

Beyond the Shelves

Friends of the HPL Newsletter

Vol. 2 Issue 6

Happy July, Friends!

Summer has officially strutted into Harrington—sunny, spirited, and just a *little* bossy about sunscreen. July is the month where the calendar seems to throw confetti: we kick things off with **Independence Day**, roll right into **National Ice Cream Month**, sprinkle in **National Hot Dog Day**, and—because July has a sense of humor—celebrate **Take Your Houseplant for a Walk Day**. (If you see someone strolling down Commerce Street with a fern, just smile and wave.)

This year's **Fourth of July** feels extra special as our nation marks its **250th anniversary**. Two hundred and fifty years of big ideas, bold voices, and libraries standing proudly as keepers of stories, knowledge, and community. Not to brag, but we think Harrington's library has contributed more than its fair share of good chapters.

So grab a book, grab a popsicle, and settle in for another joyful month with the Friends. July is here, and we're ready to celebrate every page of it.

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Unearth a Story—And Maybe Your Own

By Billie Humphrey, FHPL President

Recently, I spent time reading to the grandchildren, an invaluable summer experience. I read from Patricia MacLachlan's Word after Word after Word, a children's book about writing your story. This is a short book, about 100 pages, but it contained some powerful truths including why authors write. In the book, the fictional author is asked about writing and she responds, I "write to change my life, to make it come out the way I want it to. But other people write for other reasons: to see more closely what it is they are thinking about, what they may be afraid of. Sometimes writers write to solve a problem, to answer their own question. "

With that in mind, I encourage you to sign-up for the Summer Reading Challenge at the library. With each age-appropriate book that you read, you'll earn reward points. You redeem your points for prizes, which are on display at the library.

Whether you are enjoying some nice, relaxing "beach fiction", or are reading to solve problems, it doesn't matter. Set a good example for others by reading this summer. The authors have written for various reasons; you only need to find one reason to read.

The Friends joined the library staff with the Summer Reading Challenge Kick-Off Party on June 3. We served over 100 freshly grilled hot dogs to those who attended. The summer's theme is "Unearth a Story", which is expressed with something fascinating--dinosaurs. Be sure to visit during the summer to see our version of dinosaurs and get your picture taken with the T-Rex.

The next major activity for the Friends will be Heritage Day on Saturday, August 22, starting at 9 a.m. This year, the library will host all the Heritage Day children's activities including the Game Bus, age-appropriate bounce houses and obstacle courses, Harrington fire trucks, free ice pops and school supplies, and as many other things as we can manage! The day includes free parking with a shuttle bus connecting you to the downtown festivities.

Even though our member meetings are suspended for June and July, we are busy behind the scenes preparing for Heritage Day, our 2026-2027 sponsorship drive and our September Book Fest.

We do hope that you will join us at upcoming events.

Billie



What Literacy Means to Me

By Barbara Mross, Member of FHPL since 2026

To me, literacy begins with the most basic function of learning to read, comprehend, and interpret what is read, and then communicate that information to others. While the formal definition of literacy covers the whole spectrum of communication in all its' various forms, it begins with learning to read and understand what is being read.

I believe the younger a child is when first introduced to books, the better are the chances that the child will develop a love for reading that will last a lifetime. Even babies as young as six months can begin to handle and play with cloth books!

Reading is the key to all learning. Every class in formal education involves reading to some extent. Even math requires reading. All professional jobs require reading. Our everyday tasks require reading; such as recipes and directions for preparing food, taking and/or administering any kind of medication, reading directions to assemble and use all kinds of things we buy, even driving—we need to be able to read and understand directions and road signs. What about all that paperwork we are inundated with when we go to a doctor? How many applications and forms are we required to fill out and complete over the course of a year? These are just a very few examples of how the ability to read and understand what is read is so deeply embedded into the quality of our daily lives.

Reading purely for the pleasure of doing so can be a very effective escape from the stress of daily life. It can open the door to whole new worlds and for just a little while, the reader can join the characters in his/her book, wherever they are and whatever they are doing. Travel books allow us to go anywhere in the world and immerse ourselves in different cultures without ever leaving the comfort of our recliners. Reading history can take us back into the past and satisfy our curiosity about how things evolved to where we are today in our country as well as the entire world. Biographies and autobiographies can enlighten us about people who interest us, those long gone or still here. Science fiction can stimulate our imaginations and propel us into future worlds of fantasy. However, my personal favorites are mystery thrillers, the “whodunits,” that I simply can’t put down until I find out “whodunit.”

So, you can now understand why, to me, reading is the beginning of all other forms of literacy

Barbara



Photo: Pexels.com

Blacks and Indigenous Americans Who Played a Critical Role in the American Revolution

By Janel “Jaycee” Miller

It has been a long time since I was in a classroom for academic purposes, and I certainly don’t remember as well as I used to, but I cannot recall a person from a minority group being mentioned while I was learning about the American Revolution.

I hope I am remembering wrong. In any case, I have provided details below regarding Black and Indigenous Americans who helped us earn the independence that allows the United States to commemorate our 250th anniversary.

