

■ ST. CHARLES YOUTH COMMISSION ■

Monday, April 3, 2017 – 6:00 p.m.

St. Charles Police Department Conference Room
211 N. Riverside Avenue

Minutes have been sent to the following:

N. McFarland – Youth Commissioner*	L. Dandre, STC EHS
S. Anderson – Youth Commissioner	P. Jensen, Haines M.S.
J. Diorio – Youth Commissioner	D. Schlomann, Superintendent CUSD 303
C. Hime – Youth Commissioner*	S. Morrill, Wredling M.S.
D. Kelly – Youth Commissioner*	J. Otepka, TriCity
S. Schwerdtfeger – Youth Commissioner*	J. Anderson, STC Township
L. Vitek – Youth Commissioner	C. Blake, TriCity
M. Weick – Youth Commissioner*	C. Kyle, STC EHS
J. Wong – Youth Commissioner*	J. Baird, CUSD 303
C. Waibel – Youth Commissioner*	T. Loversky, Thompson M.S.
J. Burden, STC PD*	H. Kincaid, STC NHS
J. Keegan, Chief of Police	E. Baxter, STC Library
R. Rogina, Mayor	J. Bruggeman, STC Park District*
STC Aldermen	D. Procaccio, STC Underground
M. Koenen, City Administrator	M. Karson, STC EHS
L. O'Brien, CUSD 303	M. Backer, CUSD303
A. Christenson, STC NHS	J. Greenwald, STC Park District
C. Mendez, TriCity	A. Schuett, CUSD 303
S. O'Brien, TriCity	K. Hood, TriCity
K. Horn, TriCity	P. Yensen, United Way
S. Urban, TriCity*	B. Jones, CUSD 303*

*Attended meeting.

- I. Meeting called to order @ 6:06 p.m.
- II. **Secretary's Report** – Dan Kelly
 - A. Approval of the minutes from the March 2017 meeting. Motion to approve; carried.
- III. **Treasurer's Report** – Cliff Hime
 - A. Approval of report carried; copy of report attached. \$4,340 remains in the account.
- IV. **Correspondence**
 - A. Thank you letter from the St. Charles East High School Post Prom Committee.
 - B. Thank you letter from the St. Charles Public Library.
- V. **Presentations**
 - A. Samantha Jens from Marquee Youth Stage Theater Company, which currently operates out of The Quad (Charlestowne Mall). As of May 31, 2017, they will be forced to vacate their current space at The Quad. A letter (enclosed) from Connie Flores, Creative Director,

requesting funding to assist in need-based scholarships and/or rent was presented to the group for consideration.

VI. **Liaison Reports**

A. **D303 – Beth Jones**

- i. Update on recent traumatic events at St. Charles East and North High Schools and the Crisis Response Team.
- ii. The HOPE Hustle is scheduled for April 23, 2017.
- iii. Chick Chat was a success!

B. **Park District – Jennifer Bruggeman**

- i. St. Charles Underground update; report attached. March was busy!
- ii. Currently hiring life guards and junior counselors.
- iii. Swim lesson flyer, attached.
- iv. The Community Garage Sale profits will benefit the teen center.
- v. Update on ladies fashion show and tea party.

C. **Police Department – Jim Burden**

- i. No juvenile arrests for March 2017.

D. **Library Programs – Brandon Buckley**

- i. Update on library programs.

E. **Tri-City Family Services – Sacha Urban**

- i. Update on response to recent traumatic events at St. Charles East High School.
- ii. Update on new staff additions.
- iii. Update on Chick Chat; a new program will be added for boys.
- iv. The gala fundraiser is on April 22, 2017 from 6 – 11 p.m. at Pheasant Run.

VII. **Old Business – none**

VIII. **New Business**

A. **Funding Requests**

- i. St. Charles North High School: funding request for post prom activities (attached). Motion to approve \$1,000, carried.
- ii. Juvenile Drug Court: funding request to support the JDC. Motion to decline funding request, carried (attached). Currently, there are no St. Charles residents in this program.
- iii. Motion to table Marquee request until the next meeting when more details can be provided, carried.

IX. **Announcements** – none

X. **Public Comment** – none

XI. **Adjournment**

A. Motion to adjourn at 7:09 p.m., carried.

The next Youth Commission meeting will be Monday, May 1, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the St. Charles Police Department Riverside Conference Room located at 211 N. Riverside Avenue.

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Dan Kelly, Youth Commissioner

City of Saint Charles
 Youth Commission
 Treasurer's Report
 2016-2017

Forwarded By	Date

	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Nov 16	Dec 16	Jan 17	Feb 17	March 17	April 17
Claire Miller	10675 -500	10675	999030	999035	6340	4340
Wredling Middle School Smart Care Club		-150				
STCN Friends of Music		-3465				
Wredling Middle School Creative Writing		999030				
STC Library				250		
Reading by Design				1400		
STLEHS Post Prom				1000		
STLEHS Hope Club				1000		
Tri City Family Ser.					2000	

ST. CHARLES EAST HIGH SCHOOL PTO

1020 Dunham Road, St. Charles, IL 60174



Nancy McFarland
St. Charles Youth Commission
211 North Riverside Ave.
St. Charles, IL 60174

Thank you for your donation of \$1000 to support the 2017 St. Charles East High School's Post Prom celebration, *Saints in Space*. Your contribution is greatly appreciated! It is through the support of business leaders, parents, community organizations and STCE staff that we are able to provide a safe, alcohol and drug-free celebration for our students after the Prom.

We expect over 1000 students to participate in Post Prom this year and we are enthusiastically looking forward to the event. It will be an amazing evening for students with games, music, food and prizes!

Thank you again for your contribution toward the success of this event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer Carroll".

Jennifer Carroll
St. Charles East High School Post Prom Committee

The St. Charles East High School PTO is a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization recognized by the Internal Revenue Service and the State of Illinois. Our IRS Employer ID Number is 36-4416600.



St. Charles Public Library
One South Sixth Avenue
St. Charles IL 60174-2195
630-584-0076 ■ FAX 630-584-9262
www.stcharleslibrary.org

April 3, 2017

St. Charles Youth Commission
2 East Main Street
St. Charles, Illinois 60174

Dear Fellow Commissioners,

On behalf of the St. Charles Public Library, I want to thank you for sponsoring the "Reading By Design" T-shirts for the teen 2017 Summer Reading Program.

The success of our program would not be possible without your support. Be on the lookout for teens in t-shirts all over town!

Parent, commissioner, librarian, reader,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marianne Weick".

Marianne Weick
Young Adult Librarian

STC Underground

Monthly Unique Individuals/Total Visits

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017	101/432	101/419	126/499									
2016	94/389	112/428	98/413	108/439	108/432	121/441	109/432	88/377	145/524	128/503	90/284	103/436
2015	97/443	92/363	90/381	96/396	104/380	106/387	107/439	111/409	101/375	101/398	98/413	94/373
2014	118/433	108/403	120/430	110/443	109/461	100/411	99/439	104/428	117/402	108/423	99/404	105/420
2013	71/340	75/259	77/426	101/487	103/466	90/415	78/439	97/486	116/421	118/450	106/464	94/337
2012	111/48	99/452	103/569	98/480	119/558	121/569	102/520	105/523	106/451	120/496	104/534	97/414

Drop-Ins

1:00pm	13
2:00pm	30
3:00pm	96
4:00pm	149
5:00pm	83
6:00pm	75
7:00pm	24
8:00pm	24
9:00pm	5
Days Open	22
Avg #/Day	19.64

Members

Total Members	923
Males	633
Females	290

History

Annual Unique Visitors/Total Visits

2016	347/5,098
2015	319/4,757
2014	319/5,097
2013	305/4,990
2012	264/6,047

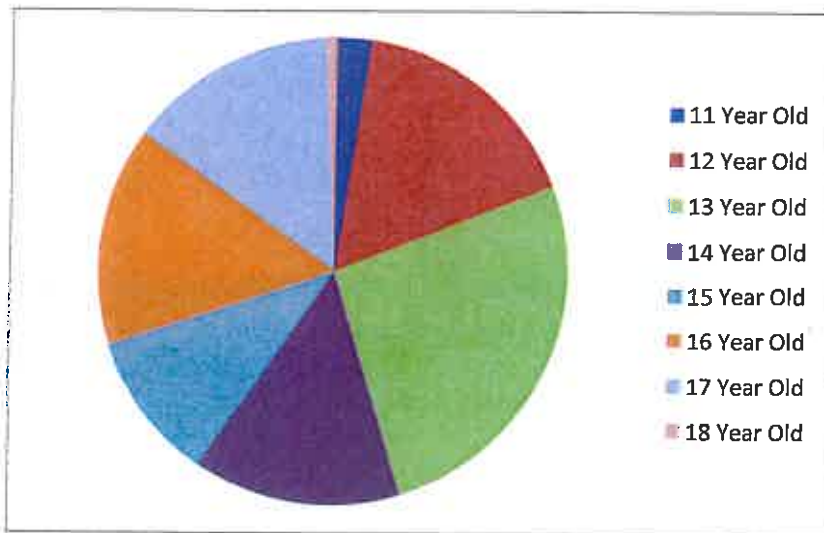
"After I finish wrestling practice on the weekdays, I like having a place I can come to wind down and do some homework" —Darrell Gregg, STCU Member

STC Underground

TEEN CENTER

March 2017 Usage Member Age Breakdown

AGE	NUMBER OF KIDS
11 Year Old	3
12 Year Old	21
13 Year Old	33
14 Year Old	18
15 Year Old	13
16 Year Old	19
17 Year Old	18
18 Year Old	1
Total	126



Swim Lessons

All Ages • All Abilities • All Smiles

Bubble Club Tadpoles • 6-36 months

FREE Bubble Club Frogs • Ages 3-4



Thanks to a special partnership with the Pauly D Foundation, an advocate of water safety and drowning prevention, the **FROGS SWIM LESSON LEVEL IS FREE!**

Swim Academy Prep • Ages 4-5

Swim Academy • Ages 5+

Teen & Adult Lessons • Ages 16+

SIGN UP TODAY: stcparks.org/register





This awareness initiative is a collaborative program to promote water safety and encourage swim lessons for all ages.

