

# News from the Shelf

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## Spoon River Anthology program set Sept. 11

Spoon River Anthology by Edgar Lee Masters is a well-known collection of poems, written in the form of monologues spoken by the dead in a mid-western cemetery.

Performers will bring the anthology to life in Carthage on **Tuesday, Sept. 11, at 6 p.m.** in the multi-purpose room of the First Baptist Church, 601 Main Street, Carthage.

Actors Jon and Paddy Lynn portray characters from the Anthology, performing approximately 30 of the poems, in costume. Their renditions will be interspersed with folk and popular music of the period performed by singer, guitarist, and banjoist Patti Ecker.

This event is sponsored by the Carthage Public Library District and funded by the Illinois Humanities Road Scholars Speakers Bureau. It is free and open to the public.

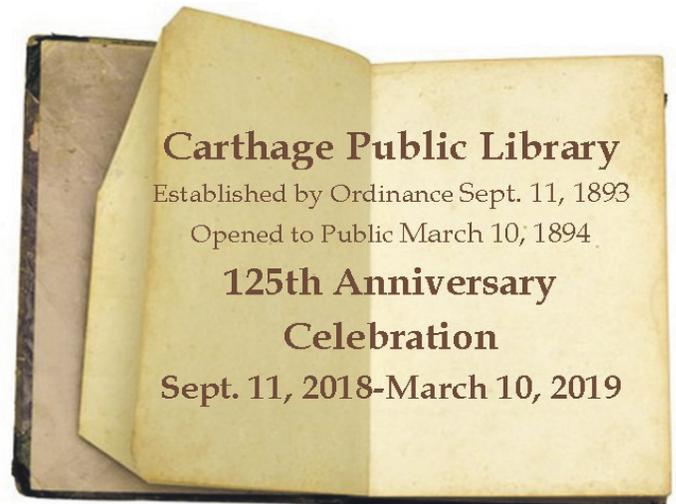
Carthage Public Library District is offering this program in honor of the bicentennial of the State of Illinois, and as a kickoff to the library's 125th anniversary celebration.

Edgar Lee Masters grew up in Illinois, near New Salem and attended Knox College in Galesburg for a year. The Spoon River Anthology is his best known work, recognized as innovative for its creative experimentation with poetic form and also for its unvarnished representation of small town life.

His characters speak not only of their virtues but also of their vices, moral dilemmas and failures. Although the community of Spoon River is fictitious, it was based on the Illinois towns of Petersburg and Lewiston.

Paddy Lynn is an international storyteller and actress, the author of several children's books, and has been a drama teacher in various schools and libraries in Illinois. Jon Lynn is a renowned theatre director and retired teacher.

Illinois Humanities Road Scholars Speakers Bureau



is a program that provides organizations statewide with affordable, entertaining, and thought-provoking humanities events for their communities. Illinois Humanities is an independent, nonprofit state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities that creates programs and funds organizations that promote greater understanding of, appreciation for, and involvement in the humanities.

For more information about this event, contact the Carthage Public Library District, 217-357-3232 or email [cartlib@mtcnw.net](mailto:cartlib@mtcnw.net).

## Carthage Library begins celebration of 125th year

On Sept. 11, 1893, an ordinance was passed to form a public library in Carthage, and the library opened to the public on March 10, 1894.

The current library staff is seeking photos of the Library from various time periods and would like to record people's stories and memories of the library, events, and librarians.

Watch for many historic events during this time of celebration from now until March.

# Basic sewing skills, machine use offered at library

Have you ever had a seam split or a small repair to make in some clothing. Carthage Public Library has received two sewing machines that were no longer needed at Illini West High School.

The machines will be available for adults to use in the library, once they have attended a brief orientation session to learn how to work with the machines.

Two drop-in sessions were planned, and other orientation times can be arranged by appointment.

After an orientation, patrons who want to use a

sewing machine should call the library about a specific day and time. They should bring their own fabric, thread, scissors and other supplies. The library staff will not be available to provide sewing help.

Friends of the Library member, Linda Webb, will hold a basic mending workshop on Thursday, Sept. 27, at 6 p.m. This will include instruction in both hand sewing and machine sewing. Participants are encouraged to bring items that need to be mended. Other classes may be held in the future.

## Play is a toddler's work

Play to Learn is a story time and play group held at the Carthage Public Library, and coordinated with the library, Early Beginnings and PACT Early Head Start. A new room was set up with fun toys and books in the second floor of the Library.

Spend quality time with your child and connect with other parents/caregivers in the area. Listen to stories, learn songs, games and activities to support your young child's development. Older siblings are welcome. Mondays, 9 to 10 a.m. Sept. 10, 24; Oct. 15, 29.

To take part, call the library at 217-357-3232 or email [carthagelibraryyouth@gmail.com](mailto:carthagelibraryyouth@gmail.com). You can also contact PACT Head Start at 217-357-6764, email [jtaylorbell@pactheadstart.com](mailto:jtaylorbell@pactheadstart.com) or call Krista at New Beginnings, 217-357-9114.

## Festival of wreaths is back

Every two years, the Friends of the Carthage Public Library hold a Festival of Wreaths during the Christmas season. It is time for organizations and individuals to begin planning their donations.

Wreaths can be made and donated by anyone for this fundraising event. They will be placed on display in Carthage during November. Interested bidders can call the library to make a bid, stating the highest price they would like to pay for the wreath.

Bidding will continue through the Carthage Christmas Open House on Thursday, Nov. 29. At that time, the highest bidder will get to buy the wreath.

Proceeds will be used to support the Friends of Carthage Public Library projects. Watch for more information on donating a wreath this fall.

**Share this registration form with anyone you know who would like to be a Friend of Carthage Public Library.**

I have enclosed a check payable to "Friends of the Carthage Public Library" for membership:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$5 Student    \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 Individual    \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 Family    \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 Supporter

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ I'm interested in volunteering \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form & your check to: Cheryl Underwood, 710 North Haven Dr., Carthage, IL 62321.

Or drop it in the box at Carthage Public Library desk.