Insider Guide

WINTER 2025-2026 | December, January, February

new lenox public library
on the commons

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Program Key

In-Person Virtual Wish You Were Here series

Registration is required for programs unless otherwise noted.

Register at www.newlenoxlibrary.org or call (815) 485-2605. You will receive an email and link for live stream virtual programs.

ADA Accommodations

Available for programs and Library visits. Please call (815) 485-2605 or email info@newlenoxlibrary.org.

Photo Policy

The New Lenox Public Library frequently engages in photographing and recording programs and events for its own publicity and promotional purposes. Patrons and visitors should notify a library staff member if they do not want to be photographed or recorded. Online programs are also subject to being recorded to archive on the Library's website at a later date.

EARLY CHILDHOOD FAIR @ THE LIBRARY

Saturday, January 24 | 10 AM to 1 PM

You're invited to the library's Early Childhood Fair! Looking for trusted childcare, pediatric services, or fun activities for your little ones?

Come explore everything our community has to offer at this one-stop event for all things kids, perfect for expecting parents and families with children ages 0-6!

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED!

- Meet with local daycare providers & preschools
- Connect with pediatricians & other health experts
- Discover enrichment programs

Vacations, Staycations & Celebrations!

Saturday, January 31
No registration required!

10 AM - 2 PM
Meeting Room AB | All Ages

Join us for a fun community fair celebrating all the ways you can "getaway from your day-to-day" right here at the Library, around town, or at other destinations near and far. Celebrate the grand finale of our *Wish You Were Here!* Winter Series while exploring Library resources, picking up travel tips, and inspiration. Connect with local businesses, travel agents, and community organizations for ideas on staycations, celebrations, and far-off vacations. There's something for all ages! Plus **GRAND PRIZE drawings** including a hotel stay for adults or an DIY international culinary adventure for kids and families!

**part of the Wish You Were Here series*

See page 2 for info: In-Person Virtual Wish You Were Here series

Wish You Were Here
Kids Winter Reading Challenge
Passport to Learning

Get ready to travel the world—no luggage required! Your Passport to Learning is your ticket to adventure in this year's Wish You Were Here Winter Reading Challenge for kids ages 1-13!

Whether you're climbing the peaks of Asia, trekking through the jungles of South America, or exploring the ice of Antarctica, every book you read brings you one step closer to your next great adventure.

BOARDING PASS

Inside your passport, you'll find:

- *A World Map* – Color in each continent as you read a book set in or about that part of the world. Watch your map come to life with color as you journey across all seven continents!
- *Passport Stamp Pages* – Complete special weekly library scavenger hunts to "visit" new countries. Collect unique passport stamps/stickers from each destination you explore.

Your Mission:

Read your way around the world and fill your passport with stamps and color. When your travels are complete, return your finished passport to the library to claim your traveler's prize bag!

Review to Win
Winter Challenge
January 4-31

Read, listen to or watch a book, audiobook, graphic novel, album, movie or TV show then submit a review to be entered into the prize drawing. The more reviews you submit, the more chances you have to win! *There will be one prize basket for Teens (7th-12th Grade) and one prize basket for Adults (18+).*

Submit Reviews Online

- Share your review through your Beanstack account. Reviews posted Jan. 4-31 are automatically entered. You can also submit an online form at www.newlenoxlibrary.org/reviewtowin.

Submit Reviews at the Library

- Fill out a paper form at the Adult & Teen Services desk (2nd floor).
- Download a form from our website, complete it, and return it to the Adult & Teen Services desk.

Please feel free to explore our library collections and online databases for materials, though it's not required.

www.newlenoxlibrary.org/reviewtowin

REACHING FOR THE STARS

for teens & adults with disabilities

January 4-31

Reaching for the Stars is a winter reading program designed for teens and adults with disabilities who love books and movies.

Our program is designed to be inclusive and accommodating. You can read any book or watch any movie or TV show you like! Whether it's new or old, for any age group, or any reading level! Just color in up to five stars to show how much you liked it. **For every review you turn in, you'll be entered into our prize drawing. The more reviews you complete, the more chances you have to win exciting prizes!**

You can pick up a form to fill in at the Adult and Teen Service Desk. Support is available for any accessibility needs.

You can check out materials from any department, including options such as large print materials, audiobooks, picture books, and assistive technologies to ensure everyone can join in.

Let your voice shine with Reaching for the Stars!

Spotlight

Holiday Gift Wrapping in the Studio

Monday, December 1 to Tuesday, December 23

Bring your holiday gifts to The Studio and wrap them for **FREE**! We'll supply the wrapping paper, tape, scissors, and ribbon. You supply the gifts and creativity. If you would like to donate wrapping paper, bags, or supplies, we will be collecting donations from November 17 to December 22.

Lincoln-Way Central Madrigal Performance

Tuesday, December 2 | 6:30 - 7:15 PM

All Ages

Adult & Teen Services Magazine & A/V Area

Join us as the LWC Madrigal Singers ring in the holiday season with a selection of old and new music. Start your holiday season off with us! The performance will take place on the second floor in the Magazine and AV area near the windows. *Limited seating with standing room.*

No registration required.

Tweens & Teens Chess Challenge

Saturday, December 6 | 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Age categories: 9-13 & 14-18

Meeting Room AB

Players will compete within their respective age groups, with every participant recognized for their efforts and the top three in each section receiving special awards. This exciting tournament welcomes all, and many will remember it long after their final move! **Registration opens Thursday, November 6.**

Headline DNA

Genealogy Club

Tuesday, December 9 | 6 - 7:30 PM

Adults

Meeting Room AB

With DNA making headlines as a key forensic tool, many want to know more about the science of crime-solving DNA analysis. As interest in genealogy and at-home DNA testing grows, so do the databases built from those results, opening new doors for investigative genetic genealogy and modern forensic science. But what are the developing issues involving privacy, insurance, or personal control? Come explore this hot topic and hear examples pulled straight from recent true crime headlines. **Registration opens Sunday, November 9.**

Pride, Prejudice & Pastries

Saturday, December 13 | 1 - 3:30 PM

Adults

Meeting Room AB

Lady Jane Austen cordially invites you to an afternoon tea and film in celebration of her 250th birthday. Enjoy and afternoon with Austen including light refreshments, such as tea and desserts, while we screen Pride & Prejudice (2005). Plus, create your own custom tea blend to take home. Regency attire is welcome but not required. **Registration opens Thursday, November 13.**

