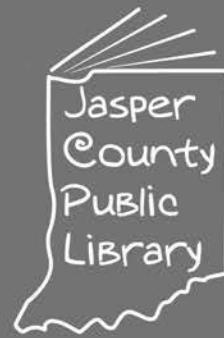


NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2024

# COMMUNITY CONNECTION

INFORM, ENRICH, EMPOWER



## JCPL WELCOMES EVIE PARRISH AS THE NEW LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Jasper County Public Library's new director, Evie Parrish, is well-known in the northern half of the county.

Parrish, 43, has worked at the library since 2005, first as the DeMotte Library youth assistant, then in 2007 as the youth librarian. In 2014, when long-time manager Diana Kooy retired, Parrish was selected as her replacement as the manager of the Wheatfield Library.

She said she was excited to serve the southern half of the county.

"I have a good idea of the northern part of the county. This will allow me to get a more well-rounded perspective for the southern part of the county and our community as a whole."

In addition to her work for the library, Parrish has also served on the Wheatfield Chamber of Commerce for 10 years, five as treasurer, and coordinates the vendors for the chamber's annual Sandhill Crane Festival.

She has also served on the KV School Board for the past three years and is a volunteer at Grace Church in DeMotte.

"I'm the type of person who always likes to try new things, to gain knowledge and skillsets," she said. "I like to know the whys and hows of things, and this position offered the opportunity to learn another whole side of libraries and that excites me."

Parrish lives in Wheatfield with her husband, Mike, and her

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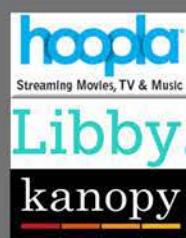
## CONNECT WITH US

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:  
[www.myjcpl.org](http://www.myjcpl.org)

