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Avon Grove Library kicks off summer reading program



Magician Richard Gustafson balances a glass of milk on the head of a volunteer. Or is it milk?

Chris Barber — Digital First Media

By **Chris Barber**, *Daily Local News*

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0 COMMENTS

WEST GROVE >> The Avon Grove Library held its annual Summer Reading Kickoff on Saturday with an estimated 200 kids signing up to participate.

Program director Lisa Sherwood said she has events going on all summer. The reading program is free, and the kids are not obligated to participate in anything specific.

On hand at the library will be books to take out for all ages plus special events almost every week in addition to the regularly scheduled book discussions and pre-school story times.



Crowds fill the community room to watch Magician Richard Gustafson. Chris Barber — Digital First Media

On Saturday the library was filled to the gills with kids coming not only to sign up, but to get ice cream, crafts and face painting. The theme of the reading program this summer is “Build a Better World.”

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But what was probably the biggest attraction was a return visit by magicians Richard and Joanne Gustafson. In recent years this nationally known team has become so popular that they present two shows, one at 11 a.m. and one at 1 p.m.

The Gustafsons filled the community room at the library with tricks, humor and sleight of hand demonstrations.

Sherwood said people always ask her throughout the year, “Are the magicians coming back?”

Also popular were visits by two PAWS for Reading dogs that listen patiently while children read to them.

Coming up next week at the library on Saturday are story time with Mr. Alex at 10 a.m. for pirate stories; a teen writing workshop at noon; and a picture matting event for teenagers.

Next Tuesday, June 20, will be the Teddy Bear Picnic at Penn Township Park at noon.

On Wednesday, June 21, the Paws for Reading dog will be on hand at 12:30 p.m. to listen to kids read stories.



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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Chris Barber is the zone editor of the Avon Grove Sun. She is a lifelong resident of Kennett Square and a graduate of Unionville High School and Carleton College majoring in religion and minoring in astronomy. She is the founder of the Kennett Area YMCA. Reach the author at cbarber@21st-centurymedia.com.

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