Supported by



pauly d foundation
Advocating for Water Safety and Drowning Prevention



The Sharing Wave supplements a water safety partnership between the Pauly D Foundation and the St. Charles Park District. Sharing Wave funds will be used to help children participate in Park District recreational and educational programs. Local families can qualify for assistance through the St. Charles Park Foundation's Financial Aid Program. Donations can be made during the online registration process or onsite at the aquatic facilities. For more details, call 650-513-6200.



Discover Your Library

St. Charles Public Library News and Event Guide

Meet New Library Director, Edith G. Craig

My first morning at St. Charles Public Library began with a warm reception. It was great to experience immediately the welcoming spirit of the Library staff, and feel the assurance of genuine support for the community, our fine Library and my new role as its director.

A Little About Me

Finding things for people, whether it be reading material or researching the answer to a tough question, has always been a part of my life. From the very beginning of my career, my jobs centered around delivering quality customer service...and reading. I have been lucky to have done these things, but luck is only the half of the equation—hard work and dedication is the other half. In addition to working in the finance industry for over ten years, I have had the unique experience of working at the DeKalb Public Library while it grew over three times its physical size.

From the very beginning of this process to the very end when the DeKalb Public Library re-opened the new 65,000 square foot building, I was fortunate to have been there. To secure funding for this \$25.3 million construction project, the director wrote an Illinois State Construction Grant and I was a part of the six-month grant-editing team. This \$11.6 million grant procured the Library the largest state grant ever awarded to any individual library in the state. However, before the thought of breaking ground ever happened, a street needed closing, property had to be acquired and razed, multiple community input sessions were organized, and multiple professionals, citizens, staff and volunteers had to be engaged.

This is the type of administrative library experience I bring to the table for St. Charles. I bring many years of solid customer service, proven ability for community building and for raising library awareness, excellent communication skills, and a strong desire to promote literacy for all. The St. Charles Public Library has an incredible team and the city is a vibrant community. I look forward to the opportunity to enhance the library's mission, to continue its tradition of excellence in its services and collection, and to advocate for its importance and relevance.



I look forward to the opportunity to enhance the library's mission, to continue its tradition of excellence in its services and collection, and to advocate for its importance and relevance.

Becoming Part of the Community

Living in a community does not just mean the place where your home is located. For me, it means that one is committed to seeing it prosper and thrive. While in DeKalb, I have been fortunate to be a part of many different community endeavors. I served as the Board President for Conexión Comunidad, a cultural center that uses the arts to positively influence lives and support the community in the areas of education, leadership development, health and community resources. In addition, I've volunteered with Kishwaukee United Way, DeKalb/Sycamore Bookcase Project, supporting Two Rivers Head Start and many other organizations.

I bring with me this same sincere and dedicated commitment to the St. Charles community. I'm excited to have met with many community members and leaders, elected officials, and attended events supporting our Chamber of Commerce, the St. Charles Arts Council, Salvation Army and more. My mission is to learn and be a true part of this community that I serve. It's important that the Library continues to be a vital part of this community and to do so connections have to be cultivated and explored.

Big Picture

The St. Charles Library shines. We have remarkable resources, an outstanding collection and a supportive community. My goal is to make sure the Library continues to evolve, to stay current with technology, promote an innovative environment, and to stay on point with the community needs and wants.

My door is always open. I welcome you to stop by the Library, call or email me with any suggestions, comments or concerns. Much like the kindness shown on my first morning as director, I look forward to engaging positively with many more members of our community. We're hosting an Open House Reception on Sunday, March 12 from 3:00–4:30 p.m. in the Mezzanine of the Library. I hope to see you there! ecraig@stcharleslibrary.org
630-584-0076 x273



Join us for an

Open House Reception

Meet Our New Library Director

Edith G. Craig

Sunday, March 12
3:00–4:30 p.m.

Mezzanine Art Gallery

Refreshments will be served

High School Diploma Program Opens New Doors

The St. Charles Public Library now offers the fully-accredited, Career Online High School (COHS) program for adults 21 and older. Better yet, COHS graduates earn an additional certificate of study in one of eight high-demand fields such as homeland security or childcare provider.

A COHS diploma requires the completion of 18 credits, and students should expect to spend 10 hours per week on coursework. There is no fee for our cardholders. All students receive support from certified instructors and an academic coach. The Library also provides computer workstations, free Wi-Fi and access to any books required for the Language Arts component.

Earning a high school diploma begins with a brief online self-assessment. It simply asks for more details about eligibility and the potential to commit to the program. Once finished, one of the St. Charles Library's COHS managers will follow up and confirm interest in moving forward.

Educational publisher, Gale Cengage, developed Career Online High School as a more comprehensive alternative to a GED program. For more information and to take the self-assessment, please visit: stcharleslibrary.org/cohs

Now is Your Time!

Earn an Accredited High School Diploma and a Career Certificate.



Transfer Your Old VHS Tapes to New DVDs

The Library has installed a VHS to DVD transfer station for our cardholders. Simply bring in your VHS tape and a blank DVD, and go home with your family movies conveniently saved and accessible as a DVD. You can purchase a blank DVD from the Library for just 25 cents. If you prefer to bring in your own, it must be a DVD-RW or DVD-R type (NOT a DVD+RW or DVD+R). As an alternative, you can also transfer VHS tapes directly to a USB flash drive. This is convenient if you are planning to edit the video online or share clips with family and friends.



A few more details before you begin: the transfer time is equal to the length of the video. Plan your arrival time at the Library accordingly; if you have three hours of family memories on tape, it will take three hours to convert. The equipment is located in our Technology Center and no reservations are required (should this new service become popular, we may institute an equipment-reservation process). Instruction sheets are available at the VHS to DVD station. Transferring copyrighted material is prohibited. For more information, contact jshelton@stcharleslibrary.org

Technology to Go

Do you need a laptop for an interview? Or maybe a digital projector for a special event or a fun movie night at home? We can help! Digital projectors, laptops, Wi-Fi hotspots, a GoPro camera, and more, are available to you with your library card. Everything is free to all of our St. Charles Public Library patrons with valid cards. Because of demand, fines are higher on this equipment and parents may want to carefully consider the value of certain items that children checkout (just like other library materials, if you lose it or break it, you've bought it). For more information about our technology to go, please call the Reference Desk at: 630-584-0076 ext. 1.

To Hold or Not to Hold? The Answer is Yes!

The Library loves it when you place materials on hold. We're eager to be able to get materials to you as quickly as possible. Occasionally, you may find you no longer need the item you've placed on hold. Simply go to My SCPL Account and remove your hold. This allows us to pass the item on to the next patron faster. Need help? Give us a call. We'll be happy to help.

What the Staff Is Reading

A Long Fatal Love Chase by Louisa May Alcott

■ FIC ALCOTT

She may have written *Little Women*, but this is a suspenseful account of a girl who trusts the wrong man and has to go to extreme lengths to escape his evil clutches - melodrama at its best.



The Children by Ann Leary

■ FIC LEARY

A witty, wise and often darkly comic family drama about a privileged, blended family and their many secrets (also good in audio).



Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys

■ YA FIC SEPETYS

Four young characters are fleeing the Russian Army, culminating in a little known event of WWII: the sinking of the Wilhelm Gustloff, which led to the largest loss of life on a single ship in history. A brutal yet amazing historical novel for teens and adults.



Relish: My Life in the Kitchen by Lucy Knisley

■ 741.5 KNI

This cheery memoir of a young gastronome is filled with vivid descriptions and illustrations of fine dining experiences, plus a recipe at the end of every chapter. Foodies, especially those who know New York and Chicago, will delight!



A Full Life: Reflections at Ninety by Jimmy Carter

■ B CARTER

A thoroughly learned man shares wise reflections on today's world as well as insight into the past. His quiet accomplishments are very inspirational.



Read before you watch: a past Staff Pick, **The Zookeeper's Wife** by Diane Ackerman (940.5318 ACK), based on the life of a working wife and mother in Poland who became a hero to hundreds during World War II, will be in theaters March 31.

At nearly 500 pages, place holds now on Dave Eggers' **The Circle** (FIC EGGERS) a Silicon-Valley-sci-fi novel set in the near future. The film adaptation will be out in late April with an all-star cast (Tom Hanks, Emma Watson).

For more, see our "Staff Picks" blog at:
wp.stcharleslibrary.org/wordpress/staff_picks

Register for Adult Programs
online at events.stcharleslibrary.org/evanced/lib/eventcalendar.asp,
at the Reference Desk or by calling 630-584-0076 ext. 1.

Monthly Introductory Computer Classes



Notes:

- ▶ Classes are open to St. Charles Public Library cardholders only.
- ▶ A \$10 refundable cash deposit is required at the time of registration.
- ▶ REGISTER at the Adult Reference Desk.
- ▶ Class size is limited to 10 people.
- ▶ Class cancellations will be posted in the Library and on our website.

For complete class descriptions, please visit the Reference Desk or our website: stcharleslibrary.org/computer-classes
Successful completion of **Computer & Internet Basics** is a prerequisite for all other computer classes offered OR ask at the Reference Desk for our checklist to see if you are confident enough with basic computer skills to skip this requirement.

