

Insider Guide

SPRING 2026 | March, April, May



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Program Key

 In-Person  Virtual

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.



March Madness 2026

"To Be Read" Book Bracket

Your favorite books are red-hot & ready to be read!

Red Alert! March Madness is back! It's March Madness 2026: To Be RED, featuring 16 sizzling books across 8 colorful categories all with RED covers! Each week, vote for your favorite books as they battle it out for the title of March Madness Champion! Be sure to vote Mondays in March. Each time you vote, your name will be entered into a prize drawing.

Registration is not required, but by registering you will receive email reminders each week when voting becomes available.

How to Participate: Voting & Brackets

Printed brackets and voting forms can be picked up and dropped off at the Adult & Teen Services desk. You can also download a bracket, print it out & bring it to the Library or email it to kcunningham@newlenoxlibrary.org. Each week, in-person voting is available at the Adult & Teen Service Desk and digital voting links will be available on our website or through your Beanstack account!

Submit Your Bracket by Sunday, March 1

Get a bonus prize entry when you fill out a bracket with your predictions before the tournament begins; plus, ANYONE who correctly guesses their entire bracket will win a perfect bracket prize! Brackets are due no later than Sunday, March 1. Print brackets will be available starting February 2

Tournament Starts Monday, March 2

Starting Monday, March 2, vote on Mondays for your favorites at the Library, through the Beanstack or at www.newlenoxlibrary.org/marchmadness.

- **March 2-8:** Sweet Sixteen
- **March 9-15:** Elite Eight
- **March 16-22:** Final Four
- **March 23-29:** Championship

The winning title will be announced on March 30.

NEW THIS YEAR!

Use Beanstack to Track Your March Madness Progress

Register through your Beanstack account to track your activity. Starting February 2 you can log minutes of the Sweet Sixteen "To Be RED" titles to earn fun red themed reading badges. Mark your progress when you turn in your bracket and each time you vote to collect activity badges.

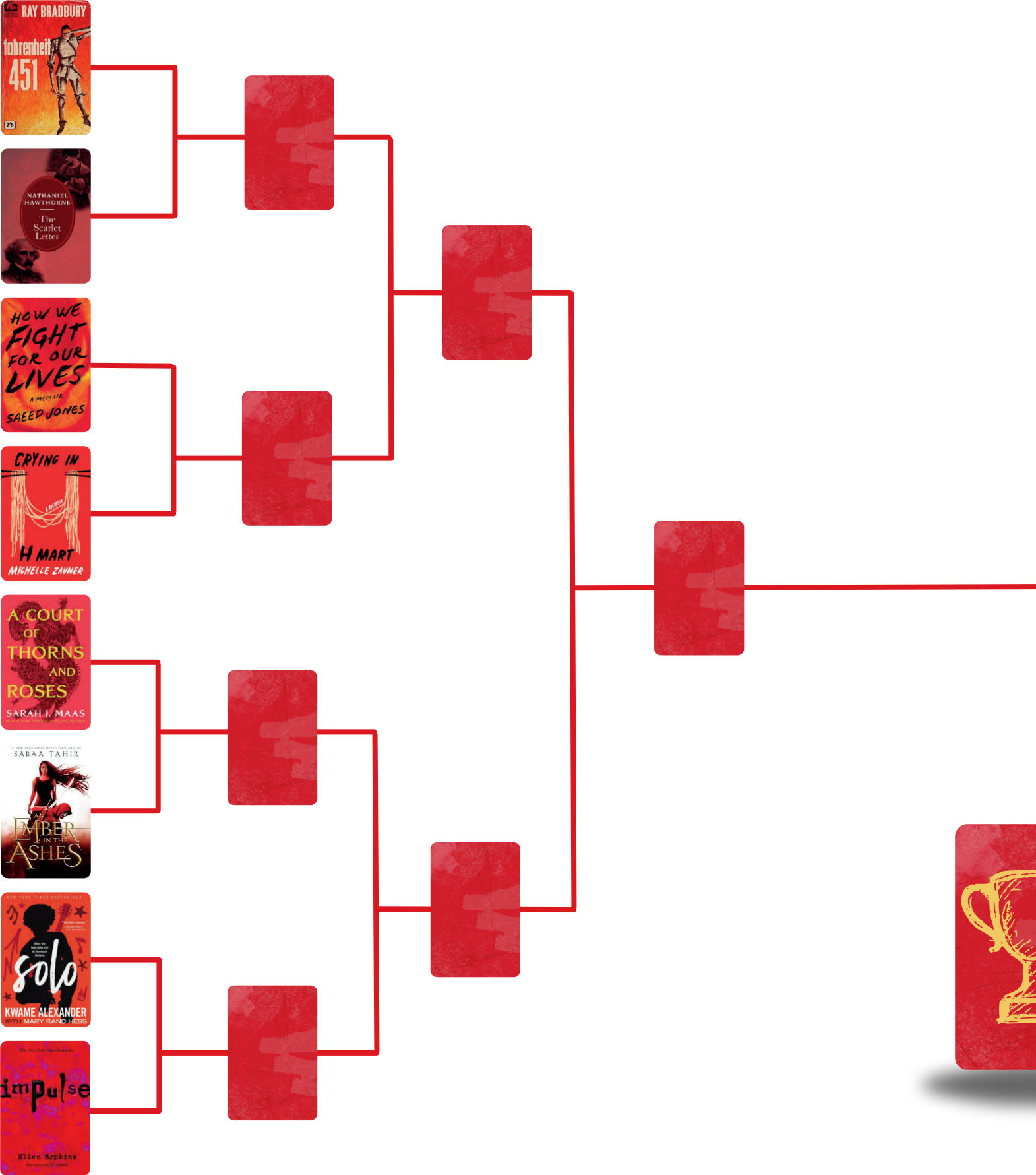
These badges do not earn you any prize drawing entries and have no bearing on the tournament results, they are just a fun way to track your progress and reward your reading.