VISIT US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



E-book and Audio

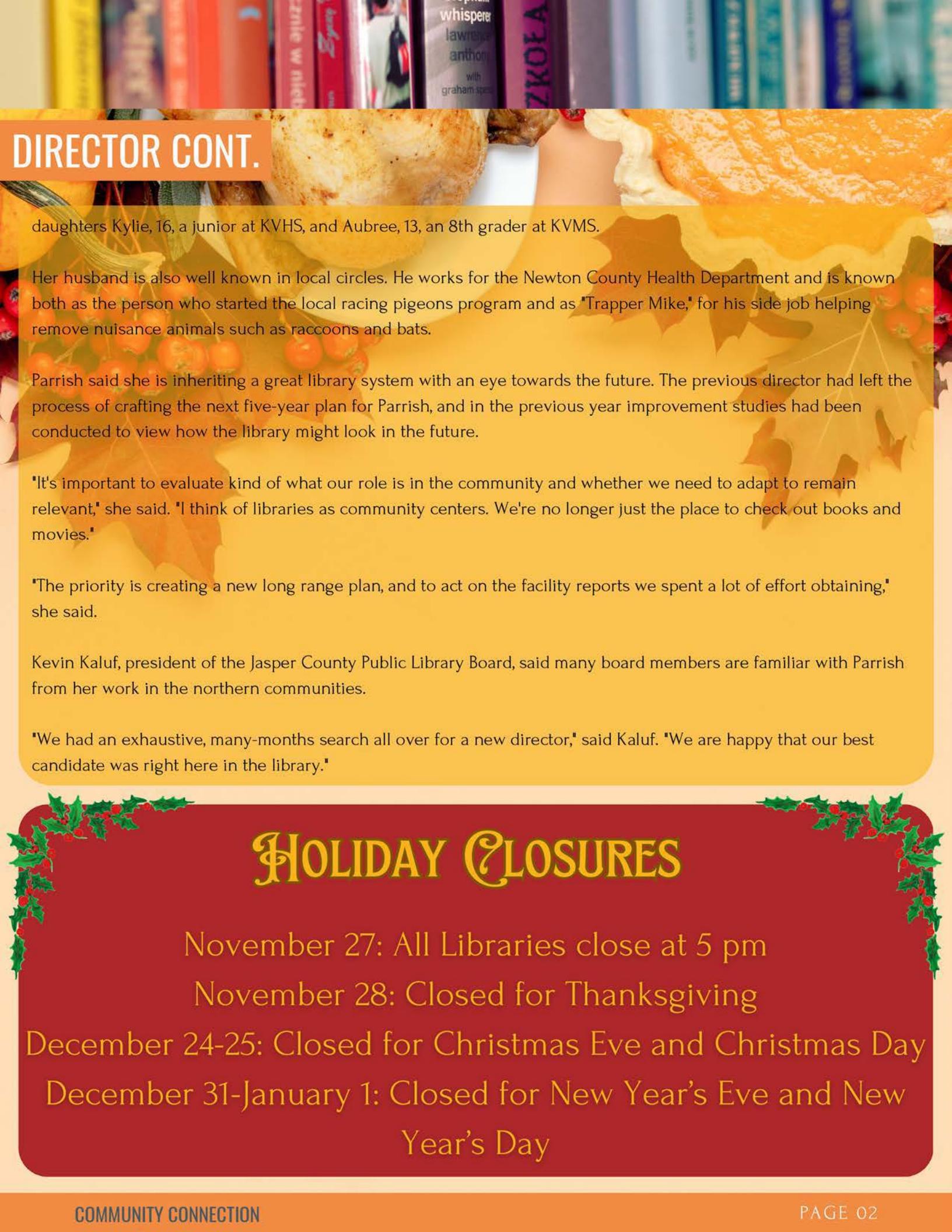


Rensselaer  
(219) 866-5881

DeMotte  
(219) 987-2221

Wheatfield  
(219) 956-3774





## DIRECTOR CONT.

daughters Kylie, 16, a junior at KVHS, and Aubree, 13, an 8th grader at KVMS.

Her husband is also well known in local circles. He works for the Newton County Health Department and is known both as the person who started the local racing pigeons program and as "Trapper Mike," for his side job helping remove nuisance animals such as raccoons and bats.

Parrish said she is inheriting a great library system with an eye towards the future. The previous director had left the process of crafting the next five-year plan for Parrish, and in the previous year improvement studies had been conducted to view how the library might look in the future.

"It's important to evaluate kind of what our role is in the community and whether we need to adapt to remain relevant," she said. "I think of libraries as community centers. We're no longer just the place to check out books and movies."

"The priority is creating a new long range plan, and to act on the facility reports we spent a lot of effort obtaining," she said.

Kevin Kaluf, president of the Jasper County Public Library Board, said many board members are familiar with Parrish from her work in the northern communities.

"We had an exhaustive, many-months search all over for a new director," said Kaluf. "We are happy that our best candidate was right here in the library."

## HOLIDAY CLOSURES

November 27: All Libraries close at 5 pm

November 28: Closed for Thanksgiving

December 24-25: Closed for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

December 31-January 1: Closed for New Year's Eve and New Year's Day



## DEMOTTE EVENTS

### **November-Silent Auction**

The Friends of the Library will be hosting a silent auction throughout the month of November. Several holiday-themed items will be up for auction. Bidding will end on November 30 and the winners will be called December 1.

### **November 4-Magnificent Monday**

10 am, All ages.

This program is for individuals with developmental disabilities. We will read a story or two and provide a craft.

### **Wednesdays, November 6-27-Lapsit Storytime**

10 am, Ages 0-23 months. Registration required.

Join us for a morning of stories, rhymes, and interactive play with others.

### **November 12-Friends of the Library Meeting**

1 pm, Adults.

New members always welcome!

### **November 13-Adult Bingo**

11 am, Adults.

Join us for Bingo! Prizes will be awarded to the winners.

### **November 14-Lego Night**

4-5 pm, All ages, ages under 5 require adult supervision.

Join us for an afternoon of Lego creation!

### **November 18-Preschool STEM**

10 am, Ages 3-5. Registration required.

STEM combines science, technology, engineering, and math to foster creative problem solving, collaboration, and critical thinking.

 The Crochet Group will be meeting in the upstairs meeting room every Monday night at 6 pm.

### **November 21-STEM**

4:30 pm, Grades K-5.

STEM combines science, technology, engineering, and math to foster creative problem solving, collaboration, and critical thinking.

### **November 25-Quest Trekkers**

6 pm, Grades 2-5. Registration required.

Join us to discuss the book "The Boxcar Children" by Gertrude Chandler Warner

### **December 11-Adult Bingo**

11 am, Adults.

Join us for Bingo! Prizes will be awarded to the winner.

