

Bloomington Public Library



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SUMMER PROGRAMS

JUNE - AUGUST 2025

PROGRAMS FOR EVERYONE IN A SERIES

Concerts on the Patio

Wednesdays • 6:30 – 8pm • June 11 & 25; July 16, 23, 30
Library Patio

After a multi-year hiatus, the library's beloved outdoor concert series is returning. Bring your chairs, blankets, and a dancing spirit, and plan to enjoy an evening of great tunes and fresh air in a vibrant atmosphere!

Here is the lineup by date:

- June 11 – The Rusty Pickups
- June 25 – Kate Herald
- July 16 – The Amplifiers & The Empty Set with Gregg Brown
- July 23 – Davenport, Dish and Mish
- July 30 – Kevin & Cassie Hart and Friends

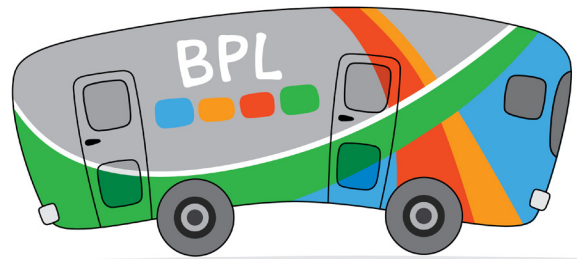
Questions about these programs can be emailed to Molly at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Meet the Bookmobile!

Tuesdays • 10:30am – 12pm • June 17 & July 15
Outside the Olive Street Entrance at the Library

The bookmobile is ready to meet you! The Bookmobile will offer fun and games near the Olive Street entrance at the main library. While you're aboard, you'll be able to learn about the library's bookmobile services.

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Emily at circulation@bloomingtonlibrary.org.



STANDALONE PROGRAMS FOR EVERYONE

Let's Celebrate Eid!

Saturday, June 7 • 2 – 4pm • Community Room 1

You are invited to join us for fun-filled event to celebrate Eid and highlight the diversity of people and cultures around us! Attendees will enjoy arts, crafts, henna tattoos, and snacks!

Eid al-Adha, also known as the Festival of Sacrifice, is one of the two major Islamic holidays. It takes place at the end of the yearly Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Alex at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

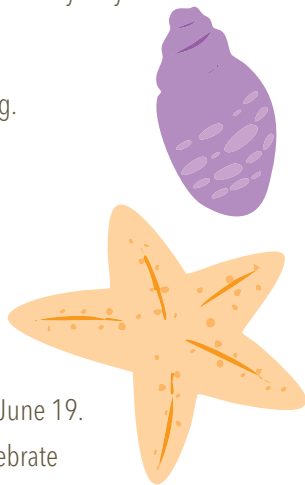
Juneteenth @ BPL!

Thursday, June 19 • 10am – 1pm
Community Rooms 1 – 3

Juneteenth, the holiday commemorating the emancipation of enslaved people in the United States, was officially recognized as a federal holiday in 2021, and is celebrated on June 19.

Join us at Bloomington Public Library as we celebrate Juneteenth with a story time and musical performance by Grammy-nominated, interactive children's entertainer and teaching artist, Nanny Nikki, followed by crafts, games, community resources, and information to help us learn more about this important holiday!

The first 200 children to complete and turn in their Juneteenth passport will receive a free book and a treat made possible by the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation, Bobzbay Books, and Miss Kim's Konfections.



Additional onsite community partners include Normal Public Library, All Our Kids Network, Ecology Action Center, 40 & Up Jump, Immigration Project, Brightpoint, Project XV Museum, and more.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Ms. Alysha at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

CAST Presents: Sally Sells Seashells

Saturday, June 21 • 11:30am – 12:30pm
Community Rooms 2 & 3

Crossroads Area Student Theatre (CAST) Summer Camp presents: *Sally Sells Seashells (And You Can Too!)*

Sally is a kid con-artist who explodes onto a quiet beach town with a get-rich-quick, seashell-selling scheme. For a small fee, she trains the kids on how to sell seashells before the summer festival, but plans to skip town with all their money before the big event! The kids will never be the same as they learn the importance of friendship and honesty.