Register for March Madness tracking by scanning the QR code!



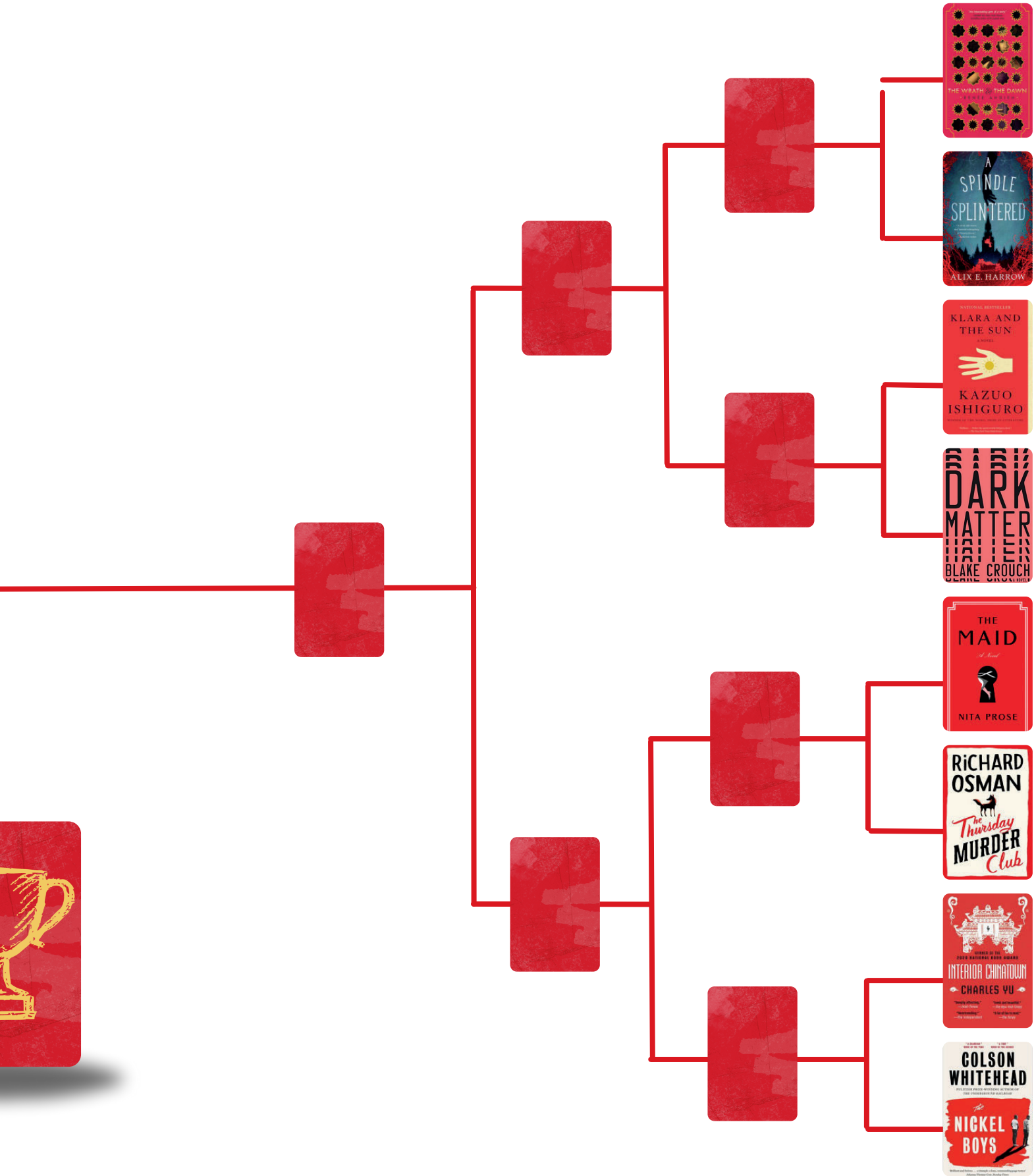
Read the Sweet 16

This year's theme is To Be RED! All the March Madness books are available in our Adult and Teen print collections with many also offered in other formats, including audiobook, large print, and eBook/eAudiobook.



Read the Sweet 16

Whether you prefer reading digitally or listening on the go, we've got you covered! Explore our digital collections on Libby, Hoopla, and Boundless. If you enjoy tracking your reading, you can log your minutes in Beanstack to earn fun badges.



MAKER DAY

Saturday, April 18
10 AM - 2 PM

Maker Day is back! Get hands-on with all that the Library has to offer as we kick off National Library Week.

Maker Day is a free, all-ages event, featuring local businesses, non-profit organizations, community members, and library staff. Drop in to explore exhibits and booths with demonstrations and activities throughout the first floor.

Learn and create with local author and illustrator Rene Galvin, Hawaii Fluid Art, Painting with Tracie, and more! Studio staff will also give presentations on xTool Creative Suite and Foley Audio!

Learn more at www.newlenoxlibrary.org/MakerDay!



Celebrate **NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK**

April 19–25, 2026

ALA American
Library
Association

Library
Champions
Celebrating in All of Our Libraries

Award-winning librarian, author, and new host of the children's program "Reading Rainbow" Mychal Threats will serve as Honorary Chair of National Library Week.