### **December 12-Santa Visit**

5-7 pm, All ages.

Come to the DeMotte Library to get a picture with Santa!

### **December 16-Quest Trekkers**

6 pm, Grades 2-5. Registration required.

Join us to discuss the book "The Lemonade War" by Jacqueline Davies.

### **December 19-Lego Night**

4-5 pm, All ages, ages under 5 require adult supervision.

Join us for an afternoon of Lego creation!





## RENSSELAER EVENTS

### **November 3-Alpine Musical Program**

2 pm, All ages. (Please note: this is the day the time changes)

The alpine German band "Alphorngruppe Alpine Echoes" will be performing at the Rensselaer Library. Sponsored by the Friends of the Rensselaer Library, the group is part of The German Band Inc, which raises money for charity. Come listen to music that is typical to the Alpine region of Europe played on authentic alpine instruments.

### **Tuesdays, November 5, 12, 19-Story Time**

10 am, Ages 3-5.

Children and their caretakers are invited to join us for stories, activities and crafts.

### **November 5-Writing Club**

6 pm, Adults. Registration required

This class is to help you experience different types of writing techniques, strengthen your writing, and encourage other writers. Hosted by Kayla de Jong, we will do different writing exercises, including prompts, freewriting, and more! Feel free to bring something you've written that's about ten minutes or less if you'd like to share it with the class. You do not need writing experience to join us, everyone is welcome! Snacks and drinks will be provided.

### **November 7-Bingo**

10 am, Adults.

Join us for a fun morning of Bingo!

### **November 8-December 20-Decorate the Hero Tree**

Honor your loved one by bringing in a photo of your military hero and adding it as an ornament to the Heroes Tree! Bring your photo to the front desk with the person's name and branch of service. A copy will be made, and an ornament will be made and added to the Heroes Tree.

### **November 8-Fabulous Friday**

1 pm, All ages.

This program is for individuals with developmental disabilities. We will read a story and do a craft.

### **November 13-Genealogy Help**

6-7:30 pm; All ages.

This monthly program is designed to help you learn how to search for your family history using the free online resources available at the library. All assistance is available on a first come, first serve basis.

### **November 16-VR Players Choice**

2:30-4 pm, Ages 13+

Come and play your choice of VR games with the Meta Quest 2 VR Headsets. VR may affect some people sensitive to motion sickness. All participants over 18 will be required to sign a waiver, participants under 18 will need a guardian to sign a waiver.

### **November 18-Friends Meeting**

7 pm, Adults.

Annual dues are only \$3 individual, \$5 for a family. Please support your Friends group by attending!

### **November 20-Scrabble Night**

6-7:30 pm, Ages 16+

Join us at the Rensselaer Library to test your word skills by playing a game of Scrabble! Supplies are provided and free.



Every 3rd Monday of the month from 9:30-11 am.

Created by a Vet, Combat Coffee is a casual environment in which Veterans can connect through coffee, conversation, and camaraderie.



## RENSSELAER EVENTS



### **November 21-Lego Workshop**

5-6:30 pm, All ages. (Ages under 5 require adult supervision)

Come and see what you can create using Legos.

### **November 21-Dungeons and Dragons**

3:30-5:30 pm, Grades 6-adult.

Players of all skill levels are invited to join us for Dungeons and Dragons. All materials will be provided.

### **November 26-Kahoot! Geography Trivia**

6-7:30 pm, Ages 16+

Test your geography knowledge with Kahoot! Bring a mobile device to participate. Prizes will be awarded to the winner!

### **Tuesdays, December 3-17-Toddler Time**

10 am, Ages 2-5

Toddlers along with their caregivers are welcome to join us for stories, activities, and crafts.

### **December 3-Writing Club**

6 pm, Adults. [Registration required](#)

This class is to help you experience different types of writing techniques, strengthen your writing, and encourage other writers. Hosted by Kayla de Jong, we will do different writing exercises, including prompts, freewriting, and more! Feel free to bring something you've written that's about ten minutes or less if you'd like to share it with the class. You do not need writing experience to join us, everyone is welcome! Snacks and drinks will be provided.

### **December 4-Scrabble Night**

6-7:30 pm, Ages 16+

Join us at the Rensselaer Library to test your word skills by playing a game of Scrabble! Supplies are provided and free.