Salem Poor was born a slave circa 1747 and bought his freedom in 1769. Less than a decade later, he was among those fighting the British in key battles such as Bunker Hill, Massachusetts — where several of his fellow soldiers later wrote that he “behaved like an experienced officer and an excellent soldier” — as well as at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, Monmouth, New Jersey, and Saratoga, New York.

Agrippa Hull served as an orderly to several Revolutionary War generals, perhaps most notably, Tadeusz Kościuszko, a Polish-Lithuanian engineer in the Continental Army. The two became good friends, as evidenced by Hull organizing a celebratory dinner for his friend, the pair standing side by side during some of the South Carolina battles, and, after the war, Kościuszko offering Hull the chance to come with him to Poland (Hull declined).

Han Yerry Tewahangarahken vigorously fought back when an army of British loyalists invaded his and his people’s land near Stanwix, New York. He would also join the colonists’ cause at Oriskany, New York, as well as the aforementioned Saratoga and Valley Forge. Two years before the American Revolution ended, he received a captain’s commission from the Continental Congress. It is worth noting that the Tewahangarahken’s tribe, the Oneida, was one of the few Indigenous American tribes to side with the colonists during the American Revolution.

The Tuscarora Tribe was another Indigenous American tribe to side with the colonists during the American Revolution, providing services as scouts, guides, and soldiers. As much as their and the Oneida’s effort helped the colonists win the war, it is worth noting that at the war’s end, both tribes received little compensation for their efforts.

References: [nps.gov](https://www.nps.gov), [hsoy.org](https://www.hsoy.org), [legendsofamerica.com](https://www.legendsofamerica.com), [smithsonianmag.com](https://www.smithsonianmag.com), [amrevmuseum.org](https://www.amrevmuseum.org)



From the Heart

By Linda Spires, FHPL VP & Membership Chair

I hope you are all enjoying the blessings of summer – time outside, vacations, family gatherings, barbecues, picnics, the beach – just relaxing!

If time permits, you can come inside for awhile and help out at the Library. The staff take their vacations, so the Friends often step in and help. Marleena and Anna will direct and instruct you with what needs to be done to assist them, and they are always very grateful for the help.

And don't forget the Second Chance Bookstore, where there's always something fun going on, especially with flowers for sale and Father's Day on the agenda. You can sign up on the calendar at the table in the work room or call Dawn and let her know you are available. (Dawn 302 692-5524)

We have a robust Fall and winter schedule, including Harrington Heritage Day in August, the Book Fest in September and Baubles and Bling in December. So, rest up and re-charge, we need you!!

Linda



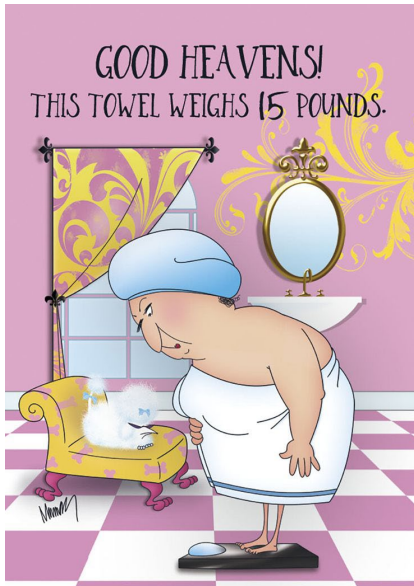
Garden Box Raffle Drawing August 11, 2026

Tickets available at the Library Circulation Desk or from a Friend.

**\$10 for 10 tickets or \$5 for 3 tickets,
or \$2 for 1 ticket.**

Contents: Handcrafted and finished wooden garden box built and donated by one of our Friends, gardening and landscaping books, hand tools, gardening gloves, kneeler, plant clips, plastic pots, spray bottle, liquid fertilizer, and herb seed packets.

Laugh Out Loud Corner



A man and his wife are celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary. They're both in their mid-60's. As they eat, a Fairy Godmother appears at their table. She says, "You two have been such a wonderful, loving couple for so long, I'm going to grant each of you one wish. Whatever your heart desires the most."

The woman thinks for a bit and says, "I'd love to take an around the world tour with my husband, the best man in the world." And poof, there are tickets to a six-month tour of the world; Europe, Africa, Australia, Hawaii, etc.

The Godmother looks at the man and he says, "Honey, I'm really sorry, but the thing I want most in the world is a wife who's 30 years younger than me."

The wife bursts into tears.

"Are you sure?" asks the Fairy Godmother.

"I'm sure." says the man.

The Fairy Godmother looks sadly at the wife, shrugs her shoulders and... poof, the man is 95 years old.

*A 4th of July planning tip:
this year throw veggie burgers
on the grill -
and next year,
someone else will
host the cookout.*



Husband: Honey are you in the mood for super sex? Wife: I think I'll have the soup.

Tim decided to tie the knot with his longtime girlfriend. One evening, after the honeymoon, he was organizing his golfing equipment. His wife was standing nearby watching him. After a long period of silence, she finally speaks: "Tim, I've been thinking, now that we're married maybe it's time you quit golfing. You spend so much time on the course. You could probably get a good price for your clubs." Tim gets this horrified look on his face. She says, "Darling, what's wrong?" "For a minute there you were beginning to sound like my ex-wife." "Ex-wife!" she screams, "I didn't know you were married before!" "I wasn't," he replied.