"Find Your Joy," is an invitation for people of all backgrounds to explore and discover what sparks joy in them at the library. The theme amplifies a message that is ever-present in Threats' recurring viral videos about the innumerable ways people can find joy in the library, and in his debut picture book, *I'm So Happy You're Here: A Celebration of Library Joy*.

Stay tuned for all the ways NLPL will celebrate National Library Week!



Local Authors Collection

Did you know our lobby now features a **brand-new Local Author collection**? We're celebrating the incredible talent right here in Will County by showcasing books written by our own community members. From gripping fiction to inspiring non-fiction, there's something for every reader.

Stop by, explore these amazing works, and show your support for local authors—you might just discover your next favorite book while supporting your neighbors!



Introducing The Wilhelm Café



We're excited to introduce the Wilhelm Café, the library's brand-new self-service café named in honor of Elmer Wilhelm, a longtime Board of Trustees member whose dedication helped shape our library into the welcoming community hub it is today.

The Wilhelm Café is more than just a place to grab a snack or a drink. Whether you're looking for a quiet spot to enjoy a coffee while reading, an inviting place for informal meetings, or a comfortable workspace for remote work, the café has you covered. Its self-service model allows you the flexibility to come and go as you please, making it the perfect companion to your library visit.

We invite you to stop by and explore the Wilhelm Café for yourself! **Open during regular library hours.**



📍 Ultimate Instant Ramen Showdown II: Second Helpings!

All Ages

Monday, March 30 | Starting at 10 AM
Youth Services & Adult/Teen Service Desks

The Ultimate Instant Ramen Showdown is back! This year we're on the hunt for the Ultimate FLAVOR. Pick up your ramen tasting kit at the library, then gather up to four friends or family members to cook and taste a variety of instant ramen flavors at home. Rate each ramen in the provided booklet. Once you've tasted them all, visit the link to cast your vote for the new Ultimate Instant Ramen Champion!

No registration required. Kits cannot be reserved in advance. Pick up begins at 10 AM. First come, first serve while supplies last. One kit per household; an adult from the household must be present at pick up. Serves up to 5. Virtual voting ends Sunday, April 12.

Not able to grab a kit? You can still play along at home by voting for your favorite!



Annual Poetry Contest & Cafe

Calling all poets! April is National Poetry Month. Let's prepare to celebrate it together with two great programs! The Library will be hosting a poetry contest and poetry cafe to spotlight your creativity!

Submit ONE poem on any topic and in a style of your choosing from Sunday, March 1 through Monday, March 30. For more info, and to submit your poem, go to www.newlenoxlibrary.org/poetrycontest.

- All poems will be published in our annual poetry booklet.
- Prizes will be awarded to the top poems in each of the following age categories:
Grades 7-9, Grades 10-12, and Adult
- Only one poem per person can be entered.
- Entries accepted only within the U.S.
- Prizes and certificates must be picked up in person and will not be mailed.

📍 Poetry Café

Adults & Teens

Tuesday, April 28 | 6 - 7:30 PM
Meeting Room AB



Wrap up and reflect on National Poetry Month with a poetry café. Read your favorite poem, share an original work, or just come and listen!

Please keep prepared material appropriate for all-ages and limited to 5 minutes. The Library will provide light refreshments.

In addition to the open mic, we will announce the winners from this year's 2026 poetry contest.

Registration encouraged opens Thursday, April 16.

Teen Job Fair

Teens

Saturday, March 21 | 10 AM - 2 PM

Meeting Room AB

Are you a teen looking for your first job? Hoping to find a summer opportunity? Curious about part-time work, internships, or exploring your future career path?

Join us for our first Teen Job Fair! Meet with employers, explore opportunities in your community, and get a head start on your future. Be sure to bring copies of your resume and your contact information with you to share with potential employers.

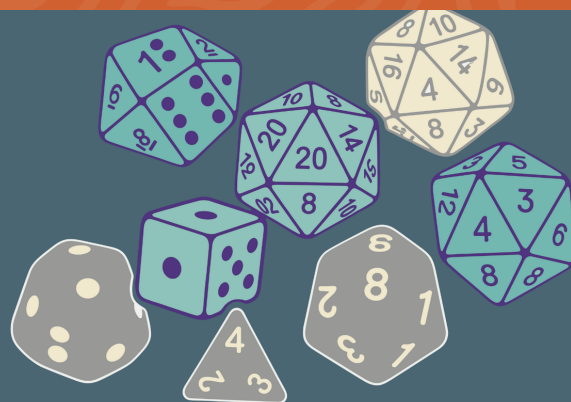
Registration not required.

Student D&D: *Escape Hadar's Hunger*

9th Grade-College Age Adult

Saturday, May 9 | 12 - 3:30 PM

Meeting Room AB



"Welcome, traveler, to the Crooked Hearth Tavern! You've probably been here before.. a multidimensional checkpoint to quickly move between realms. Wait, don't open that door! You'll be transported to-! Never mind...hope you can survive the Far Realm..."

This single session "one-shot" campaign of Dungeons and Dragons is high fantasy adventure for players of all experience levels- seasoned adventures and fresh players alike! Join us in fighting Heralds of Hadar in a deadly dungeon maze. Choose from provided pre-made character sheets, or bring your own ready-to-play level 1-3 character. Play your way with paper sheets and dice or go digital via D&D Beyond on your phone or computer.

