More Copies of the Northwest Herald - All Copies Are Gone If I Come in the Afternoon
These are complimentary copies provided by the NW Herald, so we have no control over how many copies we receive. However, we’ve started putting ½ of the copies aside each morning and put these out around noon to better accommodate our afternoon visitors. We always have 1 copy that can be read in the library.

A Way I Could Retain a Listing of Books I Have Read
Log on to your account through our website and you can turn on your “Reading History”. Stop in or give us a call and we can walk you through how to do this.

A Better Website
The library recently launched a brand new and much improved website - check it out! If you are having trouble navigating it, please stop in and we’d be more than happy to give you a one-on-one tutorial.

A Roku Device for Streaming
We added a Roku last February that is currently loaded with Netflix. Depending on its popularity, we’re open to possibly adding additional streaming services in the future.

A Rental Library for Things You Only Use Once or Twice a Year
We started our Library of Things in April of 2022 and continually add items to it based on demand. However, we are limited by our lack of storage space and budget. The items we carry are showcased in the display case by the front desk and can also be found by searching our catalog using “Johnsburg Library of Things”.

Local Author Book Signings
We regularly host local authors. We hosted two events last fall and will be presenting another this September. Be sure to keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for upcoming events.

Comic Books
We have traditional comics for children and graphic novels for readers of all ages.

Wonderbooks
While we currently do not own any Wonderbooks we do have a small collection of VOX books which are essentially the same. Ask a librarian to show you where they are the next time you’re in the library.

Printing Service
Printing is available to the public. It is $.10/page for black and white copies and $.50/page for color. You can use our computers to print, or you can send print jobs from home. Any staff member can assist you with your printing needs.

Online Access to the Northwest Herald
We offered this for many, many years but it was almost never used, and at a yearly cost of more than $6000 we determined that our funds could be better spent elsewhere.

More Spots in Kids’ Programs/More Kids’ Programs
We all love Miss Julie, but there is only one of her and our budget does not allow for more staff at this time. We’re working on ways to add additional story times and other programs. Attendance is capped due to the amount of people we can safely and legally have in our meeting room, or simply because too many kids and only one librarian is just too difficult to manage.
Afternoon Storytime
We have tried offering an afternoon story time for the past several years but did not have enough interest to hold the session. We will be adding a monthly evening story time shortly to better accommodate our families that are unable to attend morning sessions.

STEM Materials for Check-Out
We have a large collection of STEM related books, games, and other learning tools. The majority of these items can be found in our Homeschool Resource area but may also be checked out by non-homeschoolers.

Wi-Fi Hotspots
The library has been offering hotspots since 2017. Anyone age 18 or older with a valid Illinois library card is welcome to check one out for a 7-day period.

Microfilm
Unfortunately, we simply do not have the room for a microfilm reader or microfilm. The nearby Woodstock, Harvard, McHenry, and Crystal Lake libraries have machines available to the public.

Adult Cooking Classes
We have chefs Susan and Michael Maddox here at least once a year for cooking classes. Be sure to keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for upcoming events.

A Newsletter
We discontinued our paper newsletter for several reasons. First, it was very expensive to produce, both in terms of staff time and in printing and postage costs. Second, we found that a great many people were not receiving it, or receiving it very late, and were upset that they missed their chance to sign up for and attend programs. Third, because we had to prepare it so far ahead of time, the newsletters were incomplete and didn’t include all the programs that may have been added after it was sent to the printer. Finally, with the availability of the same information online at our website and Facebook page we felt generating so much paper was a waste. We have plans to create an email newsletter in the next few months that patrons will be able to opt in to receive.

More Programs for Teens
We offer a wide variety of programs for teens but unfortunately, these are often very poorly attended. Be sure to keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for upcoming events.

Programs for Senior Citizens
Seniors are welcome to attend any of our adult programs. One of our most popular events for seniors is our Monday Movie which is held at 1:00pm most weeks. We are exploring adding additional daytime programs which may appeal to seniors. Please keep in mind that Senior Services (located at the McHenry Township office) offers many great weekly programs for our area’s senior population.

