HAPPY HOLIDAYS
FROM PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY!

This month, enjoy a variety of holiday-themed programs for all ages – from classic movies like *White Christmas* to Christmas crafts to cookie decorating – across all five Peoria Public Library locations. Use your library card to check out everything from holiday crafting books to our new Binge Box DVD sets, full of holiday favorites.

Peoria Public Library has at least three locations open every day of the week with the exception of December 24 and 25th when the Main Library and all branches will be closed. Below are some holiday programs you won’t want to miss:

**Winter Wonder Express** – Tuesday, Dec. 3 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at Lincoln Branch
Celebrate the start of the holidays with fun STEM projects, a photo booth and a simulated “train ride” all while listening to the Christmas tale *The Polar Express* by Chris Van Allsburg. At the end of the program, everyone will take home a complimentary treat! Ages 3 to 5. To register, please call 497-2600.

**DIY Holiday Gifts** – Saturday, Dec. 7 from 2 to 3 p.m. at Lakeview Branch
The holidays are coming and with them the gift giving season. Join us to discuss different DIY gifts suitable for all the special people in your life. We will also make an easy-to-replicate gift to take home with you. For adults only.

**Sugar Cookie Decorating** – Saturday, Dec. 21 from 3 to 5 p.m., McClure Branch
Join us for some sugar cookie decorating while a classic Christmas movie plays in the background. Then enjoy your uniquely decorated treat with some hot cocoa before taking off. All ages welcome while supplies last.

**Countdown to Noon** – Tuesday, Dec. 31 from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at Lakeview Branch
Get ready for an exciting party for all the youngsters who can’t stay up until midnight to ring in the New Year! We’ll countdown to noon by dressing up, enjoying snacks, coloring, and taking silly photos in front of our special New Years Eve backdrop. At noon we’ll have a balloon drop and dance to some favorite songs. Your little ones won’t want to miss this special party. Ages 1 to 7.
The picture you have of a typical librarian’s day is probably wrong. We aren’t sitting primly behind a desk, just waiting to shush you. Whether it’s singing and jumping at StoryTime or working patiently with EPIC members, we engage with our patrons!

Peoria Public librarian Cindy Wright, pictured here, is helping EPIC patron Glen build a stand-up cactus, a craft included in October’s program about Texas.

Every month, except December, Cindy visits and works with patrons at eight memory care facilities in our area.

Jennifer Jacobsen-Wood, manager of North Branch, brought Peoria Public Library to the East Bluff Community Center event on Nov. 1.

OUT AND ABOUT

Program Highlights

HOT CHOCOLATE PARTY
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10
LINCOLN BRANCH
4:00 - 5:00 pm
It’s the season for some hot chocolate! We are going to taste different flavors, play some winter games, and make fun marshmallow snowflakes! Come and decide what flavor of hot chocolate is the best, dunk your marshmallows and have a good time! Please call 497-2600 to register. Ages 12 to 18.

4TH TRIMESTER
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17
MCCLURE BRANCH
Postpartum Depression Support
3:00 - 4:00 pm
Almost all new moms deal with some form of “baby blues,” and about one in five develop postpartum depression. It’s perfectly natural and no one’s fault, and there are FREE community resources to help alleviate suffering. Come to this session to hear from Sabra Burress, local counselor and leader of OSF’s Postpartum Depression Support Group.

Books and Bagels
MONDAY, DECEMBER 9
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17
MCCLURE BRANCH
11:00 am - 12:00 pm
Are you a child caregiver who enjoys reading, but you don’t have a sitter to attend book club? This is the book club for you! Enjoy a light book discussion and snacks with parents and caregivers just like you. While the adults discuss the book, children can play with toys, color, and read from board books. Please call 497-2200 or 509-497-2700 with any questions. This month’s title: The Leaving by Tara Altebrando.
DECEMBER

ALL LOCATIONS

1000 Books Before Kindergarten
Read any 1,000 books to your child before they enter kindergarten and earn prizes for every 100 books they read. Once your child reads 1,000 books, they will be invited to a graduation party.

DECEMBER

MAIN LIBRARY

Crafts-to-Go – 9:00 am-6:00 pm
In a hurry? Can’t stay and craft? Get your crafts to go. Kids ages 5 through 12 can pick up a craft packet at the 1st Floor Information Desk any time we’re open.

DECEMBER

MAIN LIBRARY

Find Your Next Book: Kid Version
Can’t decide what to read next? Stop at the information desk to find your next book by choosing a clear mini globe from the container and opening it up. Read the colored paper strip and follow the suggestion for what to read. You may find the best book ever! For ages 5 through 12, but teens might like to try it too.