Want to make a character in advance but don't know where to start? Have questions about setting up D&D Beyond? Email your Dungeon Master at gdaugherty@newlenoxlibrary.org for some guidance. **Registration opens Thursday, April 9.**

Puzzle Swap

All Ages

Saturday, May 23

Early Access: 10 AM

General Admission: 11 AM - 1 PM

Meeting Room AB



Take a puzzle, leave a puzzle, swap a puzzle! Join us for a puzzle swap at the Library. Bring a new or gently used puzzle in good condition, any size or piece count, with all its pieces and swap it! Don't have a puzzle to trade? You're still welcome to browse and take one home! General admission begins at 11 am. Puzzles are available on a first come, first served basis. Leftover puzzles will be donated to the Friends of the Library.

Want early VIP access? Drop off a puzzle in advance at the Youth Services Desk to register for early access. Advanced puzzle donations will be accepted Monday, May 4 through Friday, May 22. No registration required.

📍 Sewing with Rachael

Adults & Teens

3rd Monday of the Month | 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. **Registration opens one month before program date.**

B Monday, March 16: Apple Placemat*

I Monday, April 20: Basic Nine Patch Quilt Blocks*

B Monday, May 18: Kleenex Keeper*

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

B Beginner: No experience necessary! **I** Intermediate: Must attend 3 Beginner classes. **A** Advanced: Must attend 3 Intermediate classes.



📍 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, embroidery, sewing, weaving and other fiber arts projects, too. All skill levels welcome. **Registration encouraged.**

DATES

Thursday, March 5	Thursday, April 16
Thursday, March 19	Thursday, May 7
Thursday, April 2	Thursday, May 21



📍 Hearts & Crafts

Adults & Teens

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

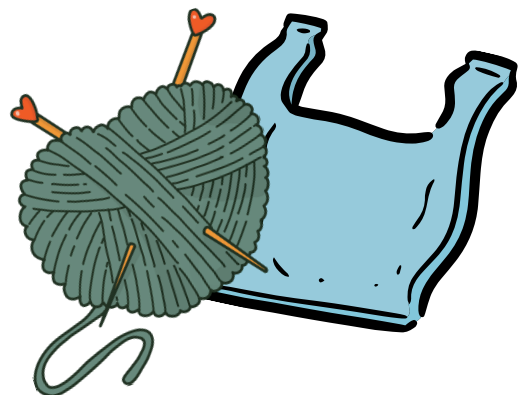
The Studio

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, March 23
Monday, April 27



📍 Intro to Adobe Photoshop

Adults & Teens

Wednesday, March, 11th | 5:30 - 7 PM

The Studio

Learn photo editing techniques using basic tools and menu items. Please create a free Adobe account prior to coming to class.

Registration opens Wednesday, February, 11 at 9 AM.



📍 Let's Sublimate!: Socks

Adults & Teens

Thursday, March 26 | 5:30 - 7 PM

The Studio

With the SawGrass500, we can heat press an image or design onto different polyester-blended materials. This month, we will be sublimating on socks.

Registration opens Thursday, February 26.

📍 No Sew: Sock Bunny

4th Grade & Up

Wednesday, March 18 | 5 - 7 PM

The Studio

Have you wanted to create a cozy companion but don't know how to sew? No problem! Learn how to make an adorable **Sock Bunny**—no sewing required. We'll provide all materials and tools. 1 bunny per patron.

Registration opens Wednesday, February 18.



📍 Intro to 3D Printing & TinkerCAD

4th Grade and Up

Monday, March 30 | 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, February 28.

📍 Studio2Go: Paint by Numbers - Spring Eggs

All Ages

Sunday, March 22 - Saturday, March 28

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.**



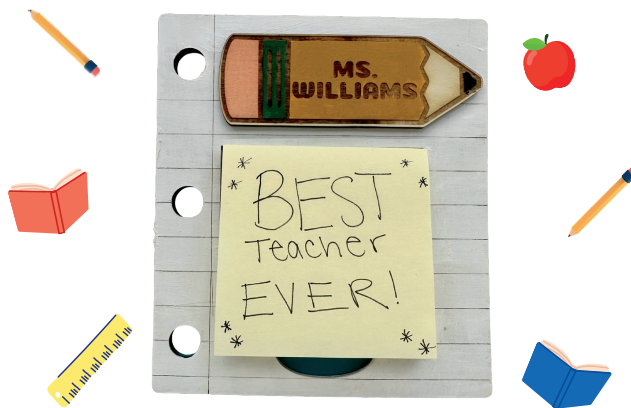
📍 Laser Cutting with xTools: Teacher Sticky Note Holders

Adult & Teens

Monday, May 4 | 5:30 - 7 PM

The Studio

Learn different projects you can create using the laser cutter. This month, in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week, we will create **Teacher Sticky Note Holders** for the educators in your life. You will then get to paint and decorate your holders. 1 holder per patron.



Registration opens Saturday, April 4.



📍 Crafting with the Cricut: Paper Flower Bouquet Sign

Adult & Teens

Monday, May 11 | 5:30 - 7 PM

The Studio

Let's use the Cricut Maker 3 to make paper, vinyl, or heat transfer projects. This month, we will be making **Paper Flower Bouquet Signs** on wood plaques. All materials will be provided. 1 sign per patron.

Registration opens Saturday, April 11.

📍 Awkward Art

Adult & Teens

Wednesday, May, 20 | 5 - 7 PM

The Studio

Let's create something weird! In this program, you will be given a prompt and have to use various materials to create a piece of art. It can be vibrant, whacky, personal, silly – the possibilities are endless!

Come relax and have fun with the creative process, no matter what the final product may look like. Challenge yourself to have fun making silly art with The Studio!



Registration opens Monday, April 20.