Center Stage.... Friends That Make Us Shine... Linda Spires

By Janel "Jaycee" Miller



WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO DELAWARE: I had retired from my major nursing job up in New York and had done a few other things. After my dad died, I decided I didn't want to live and die on Long Island. It was a wonderful place, but I wanted to be someplace a little more laid back, a little more rural, small-town America. I looked in a million places and did a lot of praying about it, and the Lord kept bringing me right here to Harrington.

TELL ME A BIT ABOUT YOUR FAMILY: I don't have any family here. I was not married when I came here, and my girlfriend talked me into doing some online dating. Two days before my 73rd birthday, I married for the first time to a very wonderful man. So I live in Harrington with my husband, Tom, and that's the only family I have here. I have a brother in Colorado and one in California, and I still have some attachments to Long Island.

WHAT DO YOU DO AS A FRIEND OF THE HARRINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY?

I'm the vice president of the library, so I'm very involved in the administrative things. I am also the committee chair for the Baubles and Bling sale in December, and I help in the bookstore and just about anything else that needs to be done. I dabble in just about everything.

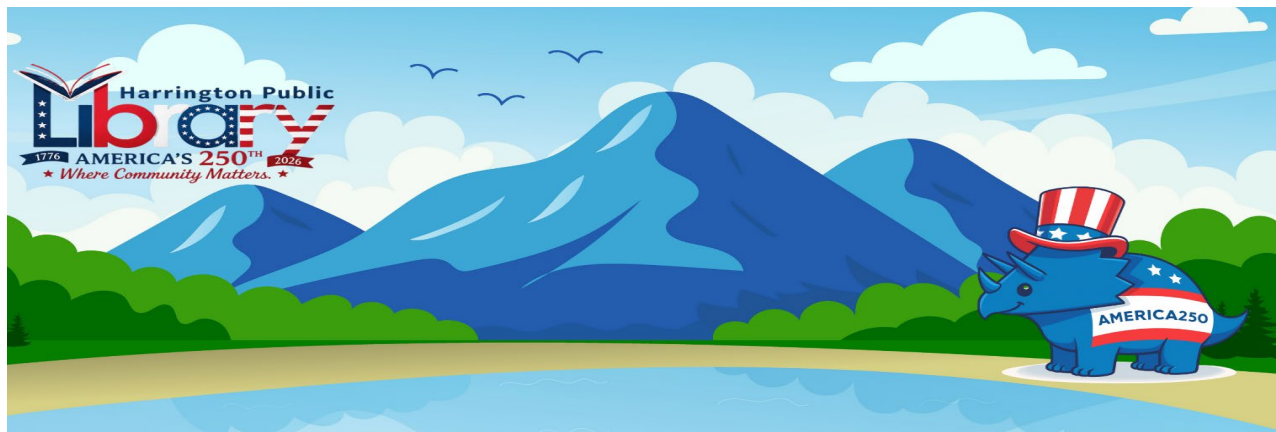
WHAT ELSE DO YOU DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME? I'm the president of the Harrington Historical Society. I also still have my nursing license, do grief counseling, and am involved in some state oversight committees. I'm dabbling in a few things right now in nursing, but nothing full-time. I try to get to some of the city council meetings and try to stay connected. I am also very involved with my church, Calvary Wesleyan Church, where I do many activities for the community.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE BOOK GENRE AND WHY? I like romance stories – it's a nice escape and kind of fun, and everybody needs a little fun and frivolity. I also like historical books since they tell us where we were and how we got to where we are today. I also do a lot of reading on medicine, so I can stay up to date with what's going on.



Director's Corner

By Marleena Scott, HPL Library Director



Happy July everyone! I hope everyone is on their way to completing their Summer Reading Challenge. If you have not signed up yet, there is still time to sign up, read, earn points and go shopping in our prize cabinet. Along with summer reading we also have lots of fun summer activities:

- Social Services Specialist on Mondays from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm
- Storytime for Preschool every Wednesday at 10:45 am
- Summer S.T.E.M for Kids 1st-5th grade every Wednesday at 10:45
- Teen S.T.E.M activity every Thursday at 5:30 pm
- Themed Stay and Plays on Fridays at 2:00 pm, except for July 3rd
- 3D Printing Classes on July 10th and July 24th
- Ran D' Shine Magic Show for everyone on Saturday, July 11th at 11:00 am
- Love Your Soil Gardening Program on Wednesday, July 15th at 2:00 pm
- Discover Decoupage for children 6 to 12 years old on Saturday, July 18th at 10:00 pm

No matter what your interest are, we have a summer program that you will enjoy! Also, in honor of America's 250th anniversary, all the youth programs are patriotic themed! Storytime kids will be making an eagle craft, the S.T.E.M group will be making underwater fireworks, and the teen activity is a game of capture the American Flag. Not to mention, we always have tons of books and movies to celebrate and learn about our country's story. Whatever your reason, come visit us this July, not only for the air conditioning but also to take advantage of all the offerings in your community library.

FHPL 2025-2026 Sponsor





Saddle Up for America's 250th Story Fest!

