



January 2008  
Volume 2 Issue 1

*a bi-monthly publication of Bloomington Public Library*

## Help needed in restoring library's art collection

Art was a strong part of Withers Public Library, and Bloomington Public Library is continuing this tradition. The library is home to a collection of more than 100 prints, paintings, and sculptures, as well as unique items such as models and marionettes. Famous artists including Edgar Degas, Mary Cassatt, and James Whistler all grace the walls of the building.

The library's collection has undergone cleaning and restoration, but the project is not complete. The library still has pieces needing to be reframed, repaired, and restored, and we're looking for your help.

The library is currently raising funds to cover the cost of restoration, repair and framing for certain pieces. To complete all of these projects we need to raise \$5,000.

"Landscape of Three Trees in Pond," an oil painting by Jane Rutledge, is in desperate need of cleaning. A test section of the painting was cleaned, revealing a lighter, richer coloring than what is currently visible. A restoration of the surface will remove a layer of grime and restore the piece to its original color and texture. The restoration will also preserve the painting's original frame, which will be refinished as well.

"Landscape in Green" by Walter Sherlaw has been professionally cleaned already, but is now in need of a frame. The library is working with Downtown Bloomington's Timothy Kent, a framer and gallery owner, to give this painting a great new look.

"Her First Sorrow" was donated to Withers Public Library by Charles S. Kirkpatrick in 1964. The sculpture's artist is unknown, but this piece was shown at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904. The white marble sculpture's base is in great disrepair: multiple pieces have been broken off and chips and cracks are visible.

Finally, the library owns three posters depicting colorful, elaborate scenes of circuses. The goal is for each four-foot piece to be framed and hung in the Children's

Department.

All of these works are currently featured in a glass display case on the lower level of the library. Participate in the restoration of this great artwork by donating funds for framing or cleaning. If you are interested in sponsoring the framing of an entire piece (approximately \$500) please contact Georgia Bouda, Library Director, at 828.6091 ext. 203.

# BOOK SALE

Friends of Bloomington Public Library  
Book Sale  
Crossroads Center #A 129  
310 Wylie Dr, Normal

*Preview sale for members only*  
5 to 8 pm Thursday, Feb. 7  
Friends memberships available at the door for \$10 individual and \$25 family.

*Sale for public*  
10 am to 7 pm on Friday, Feb. 8  
10 am to 4 pm on Saturday, Feb. 9

*\$3 Bag sale*  
Noon to 4 pm on Sunday, Feb. 10

*Free Day*  
Noon to 7 pm on Monday, Feb. 11

For more information, call  
(309)828-6091 ext. 252

Space provided by the  
Crossroads Center.

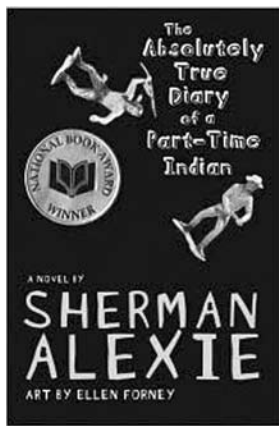
**Inside** Teen Tech Lab  
A pick for teens  
Lincoln quiz

Seen at the library . . .  
Improvements to library  
Self-Check Out machine

**Hours** Mon-Thur 9am-9pm  
Fri & Sat 9am-5pm  
Sunday 1pm-5pm

**Contact** 309.828.6091  
[www.bloomingtonlibrary.org](http://www.bloomingtonlibrary.org)

## Book Review: a pick for teens



Sherman Alexie is well known for writing both adult and juvenile books. Now he's taken on the awkwardness of high school with humor in *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, his first book for teens, and winner of the National Book Award. The humorous cartoons are drawn skillfully by Ellen Forney.

Born with multiple medical problems and growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation, 14-year-old Arnold "Junior" Spirit has had more than his fair share of problems. Junior recognizes that poverty and prejudice have slowly eroded the pride and hope of his family and friends. So when his ninth grade teacher encourages him to leave the "rez," he decides to switch schools.

The "diary" is Junior's account as he navigates his way in the world, on and off the reservation. Called "traitor" by some (for daring to leave the reservation and attend an all-white school), assumed to be stupid by others (because he's an Indian from the rez), Junior feels like a part-time Indian.

By turn, laugh-out-loud hilarious, fun, poignant, sad, and thought-provoking, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* is a wonderful, engaging read!

## Library opens Teen Tech Lab

Teens in Bloomington have a new place to access computers with the opening of the Teen Tech Room at Bloomington Public Library. The room offers teens 8 laptops and 7 PCs to use the Internet, Microsoft Office products and games. Additionally, teens get two hours of computer use. Teens must have a valid Bloomington library card to use the room.

Games available include Half Life 2, Team Fortress 2, Unreal Tournament 2, World of Warcraft, and City of Heroes. Teens may also suggest other games they would like made available. The Teen Tech Room is open from 5 to 8:55 pm Monday-Thursday, and 1 to 4:55 pm Saturday and Sunday. The room is closed on Fridays.

"This gives teens a room they can feel is theirs and not worry about working in small groups or their noise level," said Chuck Thacker, IT Manager.



photo by Chad Brekke

## "Pimped" bookcart a winner

In October, the library's Spirit Committee sponsored a staff contest, to see who could pimp out the best bookcart. These carts were entered into a national competition, entitled "Pimp My Bookcart." Among the 700 carts that were entered nationally, "Penelope" (shown above), one of the library's bookcarts won Runner Up in the contest. The judges commented, "We don't know why a pig named Penelope is flying in the library, but we love her airplane a lot." Of course, any recent visitor to the library knows Penelope the Pig is our giant piggy bank. The library received a \$50 gift certificate to a library supply company. And all the participating teams from the library received a pizza party.

