

Something to do for TV-bound kids this summer

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A series of hands-on exhibits from a traveling children's museum proposed for Lake County come Thursday to the Arlington Heights Memorial Library.

With its Arlington Heights visit, the traveling display by Busy Brains Children's Museum starts the museum's summer lineup of traveling exhibits, which later includes stops in Round Lake Beach, Waukegan, Barrington and Grayslake.

It offers youngsters nine different play stations - ranging from learning how airplanes fly through an exhibit called Mystery of Flight to exploring gravity in the ZZRRRMMM! display to learning about sound waves in the Good Vibrations exhibit - in which to explore math and science.

The co-founders of the museum - Allison Price, an Arlington Heights native, and Kathy Goers, originally of Mount Prospect - said they ultimately hope to establish the museum permanently in central Lake County within the next year.

"Right now, the closest children's museums are in Glenview and Rockford," said Price, a Hersey High School graduate, now of Grayslake. "We're trying to establish one closer, to serve the North and Northwest suburbs."

The two met while working as teachers in Mundelein - Goers is an early childhood specialist, while Price taught primary grades - where they conceived the idea of creating an educational destination for children and families.

Last spring, they began working with Lake Villa Park District officials to possibly establish their museum within a proposed community recreation center. However, a tax increase needed to fund the facility failed to gain support when placed before the voters. Still, Price and Goers remain committed to the museum and said they hope to open a 7,000-square-foot facility with interactive exhibits focused on science, art and the humanities sometime next year.

"Our idea is to have it totally hands-on and interactive," Price said. "We don't want to have anything behind glass that you'll be looking at. Instead, it will all be touch and manipulate."