

Books **and** Beyond

La Porte County Public Library 1/12

Public Workshop Meetings

La Porte County Public Library will host five public workshop meetings for the purpose of getting input from the community about the library's budget issues. These meetings are tentatively set for the second week of February, pending the receipt of a financial analysis by Umbaugh and Associates. Locations will be Rolling Prairie, South County, Coolspring, and La Porte (two meetings.) More information will be announced as soon as the dates and locations are determined.

Input will be sought to discuss issues relating to the library's structure, organization, and financing, and to receive and consider proposals from the public to address these issues. All the meetings will be conducted by an outside facilitator.

An online survey will be created as an opportunity for people who cannot attend a meeting, to offer their thoughts on issues relating to the library's structure, organization, and financing. It will contain both the summary report from Umbaugh and Associates and the same questions as the meetings.

Kindle + the Library = Yes!

Because of a recent agreement between public libraries and Amazon, the library now has over 2,900 titles available for Kindles through Indiana Digital Media! All you need is your library card number, your PIN, and an account with www.amazon.com in order to check items out from our collection. Once you check a book out, you will be directed to your amazon.com account to finish the transaction and get the book onto your Kindle. The great thing about these books? Besides renting them at no cost, they check themselves in so there's never a late fee.

Tumblebooks, available on the library's website, also now works on the Kindle. This unique product is an online collection of animated, talking picture books which teach kids the joy of reading in a format they'll love. Action, sound, music and narration are added to existing picture books, which can be read by or to children.

Geek**the**library.org



Beginning in January, La Porte County Public Library is participating in Geek the Library, a national public awareness campaign which highlights the vital role of public libraries in today's challenging environment.

Geek the Library uses 'geek' as a verb—the things you geek are the things you are passionate about. Everyone geeks something, and whatever you geek, the library supports it.

Although millions of Americans enjoy public library resources, most people don't know if their local library is adequately funded. As library usage increases, and the pressure to expand services intensifies, many libraries simply don't have the necessary funding to support the new demand.

If you are interested in learning more, please visit geekthelibrary.org or call the library at 219-362-6156.

Travel Without Leaving Home!

Winter is a great time to borrow one of the many travel DVDs in the library's AV collection.

Travel through Tuscany or take in the history of Europe. Tour any of the 50 states, visit the inside of Mammoth Cave, or discover the beauties of Yellowstone National Park.

You can also use the DVDs to start planning your next vacation. Check out titles such as the *Traveler's Guide to the USA* or *Incredible Journeys*.

The weather won't matter as you travel the world without the hassle of missed connections, lost baggage, and traffic jams.



The Library is teaming up with the American Red Cross!

Blood Drive

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

12:00 PM to 4:00 PM

La Porte County Public Library

904 Indiana Avenue, La Porte, IN 46350

Schedule an appointment today with the library staff. Call 219-362-6156. Walk-ins are welcome.



Tax Forms

Both state and federal forms will be available at the Main Library. Forms not available in-house can be printed from the Internet for 15¢/page. Staff are not able to offer tax advice or help filling out the forms.

There is a change this year from the Indiana Department of Revenue. It has replaced the previously used I-File program with Indiana freefile (www.freefile.dor.in.gov.)

This new filing program was created in conjunction with the IRS and is already in use by 22 other states. There are a number of benefits to using Indiana freefile:

- Free state and federal tax filing
- Receiving refunds as quickly as possible
- Allowing Hoosiers to file both federal and state tax returns at no cost if certain income criteria are met – such as anyone earning less than \$57,000 Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)
- A simple question-and-answer format which has generated excellent reviews nationwide
- Access to professional tax software including H&R Block, OLT, Tax Hawk and Turbo Tax

Talk to a Lawyer Day



On Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Monday, January 16, anyone from the community who needs legal help, but can't afford an attorney, can come to the Main Library for a free legal consultation.

Lawyers from the La Porte County Bar Association will be available in the quiet study rooms for short complimentary consultations from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM on a first come, first served basis.

Talk to a Lawyer Day is held on Dr. King's birthday to honor his commitment to the idea of justice for all.

**Check the library's online calendar for up-to-the-minute information about free programs and events.
Thank you to the Friends of the Library for their funding of library programs!**



La Porte County Public Library

laportelibrary.org

Coolspring: 219.872.3272

Kingsford Heights: 219.393.3280

Rolling Prairie: 219.778.2390

Fish Lake: 219.369.1337

La Porte Library: 219.362.6156

Union Mills: 219.767.2604

The mobile library has several routes throughout the library district. Call the Main Library, 362-6156, Ext. 343, for more information.