

Update from Ceci Marlow, Cromaine District Library

We are excited to see the Hartland Living web site and social media come to fruition. While Cromaine is a part of this as one of the Partners in Progress, Hartland Living deserves and today has its own time with you.

The Library's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 that was built from the many comments, surveys, discussions with and the community retreat for the public and our community leaders is making progress. We heard over and over that the community wants more collaborations and partnerships. We are excited because that is resulting in opportunities in the schools in particular for our staff to talk about the digital resources paid for by state and your local tax dollars. Digital literacy nights, talks to the high school English teachers, and meetings with administrators and principals of the District have made it possible to get the word out more than ever before. You do not have to come to the library to use the digital collection. Many think that they can surf the Internet and find what they need, but as we have all heard a lot, there is much on the Internet that is not credible, not true - Fake News along with various groups trying to influence and alter opinions and ideas by presenting untrue accounts and other-than-factual explanations. The digital resources we offer you are vetted, they are factual, they are credible and you can trust what you find here.

In the vein of cooperation, March kicks off our Livingston Reads 2019 of A Walk in the Woods by Bill Bryson. The six Livingston County libraries come together to encourage the countywide community to read this one book and participate in events and classes and talks all over the county during March and April. At Cromaine we will have a speaker coming who hiked the North Country Trail that goes along the "top" of the United States and a speaker that hiked the Appalachian Trail, the one in the book. As a culminating event on April 27, the film by the same name starring Robert Redford and Nick Nolte will be shown at the Historic Howell Theater. The price of admission is to show your library card - that's it.

We also have a series in March called American Creed. There's a lot of talk about what it means to be a United States citizen. This series looks at a film called American Creed which features Condoleezza Rice and Pulitzer-prize winning David Kennedy interviewing a group who answer "what does it mean to be an American." As we have prepared for this series, we've learned some interesting stories about our patrons who are naturalized citizens, including why they chose to become citizens and what it means to them. Then we'll look at creatures, dogs, who are pressed into service without the benefits of citizenship and lose their lives on our behalf with a presentation from War Dog Memorial. The third night of the series, Representative Hank Vaupel will help us through what it takes to become a United States citizen--the test, the oath--pieces that if we are born here we typically know nothing about. Rep Vaupel will lead us in an examination of a simple citizenship oath for a "Sworn-again" ceremony and you'll walk away with a card showing your participation.

One project in development is a discussion and negotiation between the Library and the Schools for the Library to take on the management and operation of the Hartland Music Hall. We are looking for that to begin July 1, 2019 and to be able to offer more music, lectures, and cultural experiences in that setting. The last piece of our infrastructure improvements, replacement of the windows in the 1927 part of our building, is expected to take place in late April. Because there may be some lead-based paint concerns, we will follow the required protocol and there may be parts of the building that are off limits during the project.

The summer theme is Space and Out of This World. As part of our summer experiences we will bring virtual reality equipment and experiences to the community. With the goggles on you'll be able to walk through the Amazon or walk in space and learn and discover. Summer music begins June 25 and continues through July 31. We are grateful that nearly all of our sponsors have returned this summer. Beth is looking for more sponsors. We are also looking for nonprofit groups or your favorite food trucks as the Ranger's 4-H will only be with us for the first concert, June 25. June 18, there will be a family picnic with music performance to get us rolling on several multigenerational events for the summer.

We are fortunate that so many have an interest in working with Cromaine. Recently Harry & David from the Kensington Outlets called Beth and donated 5 dozen truffles which we passed on to the HERO Teen Center for Winterfest. Whatever else you hear about Winterfest, the HERO Teen Center did well with donations at their refreshment center and we saw 200 people visit Clarice the reindeer and another 150 visit our staff at All Saints for crafts and activities. We are grateful for all of the collaborations in this community in a time of what seems like great divisiveness everywhere else.