

The Container

"Knowledge is free at the library. Just bring your own container."
-Unknown

Dreamland: The Secret History of Area 51

Aerospace historian Peter Merlin explores the history and truth of Area 51.

Join us on **Thursday, August 13th** at 5:30pm to welcome Aerospace historian Peter Merlin to talk about his book, *Dreamland: The Secret History of Area 51* - the first ever scholarly history of the National Classified Test Facility at Groom Lake, Nevada.

Better known as Area 51, this top-secret installation hidden in a remote desert valley northwest of Las Vegas, has been shrouded in mystery since 1955. Decades of Cold War secrecy spawned rumors and conspiracy theories, and catapulted Area 51 into popular culture.

Now, after more than 30 years of painstaking research, Merlin cuts through the myths to reveal the true story of one of the nation's premier flight-test and evaluation facilities, where evolving global threats are met with unprecedented technological innovations.

Peter Merlin is an aerospace historian and author of numerous books and articles. His research topics include Cold War history, space exploration, aerospace technology, human factors engineering, aviation archaeology, prehistoric cave paintings and petroglyphs, archaeoastronomy, and the mysterious world of top-secret "black" projects. Merlin has appeared in more than a dozen film and television documentaries on the History Channel, Discovery, National Geographic, Smithsonian, and others. Before joining the Aviation Management and Flight faculty at Southern Illinois University, he spent most of his career supporting flight research and testing under contract to NASA and the US Air Force.

Teen Movie Monday

Watch a movie and have a snack!

Teens are welcomed to join us in the YA Department on **Monday, August 10th** at 4:00pm for a movie! Meet up with friends to watch "Mean Girls" and enjoy some snacks!

YA Department events are for patrons ages 12-18.



The Container is a free monthly publication of Marion Carnegie Library.
206 S. Market St., Marion, IL | 618-993-5935
Shelley Hudspath, Director

Illinois Archaeology: The Deep Roots of the Prairie State

See the traveling exhibit from the Illinois State Archaeological Survey.

Illinois State Archaeological Survey's (ISAS) traveling exhibit, *Illinois Archaeology: The Deep Roots of the Prairie State* will be displayed on the Main Floor at Marion Carnegie Library from **Tuesday, August 18th** to **Saturday, September 26th**.

History in Illinois didn't begin when the first Europeans arrived 350 years ago. Euro-American communities have existed here for less than three percent of all the time people have lived in Illinois. *Illinois Archaeology: The Deep Roots of the Prairie State* is a quick look at where and how people have lived in Illinois for the last 12,500 years. It explores how things like conflict, climate change, and new technology altered the ways people lived.

The exhibit was produced by the Illinois State Archaeological Survey which is one of five scientific surveys that make up the Prairie Research Institute of the University of Illinois. The Prairie Research Institute unites scientific expertise in geology, ecology and biodiversity, archaeology, hydrology and water, weather and climate, pollution prevention, and sustainable energy to benefit the people, economy, and environment of Illinois, the nation, and the world.

Join us on **Tuesday, August 18th** at 6:00pm to celebrate the opening of the exhibit. Williamson County Historical Society President, Sam Lattuca, will be discussing local connections related to the artifacts displayed.

Friends of MCL Book Sale

Go back to school with some new books!

The Friends of Marion Carnegie Library will be hosting a book sale on **Friday, August 28th** and **Saturday, August 29th** from 9:00am to 4:00pm in the McCoskey Room. Friends members will have access to a pre-sale on Thursday, August 27th from 4:30pm to 6:00pm.

Hardbacks will be \$1.00, paperbacks will be \$0.25. Prices may vary on other items. On **Saturday, August 29th** from 2:00pm to 4:00pm, you can fill a bag with as many books as you like for only \$5.00!

All proceeds go to support Marion Carnegie Library's projects and programs. For more information on how you can help out, visit: www.marioncarnegielibrary.org/friends.

August 2026 Library Events

Check the MCL website or ask a staff member for a full list of events!

All Younger
Children

Ages 0-12

Ages 8-12

Ages 10-18

Ages 12-18

Ages 18+

All Ages

MCL Story Hour
Wednesdays & Thursdays
10:30^{AM}

Shark
August 5th & 6th

Back to School
August 12th & 13th

Camping
August 19th & 20th

Pajama Party
August 26th

Playroom Playdate

Tuesdays 10^{AM} - 12^{PM}
Thursdays 4^{PM} - 7^{PM}

Builder's Club

Monday, August 3rd
Monday, August 24th
5:30^{PM} - 7^{PM}

Tween Craft
Pool Noodle Fish
Begins Friday, August 7th

Tween Movie
Saturdays at 1^{PM}

PNG at MCL
Open Lab
Mondays - Thursdays
3^{PM} - 7^{PM}

Friends of MCL
Book Sale
Friday, August 28th
Saturday, August 29th
9^{AM} - 4^{PM}

PNG at MCL
Saturday Sessions
Fashion
Saturdays at 1^{PM}

Teen Craft To-Go
Faux Gumball Machine
Begins Saturday, August 1st

Movie Monday
Monday, August 10th
4^{PM}

Teen Craft Night
Calming Bottles
Wednesday, August 19th
4^{PM}

Teen Lounge
Mondays - Thursdays
4^{PM} - 7^{PM}

For a full description of
events, visit:
marioncarnegielibrary.org/events



Marion Carnegie Library



@marioncarnegielibrary

Adult Craft
Butterfly Migration
Centerpiece
Thursday, August 6th
3:30^{PM} or 5^{PM}
Registration required
begins July 29th

Dreamland:
The Secret History
of Area 51
Thursday, August 13th
5:30^{PM}

OPENING CELEBRATION
Illinois Archaeology:
The Deep Roots of
the Prairie State
by Prairie Research
Institute
Tuesday, August 18th
6^{PM} - 7^{PM}

Illinois Archaeology:
The Deep Roots of
the Prairie State
by Prairie Research
Institute
August 18th -
September 26th

MCL Book Club
Saturday, August 22nd
10^{AM}
The Butterfly's Daughter
by Mary Alice Monroe

All participants and parents understand and agree that photos taken at events may be used in social media postings and future promotions.



Children 10 years and younger must be accompanied by a guardian at all times while attending MCL Children's Department events.