March registration begins Sunday, February 19 at noon

Overview of Windows 10

- Thursday, March 2 ■ 6:30–8:30 p.m. (Part 1)
- Thursday, March 9 ■ 6:30–8:30 p.m. (Part 2)

Introduction to MS PowerPoint 2016

- Monday, March 6 ■ 6:00–8:00 p.m. (Part 1)
- Tuesday, March 7 ■ 6:00–8:00 p.m. (Part 2)

Introduction to QuickBooks 2016

- Wednesday, March 8 ■ 6:00–8:00 p.m. (Part 1)
- Wednesday, March 15 ■ 6:00–8:00 p.m. (Part 2)

Introduction to MS Excel 2016, Level 1

- Monday, March 13 ■ 6:30–8:30 p.m. (Part 1)
- Tuesday, March 14 ■ 6:30–8:30 p.m. (Part 2)

Computer & Internet Basics

- Monday, March 20 ■ 6:00–8:00 p.m. (Part 1)
- Tuesday, March 21 ■ 6:00–8:00 p.m. (Part 2)

Email 101

- Wednesday, March 22 ■ 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Introduction to MS Excel 2016, Level 2

- Monday, March 27 ■ 6:30–8:30 p.m. (Part 1)
- Tuesday, March 28 ■ 6:30–8:30 p.m. (Part 2)

Continued on next page

EVENTS FOR ADULTS

■ April registration begins Sunday, March 19 at noon

Introduction to MS Word 2016, Level 1

Monday, April 3 ■ 6:00–8:00 p.m. (Part 1)

Tuesday, April 4 ■ 6:00–8:00 p.m. (Part 2)

Introduction to Google Drive

Wednesday, April 5 ■ 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Overview of Windows 10

Monday, April 10 ■ 6:30–8:30 p.m. (Part 1)

Tuesday, April 11 ■ 6:30–8:30 p.m. (Part 2)

MS Word 2016 2: Beyond the Basics

Monday, April 17 ■ 6:00–8:00 p.m. (Part 1)

Tuesday, April 18 ■ 6:00–8:00 p.m. (Part 2)

Introduction to QuickBooks 2016

Wednesday, April 19 ■ 6:00–8:00 p.m. (Part 1)

Wednesday, April 26 ■ 6:00–8:00 p.m. (Part 2)

Overview of Windows 10

Monday, April 24 ■ 6:30–8:30 p.m. (Part 1)

Tuesday, April 25 ■ 6:30–8:30 p.m. (Part 2)

Apps of Windows 10

Thursday, April 27 ■ 6:30–8:30 p.m.

■ May registration begins Sunday, April 16 at noon

Overview of Windows 10

Monday, May 1 ■ 6:30–8:30 p.m. (Part 1)

Thursday, May 4 ■ 6:30–8:30 p.m. (Part 2)

Computer & Internet Basics

Tuesday, May 2 ■ 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 3 ■ 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Introduction to MS Excel 2016, Level 1

Monday, May 8 ■ 6:30–8:30 p.m. (Part 1)

Tuesday, May 9 ■ 6:30–8:30 p.m. (Part 2)

Facebook 101

Monday, May 15 ■ 6:00–8:00 p.m. (Part 1)

Tuesday, May 16 ■ 6:00–8:00 p.m. (Part 2)

iPad / iPhone for Beginners

Wednesday, May 17 ■ 6:00–8:00 p.m. (Part 1)

Thursday, May 18 ■ 6:00–8:00 p.m. (Part 2)

Introduction to MS Excel 2016, Level 2

Monday, May 22 ■ 6:30–8:30 p.m. (Part 1)

Tuesday, May 23 ■ 6:30–8:30 p.m. (Part 2)

Small Business Programs



■ QuickBooks for Your Small Business

Join Elliot Hershik, General Manager of Supporting Strategies, and local SCORE representatives for both sessions to learn (or improve your ability) to use QuickBooks. Participants may bring a laptop computer and work in personal copies of QuickBooks during the workshop.

■ QuickBooks Session #1

Thursday, March 2 ■ 6:30–8:00 p.m.

Huntley Meeting Room

The first session will cover the basics: five types of accounts and how they work together to form an accounting system. **REGISTER or DROP IN**

■ QuickBooks Session #2

Thursday, March 9 ■ 6:30–8:00 p.m.

Huntley Meeting Room

The second session of this basic accounting series will cover more intermediate level topics such as sub-accounts, memorized transactions and financial reporting. This session will also address analysis of financial statements as part of reporting. **REGISTER or DROP IN**

MONEYSMARTWEEK[®]

APRIL 22-29, 2017



■ Money Smart Week: Show Me the Money!

Saturday, April 22 ■ 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

St. Charles Public Library, Lobby

A representative from the Illinois Treasurer's I-Cash team will aid your search for any unclaimed funds from Illinois' lost and abandoned property list. This could include checking and savings accounts, certificates of deposit, over payments, insurance checks, payroll checks, utility refunds, money orders, uncashed checks, dividends, stocks, bonds and more. Stop by the lobby and see if you have any money coming to you! **DROP IN**

■ Money Smart Week: Morningstar

Investment Research Center Demonstration

Wednesday, April 26 ■ 6:30–8:00 p.m.

Carnegie Community Room

Please join our representative from Morningstar, Fani Koutsovitiss, for an overview of the company's database, Morningstar Investment Research Center. This easy-to-navigate database will help both novice and veteran investors reach their investment goals. It's the one-stop tool for collecting financial information, getting reliable portfolio analysis, learning about investment options, and getting the most up-to-date financial news commentary. **REGISTER or DROP IN**

■ **Money Smart Week:
Retirement Income Planning**

Thursday, April 27 ■ 6:30–8:00 p.m.
Carnegie Community Room

Join Jorie Pitt, CFP® Financial Planner with AHC Advisors in St. Charles, for a discussion on retirement income planning. This session will focus on understanding how much income you'll need during your retirement years to support the retirement lifestyle you want. We'll touch on positioning your assets to provide income, social security claiming strategies, the cost of health care in retirement and much more! While there is no "one size fits all" plan, there are steps you can take to maximize the possibility of a financially secure retirement. **REGISTER or DROP IN**



■ **National Small Business Week:
Digital Marketing Trends in 2017**

Wednesday, May 3 ■ 6:30–8:00 p.m.
Carnegie Community Room

Business consultant Virginia Weiskopf explores the digital marketing trends small businesses should be paying attention to in 2017. She will discuss each trend and provide simple ideas for incorporating them into your overall marketing strategy. With smartphones, increased data speeds, video streaming and a cultural desire for digestible and personalized content, we have an ever-changing digital marketing landscape.

Do you know which of these digital marketing components will affect YOUR organization in 2017: marketing automation, content marketing, video, mobile, big data? **REGISTER or DROP IN**

■ **National Small Business Week:
Tech Training for Your Staff**

Thursday, May 4 ■ 12:00–1:00 p.m.
Huntley Meeting Room

Join Business Reference Librarian Chris Flood for a complementary lunch as she demonstrates our online resources for: basic software training (Microsoft Excel, Access and more), advanced software training (MySQL, Adobe Photoshop, Security+ and more), and business-focused courses (Google Analytics, QuickBooks, SEO and Small Business Marketing and more). **REGISTER or DROP IN**

These online training tools can be accessed from your office or home using a St. Charles Library card, or within the Library if you don't have a card.

Genealogy Series



■ **Forensic Genealogy:
Techniques for the Everyday Researcher**

Tuesday, March 7 ■ 7:00 p.m.
Carnegie Community Room

The term "Forensic" refers to the use of science and technology in investigating evidence and establishing facts. Forensic Genealogist Marsha Peterson-Maass will give you forensic process methods to add to your genealogical toolkit for analyzing family and group photographs, and assembling spreadsheets; help you take a different look at your research and analysis practices; teach you how to find "obvious" clues and might even help knock down a brick wall or two. **REGISTER**

■ **The Most Helpful Genealogy Tools
You've Never Used**

Tuesday, March 21 ■ 7:00 p.m.
Carnegie Community Room

Forensic Genealogist Marsha Peterson-Maass shares a wealth of helpful tools plus instruction for practical uses on the topics of research strategies, brick wall solutions, genealogical precepts, CyndisList tools, county boundaries, wikis, hiring a professional genealogist, timelines, lookups, health predisposition results sheet, blogs & podcasts, maps, and "Rounding Up the Usual Suspects." **REGISTER**

The Fundamentals of Genealogy: The Most Helpful Tools You've Never Used... textbooks will be available for purchase for \$20 each.

Smile!

Attendance at programs and events sponsored by the St. Charles Public Library may be recorded through photographs or video. These images may be used for Library promotional purposes or posted on the Library's website. Please notify a Library staff member if you or your family members do not want to be photographed.



Special Accommodations

Requests for special accommodations must be made 48 hours in advance of a Library event. If assistance is needed in using the Library, please inform a Library assistant at the Circulation Desk.

Fees

Fees are charged in the case of materials, services or facilities provided for primary or exclusive use by individual patrons and for which patron-specific costs are incurred by the Library. When the Library incurs such fees and the individual subsequently fails to use the service without prior notification, the individual will be charged for the expense.

