportation often make it difficult for students from local schools to come to the Library, so we go to them! Building on the success of the zSpace, the Library brings STEAM stations to schools. Kids can explore using littleBits, or kits that allow kids to be hands-on



Grants from Bosch help provide STEAM experiences for kids

inventors. Teachers get help in developing their students’ questioning, observation, analytical, planning, and testing skills. The chance to engage students with technology tools sparks student innovation and challenges them to create designs that solve real-world concerns like sustainability.

When families exposed to STEAM stations at school return to the Mount Prospect Public Library, they will find circulating kits and programming items for in-house usage. In addition, to remind families that the Library works in tandem with schools to help kids access STEAM resources, the Library hands out pencils and other fun things branded with our Discovery Zone logo and information.

We hope parents will see the excitement that was sparked at school though the STEAM offerings during the day and recognize the Library as a place where kids can continue to explore. Thanks to the Bosch Community Fund for making STEAM topics come to life for local students!

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6, 7, 8. Students gained hands-on skills at District 59’s Forest View and Juliette Low elementary schools when Mount Prospect Public Library staff collaborated with Arlington Heights Memorial Library to teach them how to sew emoji pillows. Learning by making was also the focus of Cardboard Day, where the two libraries teamed up with the school librarian at Holmes Junior High.

9. At District 26’s River Trails Middle School 7th grade English/Language Arts students stretched their critical thinking skills by learning to recognize “fake news” during sessions offered by Teen Services staff.

10. On Bilingual Parents Night at District 214’s Forest View Education Center, participants learned about Library services and signed up for Library cards.

11, 12. At the second annual Small Business Resource Workshop, Mount Prospect business owners had access to a range of speakers, who shared information and resources to strengthen and support their operations. Held at the Library, the event was sponsored by the Mount Prospect Entrepreneurs Initiative, a partnership of the Village of Mount Prospect, the Mount Prospect Chamber of Commerce, the Mount Prospect Downtown Merchants Association, and the Mount Prospect Public Library.

13. With fake news being a hot topic for people of all ages, our Librarians were also happy to offer tips for spotting it and evaluating information to a group of seniors at Trinity United Methodist Church.

## Find Help When You Need It at Tutor.com



No time to meet with a tutor in person? Try Tutor.com

Mount Prospect Public Library offers Tutor.com, a live, one-on-one online tutoring service for students in elementary, middle, and high school as well as for early college students. Since 2008, this service has been provided with financial help from the Bosch Community Fund.

Tutor.com is available at crucial times: after school or at night; when homework struggles can be frustrating; and during the middle- and high-school years, when students often begin making decisions about what kind of subjects they like and what kind of career path they will follow. While Tutor.com offers help with the full range of school subjects, we are especially committed to this service because of the one-on-one guidance that a tutor can provide a student struggling with a STEAM subject.

Many of Tutor.com’s features acknowledge how students study in real life: the service is available from 2-9 p.m. on desktop or mobile devices; students and tutors can interact via chat rooms and white boards (including those with graph paper); and students can save their sessions for future reference. Tutor.com also offers a Skills Center with thousands of searchable resources, including videos, templates, test preparation materials, and more.



## Reading by Design: Summer Reading

Did you construct a fun summer at the Library? With our reading programs for all ages, you raised a book lover, assembled your way to a prize, or just manufactured another reason to visit us!

### Youth Summer Reading: Bots and Brain Games

A LEGO mini Chicago was just one of the cool things designed for Summer Reading in Youth Services. We welcomed readers who guessed the number of LEGOs in the skyline scene, found the robot roaming around the department each day, and helped their school try for Monty's trophy.



This young patron designed and built windchimes as part of our summerreadingprogram.



South Branch Summer Reading: A Wheel Good Time

Patrons guessed the number of K'Nex in the working Ferris Wheel at the South Branch, and joined us for Builderfest, crafts, and performances. We even had kids reading between soccer games during Kicking it With the Cops.