By Michelle Baltrusch, 2026 Book Fest Co-Chair

The Friends are saddling up for one of our biggest community celebrations yet--the 2026 Endless Stories Book Fest, coming to the Harrington Public Library on September 26.

This year's festival carries a proud patriotic spirit as we honor the nation's 250th anniversary and celebrate the stories that built, shaped, and strengthened America.

Our theme, "Endless Stories: The Story Keepers — Told, Treasured, and Passed On," invites families to step into a frontier of imagination where tall tales, family lore, and community history come alive. Thanks to the recently awarded Delaware Library Association Community Engagement Grant, we'll be expanding hands-on humanities activities, adding new craft stations, and creating interactive storytelling experiences that echo the grit, creativity, and courage of generations past.

Visitors can look forward to frontier-style maker stations, living-history-inspired activities, and spaces where children and adults alike can explore how stories—big and small—travel across time. The grant also supports outreach efforts to ensure families across the Lake Forest community hear the call and join the fun.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Delaware Library Association for believing in the power of community storytelling and for helping us bring this patriotic, frontier-flavored festival to life. And as always, we tip our hats to the Friends and volunteers whose dedication keeps this event riding strong year after year.

Circle your calendars, neighbors—the Book Fest trail leads straight to September 26, and we can't wait to welcome you.

Find us at:

Website: <https://harrington.lib.de.us/friends/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61556600322985> or Friends of the Harrington Public Library



FHPL 2025-2026 Sponsor





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Harrington



Lodge 534



Fun in the Sun... Without the ‘Yikes!’

By Linda Spires, FHPL VP

Photo by [Sam Williams](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Fun-filled days in the sun may be good for the soul, but not so good for the body. Natural sunlight is healing and a mood booster. It also provides us with natural Vitamin D, great for calcium absorption and immunity. However, as we age, we become more susceptible to health risks and dangers associated with the sun.

For us seniors, too much sun can result in more pronounced wrinkles (yikes!) and age spots (yikes again!) because our skin gets thinner and loses its elasticity, so there is less protection from UV (ultraviolet) rays. Skin damage, including cancer can occur, as well as damage to your eyes.

Some medications common to seniors can cause sun sensitivity, leading to sun burn, rash, blistering and more. Some diuretics, antibiotics, diabetes meds., and mental health drugs may place you at greater risk.

Lastly, we tend to miss thirst cues until they are at or near a dehydration point. Dehydration can worsen some existing health conditions. It also causes symptoms of dizziness, fatigue, confusion and muscle cramps. Also, your body takes longer to cool down when overheated, leading to heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

So, here are some healthy tips for a sun-friendly summer:

1. Avoid the hottest times of the day, between 10 am and 4 pm.
2. Always use sunscreen with SPF of at least 30. Allow 20 minutes for it to absorb before going in the sun and reapply every 2 hours.
3. Wear wide brimmed hats and sunglasses.
4. Freeze individual wash cloths, place in a baggie and keep in cooler. Wipe face, forehead, wrists and back of neck frequently.
5. Dress for the weather: loose fitting, light weight, light colored clothes.
6. Stay hydrated. Carry water with you, drink regularly even if you are not thirsty. Avoid caffeine and sugary drinks and eat water-rich fruits like watermelon.

By taking the proper precautions and knowing the signs of distress, you'll be ready to enjoy a summer filled with sunshine, laughter and good memories.

July Happenings at the HPL

UPCOMING EVENTS

10th 2:00
Tween/Teen 3D Printing Class

11th 11:00
Ran D Shine- Magician

15th 2:00
Love Your Soil-
Kent County Master Gardeners

18th 10:00
Discover Decopauge

21st 5:30
** Adult Craft Night

24th 2:00
Tween/Teen 3D Printing Class

27th 3:00
Adult BINGO

** Program Requires Registration

WEEKLY

DAILY:
FREE SNACKS under 18!

MONDAY:
TeleServices Specialist

WEDNESDAY:
10:45 Storytime
10:45 STEM HOUR

THURSDAY:
5:30 TEEN Hour

June 1st - August 15th

HOURS

Monday: 9:00-4:45
Tuesday: 11:00-6:45
Wednesday: 9:00-4:45
Thursday: 11:00-6:45
Friday: 9:00-4:45
Saturday: 10:00-1:45
HPL will be closed
7/3 & 7/4 For The Fourth of July

101 LITTLE MASTENS CORNER RD. HARRINGTON DE 302*398*4647 HARRINGTON.LIB.DE.US



Endless Stories Just Got Even Bigger

We're thrilled to share that the 2026 Endless Stories Book Fest has been awarded a Delaware Library Association Community Engagement Grant. This funding will help us expand hands-on humanities activities, enhance our storytelling stations, and create an even more welcoming, creative experience for families across our community.

The grant supports our theme, "Endless Stories: The Story Keepers — Told, Treasured, and Passed On," and will allow us to offer new craft materials, thematic décor, interactive displays, and additional outreach to ensure the festival reaches as many neighbors as possible.

We extend our sincere thanks to the Delaware Library Association for recognizing the impact of Book Fest and for supporting this community-centered celebration of literacy and imagination.

A huge thank-you to the Friends, our volunteers, and everyone who continues to champion this event. Your support makes Book Fest a signature celebration of literacy, creativity, and community connection in Harrington.