📍 Spring Break Crafternoon

All Ages

Monday, March 30 & Wednesday, April 1 | 1 - 3 PM

The Studio

Let your creativity flow with an afternoon of self-directed arts & crafts in the Studio! Supplies will be provided and adult supervision is required.

No registration required.



📍 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, March 12: Animate an Adventure Game

Thursday, April 9: Create a Clicker Game

DATE

Thursday, March 12
Thursday, April 9

REGISTRATION STARTS

Thursday, February 26
Thursday, March 26

📍 Tween Craft & Create

4th-8th Grade

Tuesdays | 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.

Tuesday, March 17: Springtime Pinwheels

Tuesday, April 14: Heat-Transfer T-Shirts

DATE

Thursday, March 17
Thursday, April 14

REGISTRATION STARTS

Thursday, March 3
Thursday, March 31



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, March 2	Monday, February 23
Monday, March 9	Monday, March 2
Monday, March 30	Monday, March 23
Monday, April 6	Monday, March 30
Monday, April 13	Monday, April 6
Monday, April 20	Monday, April 13
Monday, April 27	Monday, April 20
Monday, May 4	Monday, April 27

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, March 4	Wednesday, February 25
Wednesday, March 11	Wednesday, March 4
Wednesday, April 1	Wednesday, March 25
Wednesday, April 8	Wednesday, April 1
Wednesday, April 15	Wednesday, April 8
Wednesday, April 22	Wednesday, April 15
Wednesday, April 29	Wednesday, April 22
Wednesday, May 6	Wednesday, April 29

Tuesdays

📍 Baby & Me Storytime

Ages 6-23 months with a Caregiver

9:30 - 10 AM

This sweet storytime is filled with books, songs, rhymes, and bubbles! *Siblings 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, March 3	Tuesday, February 24
Tuesday, March 10	Tuesday, March 3
Tuesday, March 31	Tuesday, March 24
Tuesday, April 7	Tuesday, March 31
Tuesday, April 14	Tuesday, April 7
Tuesday, April 21	Tuesday, April 14
Tuesday, April 28	Tuesday, April 21
Tuesday, May 5	Tuesday, April 28

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 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, March 5	Thursday, February 26
Thursday, March 12	Thursday, March 5
Thursday, April 2	Thursday, March 26
Thursday, April 9	Thursday, April 2
Thursday, April 16	Thursday, April 9
Thursday, April 23	Thursday, April 16
Thursday, April 30	Thursday, April 23
Thursday, May 7	Thursday, April 30

Kids (Birth - Age 6)



Fairytale Formal

Birth-6 with a Caregiver

Wednesday, April 15 | 6 - 6:45 PM

Meeting Room AB

Come dressed your best to celebrate the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program. Make crafts, play games, and dance the day away! Enrollment in 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten is encouraged but not required to attend this event. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Registration opens Wednesday, April 1

Stay & Play

Ages 0-5 with a Caregiver

Thursdays, March 12 & April 2, 9, 16, 22, 30

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.**

Kinder Drawin'

Kindergarten

Thursdays | 5:30 - 6 PM

Storytime Room



Come read a story with Ms. Briana & follow along to create a fun drawing in this program designed specifically for kindergarteners!

DATE	REGISTRATION STARTS
Thursday, March 19	Thursday, March 5
Thursday, April 16	Thursday, April 2

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, March 13	Friday, March 6
Friday, April 3	Friday, March 27
Friday, April 10	Friday, April 3
Friday, April 17	Friday, April 10
Friday, April 24	Friday, April 17
Friday, May 1	Friday, April 24
Friday, May 8	Friday, May 1

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.

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

DATE	REGISTRATION STARTS
Saturday, March 28	Saturday, March 14
Saturday, April 11	Saturday, March 28

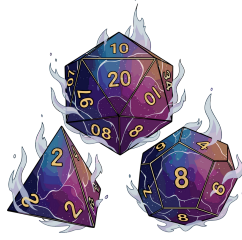
Kids (Ages 6 - 13)

D&D Kids Club

3rd-7th Grade

Mondays | 6:30 - 7:30 PM

Storytime Room



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
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Mondays, March 2, 9, 16	Monday, February 16
Mondays, April 6, 13, 20	Monday, March 23

Art Club

1st- 6th Grade

Mondays | 4:30 - 4:45 PM

Pre-recorded Video

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

March Theme: Sparkly Shamrock

April Theme: Spring Blossoms

DATE	REGISTRATION STARTS
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Monday, March 16	Monday, March 2
Monday, April 20	Monday, April 6

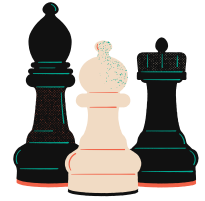


Chess Club for Kids

Ages 8-12

Wednesdays | 6:30 - 7:15 PM

Meeting Room A



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

DATE	REGISTRATION STARTS
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Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18	Wednesday, February 18
Wednesdays, April 1, 8	Wednesday, March 18

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.

March Theme: Kindness Rocks

April Theme: Library Appreciation Project

DATE	REGISTRATION STARTS
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Wednesday, March 18	Wednesday, March 4
Wednesday, April 15	Wednesday, April 1

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.

March Theme: Dreams & What They Mean

April Theme: Mermaids & Mermen

DATE	REGISTRATION STARTS
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Wednesday, March 25	Wednesday, March 11
Wednesday, April 29	Wednesday, April 15

Kids (Ages 6 - 13)

📍 LEGO Club

1st- 5th Grade

Thursdays | 5 - 5:45 PM

Meeting Room A

We supply the bricks, and you bring your imagination! A new challenge will be presented monthly to keep the creativity flowing!