CAST is a faith-based, not-for-profit theatre for youth ages 7-19 living in or around the Bloomington-Normal area. Learn more about their season at castbn.org. *Sally Sells Seashells (And You Can Too!)* is presented through special arrangement with Beat by Beat Press (bbbpress.com).

Questions about this program can be emailed to Anna Elizabeth at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.



STANDALONE PROGRAMS FOR EVERYONE

Pride Night at Miller Park Zoo

Wednesday, July 9 • 5:30 – 7:30pm • Miller Park Zoo

Join us for Pride Night at Miller Park Zoo, a free, family-friendly celebration of the LGBTQ+ community! This event is being held in conjunction with Prairie Pride Coalition and Normal Public Library. Attendees will enjoy free after-hours zoo access, special activities, and a welcoming atmosphere for all.

The Prairie Pride Coalition will offer a drag queen story time. Bloomington Public Library will offer an all-ages craft. The craft will be available on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Molly at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.



This program will be best enjoyed by tweens, teens, and adults.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Sara at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Time Capsule Celebration

Friday, August 1 • 2 – 3:15pm • Children's Program Room 1

What will people in the future think of the year 2025? You'll have to wait 25 years to find out! That's when Bloomington Public Library's 2025 Time Capsule will next be opened.

To celebrate the Time Capsule's hibernation, kids and families are invited to come to the library to make their own time capsules. We will provide the art supplies, while you provide the personal memorabilia. At 3pm, we will all parade upstairs to ceremoniously place the library's 2025 Time Capsule into a locked case in the Quiet Reading Room, where it will remain untouched until it's opened in 2050.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Anna Elizabeth at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

CAST Presents:

Journey of the Noble Gnarble

Friday, July 18 • 2:30 – 3:30pm • Community Rooms 1 & 2

Crossroads Area Student Theatre (CAST) Summer Camp presents: *Journey of the Noble Gnarble*.

The ocean floor is filled with the rarest of creatures, but none are as rare as gnarbles. Their fins are small; their tails are floppy; and they have never strayed far from their homes ... until now. This is a story of a little gnarble on his way to the surface of the sea. Along the way he befriends the glinny glims who teach him the importance of positivity and determination!

CAST is a faith-based, not-for-profit theatre for youth ages 7-19 living in or around the Bloomington-Normal area. Learn more about their season at castbn.org. *Journey of the Noble Gnarble* is presented through special arrangement with Beat by Beat Press (bbbpress.com).

Questions about this program can be emailed to Anna Elizabeth at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Prairie on the Patio: Grand Opening

Thursday, August 14 • 5 – 6:30pm • Library Patio

Join us for the grand opening of BPL's Prairie on the Patio. With help from Wild Ones and Illinois Prairie Community Foundation we've transformed the library's patio into a native plants haven. During the program, a representative from Wild Ones will speak about native plants and their benefits. A children's craft will be offered, and light refreshments will be served. This event is perfect for people of all ages!

BPL's Prairie on the Patio was made possible through grant funding from Illinois Prairie Community Foundation. Thank you IPCF and Wild Ones Illinois Prairie Chapter for helping make this dream a reality.

Questions about this program can be emailed to the Library's Green Committee at greencommittee@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

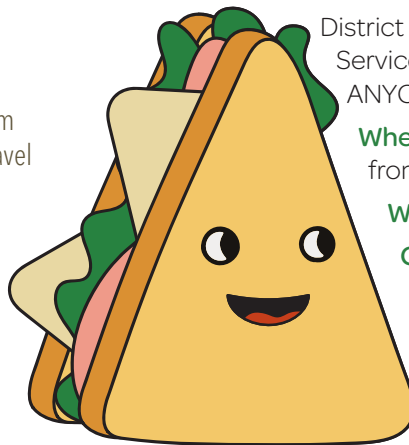
Storm Science!

Wednesday, July 23 • 1 – 3pm • Community Rooms 1 – 3

Dive headfirst into the exhilarating world of storm chasing with Storm Science, a collaboration with Illinois Storm Chasers. Unravel local climatology, relive past tornadic events, and arm yourself with knowledge about severe weather safety and preparedness. Have questions? We have a Q&A session lined up just for you!