EVENTS FOR ADULTS

Women's History Month: Fascinating Women of History



■ The Journey to Mollie's War: WACs and WWII

Wednesday, March 8 ■ 1:00 p.m.
Huntley Meeting Room

Members of the Women's Army Corps (WACs) were the first women other than nurses to serve overseas in World War II. Cyndee Schaffer's mother, Mollie Weinstein Schaffer, was one of them. Drawing upon excerpts from Mollie's letters written home during the war, this presentation provides a romantic, yet frightful, glimpse into the life of a woman in uniform during this crucial time in history. This program details Mollie's experiences from basic training in Florida in October, 1943 to the dramatic moment when the Statue of Liberty came into view upon her return in November, 1945. **REGISTER**



■ Hamilton's Women with Leslie Goddard

Thursday, March 23 ■ 1:00 p.m.
Huntley Meeting Room

Alexander Hamilton was not just a powerful Founding Father, he was also a loving husband and father, a flirtatious brother-in-law, and an incorrigible lady-killer. Meet the real Schuyler sisters behind the characters in the smash hit musical Hamilton: his wife, Elizabeth Hamilton and her sisters, Angelica and Peggy. Actor and scholar Leslie Goddard brings these smart, beautiful women to life as they discuss their complicated relationships with Hamilton and the other men in their lives and help shape the new nation. **REGISTER**



■ St. Charles Writers Group

Saturdays ■ 9:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

March 11 ■ March 25 ■ April 8 ■ April 22 ■ May 13 ■ May 27
Huntley Meeting Room

The St. Charles Writers Group is a workshop for novice or experienced writers that meets the second and the fourth Saturday of each month. The group is open to all those 18 years of age or older looking for a community of writers and to improve their writing. All genres are welcome. Questions? Contact Denise Blaszyński at 630-584-0076, ext. 240. **DROP IN**

Sunday Concert Series



Sundays 2:00 p.m.
Carnegie Community Room

March 12 – **Luck 'O the Irish** features Irish baritone Gavin Coyle teamed with flutist Carlyn Lloyd and pianist Jon Warfel for an hour of music from the homeland with stories that will take you back to the sod.

* March 26 – **Antiqua Baroque Consort** will perform gems from the Baroque era of music.

* Designates a classical concert funded through donations to the St. Charles Public Library Foundation. **DROP IN**

■ 2nd Tuesday Book Discussion

The Library offers two book discussion groups: **Mornings at 10:00 a.m.** and **Evenings at 7:00 p.m.** in the Bisbee Conference Room **DROP IN**

March 14

Morning

Deep Down Dark: The Untold Stories of 33 Men Buried in a Chilean Mine, and the Miracle That Set Them Free
by Héctor Tobar ■ 363.119622 TOB



Evening

Orhan's Inheritance
by Aline Ohanesian ■ FIC OHANESIAN

April 11

Morning & Evening
The Snow Child
by Eowyn Ivey ■ FIC IVEY



May 9

Morning & Evening
My Brilliant Friend
by Elena Ferrante ■ FIC FERRANTE



If you are a SCPL cardholder and need help getting a copy of a book for book discussion, please ask at the Reference & Reader Services Desk.



■ AARP Smart Driver

Tuesday, March 14 and Thursday, March 16 ■ 1:00–5:00 p.m.
Huntley Meeting Room

AARP Smart Driver safety course is designed especially for drivers age 50 and above. It covers defensive driving techniques for adjusting to normal changes in vision, hearing and reaction time associated with aging. Learn about current rules of the road and how to operate your vehicle more safely. A fee of \$15.00 for AARP members and \$20.00 for non-members includes a guidebook. Attendees pay the instructor directly. **REGISTER**

■ Board Game Nights

Wednesdays ■ 6:00–8:30 p.m.
March 15 ■ April 19 ■ May 17
Carnegie Community Room

Spend your night playing games with us! We have a huge collection of board and card games to choose from or bring along a favorite. Invite a friend or meet some new ones with a passion for board games.
REGISTER or DROP IN



■ Great Decisions

Thursdays ■ 7:00 p.m.

Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. Stimulate a conversation of foreign policy issues. Participants may check out a copy of the briefing book at the Library. Participants should be ready to discuss the article prior to participation. **DROP IN**



March 16 – Trade and Politics ■ Huntley Meeting Room

April 13 – Conflict in the South China Sea ■ Huntley Meeting Room

May 18 – Saudi Arabia in Transition ■ Huntley Meeting Room

Gardening at the Library



■ Taking Conservation Action at Home: The Whys and Wherefores

Saturday, March 18 ■ 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Carnegie Community Room

What does practicing conservation at home mean to a homeowner? It could mean many different things but in this case we'll be talking about applying conservation tactics right in your backyard! Trish Beckjord will share tips on how you can have a role in conserving these important resources, and how you can become a recognized Conservation@Home member.

REGISTER or DROP IN

■ How to Successfully Add Native Plants to Your Garden: First Steps

Saturday, April 1 ■ 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Carnegie Community Room

Trish Beckjord will build on information presented in the March session. Her presentation will help you build a "visual dictionary" of the many native plants that are available to us in the Chicago region and appropriate for a home garden. Come see the many beautiful native plants you can add to your landscape and go home with a list that will enhance the beauty and functionality of your garden and build your conservation at home goals.

REGISTER or DROP IN

■ What Does Being Sustainable About Rain Water Mean? Rain Gardens and Other Approaches at Home and at Work

Saturday, April 15 ■ 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Carnegie Community Room

Learn about the next step in your conservation at home journey as we talk about how to improve handling of rainwater in ways that promote it soaking into the ground. **REGISTER or DROP IN**

■ Plant Exchange

Saturday, May 6 ■ 2:00–3:30 p.m.
Huntley Meeting Room

Our third annual Plant Exchange is an opportunity to swap plants with fellow gardeners. Bring in—vegetables, perennials, annuals, and herbs—to trade. Contact Brandon Buckley at 630-584-0076 ext. 201 or bbuckley@stcharleslibrary.org with questions.
DROP IN

EVENTS FOR ADULTS

■ Dollar-a-Day Boys: Civilian Conservation Corps of Illinois

Thursday, April 6 ■ 1:00 p.m.
Carnegie Community Room

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was a federal work program created by President Franklin Roosevelt in the heart of The Great Depression. During its nine-year run from 1933-1942, 2.6 million men enrolled across the country. Author Bill Jamerson will share stories and songs about the CCC, and show a short video from his PBS film. **REGISTER**

■ 65+ Senior Art Program

Friday, April 7 and Friday, May 5 ■ 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Huntley Meeting Room

Paint a full-themed picture on canvas! Join local artist Aimee Marx, who will guide you in creating your very own painting. No experience is necessary. Canvas, paint and all supplies will be provided. Creating art can be messy! Please wear old clothes or a cover up. Participants must be 65+ and St. Charles Public Library cardholders. Space is limited to 16 people. **REGISTER**

■ Senior Spelling Bee (Age 50+)

Practice Bee: Saturday, April 8 ■ 10:00 a.m.
Spelling Bee: Saturday, April 22 ■ 10:00 a.m.
Carnegie Community Room



Showcase a lifetime of your knowledge and celebrate years of experience through your spelling abilities, that allow continual learning, and keep your brain active. Meet like-minded folks and compete with some of the best spellers in Illinois. Compete in a broad spectrum of words with varying difficulty. Register to receive a list of practice words. Local winners and runners up will advance to the regional semi-finals and potentially to the final level of competition at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield. In partnership with the St. Charles Park District. **REGISTER**

■ Worries of the World Wide Web

Tuesday, April 25 ■ 7:00 p.m.
Carnegie Community Room

This program was created to address the increasing problem of cyber bullying, electronic harassment, and sexting/pornography. While technology creates convenience in our lives and helps us keep in touch with our kids, danger can lurk in the files contained on cell phones and computers. Kane County Judges Clint Hull and Elizabeth Flood will address the social and legal consequences of this potentially criminal conduct. **REGISTER**

■ Friends Used Book Sale

Friday, April 28 ■ 2:30–7:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 29 ■ 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 30 ■ 12:00–3:00 p.m.
Huntley Meeting Room



Don't miss this opportunity to purchase great books, CDs, DVDs, audiobooks and more at bargain prices while supporting the Friends of St. Charles Public Library.

■ Meet Pie Maven Hoosier Mama's Paula Haney

Tuesday, May 2 ■ 7:00 p.m.
Huntley Meeting Room

Chicago's renowned pie maven, Paula Haney of Hoosier Mama Pie Co., dishes about her life making pie and, demonstrates how to make perfect pie dough, and provides samples. Copies of her book, **Hoosier Mama Book of Pie** will be available for purchase and signing. **REGISTER**

■ The Presidency of Ronald Reagan

Tuesday, May 9 ■ 7:00 p.m.
Carnegie Community Room

Ronald Reagan swept into office on a promise to get government off the back of the American people and yet the federal budget grew significantly during his two terms. How did that happen? An avowed anti-Communist from his days in Hollywood, he found himself negotiating with Mikhail Gorbachev and discovered they had views in common.