Family Gingerbread House Craft

Friday, December 19 | 1 - 2:30 PM

Ages 3-12 with Caregiver

Meeting Room AB

'Tis the season for Gingerbread Houses! Children and their families are invited to join us for an afternoon of Gingerbread House crafting, milk and cookies, and letters to Santa. Ages 3 and up; adult supervision required. **Registration opens Friday, December 5.**

Merry Grinchmas

Monday, December 22 | 1-3:30 PM

Ages 2-12 with a Caregiver

Meeting Room AB

Don't be a Grinch! Throw on your favorite holiday jammies, grab a snack, and cuddle up with a cozy blanket while watching "How the Grinch Stole Christmas"! Stick around after the movie for sugar cookie decorating! Adult supervision is required. Popcorn and hot cocoa will be served. **Registration opens Monday, December 8.**

Spotlight

Cardboard Creations

Monday, January 5 | 12:30-3:30 PM
Ages 2+ with a Caregiver
Meeting Room AB

Join us for a hands-on, drop-in, eco-friendly crafting program! Using discarded cardboard and simple supplies, patrons of all ages can design and build unique creations while learning creative reuse. Supplies provided, and you're welcome to bring extra cardboard. **No registration required.**

Stuffie Clinic

Saturday, January 10 | 1 - 3 PM
Ages 2-10 with a Caregiver
Meeting Room AB

Is your stuffed animal ready for a check-up? Bring your favorite plush friend to the Stuffie Clinic! Kids will explore hands-on stations where they can care for their own stuffies—give them a "bath," listen to their "heartbeat," apply bandages, and more. This playful, imaginative program encourages empathy, creativity, and pretend play while children act as the doctor or caregiver for their special friend. **Registration opens Saturday, December 27.**

Stuffie Sleepover

Stuffie Drop-Off: Saturday, January 10 from 1 - 4 PM
Stuffie Pick-Up: Sunday, January 11 from 12 - 4 PM
Ages 2-10
Youth Services Desk

Drop off your favorite stuffie for a night of adventure in the library! Stuffies will enjoy a tea party, storytime, dance party, and more! Each child will receive a photo souvenir of their stuffie's sleepover shenanigans! **Registration opens Saturday, December 27.**

Parent Playdate

Monday, January 19 | 9 - 10:30 AM
Ages 0-5 with a Caregiver
Meeting Room AB

Looking to connect with other parents while your little ones play? Join us for Parent Playdate, a relaxed gathering where caregivers can enjoy coffee, conversation, and community. Children can explore toys, books, and activities designed for free play while adults share experiences and build support networks. **Registration opens Monday, January 5.**

Great British Baking Tour

Adults & Teens
Tuesday, January 27 | 6:30 - 7:30 PM
Virtual (Live)

Join author, UK travel/relocation consultant and former UK resident Claire Evans for a delightful culinary tour of the UK inspired by "The Great British Baking Show" television series, aired on PBS and Netflix. Learn about making a proper cup of tea, regional specialties, their origins, and the particular parts of the UK they hail from. She'll translate the trickiest parts of British recipes for Americans so you can try them in your own kitchen. Pick up useful travel tips as well, just in case you'd like to create your own tour! **Registration opens Saturday, December 27.**

Community Helpers Day

Saturday, February 7 | 10-11:30 AM
All ages
Storytime Room

Come hear a story about community helpers, then meet real-life helpers at fun stations around the library! Firefighters, police officers, nurses, librarians, and more will share about their jobs and the tools they use! **Registration opens Saturday, January 24.**

The Studio

12 Days of Craftmas

All Ages
Monday, December 1 to Friday, December 12
Virtual | Videos posted on YouTube at 5 PM each day.

Do you need some ideas for holiday gifts? From December 1-12, The Studio will be virtually showing 12 fun and festive crafts—perfect for creating unique gifts this season! Watch along from home and make your holidays extra special!

Most supplies will be available in the Studio. Some projects may require one of our machines. To use the machines, please make an appointment with Studio staff at studio@newlenoxlibrary.org.
Registration encouraged.

Knit Happens!

Adults
1st and 3rd Thursday of the Month | 6 - 7:30 PM
The Studio

And it's not just knitting! Bring your crochet, sewing, embroidery, weaving and other fiber arts projects. All skill levels are welcome! **Registration encouraged.**

DATES

Thursday, December 4
Thursday, December 18
Thursday, January 15
Thursday, February 5
Thursday, February 19

Intro to 3D Printing & TinkerCAD

4th Grade and Up
Monday, December 8 | 5:30 - 7 PM
The Studio

Learn the ins-and-outs of The Studio's 3D printing process: how to find something to print, submit it to us, and pick up a finished design. Want to design something yourself? Learn how to make your own keychain design in TinkerCAD! **Registration opens Saturday, November 8.**

Sewing with Rachael

Adults & Teens
Select Mondays & Tuesdays | 5:30 - 7 PM
The Studio

Want to learn how to sew? Join Rachael as she teaches a different project each month, helping you gain a variety of sewing skills with a machine or by hand.

Monday, December 15: Christmas Tree Ornaments* (Beginner Project)

Monday, January 19: Mini Snowman Quilt* (Beginner/Intermediate Project)

Tuesday, February 17: English Paper Piercing Heart Coasters* (Intermediate/Advanced Project)

Registration opens one month before program date.

Sewing machine required. We recommend learning on your own sewing machine. If you don't have a machine, you can use one of ours.

Hearts & Crafts

Adults
4th Monday of the Month | 6 - 7:30 PM
The Studio

Do you make items for charities? Bring your projects and meet like-minded makers! Looking for a project to do? New Life for Old Bags will be there with materials to get you started! **Registration encouraged.**

DATES

Monday, December 23
Monday, January 26
Monday, February 24

The Studio

For info about The Studio, email studio@newlenoxlibrary.org or call 815-485-2605 ext. 127

Laser Cutting with xTools

Adults
The Studio

Monday, December 1 | 5:30 - 7 PM
Holiday Helper Tools (Adults)
Registration opens Saturday, November 1.

Join us for a festive class where you'll create props and accessories to add extra magic to your holiday traditions. Perfect for supporting elf adventures, Santa's visit, and other enchanting surprises. We will provide all materials.

Wednesday, January 14 | 5:30 - 7 PM
Illinois Bucket list Map (Adults & Teens)
Registration opens Sunday, December 14.

This month, as part of our Winter Learning Challenge, we will cut Illinois Bucket List Maps on wood. You will choose your destinations to create a roadmap for your next adventure. 1 map per patron.