FREE LUNCH!



District 87 sponsors a Summer Food Service Program which offers free lunch to ANYONE age 18 years and under.

When: 11:30am-12:30pm on weekdays, from June 9 – August 8, 2025.

Where: Bloomington Public Library

Cost: FREE for anyone ages 0 - 18; \$3.50 per lunch for those older than 18.

There will be **NO LUNCH SERVICE** on Juneteenth (June 19) & Independence Day (July 4).



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS IN A SERIES

Itsy Bitsy Arts*

Mondays • 10am • June 2 & July 7 • Community Room 3

Itsy Bitsy Arts with the Illinois Art Station offers hands-on, transformative artmaking for young artists ages 0-2 years and their families. Attendees will enjoy story time and thematic artmaking inspired by artists, mediums, and story elements – all facilitated by an IAS art educator.

Beginning May 19, register for the June 2 session at bit.ly/itsybitsy0602. Beginning June 23, register for the July 7 session at bit.ly/itsybitsy0707.

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Ms. Alysha at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Itsy Arts*

Mondays • 11am • June 2 & July 7 • Community Room 3

Itsy Arts with the Illinois Art Station offers hands-on, transformative artmaking for young artists ages 2-5 years and their families. Attendees will enjoy story time and thematic artmaking inspired by artists, mediums, and story elements – all facilitated by an IAS art educator.

Beginning May 19, register for the June 2 session at bit.ly/itsy0602. Beginning June 23, register for the July 7 session at bit.ly/itsy0707.

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Ms. Alysha at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Lego Construction

Saturdays • 9:30 – 11:30am • June 7 & July 5
Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

Join us this summer for Lego Construction, and have your picture taken with your creation. Children can participate in various challenges or build whatever they want!

This program is suitable for children ages 3-11 years old and their caregivers. There is no need to register. Lego bricks, base plates, and example sheets will be provided. Please leave your blocks/bricks at home. Pictures of children and their creations will be taken by our staff and posted to the library's social media pages.

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Ms. Alysha at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.



Summer Reading Story Time

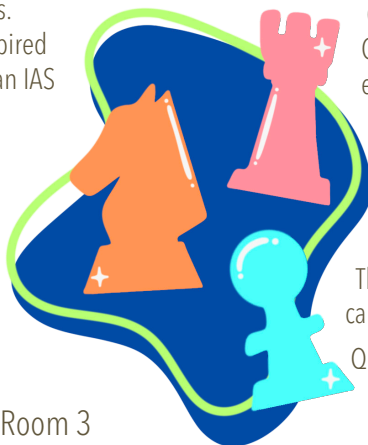
Tuesdays • 10am • June 10, 17, 24 & July 1, 8, 15, 22
Community Rooms 1-2

Children of all ages are welcome to join us for stories, songs, and fun during our Summer Reading Story Time!

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Jesse at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Summer Chess Club

Tuesdays • 5:30 – 7pm • June 10, July 8, August 12
Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2



Calling all knights of the square table! Come to the Children's Department for an informal chess drop-in event. All levels of chess skills are welcome!

Bring a friend to play with or come to meet a new checkmate (Ha ha)! The library will provide a limited number of chess sets for patrons to use. Please feel free to bring your own chess set and board.

This program is perfect for kids ages 5-11 and their caregivers.

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Clare at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Tales for Tails*

Wednesdays • 6pm • June 11, 18, 25 & July 9, 16, 23
Thursdays • 1pm • June 12 & 26; July 10 & 24
Children's Program Room 2

This program pairs trained and certified therapy dogs with children in Grades K-5 who want to practice reading aloud. During each session, there will be 4 time slots available for kids to meet and read to a pup in the Children's Department.

Registration is required and opens two weeks before the date of each session at bit.ly/talesfortails. Ms. Alex will personally email those who register to assign them a time slot and introduce them to the dog they'll be meeting!

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Ms. Alex at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Sensory Story Time*

Thursdays • 10am • June 12, 19, 26 & July 10, 17, 24
Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

This inclusive story time offers stories, songs, and sensory-focused activities for children of all ages and abilities! After story time, stay for sensory play and socialization. Intended as a safe space for children with autism, this program is also open to siblings, caregivers, and any kids who would like to make friends.