### Teen Summer Reading: #Shoutout What You've Been Reading

Teens completed challenges to increase their chances of winning prizes. One summer favorite was contributing a #SHOUTOUT topic on social media. Some favorite hashtags were #booksnacks (Harry Potstickers, Skeleton Key Lime Pie),



#explain a book plot badly (Charlotte's Web: A spider keeps a farmer from eating bacon), and #bookfaces. We also saw many teens at programs, including an Escape Room, Candy Sushi, and Crafternoons.



### Adult Summer Reading: Designed for Success



Our Check it Out blog featured 50 Days of Summer Reading, where we spotlighted book or genre suggestions. Visit our Web site to read all of the posts. Visit [mppl.org/check\\_it\\_out](http://mppl.org/check_it_out).

We also had some great conversations about genres and hot titles on our Goodreads group message boards. You can still follow us on Goodreads and see what other patrons read this summer.

One enthusiastic participant told us she has looked forward to, and participated in, our Summer Reading program every year for the last 17 years. Thanks to her and to all of our patrons for supporting this fun annual event.

## Celebrate Your Freedom to Read

September 24-30 is Banned Books Week, an annual call to remember that access to books is crucial to an educated democracy. Right now, in 2017, there are still books that are challenged because of content or subject matter. Thanks to the First Amendment – and the determination of libraries around the country – you have the right to your own reading choices.

Discover books that have been challenged at our week long lobby display. Adults are invited to a City Lit Theater Company performance of readings from banned materials, and teens can test their awareness of the diverse range of ideas found in books at our trivia night. Registration is required.

### CENSORED: Banned Books Week Trivia Night

Thursday, September 28, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Teens in 6th-12th grades.

Defy Big Brother and celebrate Banned Books Week by pitting your knowledge of books that have been banned or censored throughout history against other teens! We'll have pizza and prizes while we celebrate our intellectual freedom.

### City Lit Theater Books on the Chopping Block

Sunday, October 1, 2-3:30 p.m.

For mature audiences.

City Lit Theater Company has teamed up with the American Library Association to present a captivating performance of dramatic readings taken from banned books. There will also be an opportunity for a discussion after the readings.



City Lit Theater Company is devoted to stage adaptations of literary material. Over 35 seasons, City Lit has explored fiction, non fiction, biography, essays, and drama in performance, while presenting a wide array of voices.

### These Are the 5 Most Banned and Challenged Books in America Right Now

1. This One Summer by Mariko Tamaki, illustrated by Jillian Tamaki

Why it was challenged: "It includes LGBT characters, drug use, and profanity, and it was considered sexually explicit with mature themes."

2. Drama, written and illustrated by Raina Telgemeier

Why it was challenged: "It includes LGBT characters, was deemed sexually explicit, and was considered to have an offensive political viewpoint."

3. George by Alex Gino

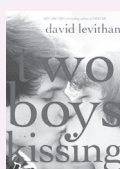
Why it was challenged: "It includes a transgender child and the 'sexuality was not appropriate at elementary levels.'"

4. I Am Jazz by Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings, illustrated by Shelagh McNicholas

Why it was challenged: "It portrays a transgender child and because of language, sex education, and offensive viewpoints."

5. Two Boys Kissing by David Levithan

Why it was challenged: "Its cover has an image of two boys kissing, and it was considered to include sexually explicit LGBT content."







## Find New Web Resources Easily on Our Web Site

Three clicks can make a big difference. Three clicks is all it takes to enter the world of our Web Resources, the online collections where you can customize a search and find the reliable information you need for your or your family's health, finances, and education.

We've made it easier for you to find the latest and greatest. On the Web Resources page, click on the Select Categories menu, then select New Web Resources.

"We work hard to find tools that will be helpful for the community," said Librarian Steven Browne. Any resource added in the last 12 months will appear there. Right now there's a lot of them, and here are two of our favorites:

### 1 Price It! Antiques & Collectibles

How much is your mom's credenza worth? Those Civil War era coins? Or Snip the Beanie Baby cat? Price It! is a comprehensive antiques and collectibles resource, offering pictures, average prices, and actual prices the item sold for.

