

For Immediate Release:

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**CROMAINE LIBRARY IS ONE OF 208 ORGANIZATIONS NATIONWIDE
SELECTED TO RECEIVE BIG READ GRANT FROM
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS**

***Read and celebrate TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD
during The Big Read project in February 2009!***

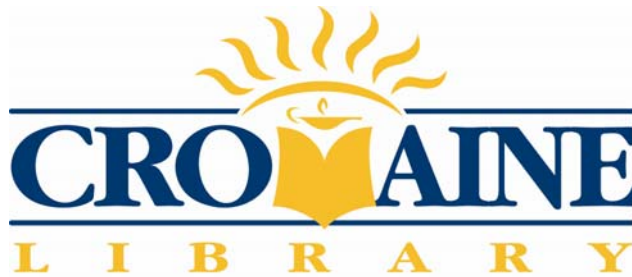
June 16, 2008—Hartland—Cromaine Library today announced that it has received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to host The Big Read in Livingston County. Cromaine is one of 208 libraries, municipalities, and arts, culture, higher education, and science organizations to receive a grant to host The Big Read from September 2008-June 2009. The Big Read gives communities the opportunity to come together to read, discuss, and celebrate one of 23 selections from American and world literature. The Big Read at Cromaine Library will focus on *TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD* a Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by HARPER LEE. The Big Read at Cromaine Library will take place in February 2009.

The latest Big Read grantees represent 46 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. To date, the NEA has given more than 500 grants to support local Big Read projects.

"To be awarded a second Big Read is an amazing honor" said Carol Taggart, marketing director for Cromaine Library. In the Fall of 2007, Cromaine Library conducted its first Big Read program, reading *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury. "We were able to reach out to so many people in our community and present speakers and programs that we may not normally be able to present. We are planning another exciting Big Read that will heavily involve our area schools and the community."

"Everything the NEA does we do in partnership. I am delighted to announce our 208 new partners in The Big Read. Some are new to the program, some are returning, but all of them have answered the call to action to get our country reading again," said NEA Chairman Dana Gioia.

The selected organizations will receive Big Read grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$20,000 to promote and carry out community-based reading programs featuring activities such as read-a-thons, book discussions, lectures, movie screenings, and performing arts events. Participating communities also receive high-quality, free-of-charge educational materials to supplement each title, including Reader's, Teacher's, and Audio Guides. Ceci Marlow Stuart, new Director at Cromaine Library, said, "Because this is a matching-grant, we are seeking community support. Cromaine needs to raise an amount equivalent to the grant amount. This is an opportunity for



community businesses to be an important part of The Big Read.” Contact Carol Taggart to receive information on the opportunities available.

“With this latest round of grants, I am proud to say that The Big Read has supported more than 500 public library partnerships,” said Anne-Imelda M. Radice, Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the NEA’s lead federal partner for The Big Read. “Through this program, public libraries continue to demonstrate their value in communities as centers of engagement, literacy, and lifelong learning. I am particularly delighted by the innovative public programming born out of library and museum collaborations.”

The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts designed to restore reading to the center of American culture. The NEA presents The Big Read in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and in cooperation with Arts Midwest. Support for The Big Read is provided by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

Ford Motor Company Supports The Big Read

To help build awareness of The Big Read, the Ford Motor Company has donated a 2008 Ford Escape Hybrid to the program. With its colorful design featuring The Big Read's logo, the vehicle will help inspire new readers as Big Read program staff crisscross the country to attend and speak at Big Read events. "As a company, Ford has a strong commitment to education, and we are delighted to continue that commitment by contributing to such a great effort," said Ziad Ojakli, Group Vice President, Government and Community Relations for Ford Motor Company. "We can't think of a better use for one of our hybrid vehicles than to help bring The Big Read to communities across America." In 2007, David Kipen, NEA Director of Literature, came to Cromaine Library's Big Read Kick-Off Event to discuss The Big Read initiative. (Photo of the car: <http://www.arts.gov/national/bigread/press/PhotooftheDay1.html>)

Other Michigan organizations that received a Big Read are: The Foundation at Monroe County Community College, Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services, Grand Rapids Public Library, Ironwood Carnegie Library, Jackson District Library.

For more information about The Big Read please visit www.neabigread.org. To read the NEA press release: <http://www.arts.gov/national/bigread/press/bigread2009.html#>

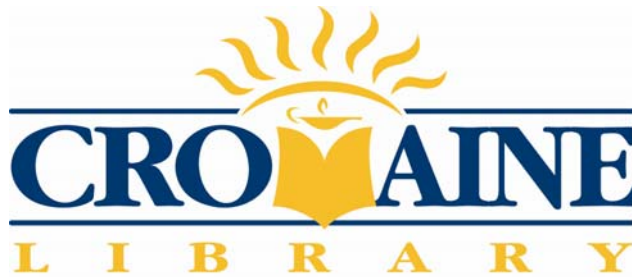
ABOUT CROMAINE LIBRARY:

***Cromaine Library**, in the village of Hartland, has served the residents of Hartland Consolidated School district and surrounding townships since it was built in 1927. It was donated to the schools by J. Robert *Cro*use and his uncle, Henry A. Tre*maine*, hence the name. Almost 70 years later, in November 1995, Cromaine became an independent district library, established under the District Library Establishment Act.*

***Cromaine Library** has been and still is a valuable and vital resource to the Hartland community. The aim of the library is to provide services and a wide variety of media and materials to meet the informational, recreational and educational needs of all ages, individuals and groups. More information about Cromaine Library and its services and programs can be found at www.cromaine.org*

*The **National Endowment for the Arts** is a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts—both new and established—bringing the arts to all Americans, and providing leadership in arts education.*

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Established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government, the Arts Endowment is the nation's largest annual funder of the arts, bringing great art to all 50 states, including rural areas, inner cities, and military bases. For more information, please visit www.arts.gov.

*The **Institute of Museum and Library Services** is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 122,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. The Institute works at the national level and in coordination with state and local organizations to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge; enhance learning and innovation; and support professional development. For more information, please visit www.ims.gov.*

***Arts Midwest** connects people throughout the Midwest and the world to meaningful arts opportunities, sharing creativity, knowledge, and understanding across boundaries. Arts Midwest connects the arts to audiences throughout the nine-state region of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. One of six non-profit regional arts organizations in the United States, Arts Midwest's history spans more than 25 years. For more information, please visit www.artsmidwest.org.*

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