Registration is required and opens two weeks before the date of each session at bit.ly/bplsensorystory.

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Ms. Alex at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS IN A SERIES

Tummy Time Play

Thursdays • 2pm • June 12 & July 10
Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

Join us for this relaxed, interactive program designed to encourage fine motor skills, gross motor skills, and socialization skills through play for our youngest library patrons! There will be bubbles, music, toys, and information highlighting the importance of early developmental skills. This drop-in program is intended for children ages 0-18 months and their caregivers, but all are welcome to attend. No registration required.

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Ms. Alysha at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Super Saturday Story Time

Saturdays • 10am • June 14, July 12, August 9
Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

Join us for an all-ages, fantastic story time extravaganza where we'll dance, listen to music, read stories, and have a wondrous time. This story time is perfect for kiddos, age birth-11 years, and their caregivers. We'll see you there!

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Ms. Clare at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Bookworms

Mondays • 9:30 – 11am • June 16, July 21, August 18
Children's Program Room 2

Wiggle your way through some book-themed activities before spending time reading (or listening to your adult read to you) as you work your way toward completing your reading goals for the summer.

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Lisa at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Paws and Pages*

Mondays • 1pm • June 16, July 14, August 4
Humane Society of Central Illinois

This program will pair children in grades K-5 with shelter animals to practice reading aloud. Library staff will be at the Humane Society (423 Kays Drive, Normal) from 1 – 3pm. There will be 8 time slots for kids to meet and read to a shelter animal.

One week before each program meets, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/bplpaws. Mr. Cody will email those who register to assign them a time slot!

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Mr. Cody at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Story Time for a Summer Night

Mondays • 6pm • June 16, July 21, August 18
Children's Program Room 2

Join Mr. Cody and Ms. Lisa for an evening story time that will include books, songs, fingerplays & activities. This story time is for kids of all ages.

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Mr. Cody at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Fun & Games: Family Game Day

Sundays • 2 - 4pm • June 22, July 27, August 24
Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

Join us in the Children's Department for classic board games, card games, and puzzles. Game masters from Red Raccoon Games will join us on site to demonstrate how to play a variety of hand-picked games, all appropriate for your family gaming experience.

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Miss Jill at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Family Art Night

Tuesdays • 6pm • June 24 & July 22
Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

Join us at the library for a relaxing evening of art making and creativity with your family! There will be a variety of art supplies available to create your family's masterpiece.

This 60-minute drop-in program is intended for children ages 3-11 years accompanied by their caregivers and families.

No registration required.

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Ms. Alysha at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.



STANDALONE CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Book World Scavenger Hunt

June 1 – July 28 • Children's Department

Visit the Children's Desk to request a Book World Scavenger Hunt Sheet. Then complete the following:

- Search for 12 book character silhouettes hidden throughout the Children's Department.
- Write down the name of each character as you locate them.
- In the boxes at the bottom of the scavenger hunt sheet, Level Up and write down the LETTER you find with each character.
- Unscramble the letters to discover the special message; write it on the provided line.
- Show your scavenger hunt sheet to the librarian at the Children's Desk to receive a small prize.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Lisa at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Dance Party

Monday, June 2 • 2 – 4pm • Children's Program Room 2

Come to the library to celebrate the start of Summer Reading! Children of all ages are invited to move and groove for this dance party!

Questions about this program can be emailed to Anna Elizabeth at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Trash Tunes: Building Instruments from Trash

Monday, June 23 • 10am • Community Room 2

Join the Ecology Action Center as we explore the true story behind *Ada's Violin: The Story of the Recycled Orchestra of Paraguay* by Susan Hood. This colorful picture book tells how children in Cateura, Paraguay, turned trash from their town's landfill into musical instruments!

In this hands-on program, kids will create their own instruments from recycled materials, like recycled-can drums and plastic-bottle trumpets. Then, they'll come together to play music as a group. It's a fun way to learn about recycling and music! This program is intended for children ages 5-11 years who are accompanied by their caregivers. All materials to create instruments will be provided. No registration required.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Ms. Alysha at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.