### 2 Financial Rating Series Online

Powered by Weiss Ratings and Grey House Publishing, this resource rates financial institutions and products. Find out how your bank is doing financially, and, if the result surprises you, click to get an explanation. The site also rates credit unions, insurance companies, and stocks. An exciting feature of this resource is the "Build Your Own Customized Medicare Supplement Insurance Planner," which explains what you can expect Medicare to cover and rates insurance companies.

### Gale Courses Earns Raves From Patrons

It's not new, but it's changed lives. Gale Courses is available on our Web site for free and offers interactive, instructor-led courses that you can take entirely online. Subjects include Accounting Fundamentals, Grant Writing, Medical Coding, Spanish for Medical Professionals, LSAT Preparation, Introduction to SQL, and more. Need a demonstration? A tutorial? Or just want to talk to a person to answer your questions? Stop in at the Library or call 847/253-5675.

## Foundation and Friends Energized with New Members

The Mount Prospect Public Library Foundation (MPPLF) and the Friends of the Library both have exciting news to share, the addition of several new enthusiastic members to their Boards. Each group is made up of talented and loyal volunteers committed to helping make the Library a great resource for the community.

### Inspiring Growth and Learning

MPPLF is celebrating its 20th year and has come a long way since its formation and the creation of the endowment for the Library. The Foundation first sponsored three concerts in 1999, and, since then, program support from the Foundation has grown to include Youth STEAM programming, early reading initiatives, cultural music and storytime programming, The Shakespeare Project of Chicago annual series, and much more.



MPPLF welcomes three new members to its Board. Gail Bajkowski brings her experience with fundraising and school volunteer organizations to the group. Gail recognizes the changes Libraries have faced in recent years and strongly values the role of "being an integral component in teaching and enriching a community."

Nancy McCully, a former librarian and world traveler, shares her experiences with audiences during her well-known library programs. Her experience inside the Library gives Nancy a unique perspective. She explains, "public libraries provide education and recreational opportunities for the community in many traditional and nontraditional ways."

Brian Milem is a lifelong user of libraries and has built a strong career in the insurance, finance, and real estate areas. His business acumen strengthens the effectiveness and depth of the board. "I see the role of a public library as the 'go-to' resource of reliable information and knowledge," says Brian.



### Making a Difference

The Friends have been hosting Book Sales that raise money for the Library for over 35 years. In 2016 alone, the Friends gave over \$42,000 in gifts and support for numerous programs, including all-ages reading programs, film and book discussions, and the Tally Fisher public art sculpture, "Soft Rains," to name a few.

Eric Bertolozzi first attended a book sale in 2015 and started volunteering shortly thereafter. Eric spends countless hours out in the community promoting upcoming sales and provides a fresh approach to publicity and operations. He says he does it because it's fun and because "there's always work that needs to be done."

Another volunteer-turned-Board Member is Mike Addona, who became involved with the Friends as a cashier a number of years ago. Mike's strong financial background makes him instrumental in handling the daily financial needs of the Friends.

Mount Prospect resident Tonia Romanelli has always seen the Library as her "happy place" and is excited to work with the Friends to give back to the community. She helps to coordinate the use of volunteers as well as prepare for Book Sales.

Longtime President of the Friends, Pat Klawitter, is equally excited about the new members. "We are so fortunate to have these three on board. There is no way we could have had the record-breaking \$12,000 sale in July without their hard work!"

The year ahead promises to be an exciting one for both the Foundation and Friends. Both groups still have volunteer opportunities available at all skill levels and encourage people to join. Visit [mppl.org](http://mppl.org) for more information about both of these notable groups.



### Teen Ambassadors at ALA

In June, librarians Andrea Johnson and Evan Mather chaperoned three amazing MPPL Teen Ambassadors to the American Library Association conference in Chicago to participate in a session on Best Fiction for Young Adults.

"We were so privileged to get to accompany them on an amazing day where they explored the exhibit floor, had conversations with new and bestselling authors, and presented their feedback on books," Mather said.

"The Teen Ambassadors strengthened their relationship with libraries as an important community and national institution, built important networking and presentation skills, and had a blast while doing it," Johnson added.



MPPL Teens meet New York Times bestselling author Nicola Yoon at the Chicago ALA conference.

# Mount Prospect Public Library

explore the opportunities



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