Stay tuned—more exciting details about the September 26th book fest are on the way.

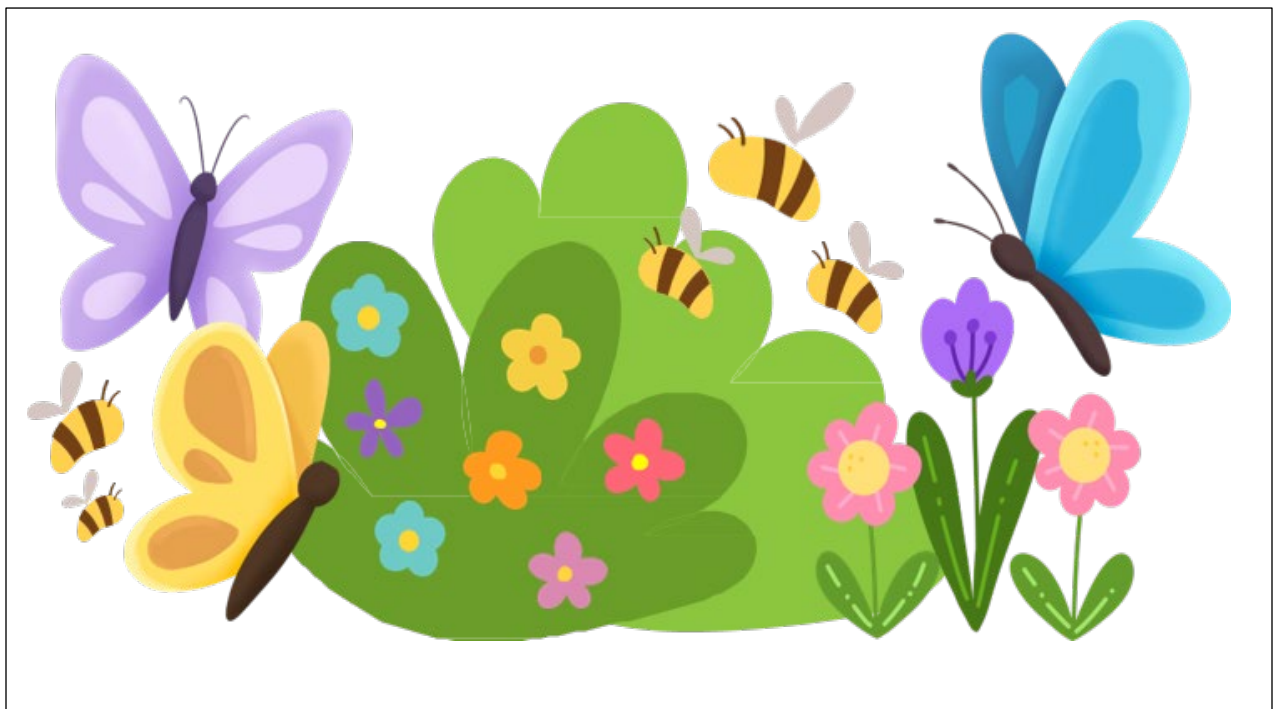
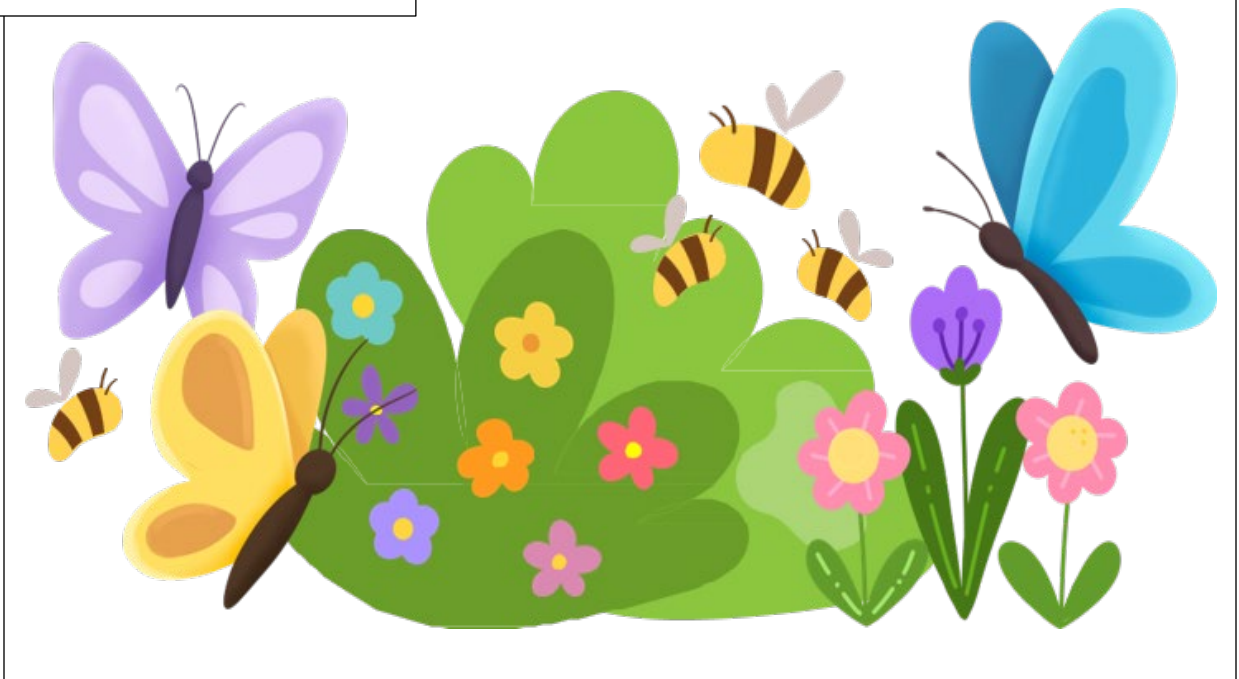
Michelle B.



