



## Fall 2020

### Storytime is Back September 16th

Hooray! Storytime is coming back to the Gering Library!

Because of the current health measures, things will be slightly different in youth services this fall at GPL, but we are striving to provide the most services that we can while maintaining safety and following the directed health measures from the state.

Consequently, storytime will begin in mid-September but with a few changes. There will be one

weekly storytime every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. There will be no inside playtime or crafts this fall. We are going to have storytime in Legion Park during September and possibly longer if the weather holds out so children can play in the park after storytime.

In the case of inclement weather and when it becomes too cold, we will hold storytime in our Community Room with appropriate social distancing.

Storytime will begin on September 16<sup>th</sup>.

Other changes include suspension of Lego Club and LEAP for the fall with the hope of starting back up again during the winter if community health conditions improve. Finally, masks are highly recommended but not required.



- Wednesdays at 10:00 for everyone
- Legion Park in Sept.

### Local Author Showcase September 13 2-4pm

Join Gering author Lawrence Gibbs and La Grange author Doug Chamberlain at the library on September 13 from 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Gibbs and Chamberlain will be visiting with readers and signing copies of their new books.

Gibbs' book "Nebraska Sweet Beets: A history of Sugar Valley" was published in 2020.

Chamberlain's book, "Bury Him : A memoir of the Viet Nam War" was published in 2019.



#### Calendar

##### >Food for Thought

Sep. 25  
Life in a Jar by Jack Mayer  
Oct. 22  
I'm Down by Mishna Wolff & This One Summer by Mariko Tamaki  
Nov. 19  
If You Lived Here by Christopher Ingraham  
Dec. 17  
The Dutch House by Ann Patchett

>Sep 13 Local Author Showcase with Larry Gibbs and Doug Chamberlain

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## Foundation and Friends Board Openings

Gering Library Foundation and the Friends of the Gering Library expect openings on their boards in the upcoming months.



This is a chance to work with like-minded people to further the goals of the library.

The Foundation develops enduring sources of capital for strategic projects and support through conceptual ideas and partner-

ships that enhance and advance literacy, lifelong learning and community activity.

Friends are enthusiastic supporters, whose mission is to help provide library services of the highest quality to our community.

If you are interested in serving on a board, let Diane Downer know, and she will pass your name along.

### Nearly New Book Sale

Our nearly new book sale by the card catalog brought in \$89 for the Friends this year.

Some members logged into [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) to place their Amazon orders over the past year, so the Friends got \$11.50 from Amazon.

## Teen Advisory Board

Starting this fall, 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders will have the opportunity to join the Teen Advisory Board! This program will give teens the opportunity to help organize events, choose books for the library, and give back to the community.



Along with the Teen Advisory Board, sev-

eral new teen programs will be happening this fall.

**Middle Grade Book Group** (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade)

**Dungeons & Dragons Adventure**

**Haunted Terrarium DIY**

All programs offered will be socially dis-

tanced. We are exploring online options when available. For more information, email [kwyssocki@geringlibrary.org](mailto:kwyssocki@geringlibrary.org), call the library, or stop by the front desk.

## Library Gets Grant for Newsbank

While our doors were locked, we had several calls from folks wanting to read the Omaha World Herald.



We will soon be offering remote access to the NewsBank database, which provides full image

access to the Omaha World Herald and the Denver Post, along with other titles including the Star-Herald, Gering Courier as well as Lincoln Journal Star, North Platte Telegraph, Kearney Hub and many others.

If you want to learn how to access these papers online, ask someone to help, we will gladly show you how to use the computers to read the papers.

## Summer Reading Follow-up

We held an online summer reading program this year.

The children's program made use of Page Turner videos online, Theatre West and the Reader Zone app.

The teens had a variety of activities, including two book discussions, a scavenger hunt throughout Gering and some take-

and-make crafts.

The adult program had two book discussions as well as a socially distanced wildflower walk and a Youtube tutorial about how to use the Goodreads website.

We want to send a big thank you to our sponsors for prizes this summer!