StoryWalk® at the Glorious Garden Festival

Friday, July 11 • 1 – 5pm • Saturday, July 12 • 9am – 1pm
David Davis Mansion

Read *Planting a Rainbow* by Lois Ehlert as you walk through Sarah's Garden at the David Davis Mansion, 1000 Monroe

Dr. This StoryWalk® is one of several free events included in the 2025 Glorious Garden Festival.

Additional information about the Glorious Garden Festival can be found at bit.ly/gloriousgarden.

The Glorious Garden Festival's hours are different from the hours of the free events being offered as part of the festival. The Festival runs from 1-7pm on Friday and 9am-3pm on Saturday.



Questions about the StoryWalk® can be emailed to Ms. Alex at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Cardboard Arcade

Saturday, July 12 • 2 – 4pm • Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

Calling all school-aged creative engineers! You are invited to build your very own arcade game using cardboard and other recycled materials. We'll provide the supplies and some assistance, but most kids will also need help from their grown-up.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Anna Elizabeth at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Mario Party Style Games IRL

Thursday, July 17 • 1:30 – 3pm • Community Rooms 2 & 3

During this drop-in event, the library will offer Mario-themed, minute-to-win-it style games for the whole family. If you think you have what it takes to be the best, come on down and show off your skills - wahoo!

Questions about this program can be emailed to Jesse at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

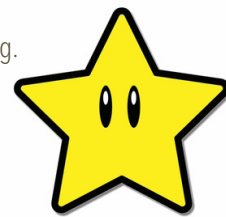
Instrument Playground

Saturday, August 23 • 10am – 2pm
Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

The Illinois Symphony Orchestra Guild of Bloomington-Normal will present an INSTRUMENT PLAYGROUND at Bloomington Public Library. Children ages 5-11 are invited to sample various instruments from the brass, woodwind, string, and percussion families of the orchestra.

Members of the Guild will be on hand to help the children, answer questions, and conduct instrument demonstrations.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Melissa at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.



TEEN PROGRAMS IN A SERIES

Teen Craftivism*

Mondays • 6pm • June 2, July 7, August 4
Community Room 3

Teen Craftivism will meet monthly in June, July, and August. During Craftivism, teens will learn a new craft and the history behind it.

Crafts for June through August are as follows:

- June 2: **Pride Friendship Bracelets**
- July 7: **Multi-Sensory Projects**
- August 4: **Back-to-School Buttons**

Registration for each session is required and can be completed at bit.ly/teencraftivism.

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Cora at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Monday Movie Musical Matinee

Mondays • 2 – 4:45pm • June 9 & 23; July 14 & 28
Community Room 3

Teenage musical fans, join us on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of June and July to enjoy a movie musical and snacks.

- June 9: **Mean Girls** - PG-13; 1 hour 52 minutes
- June 23: **Hamilton** - PG-13; 2 hours 40 minutes
- July 14: **Phantom of the Opera** - PG-13; 2 hours 23 minutes
- July 28: **Wicked** - PG; 2 hours 40 minutes

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Tiffany at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Teen Writing Workshops

Wednesdays • 12 – 1pm • June 11 & 25; July 9 & 23;
August 13 & 27 • TeenZone

This writing workshop is for teens in Grades 6-12 and is perfect for creative writers! Drop by the TeenZone for writing tips and tricks and to talk about the art of prose. Essay help and personal creative writing projects are perfect for this program which will focus on creative collaboration and bettering your writing skills. All you need is a writing project to work on (big or small), an open mind, and your thinking cap! Mini lessons may be available upon request.

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Cora at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Teen Artists in Action*

Thursdays • 3pm • June 12, July 10, August 14
Community Rooms 2 & 3

Illinois Art Station will lead our teen art afternoons on the dates listed below. Each class will feature a different project.

Crafts for June through August are as follows:

- June 12: **Fantasy Landscapes/Mapping**
- July 10: **Printmaking**
- August 14: **Collage with Artmaking**

Registration for each session is required and can be completed at bit.ly/bplteenartists.