Studio2Go: Star Wreath

Adults & Teens
Sunday, Dec. 7 to Saturday, Dec. 13
The Studio

Stop by the Studio to pick up the craft of the month. We will provide all the materials you may need. **While supplies lasts*

Crafting with the Cricut: Waterproof Stickers

Adults & Teens
Tuesday, February 18 | 5:30 - 7 PM
The Studio

Crafting with the Cricut classes and do-it-yourself kits use the Cricut Maker 3 and Cricut Explore Air to make a paper, vinyl, or heat transfer project. This month, please bring a photo or use one of our designs for your stickers!
Registration opens Sunday, January 18.

Crocheting with Rachael for Beginners

The Studio

Want to learn how to crochet? Join Rachael as she teaches you the basics of crocheting! If you've never picked up a crochet hook, this is the perfect class for you. All materials provided.

These are **beginner** classes that is best for those that have had no prior experience in crocheting.

Thursday, December 11 | 5:30 - 7 PM (all ages)
Registration opens Tuesday, November 11.

Thursday, January 8 | 5:30-7 PM (ages 7-12)
Registration opens Monday, December 8.

Thursday, February 12 | 5:30-7 PM (Adults & Teens)
Registration opens Monday, January 12.

Hawaii Fluid Art: Canvas Paintings

All Ages
Wednesday, February 4
5:30-7 PM
Meeting Room A

Come create your very own painting in a completely new way! Presented by Hawaii Fluid art, learn what fluid art is and how you can create your own piece of art. Supplies and materials will be provided.
Registration opens Sunday, January 4.

Vision Board Bash

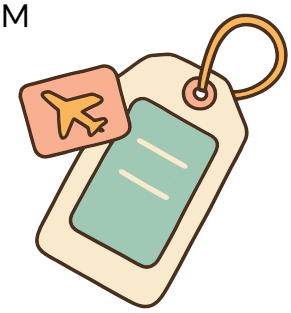
Adults & Teens
Wednesday, January 7 | 5:30 - 7 PM
The Studio

Kick off the new year with creativity and intention! Join us for a fun and inspiring vision board bash. We will have magazines, stickers, and more supplies. You are welcome to bring your own photos (printed or on a flash drive).

Bring your goals, dreams, and New Year's resolutions, and turn them into a visual roadmap for 2026!
Registration opens Sunday, December 7.

Let's Sublimate!: Luggage Tags

Adults & Teens
Thursday, January 22 | 5:30 - 7 PM
The Studio



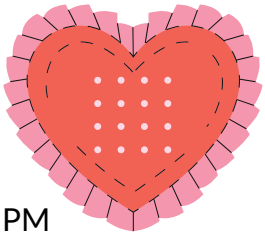
This month, as part of the Winter Learning Challenge, we will be sublimating on luggage gags.
1 luggage tag per patron.
Registration opens Monday, December 22.

Intro to Video Editing

Adults & Teens
Wednesday, January 28 | 5:30 - 7 PM
The Studio
Learn how to edit videos, create photo slideshows, add music, and other basic editing skills in Adobe Premiere Pro. This class is beginner friendly and no prior knowledge is necessary.

This month, as part of the Winter Learning Challenge, we will be creating a Vacation Slideshow. Please bring a flash drive with vacation videos or digital photos you'd like to turn into a slideshow. We will also provide video clips for you to practice with..
Registration opens Sunday, December 28.

No Sew Heart Pillow



All Ages
Monday, February 2 | 5:30 - 7 PM
The Studio

Get cozy and creative in this fun, hands-on class! You'll learn how to make an adorable heart-shaped pillow—no sewing required. We'll provide all materials and tools. *1 pillow per patron. Those under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.* **Registration opens Friday, January 2.**

Intro to Laser Cutting & xTools

Adults & Teens
Monday, February 9 | 5:30 - 7 PM
The Studio

Learn the ins-and-outs of how to use the Laser Cutter in The Studio. We will go over what the laser cutter can do, different projects you can create, and how to submit a request. Want to design something yourself? Learn how to make a keychain on basswood using xTool Creative Space. **Registration opens Saturday, January 9.**

The Studio

For info about The Studio, email studio@newlenoxlibrary.org or call 815-485-2605 ext. 127

STEAM Studio

1st-6th Grade
Mondays | 4:30 - 5:15 PM
The Studio

Are you interested in STEAM? Do you enjoy creating, tinkering, and building? Join us in the Studio for all things Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.

Monday, December 15: Candy Cane Creations
Monday, January 26: Spectacular Snowflakes
Monday, February 23: Valen-SLIME

DATE	REGISTRATION STARTS
Monday, December 15	Monday, December 8
Monday, January 26	Monday, January 12
Monday, February 23	Monday, February 9

Kids Code Club

2nd-5th Grade
Thursdays | 5 - 5:45 PM
The Studio

Join Mr. Eric for a fun introduction to block coding! Each month we will focus on a new challenge and provide step-by-step instructions for an exciting coding experience!

Thursday, December 11: Create a Music Player
Thursday, January 8: Stack 'em Smurfs
Thursday, February 12: Whack-A-Mole Game

DATE	REGISTRATION STARTS
Thursday, December 11	Thursday, November 27
Thursday, January 8	Thursday, December 25
Thursday, February 12	Thursday, January 29

Tween Craft & Create

4th-8th Grade
Tuesdays/Thursdays | 4:30 - 5:15 PM
The Studio

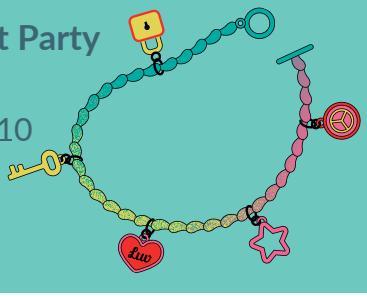
Join Ms. Kyra in The Studio to craft and create using the Silhouette Cameo, sublimation printer, heat press, and more! All supplies will be provided.

Thursday, December 18: Personalized Acrylic Ornament
Tuesday, January 13: Personalized Door Hangers
Tuesday, February 17: Sublimated Tumblers

DATE	REGISTRATION STARTS
Thursday, December 18	Thursday, December 4
Tuesday, January 13	Tuesday, December 30
Tuesday, February 17	Tuesday, February 5

Charm Bracelet Party

4th-8th Grade
Tuesday, February 10
5-5:45 PM
The Studio



Come make friends and a custom charm bracelet in The Studio! We will provide the bracelets, charms, and tools to make your bracelet unique to you. If you have your own charms, feel free to bring them with you.
Registration opens Saturday, January 10.