## Learn about McLean Co. history

Community members have an exciting opportunity to learn about the history of Bloomington-Normal during a four-part series offered in February.

Paul Holsinger, Professor Emeritus of History at ISU, will present "The Past is Prologue: the Twin Cities, 1818-2008" on Mondays in February from 1:30 to 3:30 pm in the Community Room.

Registration is requested for this event. Those interested in attending these sessions can call 828.6091, option 1 or register online at [bloomingtonlibrary.org](http://bloomingtonlibrary.org).

# Test your knowledge of Lincoln

In February, we will honor Illinois' famous son, Abraham Lincoln. Stop by the Children's Department on Feb. 12 for a fun Lincoln craft. Read about our 16th president by checking out books in the biography section. Test your knowledge of Lincoln with the following quiz:

1. In 1933, Abraham Lincoln was named the Post Master of what city?
2. How many terms did Abraham Lincoln serve in the Illinois Legislature?
3. What day were Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd married?
4. Name the four children of Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd.
5. What year was Abraham Lincoln elected to the U. S. House of Representatives?
6. Who was Lincoln's Vice President during his first term as President of the United States?
7. What year did President Lincoln sign the Emancipation Proclamation?
8. When did President Lincoln give his Gettysburg Address?
9. When was the Lincoln Memorial dedicated?
10. Which one of the Lincolns' children attended the dedication of the Lincoln Memorial?

*Answers: 1. New Salem; 2. 4; 3. November 4, 1842; 4. Robert, Edward, William and Thomas; 5. 1846; 6. Hannibal Hamlin; 7. 1863; 8. November 19, 1863; 9. February 12, 1922; 10. Robert Lincoln*

## Library offers 24/7 access to items

MyMediaMall offers readers access to a growing collection of more than 900 titles in audio book, or e-book format. All types of books are offered including bestsellers, nonfiction, mysteries, and westerns. Customers with a valid library card can search the collection and then download a book to listen to on their computer or to transfer to a compatible handheld device or MP3 player.

Bloomington Public Library card holders may access MyMediaMall at the library's Web site (in the *Find* section, under Books & Reading) or at [www.mymedimall.net](http://www.mymedimall.net).

Through MyMediaMall, customers can check out up to five books at a time for a three-week check-out period – no overdue books, no trip to the library to return an item. On the due date, the file becomes unusable on the reader's computer, although if the reader is not finished, they may renew the book. In addition to audio books in Windows Media format, MyMediaMall also offers e-books in Adobe and Mobipocket format for people with PDAs.

## Bookmobile News

The Bookmobile is on the road. Visit the Bookmobile to register for the Adult Winter Reading Program. Don't forget to sign up for the Bookmobile's e-newsletter, at [bloomingtonlibrary.org](http://bloomingtonlibrary.org), in the See & Do section.



## Seen at the library ...

One of the puppeteers from DePriest Puppets shows an audience member how a marionette works. The DePriest Puppets brought the story of *Sleeping Beauty* to life with an entertaining performance on Nov. 17. This program was sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

*photo by Melissa Robinson*

## Improvements made possible by generous donations to library

Regular customers may have noticed new landscaping on the south end of the building in the parking lot and at the front entrance. Those driving by on Olive St. might have noticed the corner sign is spiffier. These improvements are the result of the generosity of several local businesses and community members.

A retaining wall was built by the Bloomington Parks & Recreation department, and new trees were planted in the parking lot. The flowering crab apple trees were planted in memory of Dr. Michael Emerson, with funds donated in his memory. The Bloomington Public Library Foundation paid for the new light posts. Labor for the project was donated by the Building Trades Union.

Sunburst Nursery donated flowers and staff time to landscape the planter boxes in front of the library entrance. An anonymous donor purchased a new bubbly fountain for the entryway.

Additionally, Tim Nord donated the time to power wash the Bloomington Public Library sign on Olive St.

The Bloomington Public Library thanks all our donors and sponsors who have made these improvements possible.

If you are interested in making a gift to the library, please contact Georgia Bouda, Library Director, at 828.6091 ext. 203.

Bookmobile stops may be cancelled due to weather or mechanical problems. Listen to WJBC (1230 AM) radio station or check the library's Web site to find out if the Bookmobile is not running.

## Adult winter reading program begins

Looking for something to do during this cold season or during the TV writer's strike? READ in the New Year by joining the Adult Winter Reading Program! Sign up online, on the Bookmobile or at the library and receive a free gift, courtesy of the Friends of the Library.

Complete 6 of the 12 items listed in the reading log to earn a collapsible bucket, also provided by the Friends of the Library. Items to complete in the log include magazines, audiobooks, award winners, any book with the words "winter," "ice," or "snow" in the title, classics, large print and self-help movies.

Reading logs should be completed and turned in on or before Sunday, March 9.



photo by Marilyn Kraft

## Self checkout now available!

The library now offers customers the opportunity to check out their own items using our self-check out machine. Similar to machines in retail stores, the machine features step-by-step instructions to guide you through the process. The self-check machine was funded by the Friends of the Library.

### Renew!

Online - On the library's home page, select "Renew Items" in the upper righthand corner. You'll need to enter your library card number and PIN to see your list of items checked out, and renew items.

By Phone - Call 828.6091 and select option 2 at the prompt. Be ready to give your library card number and ask us to renew all items that are due.  
@ the library - Bring you library card to the Check Out Desk.