



### **\$5,000 One Book, One Freeport Grant Awarded to Freeport Public Library**

The Freeport Public Library has been awarded a grant of \$5000 by the Community Grants Program from the Ralph E. and Mildred Johnson Fund of the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois.

"This generous grant will provide funding for displays, programming and marketing for the 2015 **One Book, One Freeport** community wide reading program based on the book **Rocket Boys** by Homer Hickam," according to Pat Vorwald, Head of Adult Services at Freeport Public Library. "We are delighted to offer **One Book** again, after successful **One Book** programs in 2011 and 2013."

"**One Book, One Freeport** is a collaboration between a range of organizations including the Freeport Public Library Foundation, the Freeport Art Museum, the Stephenson County Historical Museum, U if I Extension, Highland Community College, the Lindo Theatre, FHN, the Journal Standard, and O'Mara Moving & Storage."

Free copies of **Rocket Boys** will be distributed to the general public and to local schools for classroom use. Displays include a coal mining exhibit at the Freeport Art Museum and a MICRO SWITCH exhibit, at the library, of switches and sensors used during the space program. The Lindo Theatre has scheduled a showing of "October Sky", the film version of **Rocket Boys**. Highland Community College's spring play, "Over the Tavern" is set during the Eisenhower years, as is **Rocket Boys**.

There will be children's programs on building, decorating, and launching rockets. Bob Kaplow and the Fox Valley Rocketeers will be on hand to assist with the launch.

Lectures and book discussion groups are scheduled countywide during March and early April. "The grant from the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois gives us the additional resources needed to finance this array of events and provide local citizens an opportunity to come together around a common theme," Mrs. Vorwald explained. She anticipates that audiences will see parallels between Coalwood, the setting of **Rocket Boys**, and Freeport.

Grants Officer for the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois James Patterson added that "The Community Foundation is pleased to help bring the Freeport community together around an inspirational book and related community activities. Not only is this project creative and unique, but it also promotes literacy and a sense of civic pride."

The Community Foundation of Northern Illinois is the area's largest provider of grants and scholarships. Its mission is to attract, grow and preserve an endowment for the needs of the people of Northern Illinois.

For more information please contact:

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