How did that happen? Join Professor Gary Midkiff for a look into the contradictory Presidency of "The Great Communicator." **REGISTER**



■ Frank Lloyd Wright: Organic Architect

Tuesday, May 16 ■ 7:00 p.m.
Carnegie Community Room

June marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of architect Frank Lloyd Wright. Recent popular books such as Nancy Horan's **Loving Frank** have sparked new interest in Wright. Learn about Wright and his architecture in the Midwest and elsewhere in this slide lecture. Jeff Mishur, of Art Excursions, Inc., will address the period covered by Horan's novel as well as subsequent periods in Wright's career. **REGISTER**

■ The Basics: Memory Loss, Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease

Wednesday, May 17 ■ 1:00–2:30 p.m.
Huntley Meeting Room

If you or someone you know is affected by Alzheimer's disease or dementia, it's time to learn the facts. This program, presented by the Alzheimer's Association, provides information on diagnosis, risk factors, disease stages, treatment and much more. Program is 1.5 hours, which includes time for questions and answers. **REGISTER**

■ Summer Sweets with Chef Dave

Wednesday, May 24 ■ 7:00 p.m.
Huntley Meeting Room

Chef Dave returns for an awesome demo featuring the best of summer sweets: Moroccan almond cake, Angel food cake with vanilla custard, and a rhubarb crisp. Seating is limited to 50. **REGISTER**

YouTube and You

Tuesday, March 7
7:00–8:30 p.m.
Huntley Meeting Room



Get started developing your own online videos and starting to VLOG. Learn the basics of shooting, editing, hosting, posting, and the gear you'll need. **REGISTER**

Drones After Dark

Saturday, March 11 ■ 4:00–6:00 p.m.
Carnegie Community Room



Did you know that drones don't really fly? They just beat the air into submission. Come test pilot drones in the library after closing, but first learn about how drones are being used in current and future applications. Presented by Fox.Build Makerspace based in St. Charles. **REGISTER**

Anime Club

Tuesdays ■ 6:00–8:00 p.m.
March 14 ■ April 11 ■ May 9
Huntley Meeting Room



Watch anime, eat snacks and hang out with fellow otaku. There's always something to do: crafts, board games, video games and trivia. **DROP IN**

Create a Quote of Art: A Poetry

Painting Workshop

Saturday, April 22 ■ 2:00–3:30 p.m.
Carnegie Community Room

Join us and create a "Quote of Art." Artist Christine Thornton will teach you how to incorporate a poetry quote into a painted image, then add color with watercolor pencils. Beginners welcome! **REGISTER**



Free Comic Book Day

Saturday, May 6
Reference Desk

Join the celebration known as Free Comic Book Day. It doesn't matter if you're a lifelong collector or new reader; there is a comic for everyone! Stop in and pick your free comics from Marvel, DC, or various independent publishers. Our comics are courtesy of Graham Cracker Comics. Please visit them at 640 Randall Rd, St. Charles, IL 60174 to score even more free comics. **DROP IN**



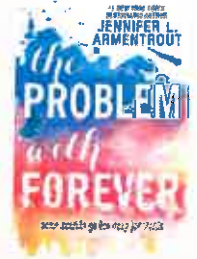
Librarian Recommended



The Problem with Forever

by Jennifer L. Armentrout ■ YA FIC ARMENTROUT

Mallory (aka Mouse) learned that the best way to survive was to say nothing. After she escaped her terrifying childhood and spent years being home schooled by loving adoptive parents, she is starting her senior year at a public high school. The first day, she runs into Rider Stark, the friend and protector from her childhood, and Mallory realizes that their bond never really faded. But as Rider's life spirals out of control, Mallory faces a choice between staying silent and speaking out—for the people she loves, the life she wants and the truths that need to be heard.



Boys Don't Knit (In Public)

by Tom Easton ■ YA FIC EASTON

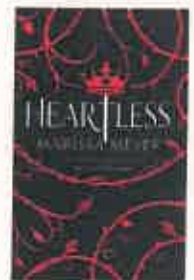
After a brush with the law, Ben, a dyed-in-the-wool worrier, must take up a new hobby and chooses knitting, an activity at which he excels but must try to keep secret from his friends, enemies and sports-obsessed father.



Heartless

by Marissa Meyer ■ YA FIC MEYER

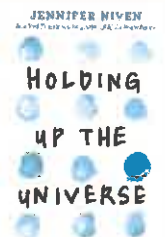
Before she was the Queen of Hearts in Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, she was Lady Catherine, the spirited daughter of royalty, destined to wed the King of Hearts. Catherine wants only to set up shop as a baker with her best friend and longtime maid and marry for love. Learn how her fate changes unexpectedly.



Holding Up the Universe

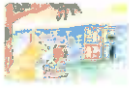
by Jennifer Niven ■ YA FIC NIVEN

A boy with face blindness and a girl who struggles with weight fall in love in this poignant, exhilarating love story about finding that person who sees you for who you are—and seeing them right back. *Holding Up the Universe* taps into the universal need to be understood. To be wanted. And that's what makes it such a remarkable read.



These titles may also be available in downloadable eBooks or audiobooks

Youth Services: Registration Information



Most Youth Services events require registration.

- A child's, student's or parent's St. Charles Library card is required. Grandparents may register grandchildren for events with the symbol **G**.
- Child or student must be the appropriate age or grade to be registered. Each person attending an event must be registered.
- Registration is on a first-come basis and continues until filled. Drop-in participation may be available.
- Families living outside the Library District may attend certain events for a fee on a space available basis. Check in 10 minutes before the event. All attendees must meet the age/grade requirements.
- For your child's safety, a parent or adult must accompany all children seven (7) years of age and under while in the Library. Please review the "Keeping Safe in the Library" brochure with your child.

Registration ensures that you will be contacted if an event is cancelled or delayed.

Spring/Summer Registration Dates

events.stcharleslibrary.org/evanced/lib/eventcalendar.asp

In-person, online and phone event registration begins:

Spring – Saturday, February 25

Summer – Saturday, May 27

G Grandparents — look for this symbol for events for you and your grandchildren to attend!

Multi-Age Story Time

Infant-Age 5 with Parent/Caregiver

Tuesdays, April 11–May 9 (No stories 4/4 & 4/25)

9:30–10:00 a.m. OR 10:30–11:00 a.m.

Wednesdays, April 5–May 10 (No stories 4/26)

9:30–10:00 a.m. OR 10:30–11:00 a.m.

Open attendance; just show your St. Charles Public Library card.

Storytellers will present stories and songs that will tickle, delight and amuse. Children and adults attend together. To ensure an enjoyable story experience for everyone attending, each session will have a capacity of 40 children and adults. Please arrive early as we will begin to distribute tickets each day 10 minutes before the story time. Door opens five minutes before the event begins. Children who are registered for an Age-Specific Story Time also may attend Multi-Age each week. **DROP IN**

Families living outside the Library District may attend for \$2 per person on a space available basis.



Age-Specific Story Times

The following early literacy story experiences encourage the adult to participate with the child by serving as a role model, leading the child's hands through a fingerplay or showing him/her how to bend and stretch. Each child and adult must be registered. Participation is limited to registered children and parent/caregiver. Siblings may attend, but an adult may bring no more than two children. Ask about accommodations for twins or triplets. **REGISTER**

Infant with Parent/Caregiver

Mondays, 9:30–10:00 a.m.

April 3–May 1

One Year Old with Parent/Caregiver

Mondays, 10:30–11:00 a.m.

April 3–May 1

Thursdays, 9:30–10:00 a.m.

April 6–May 4

Two Year Old with Parent/Caregiver

Tuesdays, 9:30–10:00 a.m.

April 4–May 2

Wednesdays, 9:30–10:00 a.m. OR 10:30–11:00 a.m.

April 5–May 3

Three & Four Year Olds

Tuesdays, 10:30–11:00 a.m.

April 4–May 2

This story time fosters a love of books and reading and develops good listening skills. To encourage the child's self-reliance, we ask that the child be comfortable attending the program alone.

Four & Five Year Olds and Half-Day Kindergarten Students

Tuesdays, 1:30–2:15 p.m.

April 4–May 2

Thursdays, 10:30–11:15 a.m.

April 6–May 4

This story time will inform, delight and stimulate on a higher level the listening and motor skills of a more mature pre-K child, as well as engage and enrich students in half-day Kindergarten.



Stories Live!



Child, infant–age 5 with Parent/Caregiver

Tuesday, March 28 ▪ *Caps for Sale*

Friday, April 14 ▪ *Three Billy Goats Gruff*

Friday, May 19 ▪ *Tortoise & the Hare*

10:00–10:30 a.m. OR 11:00–11:30 a.m.

Your favorite stories will come alive as the storyteller tells and then explores with you the various ways to share the story again through puppetry, fingerplay, song and more. These early literacy story experiences are offered throughout the year. We encourage you to attend each multiple times over the years, as children will experience a story differently at each age and stage of development. **REGISTER**

Pajama Story Time



Family—especially for young children

Monday, March 6 ▪ Wednesday, March 22

Friday, April 7 ▪ Tuesday, April 25

Thursday, May 11 ▪ Monday, May 22

6:30–7:00 p.m.

Enjoy an evening of stories under the stars in the Helen Gale Story Room. Come dressed in your favorite pajamas and bring along your blanket or a stuffed toy. **REGISTER**

Bilingual Spanish Story Time



Child, infant–age 5 with Parent/Caregiver

Saturdays, March 4 ▪ April 1 ▪ May 6

11:00–11:30 a.m.

Tuesdays, March 14 ▪ April 11 ▪ May 16

6:30–7:00 p.m.

Bilingual Spanish Story Time is a sharing of books, fingerplays, activities and songs in both Spanish and English. We encourage the adult to participate with the child by serving as a role model, leading the child or showing him or her how to participate. Siblings may attend. Register each child and adult that will be attending. Register for one or for all. **REGISTER**

Cuentos en Español e Inglés



Para los niños infantes hasta los 5 años de edad acompañados de sus padres o cuidadores.

Los Sábados ▪ Marzo 4 ▪ Abril 1 ▪ Mayo 6

11:00–11:30 a.m.

Los Martes ▪ Marzo 14 ▪ Abril 11 ▪ Mayo 16

6:30–7:00 p.m.

Durante los Cuentos en Español e Inglés compartiremos libros, juego de los dedos, actividades y canciones en los dos lenguajes, Español e Inglés. Nosotros incentivamos la participación del adulto con su niño, sirviendo de modelo a seguir, dirigiendo al niño o niña como participar. Los hermanitos pueden venir. Regístre cada niño o niña y el adulto que vendrá. Regístrese para uno o para todos.

REGÍSTRESE



Stories at the Nature Center

Infant–5 years with Parent/Caregiver



Fridays, March 10 ▪ April 28 ▪ May 12

10:30–11:00 a.m.

You are invited to hear stories at Creek Bend Nature Center at LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve, located at 37W700 Dean Street. After the program, explore the Nature Center, walk the trails and enjoy nature at its best. Cosponsored with the Forest Preserve District of Kane County. **REGISTER**

Families outside the Library District: Register with the Forest Preserve by email at programs@kaneforest.com

Sensory-Friendly Story Time



Child/Student through age 7 with Parent/Caregiver

Saturdays, March 11 ▪ April 22

10:30–11:00 a.m.

