June Events

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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Family Fun Stations, 10—11:30 AM Summer Reading Kick-off & Registration	3	Senior Time Out @ Ashland 9:15-9:45AM Family Fun Stations, 10—11:30 AM Summer Reading Kick- off & Registration	Mobile Library Gardener Township, 4-6 PM Teen Takeover @Plains, 5:30-7 PM	6	7 Minecraft 101 for Grown-ups, 11 am @Ashland
Family Fun Stations, 10—11:30 AM	10 Board Meeting @ Ashland, 6 PM	Senior Time Out @ Ashland 9:15-9:45AM Family Fun Stations, 10—11:30 AM Staff Meeting Both locations closed @ 3:30 PM	Mobile Library Gardener Township, 4-6 PM	13	14 Mindless Art Class: Neurographic Art, 10AM—noon @ Plains
Family Fun Stations, 10—11:30 AM	17	18 Senior Time Out @ Ashland 9:15-9:45AM Family Fun Stations, 10—11:30 AM	19 Closed for Juneteenth	20	STEAM Club, 11 AM @ Plains Duke Otherwise @ Ashland Summer Days after the 9AM Parade
Family Fun Stations, 10—11:30 AM	Ashland Book Club @ Ashland, 6PM	25 Senior Time Out @ Ashland 9:15-9:45AM Family Fun Stations, 10—11:30 AM	Mobile Library Gardener Township, 4-6 PM Bookies Book Club @ Plains, 7 pm	27	Summer Reading Mid-Way Prize Giveaway (raffle ticket drawing)
Family Fun Stations, 10—11:30 AM	7/1	7/2 Senior Time Out @ Ashland 9:15-9:45AM Family Fun Stations, 10—11:30 AM	7/3 Mobile Library Gardener Township, 4-6 PM	7/4 Closed for Independence Day	7/5

Key: Orange = Kid's Programming; Light Blue: Fun for Adults; Blue = Family Entertainment;

Purple = Teen Activities; Green = Library Outreach; Black = Regularly Scheduled Programming, Red = Special Notice



Prairie Times

Prairie Skies Public Library District Newsletter June 2025 Volume 11, Issue 6



Taking Summer Reading a LEVEL UP!

Summer fun = summer reading at the library starting on June 2nd! Sign up for 7-weeks of Family Fun Stations, including story time, crafts, STEAM activities, games, and snack stations.

LEVEL UP AT YOUR LIBRARY

Each week we'll level up with a new theme:

Week 1: Super Mario Week 4: Sports Week 6: Card Games Week 2.: Minecraft Week 5: Patriotic Week 7: Magic

Week 3: Games

Your "Connect Four" reading log lets you earn stickers for each reading goal and event attended. Fill out a raffle ticket for each and enter to win the Mid-Summer Prize Giveaway on 6/28 and Grand Prize Giveaway on 7/19. Don't miss our special guest, Duke Otherwise performing at Ashland Summer Days on Sat. 6/21!

> "Second Chance" STEAM projects! Sat. June 21st, 11 am @ Plains

Not able to make it to the Family Fun Stations during the week? Here's your chance to try some of the cool projects we are doing during our

summer reading program. Make it at the library or take a kit home with you!



Adult Mindless Art Class: Neurographic Art with Jeff Lung, Sat. June 14th, 10AM—noon @ Plains This intuitive art style combines drawing and doodling with principles rooted in neuroscience and psychology

It is aimed at promoting relaxation, stress relief, and self-discovery. Learn basic concepts of neurographic art, get familiar with Posca paint pens and go home with an 8x10 finished work of art on a canvas wrapped panel worthy of framing.

SPRINGFIELD AREA ARTS COUNCIL



Thurs. June 5th 5:30-7pm @ Plains

Now Showing...

Movie Nights at Teen Takeover all summer

long! Meet up at the library for popcorn, drinks, and a movie.

Teen Takeover offers low-key TAKI social time for teens 13 & up. OVE



Minecraft 101 for Grown-ups Sat., June 7th, 11 am in Ashland

Who is Steve? What are Creepers? Ender-what? Nether-where?

Get schooled on the basics of Minecraft from the experts—the kids! Enjoy their enthusiasm as you learn about how to build shelter, avoid creepers, survive the night, mine for supplies, craft weapons, and more!

This fun family program is geared toward adults: but all levels of Minecraft knowledge and interest are welcome!











ARTS
Council Funded in part through a grant from the Springfield Art Association.