DECEMBER

MAIN LIBRARY

Winter Holiday Fun Booklet
Full of recipes, game and craft ideas, coloring pages, poems, and jokes centered around the December holidays, it’s sure to be your solution to conquering a dull day. Kids Kindergarten through 6th grade can pick one up in the Children’s area and start some winter fun.

DECEMBER

LAKEVIEW BRANCH & MCCLURE BRANCH

Reading Challenges
For each challenge you complete, feel free to bring in a copy to receive a bookmark and an entry into a drawing for a $25 Barnes and Noble gift card.

DECEMBER

LAKEVIEW BRANCH

One-On-One Resume Writing Assistance Program
Do you have a copy of your resume on hand and need someone to look over it? Please call Fran at 309-497-2200 to schedule a one hour session to help you with your resume.

DECEMBER

MAIN LIBRARY & LAKEVIEW BRANCH

Catch the Gingerbread Man
Our gingerbread man is trying to run away! Every night while we’re closed, he finds a new place to hide. If you catch him and bring him back to his gingerbread house, you can choose a prize from our prize box!

DECEMBER

MCCLURE BRANCH

Holiday Recipe Swap
Share your favorite holiday recipe to enter the drawing for a $10 grocery store gift card of your choice. While you’re here, look through our community cookbook to get fresh recipe ideas from your neighbors!

DECEMBER

MCCLURE BRANCH

Learn a Foreign Language Challenge
December is Learn a Foreign Language month! Help celebrate this month by using Mango Languages, a free (with your library card) website and app that allows you to learn a new language from anywhere at any time! You’ll gain one entry for each level you complete. Stop at McClure Branch to fill out your entries for a chance to win a $20 Barnes & Noble gift card. For any questions or help getting started with Mango Languages please call (509) 497-2700.

DECEMBER

LAKEVIEW BRANCH

Dewey’s Birthday Bingo Reading Challenge
Celebrate the birthdays of both Bingo and the father of the Dewey Decimal System (December 10) in one go! Complete a bingo sheet to enter the drawing for a $10 Barnes & Noble gift card. For more information call 497-2600.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

NORTH BRANCH

Music in the McKenzie Presents: Goodnight Gracie – 2:00-4:00 pm
Goodnight Gracie plays music from many genres including pop, blues, indie, country and a few originals! They love audience interaction and encourage you to get up and dance if the music moves you.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

NORTH BRANCH – 10:30-11:00 am

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 11 & 18

LAKEVIEW BRANCH – 10:15-10:45 am

Tiny Tots Storytime
Ages 12 to 23 months.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

MCCLURE BRANCH

Ameren Storm Preparedness and Energy-Saving Tips – 10:00-11:00 am
Learn how Ameren restores services in the event of storm-related outages, and how the organization is making system improvements to increase reliability for its customers. Attendees will also learn how to lower their monthly bill by receiving cash incentives and rebates on lighting, heating, cooling, and more. Door prizes available!

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

LINCOLN BRANCH

Winter Wonder Express – 10:00-11:30 am
Enjoy this morning by celebrating the start of the holiday season. Join us in these festive activities by participating in STEM projects, a photo booth, and a simulated “train ride,” all while listening to the Christmas tale The Polar Express by Chris Van Allsburg. At the end of the program, everyone will take home a complimentary treat! Ages 3 to 5. To register, please call 497-2600.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 10 & 17

LAKEVIEW BRANCH

Toddler Tales – 10:15-10:45 am
Ages 2 to 4.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

LAKEVIEW BRANCH

Bibliophiles Book Club – 1:30-2:30 pm
This month: A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

LINCOLN BRANCH

Front & Center: Bingo Frenzy
5:00-6:00 pm
Did you know that December is Bingo’s birthday month? Celebrate this popular game with us by joining in the fun and competition. All ages welcome.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 11 & 18

NORTH BRANCH

Brainy Baby Storytime – 1:30-2:00 pm
Ages 0 to 23 months.