### **December 5-Bingo**

10 am, Adults.

Join us for a fun morning of Bingo!

### **December 7-Christmas Ornament Craft**

2:30-4 pm, Adults.

Join us and create an ornament or two for your Christmas tree. We will have all the supplies to try different kinds of ornaments. We will be using a clear ornament as our base starter. All supplies will be provided for this free class.

### **December 10-Stocking Stuffers**

6-7:30 pm, Teen-adults.

Come to the library and make small homemade seasonal crafts to use as stocking stuffers for yourself or others.

### **December 11-Genealogy Help**

6-7:30 pm; All ages.

This monthly program is designed to help you learn how to search for your family history using the free online resources available at the library. All assistance is available on a first come, first serve basis.

### **December 12-Santa Visit**

6 pm, Grades pre-K to 5th. [Registration required](#).

Enjoy some fun crafts as you wait to see Santa and have your picture taken.

### **December 14-Crochet Christmas Ornament**

2-4 pm, Adults. [Registration required](#).

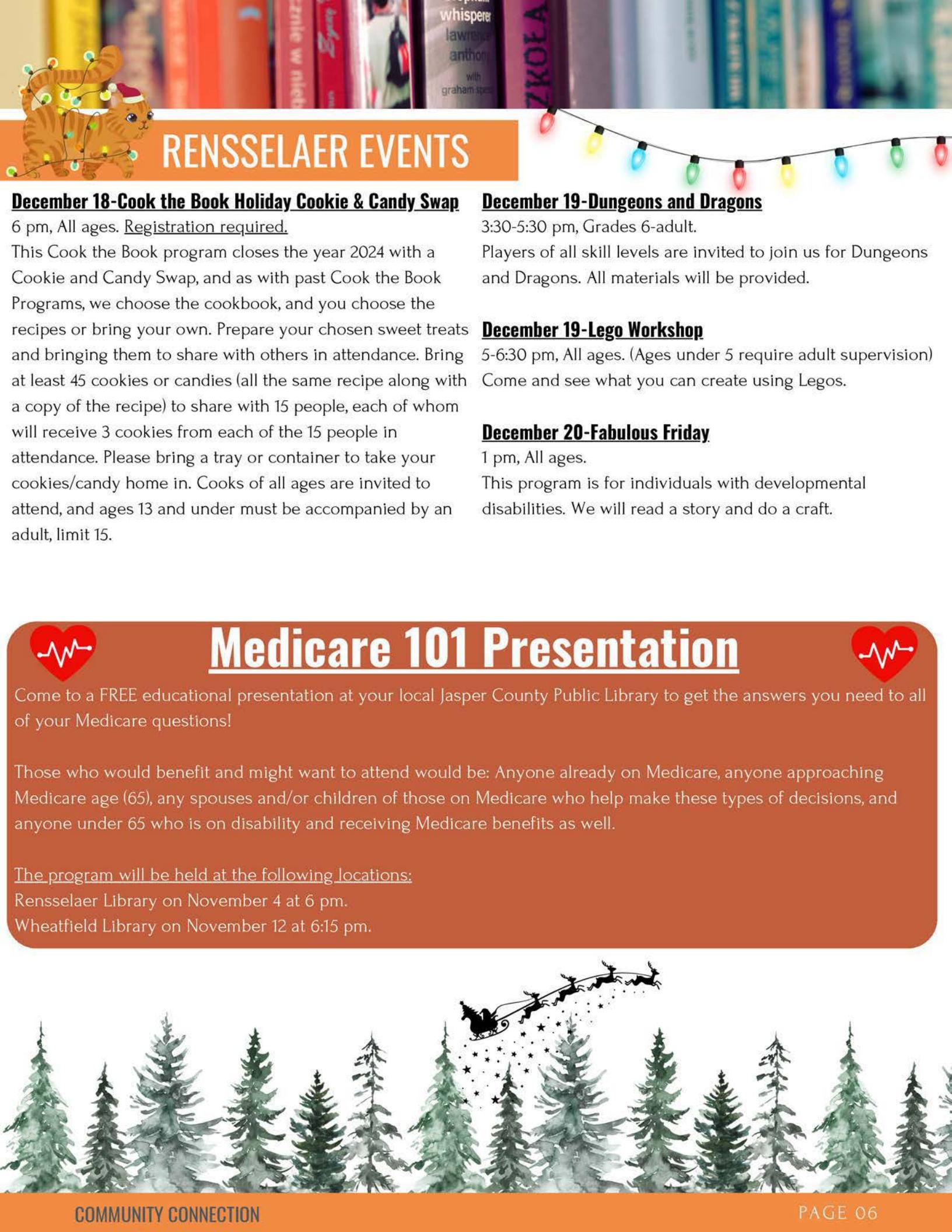
Join us and learn how to crochet a Christmas ornament! This is NOT a beginner's class, knowledge of basic crochet and how to do a chain and single crochet stitch is required. Supplies are provided for this free class. Space is limited!