DATE	REGISTRATION STARTS
Thursday, March 5	Thursday, February 19
Thursday, April 2	Thursday, March 19

📺 Cooking with Kyra

Ages 4-10

Thursdays | 4:30 - 4:45 PM

Pre-recorded Video



Hear a story and follow along with Ms. Kyra's video to make a simple snack!

March Theme: Rainbow Graham Cracker Snack

April Theme: Spring Blossoms

DATE	REGISTRATION STARTS
Thursday, March 26	Thursday, March 12
Thursday, April 23	Thursday, April 9

📍 Homeschool Hangout

Ages 5-13

Fridays | 10:30 - 11:30 AM

Meeting Room AB

Get to know other homeschool families in the area while playing games, trying out hands-on activities, and more! All ages welcome, but children must be accompanied by an adult.

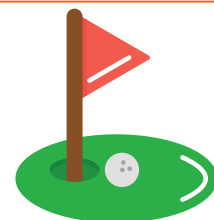
DATE	REGISTRATION STARTS
Friday, March 13	Friday, February 27
Friday, April 10	Friday, March 27

📍 Tween Afterhours

Ages 8-12

Fridays | 4:30 - 6 PM

Meeting Room AB



When the library closes, the fun begins! Join us monthly for a special afterhours program just for tweens. Come hang out with friends, explore the library in a whole new way, and enjoy snacks and surprises along the way.

Friday, March 20: Game Night
Registration opens Friday, March 6

Friday, April 17: Glow-in-the-Dark Putt-Putt
Registration opens Friday, April 3

📍 STEAM Team

1st- 6th Grade

Saturdays | 1 - 2 PM

Meeting Room AB

Bring the family to explore the exciting world of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math together! Each session features hands-on activities and creative challenges for children to enjoy with their grownups. Join us at the library to spark curiosity, inspire innovation, and make memories through STEAM!

DATE	REGISTRATION STARTS
Saturday, March 7	Saturday, February 21
Saturday, April 4	Saturday, March 21



📍 Biography Bunch

Ages 6-10

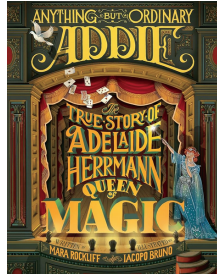
Tuesdays | 4:30 - 5:15 PM

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.

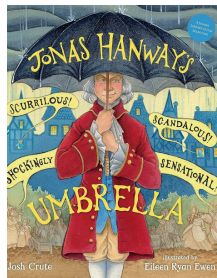
Tuesday, March 3:

Anything but Ordinary: The True Story of Adelaide Herrmann, Queen of Magic
by Mara Rockliff
(Registration starts Tuesday, February 17)



Tuesday, April 7:

Jonas Hanway's Scurilous, Scandalous, Shockingly Sensational Umbrella
by Josh Crute
(Registration starts Tuesday, March 24)



📍 Bluestem Readers Group

3rd-5th grade

Thursday, March 26 | 5:30 - 6:15 PM

Storytime Room



This is a special celebratory meeting for Bluestem Readers who participated in our sessions throughout the 2026 Bluestem Readers' Choice Award period (September - March). We will celebrate the nominees and find out which book came out on top in the state of Illinois - as voted on by kids like you!

Registration opens Thursday, March 12



LOTE Online for Kids is our new online database of digital books in World Languages, that allows kids to enjoy the magic of books in LOTE (Languages Other Than English). Each book also comes with English translations to help kids learn languages.

LOTE Online for Kids has over 1,350+ digital picture books in 45+ languages, with new books and languages released each month – helping libraries to engage immigrant, refugee, and multilingual families in their communities.

Check it out!



Teens

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

📍 Link Up @ the Library

Fridays, March 13 & April 10 | 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 school-age teen! 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!

Registration opens Friday, February 13 & Tuesday, March 10 and closes two days before the program.

📍 Teen Advisory Group

Thursdays, March 19, April 16 & May 21
5 - 6 PM
Meeting Room AB



Join us for our monthly Teen Advisory Group meeting. We will discuss programming ideas, your favorite reads, videogaming, and more. TAG is a great way to earn service hours and make a

difference in your Library community! New members always welcome!

Registration required. Please contact our Teen Services Specialist [gdaugherty@newlenoxlibrary.org] for more information and/or to sign up.

📍 Teen Job Fair

Saturday, March 21 | 10 - 2 PM
Meeting Room AB

Are you a teen looking for your first job? Hoping to find a summer opportunity? Curious about part-time work, internships, or exploring your future career path? Join us for our first Teen Job Fair! Meet with employers, explore opportunities in your community, and get a head start on your future. Be sure to bring copies of your resume and your contact information with you to share with potential employers.

Registration not required.

📍 Bangtan Boy Bash: A K-Pop Party!

Thursday, April 2 | 6:30 - 7:30 PM
Meeting AB



Hey K-Pop stans, we know you've heard the news- BTS is back! Come celebrate their triumphant return with Korean snacks, choreography, and photocard trading! Whether you're a die-hard ARMY or a curious K-Pop newbie, everyone is welcome.

Registration opens Monday, March 2.

📍 Spring Finals Study Blitz

9th-12th Grade
Wednesday, May 27 | 3 - 7:45 PM
Meeting Room AB

School's out for the summer...almost! Come to the Library for a fun place to study and to do some last minute finals prepping. Snacks will be available and goody bags will be distributed while supplies last!

No registration required.