All storytimes meet in the Storytime Room unless specified otherwise

Mondays

On Our Own

Ages 4-6
10:30 - 11 AM

Sing along with songs, listen to fun stories, then wrap it all up with a hands-on art project. Caregivers may sign in participants and remain in the youth department during the program.

DATE	REGISTRATION STARTS
Monday, December 1	Monday, November 24
Monday, December 8	Monday, December 1
Monday, December 15	Monday, December 8
Monday, February 2	Monday, January 26
Monday, February 9	Monday, February 2
Monday, February 23	Monday, February 16

Wednesdays

Music Makers

Birth-6 with a Caregiver
9 - 9:30 AM **OR** 10 - 10:30 AM
(two session times to choose from!)

Listen to stories and explore music while we dance around and sing songs.

DATE	REGISTRATION STARTS
Wednesday, December 3	Wednesday, November 26
Wednesday, December 10	Wednesday, December 3
Wednesday, December 17	Wednesday, December 10
Wednesday, February 4	Wednesday, January 28
Wednesday, February 11	Wednesday, February 4
Wednesday, February 18	Wednesday, February 11
Wednesday, February 25	Wednesday, February 18

Tuesdays

Baby & Me Storytime

6-23 Months with a Caregiver
9:30 - 10 AM

This sweet storytime is filled with books, songs, rhymes, and bubbles! Siblings are welcome.

Pajama Time

Ages 3-7 with a Caregiver
7 - 7:30 PM

Throw on your jammies for a family slumber party! Grab your favorite stuffed animal and cuddle up for bedtime stories and a simple craft.

DATE	REGISTRATION STARTS
Tuesday, December 2	Tuesday, November 25
Tuesday, December 9	Tuesday, December 2
Tuesday, December 16	Tuesday, December 9
Tuesday, February 3	Tuesday, January 27
Tuesday, February 10	Tuesday, February 3
Tuesday, February 17	Tuesday, February 10
Tuesday, February 24	Tuesday, February 17

Thursdays

Toddler Storytime

Ages 2-3 with a Caregiver
10 - 10:30 AM

This storytime for twos and threes will have your toddler singing and dancing while making new friends along the way. Siblings are welcome.

On Our Own

Ages 4-6
1 - 1:30 PM

Sing along with songs, listen to fun stories, then wrap it all up with a hands-on art project. Caregivers may sign in participants and remain in the youth department during the program.

DATE	REGISTRATION STARTS
Thursday, December 4	Thursday, November 27
Thursday, December 11	Thursday, December 4
Thursday, December 18	Thursday, December 11
Thursday, February 5	Thursday, January 29
Thursday, February 12	Thursday, February 5
Thursday, February 19	Thursday, February 12
Thursday, February 26	Thursday, February 19

Kids (Birth - Age 6)

Stay & Play

Ages 0-5 with a Caregiver
Thursdays, December 4, 11, 18
Thursdays, Feb. 5, 12, 19 & 26 | 10:30 AM - 12 PM
Meeting Room AB

Join us for a morning of open-ended free play. Kids will be able to imagine, explore, discover, and meet new friends in a fun environment. Siblings welcome! **No registration required.**

Play-Doh Playtime

Ages 1-3 with a Caregiver
Fridays | 9:30 - 10 AM
Storytime Room

A fun, hands-on experience perfect for the littlest patrons, Play-Doh Playtime is sure to bring out your child's creativity and imagination.

Play-Doh Playtime: Master Molders

Ages 4-6 with a Caregiver
Fridays | 10:15 - 10:45 AM
Storytime Room

Big kids love Play-Doh, too! Let your child's creativity shine in this Play-Doh program perfect for those who want to build and create.

DATE	REGISTRATION STARTS
Friday, December 5	Friday, November 28
Friday, December 12	Friday, December 5
Friday, December 19	Friday, December 12
Friday, February 6	Friday, December 30
Friday, February 13	Friday, February 6
Friday, February 20	Friday, February 13
Friday, February 27	Friday, February 20

Kinder Drawin'

Kindergarten
Thursdays | 5:30 - 6 PM
Storytime Room

Calling all budding artists! Come listen to a story and follow along to create a fun drawing each month!

DATE	REGISTRATION STARTS
Thursday, December 18	Thursday, December 4
Thursday, January 15	Thursday, January 1
Thursday, February 19	Thursday, February 5

Pee-Wee Picasso

Ages 0-2.5 with a Caregiver
Saturdays | 10 - 11 AM
Meeting Room AB

Join us for a special creative playtime just for our youngest library friends! Pee-Wee Picasso is all about process-based art — no instructions, no expectations, and no "right" way to create. Every child's masterpiece will be totally their own.

We'll explore a variety of sensory materials and art tools that encourage curiosity, motor skills, and self-expression — all in a relaxed, child-led environment.

DRESS FOR MESS! Getting messy is part of the fun.

DATE	REGISTRATION STARTS
Saturday, December 20	Saturday, December 6
Saturday, January 17	Saturday, January 3
Saturday, February 14	Saturday, December 31

Kids (Ages 6 - 13)

D&D Kids Club

3rd-7th Grade
Mondays | 6:30 - 7:30 PM
Meeting Room A

Make friends and get creative in this 3-week Dungeons & Dragons campaign for all skill levels. Registration covers all sessions; attendance is required each week,

DATE	REGISTRATION STARTS
Mondays, December 1, 8, 15	Monday, November 17
Mondays, January 5, 12, 19	Monday, December 22

Art Club

1st-6th Grade
Mondays | 4:30 - 4:45 PM

Create some awesome art with a step-by-step video to help you create a masterpiece!

December Theme: Multi-Media Winter Masterpiece
January Theme: Georgia O'Keeffe Inspired Poppies
February Theme: Watercolor Windmill

DATE	REGISTRATION STARTS
Monday, December 15	Monday, December 1
Monday, January 19	Monday, January 5
Monday, February 16	Monday, February 2

Family Trivia Night

Ages 6 & up with a Caregiver
Tuesday, January 20 | 6:30 - 7:30 PM
Meeting Room AB

Engage in friendly competition and test your wits with a variety of exciting trivia challenges that span literature, history, science, and more. Whether you're a trivia novice or a seasoned expert, everyone can join in on the fun and showcase their smarts. Top three teams will win a prize!