### **December 17-Kahoot! Christmas Trivia**

6-7:30 pm, Ages 16+

Test your Christmas knowledge with Kahoot! Bring a mobile device to participate. Prizes will be awarded to the winner!





## RENSSELAER EVENTS

### **December 18-Cook the Book Holiday Cookie & Candy Swap**

6 pm, All ages. Registration required.

This Cook the Book program closes the year 2024 with a Cookie and Candy Swap, and as with past Cook the Book Programs, we choose the cookbook, and you choose the recipes or bring your own. Prepare your chosen sweet treats and bringing them to share with others in attendance. Bring at least 45 cookies or candies (all the same recipe along with a copy of the recipe) to share with 15 people, each of whom will receive 3 cookies from each of the 15 people in attendance. Please bring a tray or container to take your cookies/candy home in. Cooks of all ages are invited to attend, and ages 13 and under must be accompanied by an adult, limit 15.

### **December 19-Dungeons and Dragons**

3:30-5:30 pm, Grades 6-adult.

Players of all skill levels are invited to join us for Dungeons and Dragons. All materials will be provided.

### **December 19-Lego Workshop**

5-6:30 pm, All ages. (Ages under 5 require adult supervision)

Come and see what you can create using Legos.

### **December 20-Fabulous Friday**

1 pm, All ages.

This program is for individuals with developmental disabilities. We will read a story and do a craft.

## **Medicare 101 Presentation**



Come to a FREE educational presentation at your local Jasper County Public Library to get the answers you need to all of your Medicare questions!

Those who would benefit and might want to attend would be: Anyone already on Medicare, anyone approaching Medicare age (65), any spouses and/or children of those on Medicare who help make these types of decisions, and anyone under 65 who is on disability and receiving Medicare benefits as well.

The program will be held at the following locations:

Rensselaer Library on November 4 at 6 pm.

Wheatfield Library on November 12 at 6:15 pm.





# WHEATFIELD EVENTS



## November 1-Friday Fun-Bingo

11 am, Adults.

Join us for a morning of Bingo fun!

## Mondays, November 4-25-Toddler Time

10-10:30 am, Ages 2-3

Those in attendance will hear stories and make crafts.

## November 4-10-Children's Book Week

During Children's Book Week when a child age 12 and under checks out a book, audiobook, or magazine they will be entered into a drawing.

## November 6-25-Holiday Photo Booth

Stop in during open hours to take your own photos in front of our holiday scene, professionally set up by Spare Room Studios. Perfect opportunity for Christmas pictures!

## November 7-Lego

4-5 pm, All ages, children under 5 require adult supervision.

Build some cool Lego creations as you enjoy a snack.

## November 8- "Break Out" Canvas Program

6 pm, Adults. Registration required.

Come and create a work of art using a 'break out' technique achieved by layering canvases. All materials will be supplied for this free class.

## November 12-Teen Book Club

4-5 pm, Grades 6-12

Join us for a discussion on "The Giver" by Lois Lowry.

## November 14-Thanksgiving After School Program

4-5 pm, Grades K-5.

Kids will enjoy a snack, a craft, and hear a story.

## November 26-Friends Meeting

1 pm, Adults.

New members are always welcome!

## December 6-Friday Fun-Bingo!

11 am, Adults.

Join us for a morning of Bingo fun!

## December 7-Christmas Story Time

10-10:30 am, Ages 3-5. Registration required.

We will listen to stories and make a craft.

## December 9-Christmas After School Program

4-5 pm, Grades K-5

We will have a snack, make a craft, and hear a story.