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Tiffany at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Teen Genre Book Club

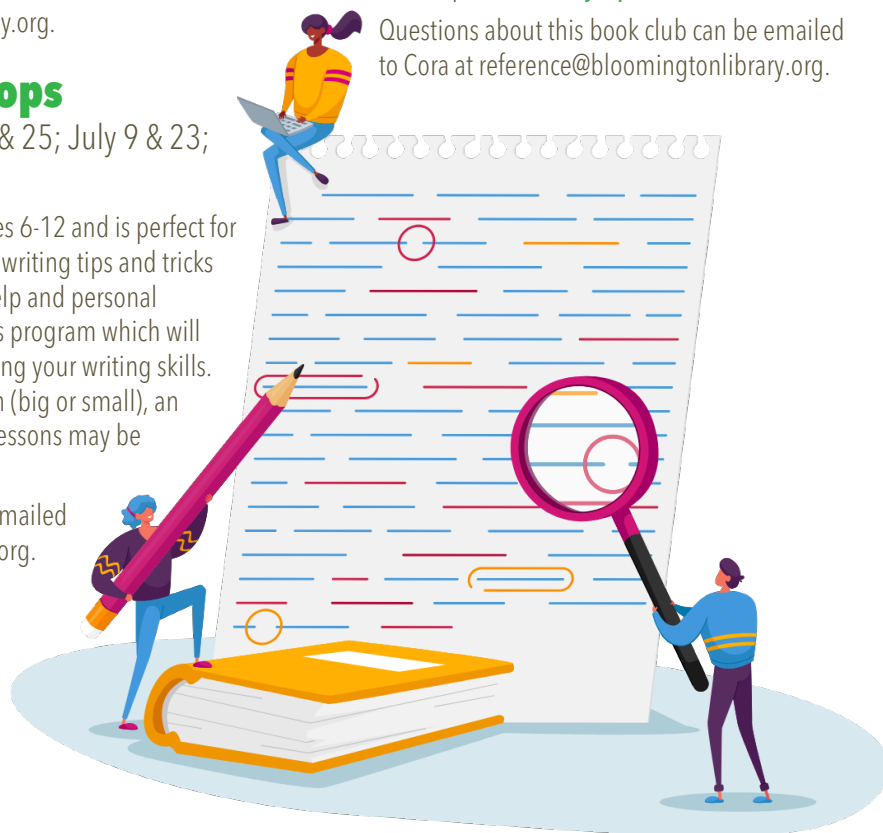
Saturdays • 11am • June 14, July 12, August 16
Conference Room

The Teen Genre Book Club will meet monthly to discuss a different genre of book. Pick any book that fits the month's genre.

- June 14: **Pride**
- July 12: **Beach Reads** (*set in summer*)
- August 16: **Romance**

Registration for each session is suggested and can be completed at bit.ly/bplteenbookclub.

Questions about this book club can be emailed to Cora at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.



STANDALONE TEEN PROGRAMS

Embroidered Tote Bags*

Monday, June 9 • 5:30pm • Innovation Lab

Using the Bernette 70 Embroidery Machine in the library's Innovation Lab, teens will explore embroidery by machine as they create an image which will then be embroidered onto a tote bag. The session will include a short demonstration of how to thread the machine and install the bobbin and a brief overview of the machine's design software.

Tote bags, thread, laptops, and tools will be provided. After the program ends, Library staff will embroider the designs onto the bags and the teens will pick up their completed projects at a later date.

Beginning Monday, May 26, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/totes0609.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Olivia at techprogramming@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

SuperHot Showdown: VR Face-Off*

Friday, June 13 • 12pm • TeenZone

During this action-packed SuperHot VR Showdown, teens will go head-to-head in the *Endless Endless Endless* mode, where time only moves when you do, creating a unique and intense virtual reality experience.

This double-elimination tournament will test your reflexes, strategy, and VR skills as you compete for the top spot. The best players will walk away with awesome prizes (which will be revealed at the event) so bring your A-game! No prior VR experience is needed – just come prepared for an exciting tournament!