Only one person from each group needs to register as Team Captain. Please list the names and ages of each participant in your group (up to 4 total including the team captain) in the special question field on registration form. **Registration opens Tuesday, January 6.**

Chess Club for Kids

Ages 8-12
Wednesdays | 6:30 - 7:30 PM
Meeting Room A

Learn chess and play with others in this 3-week program. Designed for beginners, but all levels welcome.

DATE	REGISTRATION STARTS
Wednesdays, January 7, 14, 21	Wednesday, December 24
Wednesdays, February 11, 18, 25	Wednesday, January 28

Kindness Club

Ages 7-12
Wednesdays | 5 - 5:30 PM
Storytime Room

Make the world a better place with fun projects that spread kindness and bring smiles along the way.

December Theme: Delivery Driver Care Packages
January Theme: Hug Monsters
February Theme: Community Helper Cookies

DATE	REGISTRATION STARTS
Wednesday, December 17	Wednesday, December 3
Wednesday, January 14	Wednesday, December 31
Wednesday, February 18	Wednesday, February 4

Weird Wednesdays

Ages 8-13
Wednesdays | 5 - 5:45 PM
Meeting Room A

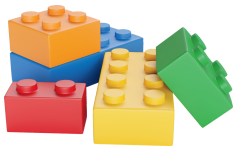
Join us for a discussion of everything weird, wacky, and wonderful! Each month will focus on a bizarre topic and include a themed activity.

January Theme: The Roswell Effect
February Theme: Astrology

DATE	REGISTRATION STARTS
Wednesday, January 28	Wednesday, January 14
Wednesday, February 25	Wednesday, February 11

Kids (Ages 6 - 13)

LEGO Club



1st-5th Grade
Thursdays | 5 - 5:45 PM
Meeting Room A

We supply the bricks—you bring the imagination!

DATE	REGISTRATION STARTS
Thursday, December 4	Thursday, November 19
Thursday, February 5	Thursday, January 22

Family BINGO Night

Ages 4 & up with Caregiver
Thursday, January 22 | 6:30-7:30 PM
Meeting Room AB

Join us for a fun-filled Family Bingo Night at the library! Gather your loved ones for an evening of excitement and friendly competition. Prizes will be awarded to winners of each round! **Registration opens Thursday, January 8**

Cooking with Kyra

Ages 4-10
Thursdays | 4:30 - 4:45 PM

Hear a story and follow Ms. Kyra's video to make a snack.

December Recipe: Melted Snowman Bark
January Recipe: Snowy Day Snack Mix
February Recipe: Valentine's Day Hot Cocoa Bombs

DATE	REGISTRATION STARTS
Thursday, December 25	Thursday, December 11
Thursday, January 22	Thursday, January 8
Thursday, February 26	Thursday, February 12

Homeschool Hangout

Ages 5-12
Fridays | 10:30 - 11:30 AM
Meeting Room AB

Meet other homeschool families through games, hands-on activities, and more!

DATE	REGISTRATION STARTS
Friday, December 12	Friday, November 28
Friday, January 9	Friday, December 26
Friday, February 13	Friday, January 30

Tween Afterhours

Ages 8-12
Fridays | 4-6 PM
Meeting Room AB

When the library closes, the fun begins! Join us monthly for a special afterhours program just for tweens. Every month will feature a brand-new theme—think games, crafts, challenges, and activities inspired by everything from fandoms to holidays to trending topics. Come hang out with friends, explore the library in a whole new way, and enjoy snacks and surprises along the way.

Friday, January 16: Retro Night
Registration opens Friday, January 2.

Friday, February 20: Foodie Fun
Registration opens Friday, February 6.

Puzzle Racing

Family Teams
Saturday, February 28 | 1 - 3 PM
Meeting Room AB

On your mark, get set, PUZZLE! Come with your team of up to four friends or family members to show off your puzzle-solving skills.

All teams will receive the same 300-piece puzzle. The top three teams in each category to finish fastest—or place the most pieces before time runs out—win a prize! **Registration opens Saturday, February 14.**

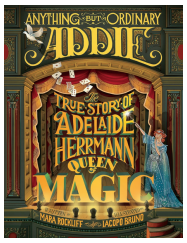
Kids Book Clubs

Biography Bunch

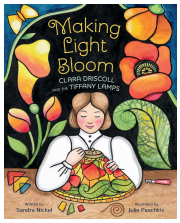
Ages 6-10
Tuesdays | 4:30 - 5:15 PM
Storytime Room

Join us for a story and a fun activity as we embark on a journey of discovery to uncover the lives of some of the most fascinating people in history.

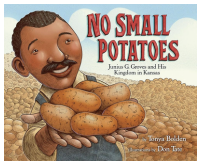
Tuesday, December 2:
Anything by Ordinary: The True Story of Adelaide Herrmann, Queen of Magic by Mara Rockliff
(Registration starts Tuesday, November 18)



Tuesday, January 6:
Making Light Bloom: Clara Driscoll and the Tiffany Lamps by Sandra Nickel
(Registration starts Tuesday, December 23)



Tuesday, February 3:
No Small Potatoes: Junius G. Groves and his Kingdom in Kansas by Tanya Bolden
(Registration starts Tuesday, January 20)



Geek Out! Happy Holidays Party

4th-8th Grade
Tuesday, December 16 | 4:30 - 5:15 PM
Storytime Room

This month's Geek Out will be a celebration for patrons who have attended 4 or more Geek Out sessions throughout the year! Enjoy pizza, games, and vote for your favorite graphic novel read this year! **Registration opens Tuesday, December 2.**

Bluestem Readers Group

3rd-5th Grade
Thursdays | 5:30 - 6:20 PM
Storytime Room

The Bluestem Award is an Illinois Readers' Choice program for 3rd–5th graders. Join the club to read the 2026 nominees and vote for your favorite! Each month, we'll discuss a new book, enjoy a snack, and do fun activities. Please read the book in advance. Pick up books at the Patron Services desk.

*Please note: returning readers from last season who are entering 6th grade and would like to continue participation, are welcome.

Thursday, January 22:
Swim Team by Johnnie Christmas
(Registration starts Thursday, January 8)

Thursday, February 26:
Dogtown by Katherine Applegate and Gennifer Choldenko
(Registration starts Thursday, February 12)

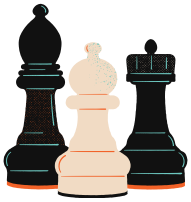
Teens

Teen programs are for 7th-12th Grade unless otherwise specified.