## December 10-Family Holiday Program

10 am OR 6 pm, All ages.

We will have stories, crafts, a snack, and a visit from Santa!

## December 16-Maker Monday

4 pm, Grades 1-8. Registration required.

We will have a snack and make some holiday creations.

## December 17-Teen Craft Day

4-5 pm, Grades 6-12. Registration required.

Teens will enjoy a snack while they make a Christmas craft for someone special.



Every 1st Wednesday of the month at 10 am.

Created by a Vet, Combat Coffee is a casual environment in which Veterans (with or without combat experience) can connect through coffee, conversation, and camaraderie.

# Children's Book Week November 4-10



Celebrate Children's Book Week by coloring your own poster, designed by Sophie Blackall!

# JCPL Adult Book Discussions

For more details or to reserve a copy, please visit or call your local library.  
Registration is appreciated, and available online at [www.myjcpl.org/events](http://www.myjcpl.org/events).

## DeMotte

NOVEMBER 19- THE BOOKIES- TUESDAY- 7:00 PM  
BOOK: "CHANCES ARE..." BY RICHARD RUSSO

THERE WILL BE NO BOOKIES MEETING IN DECEMBER. HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

## Wheatfield

NOVEMBER 12- ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION- TUESDAY- 1:00 PM  
BOOK: "THE GIVER OF STARS" BY JOJO MOYES

NOVEMBER 26- BOOKS AND COFFEE- TUESDAY- 2:00 PM-AT DEMOTTE CUP OF JOY  
BOOK: "THE OBITUARY WRITER" BY ANN HOOD

DECEMBER 10-ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION- TUESDAY- 1:00 PM  
HOLIDAY CARRY-IN LUNCHEON

DECEMBER 17- BOOKS AND COFFEE- TUESDAY- 2:00 PM -AT DEMOTTE CUP OF JOY  
BOOK: "ON STRIKE FOR CHRISTMAS" BY SHEILA ROBERTS

## Rensselaer

NOVEMBER 20- MEN'S BOOK GROUP- WEDNESDAY- 10 AM  
BOOK: "KINGDOM QUARTERBACK" BY MARK DENT & RUSTIN DODD  
\*\*THE MEN'S GROUP WAS CREATED FOR MEN BUT ANYONE CAN JOIN\*\*

NOVEMBER 21- 4TH THURSDAY GROUP- THURSDAY- 1 PM  
WE WILL BE DISCUSSING READER RECOMMENDATIONS

THERE WILL BE NO BOOK DISCUSSION FOR DECEMBER.  
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!





# NEW RELEASES FOR NOV/DEC

## ADULT TITLES

Now or Never  
by Janet Evanovich, 11/19



The Mirror  
by Nora Roberts, 11/19

To Die For (6:20 Man)  
by David Baldacci, 11/12

Christmas in Bethel  
by Richard Paul Evans, 11/26

The House of Cross  
by James Patterson, 11/25

Trial by Fire  
by Danielle Steel, 11/19

My Three Dogs  
by W. Bruce Cameron

A Grim Reaper's Guide to  
Catching a Killer  
by Maxie Dara

The Spamatot Diaries  
by Eric Idle

## CHILDREN

Dog Man: Big Jim Begins (Dog Man #13)  
by Dav Pilkey, 12/3

Wings of Peril (Wings of Fire #8)  
by Tui T. Sutherland, 12/24

Unraveled Book 9.5 (Keeper of the Lost Cities)  
by Shannon Messenger, 12/3

The Bad Guys in One Last Thing  
by Aaron Blabey, 11/12

Warriors: A Starless Clan #6: Star  
by Erin Hunter, 12/5

## YOUNG ADULTS

Skyshade (Lightlark # 3)  
by Alex Aster, 11/12

Ida, in Love and in Trouble: The Poetry Exchange Anthology  
by Veronica Chambers

The Bitter End  
by Alexa Donne



The Mirror  
by Nora Roberts, 11/19

To Die For (6:20 Man)  
by David Baldacci, 11/12

My Three Dogs  
by W. Bruce Cameron

Now or Never  
by Janet Evanovich, 11/19

The Wife Upstairs  
by Freida McFadden, 11/23



Afraid

Alien: Romulus

Haul out the Holly: Lit Up

Speak No Evil

Trap