

More than Books

MICRO SWITCH, Honeywell, Freeport, and the Space Race

“Rocket Boys” by Homer Hickam, the book selected for this year’s communitywide reading series, lends itself to some exciting discussions and a range of special programs. It was a big job for the members of the “2015 One Book, One Freeport” Committee to decide which ones they wanted to explore in the programs they’re presenting. Since “Rocket Boys” is the story of a young boy growing up in a mining town during the beginning of the space race, mining and the space race made the cut for the first programs.

If you missed the kick-off program, “Growing Up in a Coal Mining Family,” presented last night by Dr. Edward and Catherine Finch, I feel sorry for you. It was a terrific beginning for the 2015 program and a hard act to follow.

Dr. Finch will be returning at 7 p.m. next Monday, March 2, to moderate a panel discussion, “MICRO SWITCH, Honeywell, Freeport, and the Space Race.” Look for former MICRO SWITCH employees in the audience as well as on the panel. Come early for a good seat, coffee, and a great cookie baked fresh in the library’s Gallery Café.

Free Book Day

The cookies, as well as over 1,000 free copies of “Rocket Boys” are available to the public courtesy of the Freeport Public Library Foundation. Pick up your very own copy here at the library tomorrow between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. and be prepared to enjoy this year’s “One Book, One Freeport” series.

Space Race Display

As a boy in Coalwood, West Virginia, Homer Hickam was inspired by the 1957 launch of Sputnik to build his own rockets. At the same time, here in Freeport, MICRO SWITCH and Honeywell were building products that would be used in rockets in the Space Race competition between the United States and the Soviet Union.

If you’re here a little early for the 7 p.m. panel discussion, you can catch the just-opened display on the library’s second floor of Honeywell MICRO SWITCH products used in the Space Race. The display will be available during library open hours through April 30.

The 2015 Committee

Hats off to the hard-working members of the 2015 “One Book, One Freeport” Committee who are responsible for an array of attractive events. They are: Allen Buus, Ed Finch, Nikki Keltner, Sharon Koch, Barry Treu, and Pat Vorwald.

2015 Sponsors and Partners

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Partnering agencies include the Stephenson County Museum, the Stephenson County Visitors Bureau, the Freeport Art Museum, the Freeport Public Library, Freeport School District 145, Aquin High School, Highland Community College, the University of Illinois Extension, O’Mara Moving, and the Lindo Theatre.

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