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Over 30 Events Planned Over Library's 'Big Read'

This weekend starts the Niles Library's "Big Read" of the noir classic "The Maltese Falcon".

A kick-off event at the library is scheduled for Saturday, Mar. 20 in which free copies of the book by Dashiell Hammett that inspired the film will be available in English, Spanish and Polish.

The Maltese Falcon was made famous by the 1941 film starring Humphrey Bogart. It became the standard for the new genre of film noir.

As residents read the book, the months of April and May will be filled with over 30 events surrounding it. As books are distributed, this Saturday kids will play a life-sized game of Clue and adults will be entertained by 1920's and 30's music performed by the library's Val Clark.

Events in April and May include book discussions on a number of Hammett's works, a film noir series, including a showing of the Maltese Falcon at the theaters in Golf Mill, other noir classics will be screened at the library, a mystery theater event, "CSI" mystery events for kids, scavenger hunts, 1940's radio plays and other events.

Signs promoting the Big Read will begin appearing throughout the village in the coming weeks inside every Niles Free Bus, on electronic signs at Golf Mill, the library and the police station and in library guides sent to every home in the village. The Niles Journal is media sponsor of the Big Read.

Well known Niles faces including Mayor Robert Callero, trustees Andrew Przybylo and Chris Hanusiak, Police Chief Dean Strzelecki, Chamber of Commerce and Industry Director Katie Schneider and Youth Center Director Mark Williams appear in Big Read promotional items.

The Big Read is an initiative through the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts Midwest.