3
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Kid-Run Newspaper – 4:30-5:30 pm
We will work on content for our latest issue. Ages 8 to 17.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4
MCCLURE BRANCH
What is Mango Languages?
5:00-5:45 pm
Join a brief introduction into a free database you can access using your Peoria Public Library card! After the presentation, be sure to ask about our Learn a Foreign Language Challenge!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4
NORTH BRANCH
The DNA Discussion – 6:30-7:30 pm
Take this opportunity to learn about how technology and the future is a driving force in uncovering more about the past. Find out about the various top companies and the differences in their testing structures and reports. Hear more about what you can do with your results once they return. Discover more about YOU.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5
MCCLURE BRANCH
Fun Time Storytime – 10:00-10:30 am
Ages 3 to 6.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5
NORTH BRANCH
A-Z Storytime – 10:30-11:00 am
Join us for letter-themed stories, songs, and crafts! Ages 2 to 3.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Front & Center: Winter Snowman Craft 4:00-5:00 pm
Join the fun by making a snowman out of Popsicle sticks! Registration is required. Please call 497-2600. Ages 6 to 11.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5
LINCOLN BRANCH
Christmas Movie Trivia – 4:00-5:00 pm
Are you ready for Christmas? Have you watched every Christmas movie out there? Come test out your knowledge in this fun Christmas Movie Trivia Challenge! Please call 497-2600 to register. Ages 12 to 18.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6
MCCLURE BRANCH
Baby Playground – 10:15-11:15 am
Calling all babies! Join us for a special playgroup designed to help you explore your world through creative play. Ages 9 months to 24 months.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6
NORTH BRANCH
Busy Bees Storytime – 10:30-11:00 am
Children of all ages.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6
LINCOLN BRANCH
Brown Bag It Christmas Trees 3:45-4:45 pm
Using brown paper bags, you will be challenged in this STEM activity to create your own free standing Christmas tree, complete with ornaments! Please call 497-2600 to register. Ages 12 to 18.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7
MCCLURE BRANCH
Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Movie 10:30 am-1:30 pm
Honor Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day by watching the 2001 drama, Pearl Harbor, starring Ben Affleck, Kate Beckinsale, and Josh Hartnett.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7
NORTH BRANCH
DIY Holiday Gifts – 2:00-3:00 pm
The holidays are coming and with them the gift giving season. Join us to discuss different DIY gifts suitable for all the special people in your life. We will also make an easy-to-replicate gift to take home.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8
NORTH BRANCH
Biography and Nonfiction Book Club – 3:00-4:30 pm
This month: In the Shadow of Statues: A White Southerner Confronts History by Mitch Landrieu

MONDAY, DEC. 9
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Tuesday, Dec. 17
MCCLURE BRANCH
Books and Bagels – 10:00-11:00 am
Each month we’ll read a different title and have a light book discussion and snacks. While the adults discuss the book, children can play with toys, color, and read from board books. Please call 497-2200 or 309-497-2700 with any questions. This month: The Leaving by Tara Altebrando
**Monday, December 9**

**McClure Branch**

The Book Was First Movie Series
10:30 am–1:30 pm

Join in viewing the 1993 film Jurassic Park based on the book by Michael Crichton. Read the book before you come or just enjoy a movie and light refreshments!

**Monday, December 9**

**North Branch**

Atlantic Monthly Discussion Group
11:00 am–1:00 pm

Read the feature article (and any others that interest you) of the current issue of Atlantic Monthly in print or on the website, theatlantic.com/magazine/. Then bring your lunch or a snack and engage in lively and intellectual discussion. Facilitators are Marge Semmens and Catriona Ritenhouse.

**Tuesday, December 10**

**Lincoln Branch**

Front & Center: Ornament Bonanza
5:00–6:00 pm

Use a variety of paints, snow, and beads to bring bling to your holidays. These DIY gems can be great keepsakes or a holiday gift. Call 497-2600 to register.

**Tuesday, December 10**

**McClure Branch**

You-Pick Flick – 3:00–5:00 pm

You picked it, now we’re playing it! Every second Saturday, you can enjoy the You-Pick Flick for the month. Be sure to cast your vote for next month’s movie while you’re here! Voting is open all month.

**Sunday, December 15**

**Lakeview Branch**

Book ‘Em Mystery Book Club – 2:00–3:30 pm

This month: Still Life by Louise Penny

**Monday, December 16**

**North Branch**

Springdale Cemetery – 6:00–7:00 pm

Join us as Beth Johnson of the Peoria Historical Society gives a presentation on Springdale Cemetery. All ages welcome.

**Tuesday, December 17**

**Lakeview Branch**

Puppet Show: “Santa Cures a Cold” – 10:00–10:30 am

Come help Rollo, one of Santa’s elves, find a cure for Santa’s cold. Ages 3 to 6.

**Tuesday, December 17**

**McClure Branch**

4th Trimester: Postpartum Depression Support – 3:00–4:00 pm

Come hear from Sabra Burress, local counselor and leader of OSF’s Postpartum Depression Support Group.