Midway Discount Liquors: 1000 Midway Drive, Ste. 5, Harrington, De

Brain Teaser I

FIND 10 DIFFERENCES



GLASS JARS NEEDED

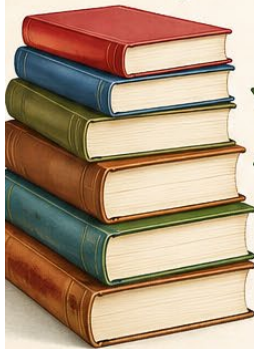


by the Library

Can be dropped off
during normal
business hours.



VOLUNTEER HELP NEEDED!



Second Chance Bookstore

Coverage needed
throughout the

MONTH OF JULY



See Dawn Manley *or* leave your name and
phone number at the circulation desk.



HARRINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

101 Little Mastens Corner Road
Harrington, DE



Donations of gently used books accepted *Fridays at the HPL from 9-5.*



i.g. Burton Auto Group

Proud to Support the Harrington Library...

*"The more that you read, the more
things you will know. The more that
you learn, the more places you'll go."
– Dr. Seuss*



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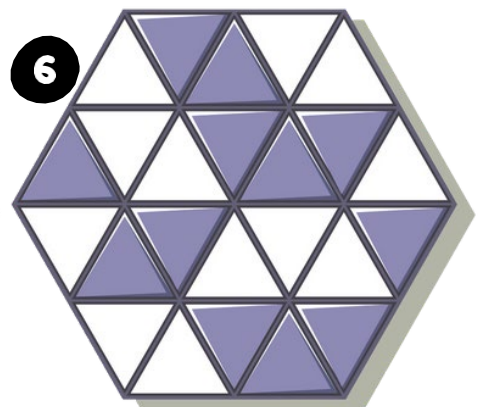
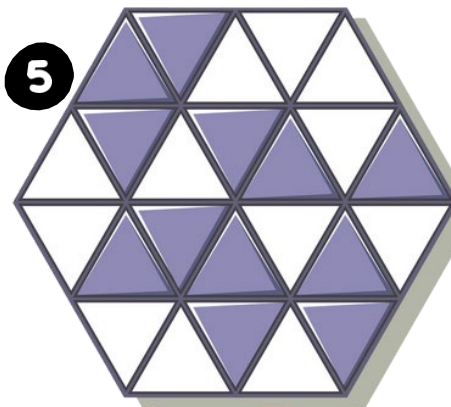
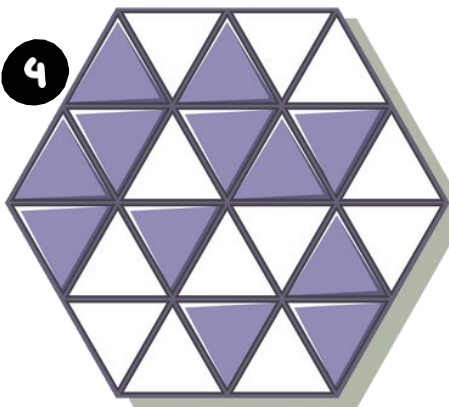
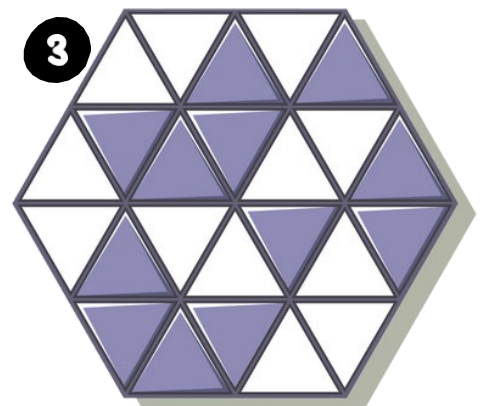
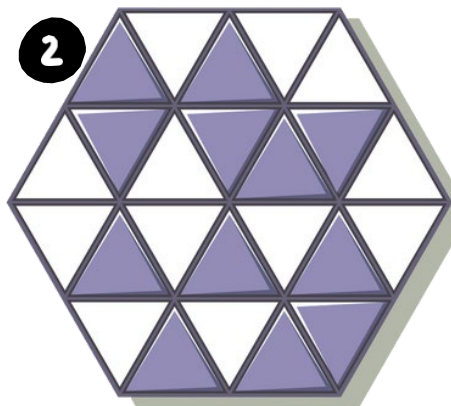
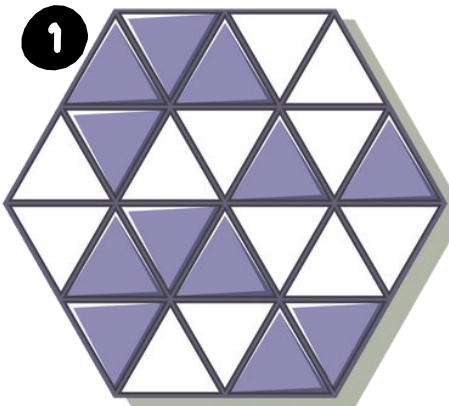
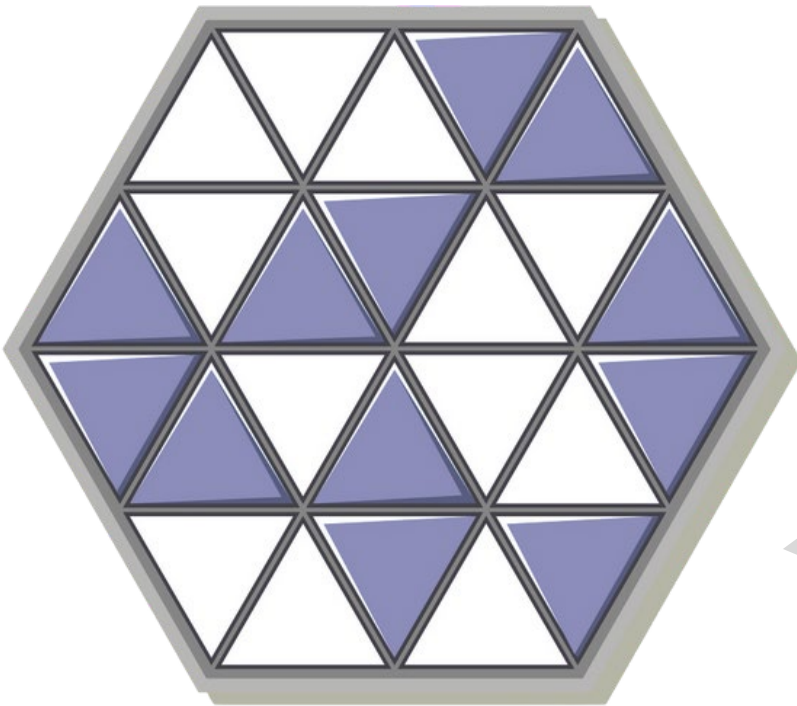
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Fill me in

