Library, Sweet Library

As has become a tradition in the Seeger home, the birthday boy was waiting excitedly to catch a glimpse of his special birthday cake. He was all smiles as his mom, Heather Seeger, brought out a beautifully decorated cake that looked just like Percy the Small Engine, her son’s favorite train from a popular T.V. show and book series. The cake was admired by family and friends gathered to celebrate. Although it looked like it could have come from a bakery, Heather made the cake herself using a cake pan she borrowed from the Library.

Everyone knows that customers can find a large selection of books at the St. Charles City-County Library, but not everyone may realize that the Library is also a great place to find other useful items. Telescopes? Yes. Fitness kits? Of course. Disc golf? Affirmative. Instant Pots? Sure. Cake pans? Absolutely!

When Heather’s first child was about to turn one, she decided to try making him a special cake. She used one of her mom’s cake pans. When it turned out just the way she had hoped, she was hooked. “I've made special cakes for my kids on every birthday since then,” she says. But buying a cake pan and using it for just one special occasion is frustrating and expensive. Heather’s brother noticed that the Library offered cake pans for check out and told her about them. She decided to start using the Library’s pans for birthday cakes, and has made a special cake every year since for each of her three sons.

The Library has over 200 different types of cake pans, including popular T.V. and movie characters, sports themes, cake pans for different holidays, pans with unusual shapes
or sizes (such as tiered or hexagonal), and more. Heather says, “Most of the cakes I’ve made are not too difficult. I’ve been able to find instructions online for each of the cake pans. It really is something anyone could do!”

So whether your special day calls for Santa Claus, a graduation cap, a football, or an appearance by Big Bird, the Library has a cake pan available. Search the myLibrary Catalog using keyword “cake pans” to browse the extensive selection. And don’t forget to ask staff about other items available in the Library’s nontraditional collection of things.

How did Heather’s now-three-year-old son grow to love Percy the Small Engine, the inspiration for his birthday cake this year? Heather read him the Thomas and Friends books they checked out together from the Library.