A Monthly Calendar of Events
We have recently produced a paper copy of this that can be picked up in the library. For the most up-to-date calendar and to register for programs, your best bet is to view the calendar on our website at www.johnsburglibrary.org/events

More Audiobooks
The library maintains and continues to add to our collection of audiobooks on CD. Additionally, we offer thousands of additional titles through our downloadable services Libby, Axis 360, and Hoopla. Which brings us to…

An Expanded Selection of Online Books
As mentioned, we subscribe to three downloadable services which costs us roughly $10000/year. We cannot afford to expand these any further, especially since the cost to add just one audiobook is approximately $200 - digital copies are much more expensive than paper copies.

More Seating, an Expanded Children’s Area, a Book Sale, Another Study Room
We also wish this, but all these things are currently impossible as we simply do not have the space to add seating or store book sale items, nor the funds to enlarge the library.

Video Games
This is not something we are opposed to, but it gets tricky trying to decide if we should buy for the Switch, or X-Box, or PlayStation… We currently have opportunities for kids to come in and play our Switch and may add some games that can be checked out down the road.

Piano/Vocal/Guitar Books
While we do not have these types of books in our library, we are able to request just about anything you might want from another library and have it for you to pick-up in a few days.
**Online Language Learning**
We offered the Mango Languages database for many years, but it was almost never used, and at a yearly cost of more than $4000 we determined that our funds could be better spent elsewhere.

**Movie Nights**
We will be looking to offer these soon, probably in 2024. We discontinued movie nights some time ago due to poor attendance.

**More Cookbooks**
The cookbook section is actually our largest collection, and we are constantly adding new titles. If we don’t have what you’re looking for let us know and we can either request it from another library or possibly even buy a copy for our library.

**More Magazines**
Magazines are one of the least used items in our library and many of them are no longer being published. We do still subscribe to 20 physical magazines and offer an additional 13 titles digitally through Flipster. If there is a specific title you would like us to consider adding please let us know.

**More Adult Craft Programs**
We offer in-person adult craft programs monthly, as well as occasional take-home crafts. We also subscribe to Creativebug which offers endless free craft tutorials. Be sure to keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for upcoming events.

**A Drive-Through Book Return**
Again, space and money make this impossible. Please know that you can pull up and park momentarily by the front door and put your returns in the outside drop box. If doing that is difficult for you due to mobility or child issues, give us a call when you arrive at the library and our staff will be happy to run out and retrieve your items from your vehicle.

**A 3-D Printer**
We purchased a 3-D printer in 2022. For more information, please contact Devin at devin@johnsburglibrary.org

**Renting Out the Meeting Room for Parties**
Our room is in use nearly every day for library events. It is also not sound proof, and parties are not very conducive to the atmosphere we wish to maintain at the library.

**Sunday Hours**
Prior to COVID we were open on Sundays but had very few people come to the library during those hours. Adding them back would require increasing our staffing budget, which we are currently not in a position to do. Should the number of in-person library visits grow to a point where we feel Sunday hours are necessary again, we will certainly consider that possibility.

**A Way to Get Books from Nearby Libraries Rather Than Libraries Farther Away**
Our library is a member of PrairieCat which is made up of 133 libraries in the state. Our closest neighbors in PrairieCat are Nippersink, Woodstock and Harvard. Other libraries, like McHenry and Crystal Lake, belong to a completely different consortium. Still others, like Fox Lake, don’t belong to a consortium at all. It is most efficient, and most cost effective, to share between libraries within our own consortium - this is the rule for all the consortiums in the state. If our consortium does not own an item, we will then request it from another consortium, but getting an item from McHenry will take longer than getting it from a library in our consortium, even if it’s located several hours away. Keep in mind that your library card can be used to check out books at ANY public library in Illinois if you wish to go there in person.

**Outside Areas for Playing and Reading**
We hold programs outdoors on occasion, dependent on the weather. During COVID we investigated the possibility of adding an outdoor pavilion, but the cost was astronomical. We do have outside seating in the back of the library that patrons are welcome to use when not being used by staff.

**Field Trips**
Although our budget and staffing do not allow us to sponsor field trips, we do offer two different services, Explore More Illinois and the Museum Adventure Pass that allow our patrons to visit more than 80 different regional attractions on their own for free or at discounted rates.