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Harrington Public
Library
Where Community Matters

HERITAGE DAY

AT THE LIBRARY!

FREE FAMILY FUN ALL DAY!



**SATURDAY,
AUGUST 22**



**9:00 AM –
3:00 PM**



**HARRINGTON
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Bring the whole family and celebrate Heritage Day at the library!



**FREE
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**FREE
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**PETTING
ZOO**



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BOOK BAGS &
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(WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!)**



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MOBILE GAMING TRUCK!
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Step inside and enjoy the latest games with your friends!



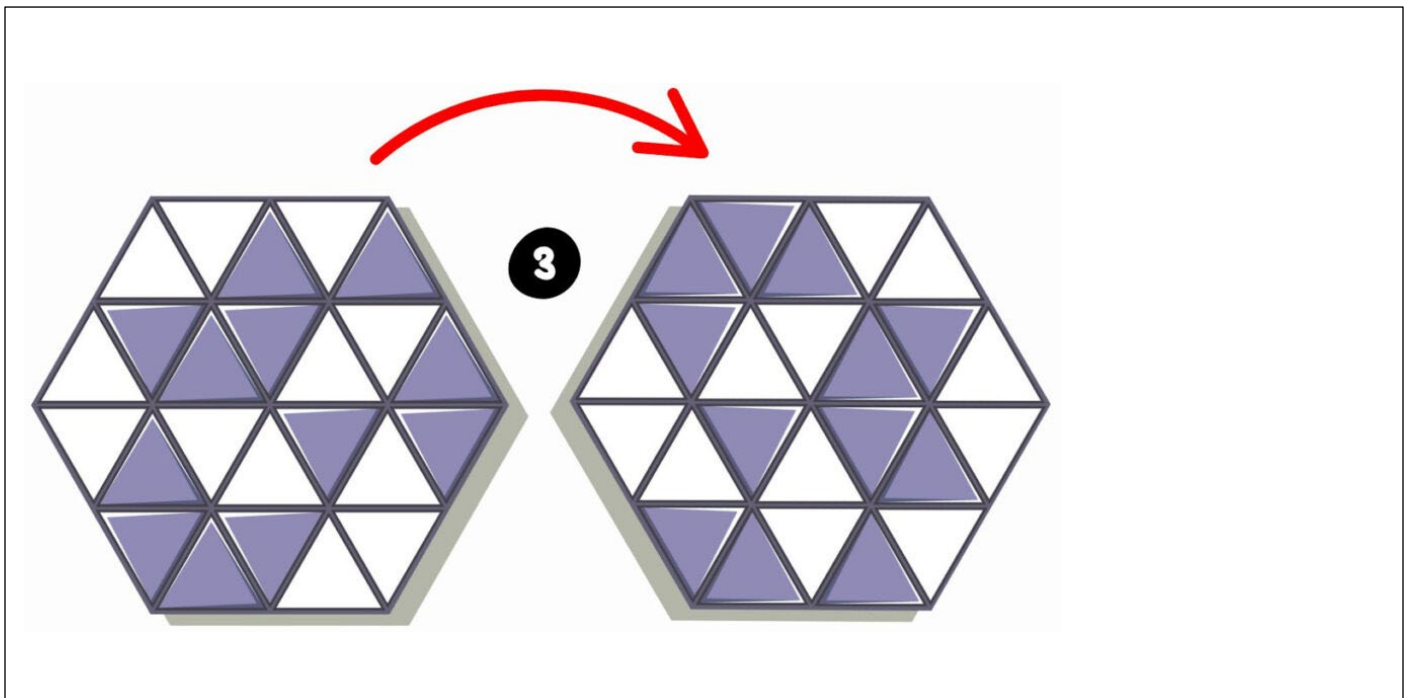
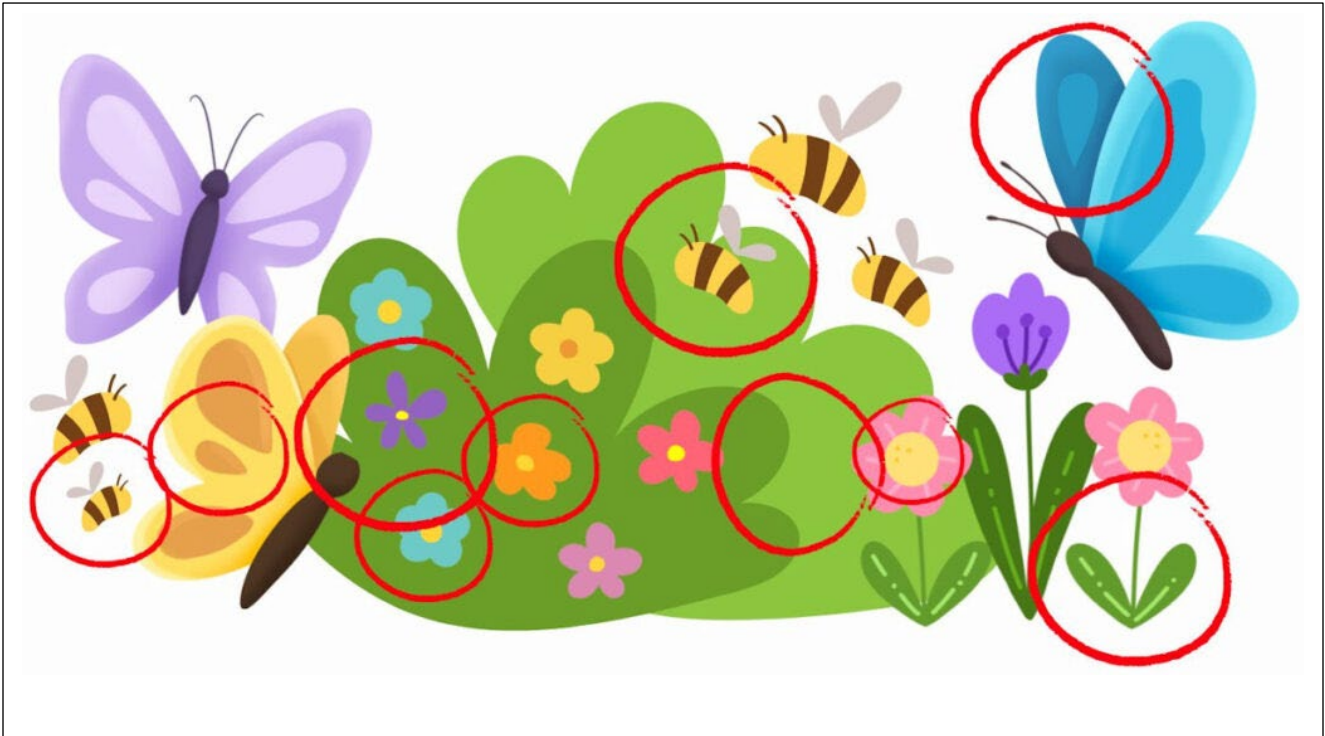
RAIN OR SHINE EVENT!





Don't miss this exciting day of family fun, resources, and community connections!
 For more information, contact the library.

And the Answer is.....



Mock Sangria: excellent “cooling” remedy for the hot days of summer

Ingredients:

- 1 (46-ounce) bottle grape juice
- 1 (12-ounce) can frozen limeade concentrate, thawed
- 2 cups orange juice
- 2 lemons. Juiced
- 1 (2-liter) bottle lemon lime soda, chilled
- Garnish: lemon slices, lime slices, orange slices

Directions:

1. In a large bowl, stir together grape juice, limeade concentrate, orange juice and lemon juice.
2. Refrigerate until chilled; about three hours
3. Just before serving, stir in lemon-lime soda. Serve in Mason Jars. Garnish with lemon, lime, and orange slices if desired.

Find us at:

Website: <https://harrington.lib.de.us/friends/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61556600322985> or Friends of the Harrington Public Library

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