

4118114
9/18/14

MORTON GROVE CHAMPION

MY HOME. MY LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1957.

51st | Thursday, September 18, 2014 | mortongrove.suntimes.com | A WRAPPORTS company | A CHICAGO SUN-TIMES.com publication



How-to fest teaches tons

Library draws crowd hungry to learn crafts, square dancing and tons in between | PAGE 6



EDUCATION

Niles North celebrating 50 years

PAGE 12



GO

'Commons of Pensacola' at Northlight

PAGE 30



MOMMY

Bear down with these fun activities

PAGE 34

Morton Grove Champion | ©2014 Sun-Times Media | All rights reserved

*****CAR-RT LOT**C-024
3059041 0224 0000284
6140 LINCOLN AVE
MORTON GROVE IL 60053-29680001021

To Do List: TODAY

1. Call your travel agent.
2. Ask for the best deal with Funjet Vacations.
3. Reserve your seat for only \$50 per person.
4. Tell your friends.

Flights now available for
2014 and 2015!



9213 Waukegan Rd.
Morton Grove, IL 60053
847-966-0800
completetvl@ameritech.net



Funjet Vacations
BY SOMETHING YOU'LL NEVER FORGET

Morton Grove Public Library

How-to Fest draws hundreds of curious people to library

BY NATALIE HAYES
For Sun-Times Media | @NatHayReporter

The Morton Grove Public Library was abuzz Sunday afternoon as hundreds of people stopped by the How-To Fest, where they learned to do everything from yoga and square dancing, to how to apply Halloween makeup and decorate a cake with pastry chef-precision.

The How-To Fest showcased about 20 local vendors and experts, all of whom volunteered to share their know-how with the public on a variety of topics for two hours on Sept. 14.

Live folk music set the scene on a picturesque sunny fall afternoon for square dancing group Glenview Squares to teach the crowd how to “do-si-do,” while kids and parents found entertainment across the parking lot by experimenting with a long list of hands-on activities.

The idea behind the How-to Fest, according to librarian Melissa Mayberry, was to expose people of all ages to a variety of potential new interests, while increasing exposure for local businesses.

“It pulled the entire village together with the opportunity to touch things and do things you haven’t tried before,” Mayberry said.

Some activities, like the magic tricks booth, were strictly for fun, but other stations focused on educational topics like public speaking and child therapy.

Therapists from Glenview’s Courage to Connect Therapeutic Center had an array of craft materials set-up for kids to learn a form of therapy called unstructured free play.

The child-centered therapy is known to be benefit autism and some sensory disorders by facilitating engagement in a largely



Chuck Berthold makes fishing lures at the Morton Grove Library’s How-to Fest on Sept. 14, 2014. | GEORGE EDWARDSON/FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

uncontrolled environment, according to therapist Heather Murphy.

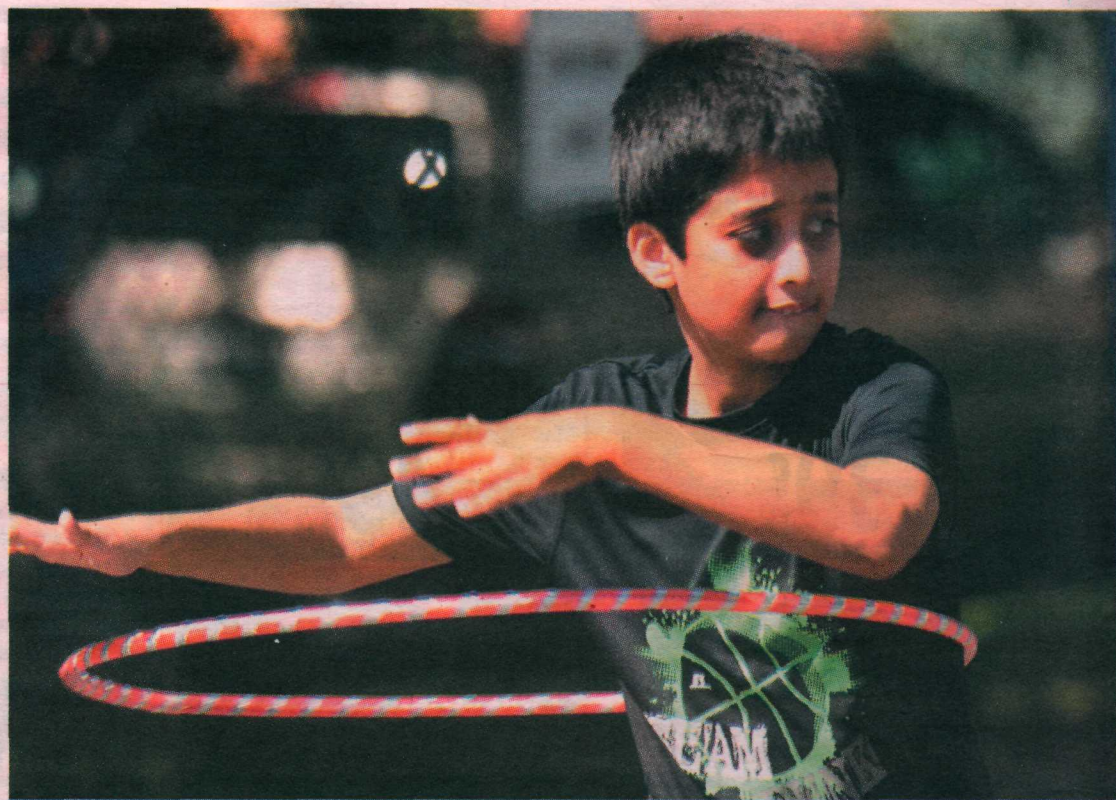
“We came out to share the benefits of the therapy and get people more aware of the concept of sensory play,” Murphy said.

Behind the therapy booth, mobile crafts business owner Shari Pontillo helped kids learn how to make felted soap — a craft that combines a bar of soap with a loofah-like material.

Pontillo left her regular job in marketing two years ago to invest more time in her business, “Twisted Fiber Studio.” She said she jumped at the chance to appear at the How-to Fest because she’s trying to increase her base of clients.

“Most of my business is focused on private craft parties, so this is a great way to meet people and tell them about what I do,” Pontillo said.

Before the day was over, people at the fest learned how to create



Jigar Trivedi learns how to hula hoop at the Morton Grove Library’s How-to Fest on Sept. 14, 2014. | GEORGE EDWARDSON/FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA



Morton Grove residents learn how to square dance at the Morton Grove Library’s How-to Fest on Sept. 14, 2014. | GEORGE EDWARDSON/FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

the “smoky eye” look with makeup, practice basic yoga poses, shoot a basketball, and select craft beers.

The Morton Grove Police and Fire departments also stopped by to give tours of their vehicles and hand out safety information.

A DUI goggles activity hosted by the Morton Grove Police Department had people lined up all afternoon to try to toss a ball into a bucket while wearing glasses

to simulate the vision of a driver impaired by alcohol.

Few people who tried out the goggles managed to land the ball in the bucket, let alone pass a mock roadside sobriety test by standing on one foot or walking a straight line.

Adult services librarian Natalya Fishman said the library was planning to continue hosting the How-to Fest on an annual basis.

“It’s all about community involvement,” Fishman said. “It was educational, but entertaining at the same time.”

Corinne Strecker, of Glenview, said the How-to Fest is so far her favorite out of the 80 street festivals she’s been to this summer.

“Each exhibit was different,” Strecker said. “People actually learned new skills, because everything was hands-on