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**Off the Shelf:**

An e-mail newsletter from the Prince William Public Library System  
October 18, 2009  
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IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

**Digital Bookmobile To Visit Chinn Park Regional Library
Tuesday, October 20th, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

The Prince William Public Library System will host the **Digital Bookmobile**, a 74-foot, high-tech tractor-trailer, on Tuesday, October 20th from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Chinn Park Regional Library, 13065 Chinn Park Drive, Woodbridge, VA. Readers of all ages are invited to visit this special bookmobile and experience interactive demonstrations of the Library System's digital audiobook collection and downloadable service. The event is free! Stay for a few minutes or linger as long as you wish! After touring the bookmobile, don't forget to enter your name to win one of four 1 gb SanDisk MP3 players. You do not have to be present to win and the Library will mail your prize to the address listed on your entry form. [Staff and volunteers of the Prince William Public Library System are not eligible to win]. Other giveaways, such as a squishy heart and a library ribbon magnet, are yours just for stopping by!

The Digital Bookmobile is housed inside an 18-wheel tractor-trailer. This 74-foot community outreach vehicle is a high-tech update of the traditional bookmobile that has served communities for decades. The vehicle is equipped with broadband Internet-connected PCs and a Mac, high definition monitors, premium sound systems, and a variety of portable media players, all of which help visitors explore the Library System's download service. Interactive learning stations give visitors an opportunity to search the library's digital media collection, use supported mobile devices, and sample audiobooks as well as other formats that Library System is considering in the future, such as eBooks, music and video.

"It is great that we are able to expose our patrons to the wealth of information that is available through our new downloadable audiobook service," said Dick Murphy, Library System Director.

The Library's download service is available 24/7 from the library's website (www.pwcgov.org/library). New additions are added weekly to the Library's collection of digital titles and include best-sellers, classics, and other new releases for adults, teens, and kids! A library card and an Internet connection is all you need to check out a title! 5 books can be borrowed every 10 days and patrons can also place holds on future titles they would like to hear! There is nothing to return (titles automatically expire after 10 days) and there are no late fees! The Library's downloadable service, like this event, are free!

The Digital Bookmobile is operated by OverDrive, Inc., the digital provider for the Prince William Public Library System. To check out and download digital books and more, visit <http://princewilliam.lib.overdrive.com> or visit the Library's web site (<http://www.pwcgov.org/library> and click on the Download & Go icon on the front page!).

Off The Shelf: Explorers and the Original Americans

The recent Columbus Day holiday was, for many Americans, a great chance to take a short vacation, enjoy the outdoors before winter, or find some other way to take advantage of a three-day weekend. However, the holiday itself has become the subject of lively and ongoing debate regarding early American history and how we choose to remember and commemorate it.

One welcome side effect of this debate has been renewed interest in both the earliest years of American exploration and settlement as well as in the history and heritage of America's original inhabitants. As Americans continue to debate Columbus and his complex legacy, there are more and more resources giving us an ever-richer and more nuanced understanding of our past.

The Library of Congress has an excellent online resource for learning more about Columbus Day and the issues associated with it: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/oct12.html>.

Interested in experiencing American Indian culture in person? PowWows are still held in numerous locations throughout the United States. Virginia is lucky enough to host several every year. See this website for schedules and information: <http://virginiapowwow.com/>

It's not too late in the year to plan a family getaway to Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in the New World and famously "where America began" (<http://www.historyisfun.org/>).

The library owns a wealth of titles on American Indians, Columbus, and early American history, including:

Atlas of Ancient America by Michael Coe, Dean Snow, and Elizabeth Benson (970 Coe)

This richly illustrated book brings the world of American Indians alive with dozens of maps, thousands of color illustrations and photographs, and ample explanatory text.

The Last Voyage of Columbus by Martin Duggard (970.015 Dug)

Every student knows at least a little bit about Columbus' first voyage, the one that changed the course of history. But what about his fourth and final voyage? This amazing, epic story of a legendary figure who had overstayed his welcome, lets the reader see the man behind the myth.

1491: New Revelations of the Americas before Columbus by Charles C. Mann (970.011 Man)

This bestselling work of popular prehistory synthesizes thirty years or more of the latest research and findings on pre-Columbian American Indians for the general reader. You will never think about American Indians the same after reading this book.

Crossing the Continent: 1527-1540 by Robert Goodwin (970.016092 Goo)

This recent work recounts the stranger-than-fiction story of Esteban Dorantes, an African slave-turned-explorer-turned military leader and head of a religious expedition. Perhaps someday American schoolchildren will learn about Dorantes in the same lessons covering De Soto, Champlain, Hudson, Cortes, and other familiar names.

Not sure where to start? Just stop by the Information Desk and our staff will be happy to assist you in your quest! Happy reading!

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