Adults & Teens

📍 Seed Starter Kits

Adults & Teens

Monday, March 2 | Starting at 4:00 PM
Adult and Teen Service Desk

Spring is fast approaching, which means it's almost gardening season! Stop by the Adult & Teen Services desk and pick up a seed starting kit for your vegetable or herb garden. It'll be the perfect way to start your garden growing for the season.



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

Thursdays, March 12 & May 14 | 6 - 8 PM

Beggars Pizza: 650 Maple St., New Lenox

Join us for Trivia at Beggars Pizza in New Lenox! Enjoy food, drinks*, and answer questions on a multitude of topics. Play solo or with a team of up to six people MAXIMUM for prizes!

One person per team must register to reserve a table. **Registration opens Thursday, February 12 and Tuesday, April 14 and closes two days before the event.**

*Groups of 6+ must make two separate reservations. Walk-ins will not be accepted. *Food and drinks are available for purchase from the restaurant during the program; the Library does not provide them.*

📍 Easter Egg Flower Wreath

Adults & Teens

Tuesday, March 24 | 3 - 4:30 OR 6 - 7:30 PM

Meeting Room AB

Join us at the library to make the cutest "flower" wreath with Easter Eggs! You will use plastic eggs to make flower shapes and then glue that to a wooden wreath board. Lastly, we will adorn it with a bow & a hanger so you can welcome Spring Time with a wreath of "flowers!"



Registration opens Monday, February 24

📍 Spice Club: Basil

Adults & Teens

Monday, April 6 | Available starting at 4 PM

Adult and Teen Service Desk

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

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

📍 Poetry Cafe

Adults & Teens

Tuesday, April 28 | 6 - 7:30 PM

Adult and Teen Service Desk

Read your favorite poem, share an original work, or just come and listen! **See the Spotlight page or website calendar for details.**

Registration encouraged starting Saturday, March 28.

📍 Interview Tactics with Workforce Center of Will County

Adults & Teens

Monday, May 4 | 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 Encouraged opens Saturday, April 4.

📍 Singer Songwriter Concert

with Dave Rudolf

Adults & Teens

Saturday, May 16 | 2 - 3 PM

Meeting Room AB



If you want to sing out, sing out with us at the Library! Come enjoy this concert and even sing along to your favorite tunes from premier songwriters of the 60s and 70s. Join award-winning performer and gold record artist Dave Rudolf for a fun afternoon of music celebrating artists like Cat Stevens, Paul Simon, and other singer-songwriters who inspired Dave's own career. Along the way, he will share humorous stories and insights from his decades in the music world.

With over 40 albums, Grammy nominations, and performances alongside icons like The Beach Boys, The Everly Brothers, and Sha Na Na, Dave brings energy, experience, and just the right amount of quirky charm to the stage.

Registration encouraged starting Thursday, April 16.

Adults & Teens

📍 Student D&D: Escape Hadar's Hunger

9th Grade - College-Age Adult

Saturday, May 9 | 12 - 3:30 PM

Meeting Room AB

Welcome, traveler, to the Crooked Hearth Tavern! Can you survive the Far Realm and face the Heralds of Hadar? This one-shot Dungeons and Dragons adventure takes place in a high fantasy dungeon maze. New and experienced players are welcome.

See the Spotlight page or website calendar for details.

Choose from provided pre-made characters, or bring your own ready-to-go level 1-3 character. Want to make a character in advance but don't know where to start?

Email Dungeon Master gdaugherty@newlenoxlibrary.org for some guidance.

Registration opens Thursday, April 9.

Adults

📍 Estate Planning Explained

with Bentron Financial

Adults

Tuesday, March 3 | 6:30 - 7:30 PM

Meeting Room AB

Learn the essentials of estate planning, including wills, trusts, probate and more. We'll cover why planning is important and the most common documents and techniques used in the process.

Registration opens Tuesday, February 3.

📍 Intermediate Excel

Adults

Monday, March 9 | 6 - 7 PM

Meeting Room B

Take your Excel skills to the next level with this hands-on intermediate Excel training designed for those who are ready to go beyond the basics.

Registration opens Monday, February 9.

📍 "Udderly" Adorable Highland Cow

Take & Make Craft

Adults & Teens

Monday, May 18 | Available starting at 4 PM

Adult and Teen Service Desk

You will literally have a COW over this month's Take & Make. Pick up your kit to decorate the cutest Highland Cow Craft. You will be working with corrugated cardboard cutting out shapes, arranging them on a background and gluing them down. We will be adding embellishments such as bells and flowers



too. I "dairy" you to pick up your "amoo-sing" craft kit. This craft will be legend-dairy!!

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

📍 Coming to America:

The Immigrant Experience

Genealogy Club

Adults

Tuesday, March 10 | 6 - 7:30 PM

Meeting Room AB



Get a fascinating historical perspective on your immigrant ancestors' experiences, then learn how to find their records. We'll cover the types of emigration and immigration records available, where to find them, and demonstrate the best search engines.

Along the way, we'll consider key questions to guide your search: Where were the ports of embarkation? Where did people go depending on the year they arrived? What about naturalization?

Leave with a better understanding of what coming to America looked like as well as practical tips and tools to help you trace your family history.

Registration opens Tuesday, February 10.

Adults

📍 Disability Care Partners: Training for the Transitions with Equip for Equality Adults

Friday, March 27 | 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. Plus, connect with other care partners navigating similar experiences.

In this session: Learn about transition services and the rights of students with disabilities as they prepare for what waits for them in life after high school & beyond.

Registration opens Friday, February 27.