**Tuesday, December 17**

**Lincoln Branch**

Front & Center: Christmas Agamographs – 5:00–6:00 pm

Join us for this unique and fun activity for the holiday. Watch as your creation turns from one art form into another. Ages 6-11.

**Wednesday, December 18**

**Lakeview Branch**

KAB: Kids Advisory Board – 4:30–5:30 pm

Join us for our monthly meeting to give your opinion on events and materials at the Lakeview Branch. Ages 8 to 12.

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**Friends of Peoria Public Library gets by with a little help from our Friends.**

Friends of Peoria Public Library is a 501(c)(3) that exists solely to support our projects and programs. Mainly through book sales, Friends contributes to our varied children’s programming. But we’d love to do so much more – and we can with your help.

Please consider becoming a Friend of the Library. For an annual contribution of $20, you will be a Friend and eligible for a 20 percent discount on anything sold at our Friends book stores. You can also help and have input on programming and bringing in authors. Let us tell you more. Call us at (309) 497-2141.

Friends also takes donations of books (and some magazines) year-round.
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18
NORTH BRANCH
Comic Corps Club – 5:00-6:00 p.m.
For this month, high school students are encouraged to share the most recent comic or manga they have read.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19
NORTH BRANCH
Third Thursday Film Fest: A Year of Musicals – 2:00-4:00 pm
Bring a snack and enjoy a movie. This month: *42nd Street* (NR, 1933)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19
NORTH BRANCH
Peoria: Whiskey Capital of the World – 6:00-7:00 pm
Join us for a program presented by Bernie Drake of the Peoria Historical Society.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20
MCCLURE BRANCH
Toddler Play Zone – 10:15-11:15 am
Join us for a special playgroup for toddlers to interact with other kids, play with educational toys, and read books with their parents. Ages 2 to 4.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Marvel Trivia Night – 4:00-5:00 pm
Are you a fan of the Marvel Cinematic Universe? Join us to test your knowledge. Space is limited, so please register your teams of 2 to 4 and team name via email to programmingdept@peoria.lib.il.us by December 13. Ages 11 to 18.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Autism Resource Group
10:00 am-1:00 pm
Are you a parent with a child or teen with Autism Spectrum Disorder? Join us for resource sharing and support.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21
MAIN LIBRARY
Once Upon a Time Story Hour
10:30-11:30 am
Join us for a fairy tale themed story hour complete with activity time as well as craft time. Children are welcome to come dressed in costume. Ages 3 to 7.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21 & SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22
LINCOLN BRANCH
Holiday Craft-to-Go – 12:00-5:00 pm
Come make a fun holiday decoration. Children of all ages.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21
MCCLURE BRANCH
Sugar Cookie Decorating – 3:00-5:00 pm
Get into the holiday spirit with some sugar cookie decorating while a classic Christmas movie plays in the background! Enjoy your uniquely decorated treat with some hot cocoa before taking off.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30
MAIN LIBRARY
Game Day Fun – 3:30-5:00 pm
Join us at the library for an afternoon of fun! There will be card games, board games, puzzles and much more available in the Children’s Activity Room. Children ages 3 to 12 and their caregiver.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Countdown to Noon
11:00 am-12:15 pm
Get ready for an exciting party for all the youngsters who can’t stay up until midnight to ring in the New Year! We’ll countdown to noon by dressing up, enjoying snacks, coloring, and taking silly photos in front of our special backdrop. At noon we’ll have a balloon drop and dance to some favorite songs. Your little ones won’t want to miss this special party. Ages 1 to 7.

All locations of Peoria Public Library will be closed

Monday, December 23 (at 6:00pm) through Wednesday, December 25 for the Christmas Holiday

North Branch always closed Tuesday

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30
MAIN LIBRARY
Game Day Fun – 3:30-5:00 pm
Join us at the library for an afternoon of fun! There will be card games, board games, puzzles and much more available in the Children’s Activity Room. Children ages 3 to 12 and their caregiver.

MCMCLURE BRANCH
Winter Break Gaming – 4:00-5:00 pm
Keep yourself busy during winter break with video, board, and card games! They’ll be set up each weekday afternoon during winter break! Children of all ages.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31
MCCLURE BRANCH
Drop In: Craft Closet Clean-Out
Looking for something to do during winter break? Pick up a random craft-to-go as we clean out our crafting closet to get ready for the new year! All ages welcome. While supplies last.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21
MCCLURE BRANCH
The Wishing Tree
The new year is just around the corner, and it’s time to start thinking of all the wishes you have for the upcoming year. Add a wish for yourself or someone you care about with the hopes that it will come true in 2020, and check out all the wishes others have made on the wishing tree!

