

FROM THE LIBRARY

Quick reminders – The Teen St. Patrick's Day Party will be this Friday, March 12 from 7 – 9 PM. This event is for kids in 6th grade and above.

Seniors – Time is running out for turning in applications for the Friends of the Valley Center Library scholarship offered annually. The applicant must be a graduating senior at Valley Center High School . Come by the Library to pick up an application for the \$250 scholarship.

The forms are here for sign-up of the City-wide Garage Sales to be held on April 23 & 24. The \$10 registration includes a sign and a listing on the map of all garage sales.

The staff will be meeting on Tuesday morning to finalize details about the 2010 Summer Reading Program – Make a Splash, Read! At that time, we'll know for sure what supplies we'll need in addition to the cereal boxes we've already requested.

We're all hearing about the cost of gasoline increasing and we see it at the pumps on a continual basis. In **\$20 per Gallon**, Christopher Steiner makes us think about the consequences of higher costs of gasoline. I had seen Steiner interviewed on morning television several months ago and was intrigued by his scenario. We don't stop to think about all the areas of our lives that are affected by petroleum. Think about the plastic all around us, asphalt on the roads, shingles on the roof, synthetic rubber balls, the lather in shaving cream, shampoo and conditioners made of hydrocarbons, the oil in your bar of soap and the bristles and handles of toothbrushes.

At \$6 per gallon, Steiner sees us cutting back on driving, hybrid cars will be the best-sellers, we cut back on vacations as we begin to realize how our lives must change. At \$8 per gallon, we will find planes parked – commercial and military. Think of the decrease in employment as the aircraft industry comes to a standstill. At \$10 per gallon, the resurgence of automobile transportation comes but with fuel efficiency. This would be especially true for delivery services such as UPS. We would see more electric cars. At \$12 per gallon, people will be using trains and mass transportation when possible. People will begin to think about their choice of living in the suburbs. Forward ahead to \$20 per gallon -- Steiner sees people using bicycles for transportation, walking whenever possible. Neighborhood grocery stores will be the norm. Employment will be in our home communities. Wal-Mart will no longer be needed because we won't be able to get there. Wind energy will be widely used. Coal and hydropower will be used for energy sources.

I'll admit that I haven't read this entire book but it certainly has made me think. I'd be anxious to hear comments from others that decide to read **\$20 per Gallon**.