Tweens & Teens Chess Challenge

Saturday, Dec. 6 | 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM
Age categories: 9-13 & 14-18
Meeting Room AB

See page 6 for more information.
Registration opens Thursday, November 6.



Decorate the Library with TAG

Thursday, December 4 | 5 - 6 PM
Teen Scene

In place of our regular monthly meeting, TAG will be given the honor of decorating for the holidays! Come join us for a night of fun and celebration, taking a well-earned brain break before the Finals Study Blitz! *Please contact our Teen Services Specialist at gdaugherty@newlenoxlibrary.org for more info and to register.*

Link Up @ the Library

Fridays, Dec. 12, Jan. 9 & Feb. 13
10:30 - 11:30 AM
Teen Scene

Take a break from your studies to meet up with other teens at the library! This open social hour is for any homeschool drop-ins and public school friends alike! Stay for the hour, chat, study together, or take some time to read a good book. Either way, getting out of the house and classroom can be a good mental health reset! We hope to see you there! **No registration required!**

Finals Study Blitz

9th-12th Grade
Tuesday, Dec. 16 & Wednesday, Dec. 17
3 - 7:45 PM
Meeting Room AB

Knock out your finals prep at the Library! Drop by Meeting Room A for snacks and then hang out in Meeting Room B for group or independent studying; no registration necessary. Don't forget to pick up your care package (while supplies last!). Additional tables and study carrels available upstairs in Adult and Teen Services.

Teen Advisory Group

Thursdays, Jan. 15 & Feb. 19
5 - 6 PM
Meeting Room AB

Join us for our monthly Teen Advisory Group meeting. We'll discuss programming ideas, your favorite reads, video gaming, and more. TAG is a great way to earn service hours and make a difference in your Library community! New members always welcome!

Please contact our Teen Services Specialist at gdaugherty@newlenoxlibrary.org for more info and to register.

Midwinter Murder Movie

Thursday, January 29 | 5:30 - 7:30 PM
Meeting Room AB

Bored in the house and in the house bored? Us too. January is cold and unforgiving; school just started back up and this midwestern weather is absolutely unpredictable. Shake off the cold and heat things up with some hot cocoa and a cheesy horror B-list movie. Snacks will be provided, so bring a blanket and a friend to keep you cozy- we got the rest covered! **Registration opens Monday, December 29.**

No Date Necessary: After-Hours Teen Valentine's Day Lock In

Showing "Crazy Rich Asians"
7th-12th Grade
Friday, February 6 | 5 - 7 PM
Meeting Room AB

Feeling pressured to find a date this Valentine's Day, but you're a broke teenager? No problem! We all know this holiday is the epitome of consumerism- save your money and come to the library for a free after-hours event! We'll supply some snacks, a craft and a romcom so sweet it'll rot your teeth. No date necessary this Valentine's Day; you're your own best company! **Registration opens Tuesday, January 6.**

ACT Digital Practice Test

Presented by Huntington Learning Center

9th-12th Grade
Saturday, February 7 | 10 AM - 2 PM
Meeting Room AB

Participants are encouraged to bring their own laptops, but the Library will provide laptops if needed.

Join us for a full-length digital ACT practice test at the Library, offered by Huntington Learning Center. The ACT is required for high school graduation in Illinois, and this is a great opportunity to prepare. You'll receive a detailed score report and personalized guidance from Huntington experts to help you improve. Higher scores mean more college choices. *Test results will not be reported or affect college admissions.*

Special Registration Required: Sign up through Huntington using the QR code. A $20 fee is required for registration, but it will be applied as a credit if you choose to enroll at Huntington (no obligation).
Registration closes Wednesday, February 4.

Spice Club

Adults & Teens
Mondays, December 1 & Monday, February 2
Available starting at 4 PM
Adult and Teen Service Desk

Spice up your cooking with our bi-monthly spice kits! Each kit includes a sample spice and a packet including recipes, cookbook recommendations, as well as some history and cultural context.

December spice: Star Anise
February spice: Aleppo Pepper

All take & make kits are available at Adult & Teen Services Desk starting at 4 PM while supplies last. Limit one per person present.

Trivia Night at Beggars Pizza

9th Grade - Adult
Thursday, January 8 | 6 - 8 PM
Beggars Pizza: 650 Maple St., New Lenox

Join us for trivia at Beggars Pizza in New Lenox! Enjoy food, drinks, and questions on all kinds of topics. Play solo or with a team for prizes! One person per team must register to reserve a table. **Registration opens Monday, December 8 and closes two days before event.**

Please help us get an accurate headcount by registering your team in advance. Groups of more than 6 must make two separate reservations.

Paper Straw Heart Art

Adults & Teens
Monday, January 19
Available starting at 4 PM
Adult and Teen Service Desk

Nothing says Valentine's Day like a homemade gift. Tell your sweetheart or your gal pals just how much you think of them this Valentine's Day Season! We will be gluing paper straws onto a wooden heart, and sending sweet wishes to someone you love!

All take & make kits are available at Adult & Teen Services Desk starting at 4 PM while supplies last. Limit one per person present.

Great British Baking Tour

Adults & Teens
Tuesday, January 27 | 6:30 - 7:30 PM
Virtual (Live)

See page 7 for more information. **Registration opens Saturday, December 27.**

Interview Tactics

Monday, December 1 | 6 - 7 PM
Meeting Room B

Are you up to date on interview etiquette? Learn the tips and tricks on successful interviewing to gain confidence and land your dream job!
Registration opens Saturday, November 1.

Disability Care Partners: Programs with The Arc of Illinois

Friday, December 5 | 10:30 - 11:30 AM
Meeting Room AB

Join us for an informational series designed for individuals with disabilities alongside those who support them, such as parents, family, and other care partners. Each session features local organizations or subject experts who will provide practical tools, guidance, and support. Learn how to access services and resources for self-advocacy, and connect with others navigating similar experiences.

Hear from The Arc of Illinois and get an overview of their available programs. The Arc advocates for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families, and offers resources, training, and support through programs like Family-to-Family, Ligas Family Advocates, and Family Transition.
Registration opens Wednesday, November 5.