DECEMBER 26-31
MCCLURE BRANCH
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THE BIOGRAPHY/NON-FICTION BOOK CLUB
When/Where: Meets the second Sunday of the month from 3:00-4:30 p.m. at North Branch.
For more information, call Roberta Koscielski at 309-497-2186.
January 12: Great Agnostic: Robert Ingersoll and American Freethought by Susan Jacoby

THE SHERLOCK HOLMES STORY SOCIETY
When/Where: Meets the fourth Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at North Branch.
For more information, call 497-2701.
January 23: “The Adventure of the Second Stain” (last story in The Return of Sherlock Holmes)

THE YA FOR ADULTS BOOK CLUB
When/Where: Meets the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Lakeview Branch.
For more information, call Karla at 497-2150.
January 21: The Grace Year by Kim Liggett

INTERCONTINENTAL READERS
When/Where: Meets every three months on Tuesdays from 1:00-2:00 p.m at Main Library LL1 Classroom B. This club focuses on American and Irish authors and Skypes with members in Clonmel, Ireland.
For more information, email Terry Tate at knatttate@mchsi.com
March 24: The Transatlantic Book Club by Felicity Hayes-McCoy

MATURE READERS BOOK CLUB
When/Where: Meets the last Wednesday of the month at 2:15 p.m. at Lakeview Branch.
January 29: Radium Girls by Kate Moore

PEORIA AREA WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL (PAWAC)
When/Where: Meets at 2:00 p.m. on Jan. 19 at North Branch.
This book club meeting is part of a National Endowment for the Arts grant to the Chillicothe Public Library to highlight the book and will include a visit by the author in March.
January 19: Into the Beautiful North by Luis Alberto Urrea

THE SCIENCE FICTION/FANTASY BOOK CLUB
When/Where: Meets on the second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Lakeview Branch.
For more information, call 497-2701.
January 13: Starship Troopers by Robert A. Heinlein and Forever War by Joe Haldeman

Consider stepping outside of your comfort zone and joining a book club. Or two. Not only will you make new friends and keep the old, but you may be introduced to books or genres you never would have considered on your own. New members are always welcome!
INNOVATION IN PEORIA: PUBLIC LIBRARIES
BY CHRIS FARRIS

From the past to the present, the Peoria area has a history of being innovative. Home to the fathers of the first successful gasoline-powered automobile in the U.S., the Duryea brothers. The first to discover how to mass produce penicillin, saving untold numbers of soldiers during World War II. Even today, Peoria ranks among the most innovative cities in the country based on the number of patents issued per capita.

On Nov. 4, the hope for more innovation to come was announced at the corner of Adams and Fulton streets: Peoria’s forthcoming Innovation Hub.

Peoria’s hub will be part of the Illinois Innovation Network (IIN), a statewide initiative led by the University of Illinois system to seed breakthroughs in research discovery and job creation.

Perhaps by chance, its location has a historical connection with both innovation and the Peoria Public Library.

The innovation comes in the form of the law permitting the establishment of tax funded public libraries, which was passed in 1872 by the Illinois Legislature. This was the first comprehensive library law in the United States and was eventually copied by 47 other states.

The provisions of the law were written by Peorian E.S. Willcox. Willcox (shown in the accompanying photo) stated that the law he had authored, “was the first broadly planned, comprehensive and complete Free Public Library Law placed on the statute of books of any state in the Union.” Willcox further went on to proclaim that Illinois had, “placed herself at the head of her sister states in encouraging the spread of general intelligence.” E.S. Willcox later went on to become the head librarian of the Peoria Public Library.

Eight years after the law was passed, the first Peoria Public Library was established at the corner of Adams and Fulton on the exact spot of the new Peoria Innovation Hub. The original building that housed the first Peoria Public Library was replaced in 1954 by the building that now stands on the same corner.

When you pass Peoria’s new Innovation Hub, imagine the thousands of citizens of this city and the countless millions of this nation who have benefited from the establishment of free public libraries in the United States.

PPL STAFF ELECTED TO RSA

Jamie Jones, manager of Peoria Public Library McClure Branch, has been elected to the RSA (Resource Sharing Alliance) Board. RSA is a consortia of libraries in central and west central Illinois sharing a common library automation system. RSA facilitates the checkout and sharing of materials among member libraries, providing access to materials from nearly 200 different libraries across the state. RSA is just one of several resource sharing services through the Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS).