NAME THE NEWSLETTER
This is the first issue of what will hopefully become a monthly newsletter. Help us name the newsletter by sending suggestions to cart-lib@mtcnow.net, or calling 217-357-3232.

READING CHALLENGE 2020: FOCUS ON ILLINOIS
Adults and high school students are encouraged to participate in this independent reading challenge. Just read a book that fits that month’s theme and complete the entry form for the quarterly prize drawing. For March, read a book by an Illinois Author that was written before 1970. The first quarterly prize is a $20 gift certificate to Los Charros Mexican restaurant.

ADULT ACTIVITIES
More than 50 people responded to the library’s recent Adult Programming Survey. Based upon those responses, the Library is starting some new programs in March and will add other programs at a later date.

Knit & Stitch
The Knit and Stitch Group meets from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm on the first and third Mondays of each month, March-May. Participants of all skill levels are welcome and basic instruction and assistance with knitting, crocheting, and sewing will be available during this time. The library will have some yarn, needles, and hooks available for teaching purposes and has access to patterns for projects of varying levels of difficulty. Participants should bring their own supplies and are encouraged to bring a current project to work on.

Fiction Book Club
This club will begin in March with 3 meeting times to choose from: Wed., March 11 from 12:00-1:00 pm (feel free to bring your lunch), Thursday, March 12 from 6:30-7:30 pm, and Friday, March 13 from 3:30-4:30 pm.

All groups will discuss the book Defending Jacob by William Landay, a thought provoking read about parental responsibility and nature versus nurture. Copies of the book are available to check out from the library. is also looking for suggestions

Pushing the Limits Discussion Group
These sessions begin with a light supper, and are followed by discussing the featured book, then viewing and discussing a short video. Our Science partner, Jim Unruh, often has additional insights or even an activity for the participants. The theme for March is “Heritage” and the discussion will be held at 6:00 pm on Thursday, March 26. The recommended book is The Monuments Men by Robert Edsel; although individuals may attend even if they have not read the book.

Basic Finance
David Fox of Marine Bank and Trust will present a Basic Finance program on Monday, March 23 at 6:30 pm. Topics include budgeting, saving, investing, and avoiding credit card debt. David will also be prepared to answer questions and speak about other topics. Middle School and High School students are invited as well as adults.

A children’s program is being offered at the same time.

Game Club for adults and teens
The first meeting of this group will be Saturday, March 28 from 2:00-4:30 pm. Several board games and cards will be available and participants are encouraged to bring their favorite board games.

The club is intended for adults and students in 7th grade and older. However, and adult attendee is accompanied by a child 5 years or older, a library staff member will play easier board games with the children while the adults enjoy their own games.

Basic English Class (ESL)
The Library is offering an informal class for adults who want to learn English. The class will meet at 6:00 pm on Wednesdays in March and April.

SERVICE SPOTLIGHT — InterLibrary Loan
Have you tried our Interlibrary Loan Service? If there is a book, audio, or video that you would like to borrow, but we do not own, chances are good that we will be able to get it for you from another library. There is no charge for this service.
The annual contest is open to adults as well as to children of all ages. Entry forms are available at the Library and from the Library’s website: www.carthagepubliclibrary.com.

Bookmarks should be 7.5 x 2.25 inches in size. Designs must have a library-related theme (libraries, books, reading) and must be the original work of the artist with no copyrighted figures or characters. The entries will be divided into categories based on age/grade and one winner will be chosen from each age group. Bookmarks will be judged on theme, creativity, originality, attractiveness, and neatness. Each winner will receive $5.00 in “library cash” which may be used to pay for overdue fines, copies, or book sale items. Entries must be turned in at the Library by Thursday, April 9.

Winning bookmarks will be reproduced in limited quantities and distributed at the library during National Library Week, April 20-25. This year’s NLW theme is: “Find Your Place @ the Library.” The winning bookmarks will also be posted on the Library’s Facebook Page and website.

**TEEN & TWEEN SCENE**

**Impact**

Students in 5th –12th grades meet at the Library after school on Mondays at 3:45 pm for a variety of activities: cooking, making videos, crafts, playing board games, and STEAM activities.

**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY**

**Booksale:**

Friday, March 20, 11:00 am-5:00 pm
Saturday, March 21, 9:00 am-3:00 pm

**News:**

The next Friends meeting is Monday, March 16 at 6:00 pm at the Library. They will be making plans for the annual meeting to be held in April.

The Library would like to thank The Friends of the Library for purchasing the movie license for us last May and renewing it this year. We are also grateful for the larger TV they purchased to make it easier for large groups to see the screen. (photo shows our original TV).

The license isn’t just for children’s movies. We will be scheduling an adult movie in April, but would welcome suggestions for movies you’d like to see as well as days/times.

**PROGRAMS FOR ELEMENTARY AGE CHILDREN**

**Frozen II Movie Matinee**

The Library will show Frozen II at 1:30 pm on Friday, March 20. The movie is rated PG. Children under 6 must be accompanied by an adult. Older children need a signed permission slip.

**Money Basics Program**

On March 23, at 6:30 pm, kids 5 years and up, can learn about money through books, counting activities, and painting a piggy bank. There is a Basic Finance program for adults.

**EARLY LITERACY PROGRAMS**

**Play to Learn**

Play to Learn meets at 9:30 am each Monday morning when school is in session. It is an opportunity for children 0-3 years of age to play and interact with one another and for parents and guardians to connect as well. This program is co-sponsored by Early Beginnings.

**PreSchool Story Hours**

Children 3-5 years are invited to the library each Tuesday morning at 9:30 am for story, music, activities, and craft.

**Rubber Ducky Club**

This program encourages caregivers of children from birth to 5 years to read, write, talk, sing, and play with the children to help them develop pre-literacy skills. Complete 15 activities from the monthly paper and receive a rubber duck. Complete another 15 activities in the same month and receive another duck and a book. The monthly activity sheets are available at the library or can be downloaded from our website: https://www.carthagepubliclibrary.com/children--families.html

**Tracy Family Foundation Grant**

Prizes for the Rubber Ducky Club were purchased with an Early Literacy Grant from the Tracy Family Foundation. Among many other things, this grant was also used to purchase bags and books to give to newborn babies at Memorial Hospital and to other young children through the WIC Program at the Health Department. We also purchased some new puzzles and manipulatives for our children’s area.