📍 Resume Workshop with Workforce Center of Will County Adults

Monday, April 6 | 3 - 4 PM
Meeting Room B

Develop a competitive resume and cover letter. Bring a copy of your current resume to review.

Registration opens Friday, March 6.

📍 Phone Basics with Tech Tutors

Mondays, March 16, April 20 & May 18
3:30 - 5 PM
Conference Room

Learn to better navigate your smartphones and mobile apps. Register for a 30 minute one-on-one session for personalized help.

Registration opens Monday, February 16, Friday, March 20, and Saturday, April 18.

**These Tech Tutor programs focus on basic device use; we can't repair or troubleshoot damaged devices but we will do our best to assist you with navigation and questions related to your devices.*

📍 Before You Call The Handyman: The Series Adults

Tuesdays, April 7, 21 & May 5, 19 | 6 - 7:30 PM
Meeting Room AB

Dan Findley returns with a new series breaking home maintenance into easy-to-follow sessions. Learn simple repairs, preventative maintenance, and which projects you can do yourself vs when to call in a pro.

- April 7: Before You Call the Plumber
- April 21: Before You Call the Drywaller or Painter
- May 5: Before You Call the HVAC Contractor
- May 19: Before You Call the Electrician

Registration opens Saturday, March 7.

📍 Tranquil Tuesday: Ceramic Painting Adults

Tuesday, April 14 | 5:30 - 7 PM
Meeting Room AB

Take some time for yourself at the Library! Enjoy a simple craft, adult coloring, and guided breathing at our dedicated stations or just come relax. Craft station for Winter: Ceramic Coaster or Mug Painting, indicate your project at registration.

Registration opens Saturday, March 14; required for craft only. Drop in for coloring and meditation.

📍 eReader Basics with Tech Tutors

Monday, March 23
4:30 - 6 PM
Conference Room

Learn to better navigate your e-reader devices and e-reader apps. Register for a 30 minute one-on-one session for personalized help during this special Tech Tutors event.

Registration opens Monday, February 23

📍 Senior Coffee Breaks

Seniors

Thursdays, March 5 & May 7 | 10:30 - 12 PM

Meeting Room AB

Take your mid-morning break at the library with discussion, socializing, and, of course, plenty of coffee!

Each coffee break will begin with a half hour of coffee and social time followed by a presentation or activity at 11 AM. *(Doors open no earlier than 10:30 AM).*



Grab a cup of coffee, and catch up before the program. Stay a while and get to know one another! Come and enjoy coffee, conversation, and connection at the Library.

Thursday, March 5: How Social Connections Can Improve Your Health & Wellness

As seniors, positive relationships can shape our health, provide contentment and give us a positive life view. Learn ways to help develop and strengthen these vital relationships with Catholic Charities Diocese of Joliet.

Thursday, May 7: Meet & Greet with Healthcare Plus

Come meet representatives from Healthcare Plus Senior Care to hear practical tips for safety and fall prevention and to get connected with local resources. Learn about the in-home services they provide for older adults, including help with daily tasks, companionship, and caregiver options. *Eligible seniors may be able to access their services at no cost.*

Registration required for presentation only, begins Thursday, February 5 & Tuesday, April 7

📍 BYOB: Bring Your Own Book Club

Adults

Wednesday, April 15 | 6:30 - 7:30 PM

3 Corners Grill & Tap, 901 E Lincoln Hwy

Join us for a stress-free book discussion with no required reading! We'll talk about books we've read or listened to, share ideas for new reads & enjoy great food and drinks* at 3 Corners Grill & Tap.

Registration opens Sunday, March 15 and closes two days before the program.

**Food and drinks are available for purchase from the restaurant during the program; the Library does not provide them.*

📍 Morning Masterpieces: Spring Chickens

Adults

Friday, April 24 | 10:30 AM - 12 PM

Meeting AB

Let's paint! Come enjoy a relaxed morning of creativity as we create an art piece with step by step instructions and provided materials.

Registration opens Tuesday, March 24.

📍 Using AI Wisely: Tips for Everyday

Decisions

Adults

Tuesday, May 12 | 6 - 7:30 PM

Meeting Room B

Artificial intelligence shows up everywhere now, but how do you know when it's useful? Explore what AI is (and isn't) good at, with real-life examples to help you make informed choices about when to use it and when to avoid it.

Registration opens Sunday, April 12.



Save the date for summer reading!



Read the Guide Online

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



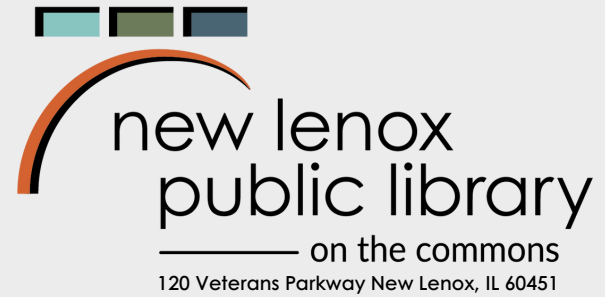
Library Calendar & Program Registration

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.



Library Board

Alex Vancina, President
Michelle Monbrod, Vice-President
Dr. Edward Tatro, Treasurer
Erin Moncek, Secretary
Cari Didion
Colette Loecke
Dawn Wheat
Michelle Krooswyk, Executive Director




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

 Facebook: New Lenox Public Library
 Instagram: @newlenoxlibrary
 YouTube: New Lenox Library

Upcoming Closure Dates

Friday, March 5	Staff Development Day
Sunday, April 5	Easter Sunday
Sunday, May 24	Sunday Before Memorial Day
Monday, May 25	Memorial Day