

Reading Bi-Weekly Update
April 3, 2018

SPRING IS HERE AND IT'S TIME FOR THE



FRIENDS OF **READING** PUBLIC LIBRARY

HOUSE TOUR
Sunday May 6

Tickets on sale **NOW**

*at Reading Library, The Hitching Post
and Whitelam Books*



Reading Memorial High School Drama Club Presents
First Annual Reading Fun Fair
Sunday ~ April 8 ~ 11:00am to 3:00pm

Fundraiser features games, face painting, raffles, story time, character meet-and-greet, and more!

The Reading Memorial High School (RMHS) Drama Club announced that it will host the first annual Reading Fun Fair on Sunday, April 8 from 11am-3pm at the Birch Meadow School Cafeteria/Gym.

Literacy will be the focus of the event, with on-site readings from classic children's stories and storybook character meet-and-greet; book-themed, carnival-style games with prizes; face painting; and refreshments. RMHS Drama students will perform short scenes from the spring production of *Charlotte's Web* throughout the event.

Attendees can purchase raffle tickets to win a variety of prizes, including a two-night getaway on the second-oldest farm in America, on Boston's North Shore.

Proceeds from the Reading Fun Fair will support the high school drama program and its continuing mission to bring engaging and educational shows to the Reading community, and the spring production of *Charlotte's Web* May 4th-6th at the RMHS Performing Arts Center

"Our students are excited to host this fundraising event for the first time," said Natalie Cuhna, director of the RMHS Drama program. "We designed it to appeal to young families – the same folks who we hope will come see our production of *Charlotte's Web* this spring. We're looking forward to a great turnout."



This very beautiful local bird is a Ruffed Grouse!

When this bird appeared in the last Bi-Weekly Update a lot of people asked: what bird is this? Is it a ruffed grouse? And the answer is yes it is!

Want to know more? You are invited to attend the presentation, "A History of Reading Birds" by local birder and life-long Reading resident Dave Williams who will discuss the history of birds in Reading and how the diversity of species has changed over the past 60 years. Using photographs, documented sightings, and historical records, Dave will help you understand how and why bird populations have changed. Some of these changes have been gradual while other changes have been more dramatic.

The presentation will take place on **Tuesday, April 10 at 7:30 PM at the Reading Public Library** in Community Room A.

As part of this presentation, Dave will introduce his BirdReadingMA 2018 project. This will be a Town of Reading "Big Year" project where the goal will be to see how many species of birds we can see in Reading during 2018. This will be a collaborative, citizen science project that will look to document the birds of Reading. Dave will explain how Reading residents may participate in this project.

Many positive things could come from this project. Besides being fun, it is hoped that more local residents will become involved in this data collection process. Active participation in this project may provide folks with a deeper understanding and appreciation of the birds seen in Reading. Additionally, the information gathered can be shared with the local Town Boards for planning, recreational, and historical purposes. Sightings will be shared with MA Natural Heritage if any state-listed species are found, as well as the three local watershed associations serving Reading, and any other group needing information like this. Last, using this "Big Year" data along with historic bird records obtained by Dave in his almost 40 years of birding in Reading, he is hoping to eventually create a "Birds of Reading" checklist.

Questions: Have questions about all the activity going on around town? Just ask and we will find you the answer!

To subscribe to this Bi-Weekly Update: Send an email request to mknight@ci.reading.ma.us requesting that you be added to the Bi-Weekly Update.