Headline DNA

Genealogy Club

Tuesday, December 9 | 6 - 7:30 PM
Meeting Room AB

See page 6. **Registration opens Sunday, November 9.**

Pride, Prejudice & Pastries

Saturday, December 13 | 1 - 3:30 PM
Meeting Room AB

See page 6. **Registration opens Thursday, November 13.**

BYOB: Bring Your Own Book Club

Wednesdays, December 17 & February 25
6:30 - 7:30 PM
3 Corners Tap & Grill, 901 E Lincoln Hwy, New Lenox

Join us for the BYOB (Bring Your Own Book) Book Club for adults: a stress-free book discussion with no required reading! We'll talk about books we've recently read or listened to, share ideas for new reads, and enjoy great food and drinks at 3 Corners Grill & Tap.
Registration opens Monday, November 17 & Sunday, January 25 and closes two days before the program.

Phone Basics with Tech Tutors

Seniors
Monday, Dec. 15, Jan. 19 & Feb. 23
30 minute time slots available at 3:30 - 5 PM
Conference Room

Learn to better navigate your smartphones and apps in these 30-minute one-on-one sessions.
Registration opens Saturday, November 15, Friday, December 19, and Friday, January 23.

This series focuses on basic device use; we can't repair or troubleshoot damaged devices but we will do our best to assist you.

Adults

The Leisurely Librarian

Quarterly Activity Packet

Available Starting Friday, January 2!

Grab the next edition of our quarterly large-print activity book designed just for adults at the Adult Programs Display or Senior Info Table. Features puzzles, reading recommendations, recipes, games, and more. Digital copies and past editions can be viewed on the library website calendar.

Dry and Delicious

Botanical Mocktail Workshop

Tuesday, January 6 | 5:30 - 7:30 PM
Meeting Room AB

Curious about Dry January and ready to give it a try? Interested in creating fun non-alcoholic drinks? Ready to craft your own little "vacation in a glass" using botanicals and herbs you can easily access or even grow yourself? Join University of Illinois Extension Horticulture Educator Nancy Kuhajda to create and sample your own mocktails. Learn simple techniques like muddling, infusing, and garnishing to turn herbs and botanicals into flavorful, stylish, and alcohol-free drinks. **Registration opens Saturday, December 6.**

Senior Coffee: Road Scholar

Seniors
Thursday, January 8
10:30 AM - 12 PM | Doors open at 10:30 AM
Meeting Room AB

Take your mid-morning break at the library with discussion, socializing, and plenty of coffee! Doors open at 10:30 AM for coffee and social hour, with activities starting at 11 AM.

This month, we'll hear all about Road Scholar, a not-for-profit that aims to inspire seniors to learn, discover, and travel. **Registration opens Monday, December 8.**

Microsoft Excel for Beginners

Presented by Workforce Center of Will County and Joliet Junior College Workforce Development

Monday, January 12 | 6 - 7 PM
Meeting Room B

Microsoft Excel is a spreadsheet program, learn the basics of Excel and how to navigate its many features. We will use it to create reports that need calculations and charts. In this workshop, we will learn how to move around and work inside the spreadsheet including how to create a new workbook, use basic formulas and functions and how to create a chart. We will be using Office 2019. **Registration opens Friday, December 12.**

Tranquil Tuesdays: Map Keychain

Tuesday, January 13 | 5:30 - 7 PM
Meeting Room AB

Take some time for yourself at the library! Each Tranquil Tuesday will feature mindfulness and relaxation activities. Come and go as you please during the drop-in window for our adult coloring station, craft station, and meditation station. There will be a materials for coloring or bring your own supplies. Enjoy pleasant conversation or bring your headphones and zone out!

The craft station for Winter will be map keychains. **Registration required for craft station.**

Vacations, Staycations & Celebrations

Saturday, January 31 | 10 AM - 2 PM
Meeting Room AB

See page 3 for more information. **No registration required.**

LinkedIn Workshop

Monday, February 2
6 - 7 PM
Meeting Room B

Discover various tools to expand your network, including using social media outlets like LinkedIn to amplify your successes in job searching. **Registration opens Friday, January 2.**

The Language of Flowers

Floral Workshop

Tuesday, February 3
6 - 7 PM
Meeting Room AB

Step into the romantic world of Victorian floriography! Discover how flowers were used to send secret messages. Learn to decode the meanings of different blooms, create your own symbolic tussie-mussie bouquet, and interpret displayed floral arrangements. Then make your very own tussie-mussie bouquet to take home! **Registration opens Saturday, January 3.**

Does Your Device Work for You?

Saturday, February 21
1 - 2:30 PM
Meeting Room B

Frustrated with your phone? Considering a new device but not sure what's right for you? In this workshop, explore how to check your current device's capabilities, adjust settings for better usability, and compare options if you're thinking about upgrading. **Registration opens Wednesday, January 21.**

Romantasy Mixer

Tuesday, February 10
6 - 7:30 PM
Meeting Room AB

Love dragons, fae, or anything romance? Meet fellow romantasy (romantic fantasy) readers to talk about your favorite books and tropes, share what you're reading, and create bracelets and bookmarks inspired by the genre.

Whether you're deep into Fourth Wing, just finished ACOTAR, or just curious about the romantasy genre, join us for a night of fan-fueled fun and conversation. No required reading, just a chance to celebrate the stories and series you love. **Registration opens Saturday, January 10.**

Do you enjoy reading books like this?

See page 2 for info: In-Person Virtual Wish You Were Here series

Staff Picks

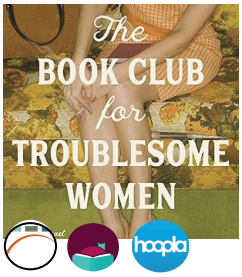
with Adult & Teen Services

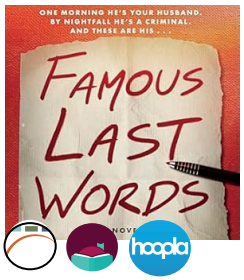
Find it in the library

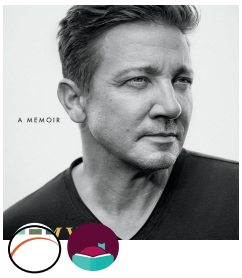
Find it in Libby/Overdrive

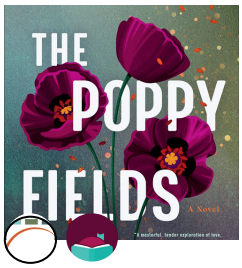
Find it in Hoopla

Audiobooks with Annette









The Book Club for Troublesome Women by Marie Bostwick
Four dissatisfied sixties-era housewives form a book club turned sisterhood that will hold fast amid the turmoil of a rapidly changing world and alter the course of each of their lives.