- Target
- Walmart
- Applebee's
- Main Street Market
- Regional West Women's Center
- Friends of the Gering Library
- Midwest Theater



## Meet the Staff: Patty (Ibach) Rezac

Patty joined the Gering Library staff in February of 2020. She filled out a questionnaire for us:

Hobbies: quilting and gardening

Dream job as a child: Lab Tech

Weirdest thing eaten: Alligator

Most interesting thing she learned recently: How to fix sprinklers

Celebrity crush: Keanu Reeves- he seems like a very kind person

Superpower: Ability to see good in people

Current pet: Tess

Surprising Fact: Loves Star Trek all of them!



Patty & Tess

## A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles

Count Alexander Rostov, in 1922 is declared a non-person in a Soviet court and is sentenced to house arrest for the remainder of his life. His home is the Hotel Metropol, across the street from the Kremlin.

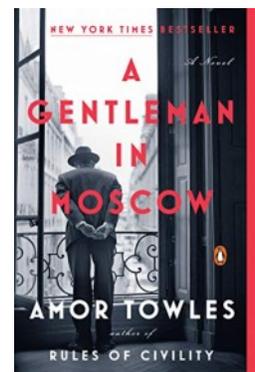
The Count begins his imprisonment as a guest, then segues into

becoming a member of the staff of the luxurious hotel.

During the years Alexander lives there, he encounters many memorable people who come in and out of his life, sometimes in surprising ways.

The novel is a social

and political history of the Soviet Union, without the description of the terror so many books of that era (1920-1955) tell of, since it skips lightly over the Stalin era. The Count always remains a gentleman.



Find us online:

[facebook.com/GeringPublicLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/GeringPublicLibrary)

Instagram @gering\_library

Gering Public Library offers programs and activities for everyone. Our online calendar is located at [www.gering.org/library](http://www.gering.org/library). We post upcoming activities on Facebook and Instagram as well.

**Gering Public  
Library**

Connecting People With  
Possibilities

# A Message for Parents & Students:

Students are headed back to school, but it is far from business as usual. Libraries are in the same boat.

Because of some restrictions in place due to COVID-19, the library will not be available as a waiting spot for students after school.

As much as we hate to say it, we wanted to let everyone know so that no one is caught by surprise. One thing that's hard to come by is solid information, so when we had solid news, even though it's not good news, we felt like sharing was the right thing to do.

We also wanted to reassure everyone that this is not an announcement we're making because kids and teens are an anticipated problem. Some of our favorite patrons practically grew up in the library, and we've loved seeing shared art pieces, group projects coming together, and friendships forming. Nearly all of our after-school visitors have been polite and

respectful, and few patrons make a bigger impact on the library. The library is a lively, vibrant place when they're around.

That said, the library is not a good place to wait for a ride from a parent or guardian, or for any extended period of time during the day or after school.

Here are some rules that are currently in place that will impact those who use the library. Please know that these rules apply in our entire building, including the lobby.

#### **For patrons who aren't parents or students:**

The library will be busier after school. We suggest using the library before school gets out or after 5:00 on weekdays.

**1 Hour time limit:** We are encouraging everyone to use the library in a grab-and-go style, and we would prefer visits be as quick as possible. That said, we are limiting stays to one hour because we are operating with tight occupancy

limits. We may move to a one in and one out system if our capacity reaches 25 patrons.

**1 person per computer:** This will be strictly enforced.

**Masks:** Masks, properly worn to cover the nose and mouth are strongly suggested for patrons over 10 years old when closer than 6 feet to others.

**Food and drinks:** No food or drinks in the library. The water fountains will not be available for use.

**Children under 8:** It has always been and will continue to be library policy that children under 8 are not permitted to be in the library without a responsible parent or caregiver who is at least age 13. This may be more strictly enforced than it has been in the past.

**Reduced offerings:** Numbers of available computers have been reduced due to spacing needs, and patrons may be asked to wait for a computer during busy

times so we can keep folks a safe distance apart.

We understand the challenges and demands of living under these circumstances.

As a library, we're used to filling gaps in the community and we hate saying "No." In this case we've decided that being honest is the best thing we can do for Gering.

We've been happy to see so many of you after school, and we will miss Lego Club as much as you. We hope to see a future where things return to normal and the library is once again a good place to hang out after school.

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