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“John Laskowski Works his Magic at the Norfolk Library”



John Laskowski has been working his magic since he was seven-years-old. Even with his current fulltime job as a psychologist in Norfolk, Laskowski still enjoys presenting magic shows whenever he gets the chance.

Laskowski's first interest in magic was sparked by some toys he received with a fast food meal when he was young. His parents encouraged his new found hobby by traveling with him from their home in Bismarck, North Dakota to a magic shop in Minnesota to purchase other tools of the magic trade.

He soon was performing magic tricks for not only his mom and dad but for relatives at family reunions and neighborhood kids.

“Like many kids trying to find a hobby, I was interested in magic. Being in front of people helped me gain confidence in myself and made me feel

capable. My first show was to a group of Cub Scouts who were really enthusiastic and clapped a lot. Performing magic helped me grow in my sense of confidence,” Laskowski said.

Soon he was performing magic shows two to three times a week. He quips that while other teenagers were flipping burgers for their parttime jobs, he was flipping cards.

Laskowski continued his magic performances through college – at one time performing for a crowd of nearly 2000 people.

He obtained his doctorate in clinical psychology and currently is a psychologist and Registered Play Therapist-Supervisor and, yes, sometimes he does show his patients a few magic tricks.

“I'll teach them and show them the tricks that they can practice, gain momentum and show at their family gatherings,” Laskowski said.

Laskowski will present his Bizarre Deceptions Magic Show Friday of this week at 2:30 pm at the Norfolk Public Library as part of the library's Summer Reading Series. He will be performing his popular Houdini style escape trick and a newer illusion where “something borrowed from the audience ends up in an impossible location.”

One of Laskowski's first shows was in the Bismarck Library which he said he remembers well because of a power outage in the middle of it.

“Many of my magic tricks came from kids’ meals and the rest came from books in the library. There’s no better place to catch a kids’ interest and launch into their own area of interest than in a library. There are tons of books about such a wide range of possible activities. It’s the perfect place to search out anything,” Laskowski said.

Friday’s magic show is free and open to the public.