Famous Last Words
by Gillian McAllister
It is June 21st, the longest day of the year, and new mother Camilla's life is about to change forever. After months of maternity leave, she will drop her infant daughter off at daycare for the first time and return to her job as a literary agent. Finally. But, when she wakes, her husband Luke isn't there, and in his place is a cryptic note.

Marble Hall Murders by Anthony Horowitz
Editor Susan Ryeland returns to England and is tasked with editing a new mystery by Eliot Crace, who believes his famous grandmother was poisoned. His manuscript hides clues to her death. As parallels emerge and Eliot grows unstable, Susan fears he's in real danger.

My Next Breath: A Memoir
by Jeremy Renner
The gripping and inspiring story of acclaimed actor Jeremy Renner's near-fatal accident, and what he learned about inner strength, endurance and hope as he overcame insurmountable odds to recover, one breath at a time.

Plays Well With Others
by Lauren Myracle
Jacquelyn Nolan has lost a lot: her stillborn son, her marriage, and her job and reputation. Still grieving, she makes a determined effort to start over. She settles into a new house, and, buoyed by a growing friendship with an upbeat woman named Mabel, begins to believe a brighter future is ahead. But this charming little neighborhood across the street from an elementary school conceals an undercurrent of darkness and rage.

The Poppy Fields by Nikki Erlick
Welcome to Poppy Fields, a remote California desert treatment center where grieving patients sleep for extended periods to ease their pain. When they wake, they're promised healing, if they can accept the mysterious, possibly dangerous side effects.

Young Adult with TAG

Heartstopper: Volume 1 by Alice Oseman
Charlie Spring is in Year 10 at Truham Grammar School for Boys. The past year hasn't been too great, but at least he's not being bullied anymore. Nick Nelson is in Year 11 and on the school rugby team. He's heard a little about Charlie - the kid who was outed last year and bullied for a few months - but he's never had the opportunity to talk to him. They quickly become friends, and soon Charlie is falling hard for Nick, even though he doesn't think he has a chance. But love works in surprising ways, and sometimes good things are waiting just around the corner...

Sunrise on the Reaping by Suzanne Collins
As the day dawns on the fiftieth annual Hunger Games, fear grips the districts of Panem. This year, in honor of the Quarter Quell, twice as many tributes will be taken from their homes. When Haymitch Abernathy's name is called, he can feel all his dreams break. As the Games begin, Haymitch understands he's been set up to fail. But there's something in him that wants to fight . . . and have that fight reverberate far beyond the deadly arena.

Th(S)Kin by Ibi Zoboi
From award-winning, New York Times bestselling author Ibi Zoboi comes her groundbreaking contemporary fantasy debut—a novel in verse based on Caribbean folklore—about the power of inherited magic and the price we must pay to live the life we yearn for.

Staff Picks

Fiction with Juliana

The Dilemmas of Working Women: Stories by Fumio Yamamoto
A sharp, feminist collection of five stories about "difficult" women navigating work and identity in contemporary Japan—published in English outside Asia for the first time.

People Watching by Hannah Bonam-Young
A small-town woman's journey to spread her wings intertwines with the arrival of an adventurous newcomer who brings out the best in her.

Exiles by Mason Coile
A Mars colony crew arrives to find their base ruined and the setup robots fractured into disturbing new alliances—one has even gone missing.

Soul Searching by Lyla Sage
A small-town upholsterer in need of a fresh start, a photographer whose life has come to a screeching halt . . . and the supernatural forces that bring them together.

Teenage Girls Can Be Demons by Hailey Piper
13 coming-of-rage stories the way only Bram Stoker Award-winning author Hailey Piper can tell them—wildly inventive, brilliantly imaginative, and completely and utterly enthralling.

Crafting for Sinners by Jenny Kiefer
A queer woman must fight her way out of a big-box craft store run by a diabolical religious cult in this gripping survival horror novel.

Non-Fiction with Monica

Project Mind Control: Sidney Gottlieb, the CIA, and the Tragedy of Mkultra by John Lisle
The inside story of the CIA's secret mind control project, MKULTRA, using never-before-seen testimony from the perpetrators themselves.

The Salmon Cannon and the Levitating Frog by Carly Anne York
In The Salmon Cannon and the Levitating Frog, York shows how unappreciated, overlooked, and simply curiosity-driven science has led to breakthroughs big and small.

Present: The Crisis of American Fatherhood and the Power of Showing Up by Charles C. Daniels, Jr., Ph.D.
Present is an essential deep dive into absentee fatherhood, the obstacles and stigmas that exasperate it, the dads who want to reconnect with their children, and what it takes for families to start healing.

The Gift of Not Belonging: How Outsiders Thrive in a World of Joiners by Dr. Rami Kaminski
From a renowned psychiatrist comes the first book to explore the otrovert personality--someone who feels like an outsider in any group--revealing all the advantages of being an otrovert.

The Soup Book by Sophie Grigson
Discover over 150 soup recipes organized by ingredient. Turn surplus food in your fridge into mouth-watering meals.

How to Winter: Harness Your Mindset to Thrive on Cold, Dark, or Difficult Days by Kari Leibowitz, Ph.D.
A blend of mindset science, original research, and cultural insights for cultivating a positive "wintertime mindset," to vanquish winter blues and find joy and comfort in dark times year-round.

Looking to start a new hobby in 2026?

Did you know with your library card you can check out items like:

- a sewing machine
- a Canon DSLR digital camera
- a Blue Yeti tabletop microphone
- a jewelry making kit
- a projector & projector screen
- Zoom audio recording kits
- Wacom Intuos drawing tablets

Check out all we have to offer at www.newlenoxlibrary.org/tech-2-go!

Read the Guide Online

Use this QR code to read this Guide online at newlenoxlibrary.org/guide on a mobile device.

Library Calendar & Program Registration

Use this QR code to go to our calendar at newlenox.librarymarket.com on a mobile device.

Library Website

Use this QR code to go to www.newlenoxlibrary.org on a mobile device.

new lenox public library
on the commons
120 Veterans Parkway New Lenox, IL 60451

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Library Hours

Monday-Thursday: 9 AM-8 PM
Friday & Saturday: 9 AM-4 PM
Sunday: 12-4 PM

Contact Us

Call: 815-485-2605
Email: info@newlenoxlibrary.org

Connect

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YouTube: New Lenox Library

Upcoming Closure Dates

Wednesday, December 24	Christmas Eve
Thursday, December 25	Christmas Day
Wednesday, December 31	New Years Eve
Thursday, January 1	New Years Day
Monday, February 16	Presidents Day
Friday, March 6	Staff Development Day