Everyone may attend these story times, especially children with developmental needs, autism or sensory processing concerns. The stories and activities will include sensory elements of repetitious language, music and movement to engage the child through age seven. We encourage the adult to participate with the child by serving as a role model, leading the child or showing him or her how to participate. Siblings may attend. Register each child and adult that will be attending. **REGISTER**



Book Character Visits G

Family

Friday, March 24 ■ *Clifford the Big Red Dog* ■ 1:00 p.m.
 Friday, April 28 ■ *Splat the Cat* ■ 4:00 p.m.

Come for a story and a visit with your favorite costumed book character. Bring your camera. Presented in partnership with Barnes & Noble of Geneva. **REGISTER** or **DROP IN**

Families living outside the Library District may attend on a space available basis.

Spring Break Puppets with the Junior Friends G

Child, infant–age 5 with Parent/Caregiver

Wednesday, March 29
 10:30–10:50 a.m. OR 11:30–11:50 a.m.

Drop in for a puppet show presented by our Junior Friends student storytellers. Children and adults attend together with a capacity of 40 children and adults. Please arrive early as we will begin to distribute tickets 10 minutes before each show. Door opens five minutes before the event begins. **DROP IN**

Families living outside the Library District may attend on a space available basis.

Ocean Adventure G



Family

Friday, March 31 ■ 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Wayne and Karen Brown, Learning Adventures, will relive their actual expedition in Norway searching for the largest bear on the planet – the Polar Bear. Explore the Arctic Ocean ecosystem and meet animals that are able to survive in this harsh environment. Join us for a morning filled with audience participation, creative dramatics, award-winning photography and videography and a life-sized, inflatable, furry 9-foot long, Polar Bear! **REGISTER**

Families living outside the Library District may attend for \$2 per person on a space available basis.

Free Comic Book Day G

Family

Saturday, May 6

Children and students may drop by the ASK ME Desk to select a free comic book while supplies last. Comics provided by Graham Crackers Comics (610 S. Randall Road, St. Charles).



Children's Book Week



It's a week-long celebration! Stop by Youth Services to spin the Library wheel, go on a Library hunt and browse the Children's Choice Book Awards winners display. Discover your Library this week and return again.

Celebrity Readers G

Wednesday, May 3 ■ 4:30–5:00 p.m.

This year's Celebrity Readers are: Edith G. Craig, Library Director; Julie Zimmermann, St. Mark's Nurturing Center Director; and Fire Chief Joe Schelstreet. We have a very special way for you to listen to each Celebrity Reader while you watch the illustrations from the book on the big screen. **REGISTER** or **DROP IN**

May the 4th be with You: Star Wars Day G

Thursday, May 4 ■ 4:00–5:30 p.m.

It's a worldwide day to celebrate Star Wars and we have new Jedi training challenges to test your agility, accuracy and stamina, as well as hands-on activities. **REGISTER** or **DROP IN**

2017 CHILDREN'S CHOICE BOOK AWARDS

Children's Choice Book Awards G

The Children's Book Council has announced the finalists for the 9th annual Children's Choice Book Awards. Here's your chance to vote for the best children's book in three categories, as well as the author and illustrator of the year. Visit the book display of finalists in Youth Services Friday, March 24–Sunday, April 30 and then cast your ballot at the Library. St. Charles winners will be on display during Children's Book Week, May 1-7.



Juggling Funny Stories G

Saturday, May 6 ■ 10:30–11:45 a.m.

You'll be laughing out loud as Chris Fascione brings children's stories to life with his high-spirited and innovative performance. Full of energy, humor and imagination, colorful characters are created through his unique combination of acting, storytelling, comedy and juggling. A *Storytelling World* award winner, Chris bring out the kid in everyone. **REGISTER** or **DROP IN**

Families living outside the Library District may attend for \$2 per person on a space available basis.

Going Batty STEM **G**

Grades K-2

Thursday, March 9 ■ 4:30-5:15 p.m.

Test out your super sensory skills with some bat-tastic challenges and put your skills up against the senses of native bats. This hands-on, interactive program will be presented by Laura McCoy, Nature Education Supervisor, Hickory Knolls Discovery Center, St. Charles Park District. **REGISTER**



Fermilab Presents: Physics of Sports

Grades 4-8

Monday, March 6 ■ 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Physics has an impact in a variety of sports. Alyssa Miller, physicist at Fermilab, will explore the whys and hows of techniques, analyze swings, strokes and more. This engaging, interactive presentation supports Next Generation Science Standards-disciplinary Core Ideas related to force and motion. **REGISTER or DROP IN**



LEGO® Workshops for Students

Everyone loves to build with LEGO® bricks, so we have a workshop for younger students to play and create in addition to an older student event. These hands-on workshops include elements of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) learning. All creations will be displayed in Youth Services until the next event and photos posted on our Youth Services Facebook page.

You Play with LEGO

STEAM

G

Grades K-2

Monday, March 13 ■ 4:30-5:15 p.m.

Tuesday, April 18 ■ 4:30-5:15 p.m.

Tuesday, May 16 ■ 4:30-5:15 p.m.

Bring your imagination. We have all you will need to create with LEGO® bricks. **REGISTER**

You Design with LEGO

STEAM

G

Grades 3-8

Monday, March 13 ■ Foreign Countries

Tuesday, April 18 ■ Fun & Games

Tuesday, May 16 ■ Secret Island

4:30-5:30 p.m.

Use your imagination in designing and building a LEGO® creation on the designated theme. Creations that meet the criteria will be judged on creative interpretation of theme, complexity, thought process behind the design, and completion within the designated 45-minute time. Awards will be presented. Work as an individual or as a member of a team. Think ahead and come with your plans. **REGISTER**



Movie Nights

Grades 4-8

Fridays ■ 4:30-7:00 p.m.

March 24 ■ April 21 ■ May 19

Watch a recent release on the big screen. Titles will be posted at the ASK ME Desk. Pizza, provided by Gino's East; popcorn and lemonade will be served. **Registration closes at 9:00 P.M. on Thursday before the movie or when filled. REGISTRATION REQUIRED BY DEADLINE**



Life-Size Chess

Grades K-8

Wednesday, March 29 ■ 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Monday, April 10 ■ 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Friday, May 26 ■ 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Checkmate! Play on our life-size chess set, table top chess sets or bring your own set. Play as an individual or as a member of a team. Gallery seating will be provided to watch the life-size chess games. To accommodate as many players as possible, games played with the life-size chess set will be limited to 20 minutes. Children through age seven attend with an adult. Students age eight and older may attend solo. **DROP IN**

Babysitter Training

Babysitter with First Aid and CPR for Infant & Child
Ages 11–15

Monday, March 27 AND
Tuesday, March 28
9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Two 6-hour training workshops

Fee: \$45 REGISTER



Become a Red Cross certified babysitter. Training will cover all aspects of babysitter responsibilities and includes a Babysitter Training set with handbook, emergency reference guide and CD with templates, organizer, activities and more. Students must attend the entire training workshop and successfully pass all observable skills to receive First Aid certification valid for three years, CPR certification valid for one year and Babysitter certification. Additional training workshops will be offered in June, August and November.

Grant funding provided by the Friends of St. Charles Public Library and St. Charles Kiwanis. Min. of 8 / max. of 10 students

Registration Requirements:

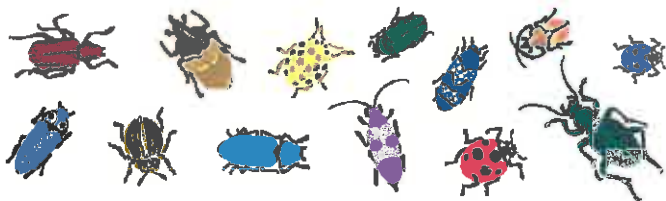
A completed **Babysitter application form**, including student and parent signatures, is due at registration. The form is available at the ASK ME Desk and online. In-person registration only.

Full payment (cash or check payable to St. Charles Public Library) is required to register or to add your name to the waiting list.

Cancellations must be made by noon on Friday, March 24. Late cancellations or no-shows will result in loss of fee/no refund. In the event that a student on the waiting list is not called to attend, a refund will be mailed.

Waiting List – Up to three applications will be accepted per training session. All applicants will be contacted after the cancellation deadline regarding registration status.

Students living outside the Library District may register beginning March 13 for \$65.



STEM



What's Bugging You?

Grades K–2

Thursday, May 11 ■ 4:30–5:15 p.m.

Many animals get the nickname bug, but what is truly an insect? As warm weather and spring thoughts start, come and see how important bugs are in our native ecosystem. You may even have a new favorite when you leave! This hands-on, interactive program will be presented by Laura McCoy from Hickory Knolls Discovery Center, St. Charles Park District. **REGISTER**

You've Got to Read This!

Be Who You Are by Todd Parr ■ JE PARR

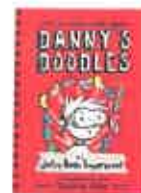
Be who you are, Todd Parr's lesson for us all, is captured in his signature, bold yet whimsical, illustrations that inspire a second look. Readers are encouraged to embrace individuality: "Learn in your own way.", "Be proud of where you're from.", "Wear everything you need to be you." Most importantly, be who you are, and be the best you can be!



Danny's Doodles: The Jelly Bean Experiment

by David A. Adler ■ J ADLER

Calvin Waffle is the new boy at school. He loves to conduct experiments, make his teacher crazy, and share a lot of his unique ideas. Danny Cohen decides to take him under his wing and help him make friends. With Danny's help and a few of Calvin's unusual experiments, especially one involving jelly beans, will Calvin be able fit right in?