Ashland - (217)476-3417 125 W. Editor St. Ashland, IL 62612 Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri. 9 am - 5 pm Tuesday 9 am - 7 pm

Plains - (217)626-1553 555 Buckeye Rd. Pleasant Plains, IL 62677 Mon. - Wed. & Fri. 9 am-5 pm Thursday 9 am - 7 pm

Both Locations: Saturdays 10am-1 pm, CLOSED ON SUNDAYS

Picture Book

At Your Library ______

Welcome to Dorothy's Garden!

A ribbon cutting ceremony on Saturday, May 24th, officially opened our community garden created in honor of Dorothy Newell (1938-2023).



Don Newell, Dorothy's husband, with daughters Diane and Dawn and Cindy Boehlke, Library Director, cut the ribbon to mark the official opening of Dorothy's garden.



Caregiver's Corner Sing a Song...Build a Reader!

Singing to or with your child offers a

way to connect, transition from one activity to another, or just pass the time in the car seat. But did you know that singing helps children develop their language and literacy skills, too?

Yes! Songs and chants help children by:

- Slowing down language so children can hear the smaller sounds in words.
- Introducing them to new words not usually heard in everyday conversation (like "fetch" in the song Jack and
- Teaching concepts like opposites, sizes, and shapes.
- Helping them gain letter awareness (like the Alphabet Song or BINGO)
- Building narrative awareness (how songs tell a story) such as Mary Had a Little Lamb.

Not comfortable singing? Know that kids value the connection of the shared activity, not how you sound. Each song offers a chance for interaction and learning for your child...even those you've sung a million times!

Tim Kelly, Ashland resident and friend of Dorothy, composed and performed a special song for the event, and all children in attendance received a copy of Dorothy's favorite children's book, The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn.

The community garden is divided into two separate garden spaces on either side of the Ashland Library building. The west garden features flower beds surrounding handicapped accessible walkways, bench seating, an area for Story Time, and outdoor percussion instruments for children to enjoy. This fall, visitors will find Dorothy's favorite flowers, yellow tulips, in bloom.



West side pollinator garden and Story Time area.

The garden on the east side offers handicapped accessible



East side vegetable and theme gardens.

garden beds planted with a variety of vegetables and herbs, including Dorothy's favorite grape tomatoes. Children are encouraged to look and touch when ex-

periencing the "Touch Me" garden and "Rainbow" garden. The east side garden also includes a Peter Rabbit garden and a Pizza garden. Future plans include a large scale mural overlooking the gardens on the east side of the library building. The gardens are maintained by the Ashland Garden Club and the Homeschool Garden Club. Dorothy's Garden is made possible by memorials, donations, and grants from the Jacksonville Children's Foundation and the Tracy Family Foundation, and the volunteer efforts of the Ashland Garden Club, Boys Scout Troop 125, and community members.

Digital Archive Features Expanded Resources

As we continue to digitize our microfilm collection of local newspapers, we added a new resource to the Digital Archive on our website.





The Community History Archive features over 126,000,000 free historical images from archives across the country with more added regularly! This tool, brought to us through a partnership with Advantage Archives, makes discovering local history easier than ever. Visit www.pspld.com/catalogsarchive and connect with the rich history of our communities in a whole new way from your home computer or at our library!

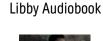
Read and Watch This!



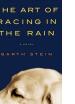
Junior Fiction













Netflix

Fiction

Garden Club for Homeschoolers

1st & 3rd Thursdays, 2 pm @ Dorothy's Garden in Ashland. Enjoy a short nature lesson and help us maintain the gardens.

June 6th: Get the Scoop on Dirt! June 19th: African American Innovators in Agriculture This program is designed as a homeschool family learning activity, though all are welcome.



Garden Club members plant the Rainbow Garden.

Around Your Town

Ashland

6/20—22: Ashland Summer Days @ Village of Ashland. Saturday 6/21: 9 am Parade followed by Duke Otherwise (Family Entertainment sponsored by Prairie Skies PLD)

Pleasant Plains

5/1/25 Water/Sewer Rates Increase In Effect, Visit https://www.pleasantplainsillinois.com for details.

6/7: Village Wide Garage Sales

6/9th and 10th: 2025 Clean Up Days: To sign up for clean up days, please contact Village Hall at (217) 626-1024 or email villagclerk@pleasantplainsillinois.org. Sign up sheets also available at the Pleasant Plains library.

Do you have a community event or announcement to share? Please email your announcement or flyer to Jennifer Nass at pspldnass@yahoo.com. Submissions received before the 25th of each month will be included in following month's community page.