The Forbidden Library by Django Wexler ■ JH WEXLER

Fresh from losing her father to drowning, Alice is sent to live with her 'Uncle' Geryon. He is a secretive man who lives in a big house with a mysterious library that Alice is forbidden to use. She is sure that her father was visited by a threatening fairy before his death. Soon after her arrival, she overhears that very fairy talking to one of her uncle's employees. Determined to learn more, Alice snoops in the maze-like library, mistakenly reads a magical book and is drawn inside to fight the creatures trapped there. How is Alice able to read the book? What can she do to defeat the creatures inside?



Señorita Gordita by Helen Ketteman ■ J 398.20973 KET

Arana the spider makes a delicious-looking little gordita. But, before Arana has the chance to eat Senora Gordita, she runs away—slipping past Lagarto the iguana, Crotole the snake, Escorpion the scorpion, Javalina the boar, and Coyote, too! Buho the owl persuades her to take a rest on the top of a saguaro cactus, but the rest doesn't last for long!



Rhythm Ride: A Road Trip Through the Motown Sound

by Andrea Davis Pinkney ■ J 781.643 PIN

Take a ride with Mama Groove and marvel at the landscape of Motown music. This book is a road trip through the life of Berry Gordy, his musicians and their hits, the climate of Detroit and America during the 1960s, and the overall way that music moves and connects us all.



Wings on the Wind: Bird Poems collected and

illustrated by Kate Kiesler ■ J 808.81936 WIN

Kate Kiesler's collection of bird poems is a beautiful description in verse of the birds that grace our skies. Each poem is specific to the behavior and majesty of a species of bird and calls us to be more observant of the beauty that surrounds us.



For more suggestions, visit **You've Got to Read This!** on our website under *Kids*, then *Books for Kids*.

FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

GRADES 6-8

St. Charles Public Library
Phone 630-584-0076 • Fax 630-584-9262
adultref@stcharleslibrary.org

Youth Services: 630-584-9390
askme@stcharleslibrary.org

Discover Your Library is published four times per year and will be available in your mailbox or online through the Library's website.

Summer Volunteer Opportunities

Junior Friends of the Library

Grades 6-8

Middle school students are eligible to volunteer weekly in Youth Services. If you are interested, we recommend placing your name on the waiting list at the ASK ME Desk. We contact students on the waiting list each April, August and December.

REGISTER

Book Buddies

Grades 6-8

Application Required

Book Buddies is a great way to have fun with books. Young readers who have completed 1st and 2nd grade are paired with middle school students to read aloud to each other, play literacy-focused games and talk about books. This program provides literacy enrichment and promotes reading as fun and entertaining.

We are seeking middle school students interested in volunteering who can commit two hours a week for six weeks during the summer. Applications will be available Monday, March 27. **Application deadline is Monday, May 1. REGISTER**

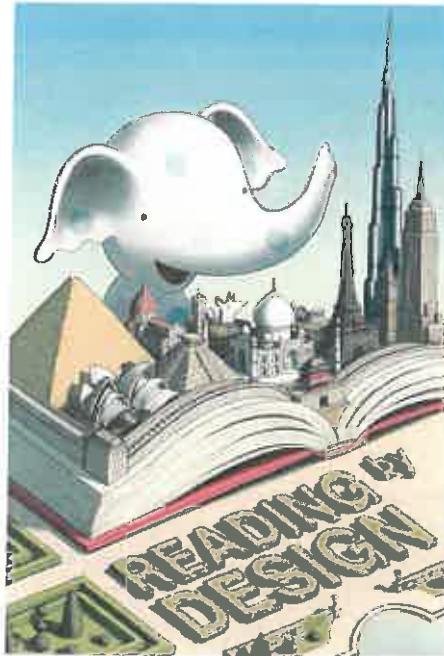


Viral Web Clips - Encore

Grades 6-8

Thursday, April 13 ■ 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Everyone had such a great time in January, we have even more very funny and weird viral web clips. Tell your friends and hangout to watch a marathon of clips and eat snacks. Lots more laughing out loud fun. **REGISTER or DROP IN**



Summer Reading: Reading by Design

Book Club registration begins Wednesday, May 31

Reading by Design, the 2017 summer reading program kicks off on Wednesday, May 31 when everyone, infants through adults, can come to the Library to get a book log. It really is quite simple - you read or listen to books and win rewards.

Why read? Research has shown that reading over the summer prevents reading loss. Studies also indicate students who read recreationally out-perform those who don't. Additionally, students read more when they can select books based on their own interests.

There will be events, performers and much more from June through August - something for everyone to enjoy.

Life-Size Board Game: Sorry!

Grades 6-8

Friday, May 12 ■ 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Jump into a favorite board game that is as big as you are. Race your friends around this life-size game board in your quest to finish first! Remember to say Sorry! as you pass everyone else. **REGISTER or DROP IN**

Hours

Monday-Thursday	9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Friday	9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday	Noon - 5:00 p.m.

Closings

Friday, March 17
Sunday, April 16
Friday, May 5 at 6:00 p.m.
Monday, May 29

Library Board Members

Victoria A. Haines, President
Kimberly D. M. Reese, Vice-President/
Secretary
Norman C. Huntley, Treasurer
Karen S. DeVault
Anne Francissen
Michael Hill
Dr. Cynthia Steimle

Edith G. Craig, Director

Library Board Meetings

Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Carnegie Community Room

March 8, 2017

April 12, 2017

May 10, 2017





St. Charles Public Library
One South Sixth Avenue
St. Charles, IL 60174

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 213
St. Charles, IL 60174

ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER

Printed on recycled paper.

Due to postal delivery routes, some residents who live outside the St. Charles Public Library District will receive this mailing. If you are a nonresident and would like to obtain a library card for a fee, please contact the Library.



Bridging the Local Writer and Local Reader Gap

Challenges have always faced independent authors trying to get books in a Library's collection. "Beyond the cost of printing books, the independent writer competes with famous authors and big publishers for public awareness and our limited shelf space," said Reader Services Librarian, Marlise Schiltz.

With this in mind, the Library has identified three ways to better connect St. Charles writers with St. Charles readers:

1. Continue offering Library shelf space and accommodate local authors as much as possible;
2. Increase visibility through our local author book display every November and other new events;
3. Provide an online and accessible collection of content produced by St. Charles writers.

To accomplish the third step, we have launched a new website: **SCPLReadLocal.org**. This page is for writers as well as readers. It includes *Indie Illinois*, a free eBook service featuring independent authors from across the state. St. Charles writers can add their voices to this collection. As it grows, our cardholders will find an increasingly wide variety of novels, short stories, memoirs and other content created in our community. "We always enjoy finding new titles for our readers," said Schiltz. "Now Reader Services will have a bigger pool of local writers to suggest as well."

Publish Your Book!

The new website also features two professionally-developed tools for publishing and sharing eBooks:

- **Pressbooks** is easy to use and transforms a manuscript into a high quality eBook format (such as ePub, MOBI and PDF).
- **SELF-e** provides writers an opportunity to submit an eBook for circulation at St. Charles Public Library, as well as libraries throughout Illinois and potentially nationwide.

SELF-e and Pressbooks provide the perfect solution for creating eBooks. The service can be as humble as creating a simple book for the enjoyment of family and friends, or it can be a launch pad for far bigger distribution plans. Best of all, you will maintain full ownership and rights to your work.

As an added bonus, *Library Journal* will review all eBooks submitted via our site. They select top picks and make them available at other libraries who host the SELF-e services. How great would it be to earn an endorsement from *Library Journal* and gain a national audience? With your talent and a St. Charles Public Library card, it can happen!

Visit our new, dedicated website. Explore and get started: **SCPLReadLocal.org**



March 15, 2017



2017 SCN POST PROM THEME

**Parent Teacher Organization
Post Prom Committee
255 Red Gate Rd.
St. Charles, IL. 60175**

Dear St. Charles Youth Commission,

St. Charles North (SCN) High School is hosting their Thirteenth Annual Prom on April 29th, 2017. As part of that evening the St. Charles North Parent Teacher Organization will be hosting a Post Prom event. The primary purpose of this event is to provide a safe, yet fun activity for the students to help them avoid other less positive activities.

All SCN juniors and seniors with or without dates, whether or not they attended Prom, are invited to come. Last year over 750 students made the choice to attend this safe event. The PTO at North has been struggling this year to raise funds. We have had cut financial support to several programs and Post Prom is one of those. Post Prom is an important activity and I would like to reach out to the Youth Commission to ask for whatever help you can provide.

Over the years Post Prom has become an event in which the community has so graciously participated. We have raised a portion of our budget through fundraising; however, we cannot meet our budget without the support of local business and civic organizations like the Youth Commission. I would like to take this opportunity to ask the St. Charles Youth Commission for your continued support. I would like to ask if the commission would consider a \$2,000 donation and I am willing to beg if you would consider donating more.

If you choose to financially support this event, please send your donation to the address listed at the top of this letter.

We appreciate your support and would like to thank you, in advance, for contributing to the safety of our youth. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact me directly at 630-819-6615 or by email at mullally@ix.netcom.com.

I would also like to extend an invitation to each board member to come and visit our Post Prom. It is held at Christ Community Church on April 29th, 2017 from 11:00 PM until 3:30 AM on April 30th. You have chosen to support the youth of our community and I would love to have you see the fruits of your labor as well as the event your donation help to provide. Please let me know if you would like to come and see 750 teenagers having fun.

Sincerely,

Tom Mullally
2017 SCN Post Prom Chairperson

St. Charles Youth Commission

A community effort linking city government to the people it serves



ST. CHARLES

S I N C E 1 8 3 4

All funding requests must be submitted on the following forms for consideration.

Contact Sara Cass for additional information at
(630) 443-3777

St. Charles Youth Commission

211 N. Riverside Avenue
St. Charles, Illinois 60174
630-377-4435

INFORMATION

It is the belief of the St. Charles Youth Commission that our young people have insights into both the issues that impact our youth and ideas to bring about positive change.

Please answer the following by writing neatly or typing your answers on the following pages.

1. **INFORMATION**

This page should contain your name(s), school or group that is submitting this funding request.

2. **IDENTIFIED NEED**

Please write one paragraph stating a need you see in our community and describe how you and your youth group could make a positive impact.

3. **THE PROJECT**

In one paragraph, describe your project and how it will address your identified need.

4. **PROJECT GOALS**

Describe the goals of your project.

5. **BUDGET AND TIMELINE**

Please provide a proposed budget of what you estimate your expenses will be as well as a timeline for the implementation and completion of your project.

NOTE: A report back to the Youth Commission is considered an essential part of the funding request. This report should include an accounting of how your funds were spent. You will be invited to present your completed project to the Youth Commission and City Council.

St. Charles Youth Commission Funding Request

1. INFORMATION

Please write neatly or type your application following the criteria requested on each page.

Name(s) and age(s) of applicant(s): _____

Group (if applicable): Kane County Juvenile Drug Court
Advisory Committee

Name(s) of adult(s) involved with your project: Paul McCurtain, Jo Ann
Stingley, Cliff Hime, Dennis Carr, Marge Evans, Phil
Wessel, Sera Sullivan, Don Kramer, Rick Cigonek, & France Cavallo

Contact

Name: Paul McCurtain

Address: 404 Wakefield Lane

City/State/Zip: Geneva, IL. 60134

Phone: 630.777.6885

Email: paulmccurtain@sbcglobal.net

All applications may be submitted to:

St. Charles Youth Commission
C/O St. Charles Police Department
211 N. Riverside Avenue
St. Charles, IL 60174

\$500 -
1 in program from
Adelphi UTE Tri City area

2. IDENTIFIED NEED

Please write one paragraph stating a need you see in our community and describe how you and your youth group could make a positive impact.

The Kane County Juvenile Drug Court has been in existence since 2004, after Kane County officials saw the national success of drug courts as a way to motivate teens to change their lives. Nationally, only 27% of drug court graduates were back in trouble two years after completing the program, compared to 59% of people imprisoned for drug offenses, according to a National Drug Control Study.

The mission of the Kane County Juvenile Drug Court Advisory Committee is to assist the JDC by educating the population of Kane County, increasing community awareness, and providing support to members of JDC in order to eliminate the misuse of substances.

3. THE PROJECT

In one paragraph, describe your project and how it will address your identified need.

The Advisory Committee is a 501(c)3 not for profit organization. All funds raised by the voluntary committee members are used for the Juvenile Drug Court. Requested funds will be used by JDC to purchase incentive gift cards that are distributed by the JDC judge. Behavior modification is at the heart of JDC. The judge administers incentives and sanctions in an immediate and consistent manner. Creating a link between behavior and consequences is key in the development of positive behavior changes.

4. PROJECT GOALS

Describe the goals of your project.

The Juvenile Drug Court has had a lifelong effect on juveniles who live in St. Charles and the Fox River Valley. At a JDC graduation, a fifteen year old female from St. Charles related, "I hardly resemble the person I was a year and a half ago. I wouldn't want to know what I would be like without this experience." The vast majority of children involved in the program are from the Fox River Valley, with 25-30% from the Tri-City area. The JDC has had a lasting effect and benefits all youth and families within the service area.

5. BUDGET AND TIMELINE

Please provide a proposed budget of what you estimate your expenses will be as well as a timeline for the implementation and completion of your project.

The Advisory Committee raises funds to provide; group outings, GED testing, JDC graduations, and to purchase incentive gift cards that are distributed by the JDC Judge. Funds requested from the St. Charles Youth Commission would be used to purchase incentive gift cards, which would last approximately six months at the current level.

From: Paul Mccurtain paulmccurtain@sbcglobal.net
Subject: Re: YC form
Date: Apr 3, 2017, 9:22:54 AM
To: Nancy J. McFarland nancy-
mcfarland@ameritech.net

Hi Nanc,

Just heard back from Phil; Currently one from the Tri-Cities, the rest from Aurora, Elgin, and Carpentersville. In the past, the majority were from the Tri-Cities with just a few from Elgin, Aurora, and Carpentersville. The current population is down, the last number I got from Phil was that we had seven in the Program, with three more going through the application process. I don't know where the new ones are from. As you know, in the past, at times we had over twenty with the majority in the Tri-Cities and quite a few from St. Charles. It ebbs and flows. That's why I also included, "The vast majority of children involved in the Program are from the Fox River Valley. The JDC has had a lasting effect and benefits all youth and families within the service area." We had kids on drugs from Elgin and Aurora committing burglaries in St. Charles and the Tri-Cities that were helped by the Program.

Thanks!

Paul

On Friday, March 31, 2017 7:10 PM, Nancy J. McFarland <nancy-mcfarland@ameritech.net> wrote:

Our meeting starts at 6:00 pm on Monday so you have a few days!!

On Mar 31, 2017, at 7:02 PM, Paul McCurtain <paulmccurtain@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

I sent Phil an email asking for the information, I don't know if I'll hear from him over the weekend.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 31, 2017, at 6:41 PM, Nancy J. McFarland <nancy-mcfarland@ameritech.net> wrote:

Great. Everything hinges on how many from STC are in the program.

On Mar 31, 2017, at 6:01 PM, Paul McCurtain <paulmccurtain@sbcglobal.net> wrote:



Website: MarqueeYouth.org
Email: mysdirector@gmail.com

Empowering youth for life!

April 3, 2017

Dear St Charles Youth Commission & Fellow Friends,

Marquee Youth Stage is reaching out to you at a pivotal time in the arts community. "The studio is my second home" are resounding words that echo beyond the walls of Marquee Youth Stage, followed by vivid retellings of memories impacting the life of young performers at Marquee Youth Stage (MyStage). MyStage, a 501(c)3 arts organization has produced hundreds of plays, musicals, improv shows, performing arts classes and workshops in the Fox Valley area since 2011. What began as a cast of 51 performers in *Annie* has grown to thousands of performers and a supportive arts community that call Marquee Youth Stage home. It is our mission to broaden the reach and impact of theatre so that students of all abilities, ethnicities, skills and economic backgrounds may benefit, thereby increasing performing arts opportunities in order to ignite creativity, support, enrich and empower youth with the skills and knowledge of how the arts can serve and influence the community at large.

Recently, Marquee Youth Stage has received news that our current studio home will no longer be able to operate in The Quad Mall after May 31st of this year due to the cost-saving efforts of owners at The Quad Mall. In light of this new development, our supportive community has inspired and encouraged us to mobilize and expand our platform to build on our mission. Marquee Youth is now ready to embark on the opportunity to make an even deeper impact by creating a performance and presentation space for youth stakeholders in our community. In the meantime, we have secured an interim space in order to continue programming without interruption. We are reaching out to the Youth Commission to assist us in one of the following ways, and we are open to other ideas as well to support our mission to empower youth.

- Provide funding support for the interim space at Faith Lutheran Church in Geneva so that we may continue running rehearsals, voice lessons, workshops, and productions while we work to secure funding for our long term space. \$1400/month of active programming
- Provide need-based scholarship funding to youth who are directly benefiting from our program

On behalf of Marquee Youth Stage, we thank you for your consideration and hope you will partner with us to support youth and the arts. Please contact Connie Flores at 630.762.0354 with questions on how to get involved.

Thankfully,

Connie Flores
Funder/Creative Director



Website: MarqueeYouth.org
Email: mysdirector@gmail.com

Empowering youth for life!

The following narrative is by one of our young performers who has grown with MyStage over the years. She chose to write about her experience at Marquee Youth for her school English assignment.

Descriptive Sketch by Maggie Hendrian

My studio may not seem like a fabulous place, but it is a gigantic part of who I am today. Located in the emptiness of the Charlestown Mall, lives a happy little studio that thrives every day of each season in the year. On the outside all one might see is a sign reading "Marquee Youth Stage", but inside resides a part of my life and personality. Walking through the front door you enter the lobby. Here there are three comfy couches that have been sat on by too many people to ever count, and in the corner there is a coffee and water station surrounded by wooden bookshelves revealing past shows done for five years running. Painted on the walls are memories of laughter, frustration, and friendship that welcome all who may be stepping into this room for the first time. As you walk ahead into the next room, we see one of my favorite past time memories. The music room holds thousands of memories containing learning experiences of all the different show-tunes performed. Here are mixed feelings of anxiety and the relief that a song is finally memorized. The only objects in the room are a keyboard and chairs, but it brings my performing spirit into a whole new world. In this very music room, I have seen many songs bloom from nothing to the most powerful noise in a hundred mile radius. Now you go past the red velvet curtain, which acts as a wall for the costume room. Then taking a right and going up the ramp you enter my favorite place, the stage. Here upon these black, wooden platforms there have been so many changes of scenery as shows have come and gone. And as the stage changes, fellow performers and I change too. I have experienced shows with as little as twenty props to shows containing over a hundred. Now as we look around, we see a stage twice the size as it was starting out with a huge pole down the middle. The pole may seem like a disadvantage, but if used correctly it brings a free opportunity to enrich the blocking and character being portrayed. Just as the pole enriches a scene, theater has enriched my life and for the right reasons. With the growth of the stage, I have grown too. Every time I step foot in the studio I see the story behind it all. The studio is endlessly decorated with the props of the past. On stage in front of an audience, you are not only performing in a show. You are secretly showing the audience the person you have become due to this small welcoming place. The studio is my second home and a place in which I will continue to grow.