Beginning Friday, May 30, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/vrshowdown.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Gene at techprogramming@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

So You Want To Be A DM?*

Saturday, June 14 • 2pm • Computer Lab

If you're curious about what it takes to be a D&D Dungeon Master, this beginner-friendly workshop will walk you through the basics of prepping and running your own games! We'll cover:

- What a DM actually does
- How to build a simple adventure
- Tips for describing scenes and playing characters
- Basic rules and how to run combat
- Helpful tools and resources for first-time DMs

This program was designed around the 2014 D&D ruleset; however, a lot of the content will be cross-compatible with the 2024 edition.

Beginning Saturday, May 31, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/bpldmintro.

Questions about this program can be emailed to DJ at techprogramming@bloomingtonlibrary.org.



Adulting 101*

Tuesday, June 17 • 2pm • Community Room 3

There is a lot to learn when embarking into the "real world" as a young adult. Staff from Illinois State Credit Union will discuss some financial aspects that should be considered.

What You'll Learn:

- How to build credit history from scratch
- Financial considerations when starting a full-time job
- Steps to prepare to move out on your own

Who Should Attend?

- High school juniors through college students
- Recent graduates preparing to enter the workforce
- Parents/guardians of young adults

Beginning Monday, May 26, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/bpladulthood.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Tiffany at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.



Nintendo Triathlon*

Saturday, June 28 • 1 – 4pm • Community Rooms 1 – 3

Do you love Nintendo games? Put your skills to the test in this 3-event tournament during the Nintendo Triathlon. Face off with opponents in a Super Smash Brothers bracket; race your competitors to the finish line in a Mario Kart Grand Prix; and then compete in a gauntlet of Mario Party Minigames. The winner of each event will win a prize. Pizza will be provided. Spectators are welcome!

Beginning Saturday, June 14, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/bplnintendo.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Olivia at techprogramming@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Teen Trivia Night

Monday, July 14 • 5:30pm • TeenZone

Join us for a night of trivia in the Teen Zone!
You can bring friends to play as a group or play on your own.

The team with the most points will receive a prize.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Olivia at techprogramming@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

STANDALONE TEEN PROGRAMS

Play Skibidi Games; Win Skibidi Prizes*

Tuesday, July 15 • 2pm • Community Rooms 1 – 3

Fight boredom! Teens are invited to come play silly games at the Bloomington Public Library for a chance to win even sillier prizes.

Beginning June 17, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/bplskibidi. This program is hosted by the Bloomington Public Library and Normal Public Library Teen Services Departments.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Tiffany at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Robot Rube Goldberg Machines*

Saturday, July 19 • 1pm • Innovation Lab

Get ready to move a golf ball in the most complicated way imaginable! In this hands-on workshop, teens will use VEX robotics parts to design and construct a Rube Goldberg machine. Each team of two will create one element of the contraption, which will ultimately work together to send the golf ball from one place to another in a delightfully over-engineered manner.



This challenge will let you explore the principles of engineering, teamwork, and problem-solving. Once everyone's element is ready, we'll combine them into one massive, chain-reacting machine!

Beginning Saturday, July 5, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/rube0719.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Gene at techprogramming@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Reality Fair for Teens*

Tuesday, July 22 • 2pm • Community Rooms 2 & 3

Join representatives from the Illinois State Credit Union for a life-size game of LIFE. Teens will be assigned a career and will then need to budget as they navigate the world of getting a credit card, buying a house, and other real-world scenarios.

Beginning Monday, June 30, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/bplreality.

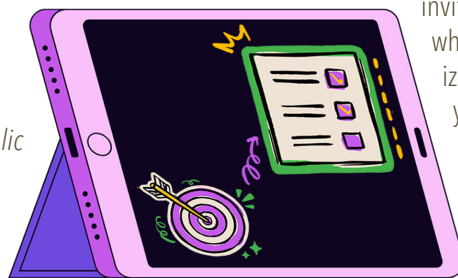
Questions about this program can be emailed to Tiffany at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Digital Vision Boards for Success*

Tuesday, July 29 • 2pm • Community Room 3

The Illinois Human Performance Project and The Prescription Playbook invite teens to join them for a fun workshop where you can create your own personalized vision board for the upcoming school year!

We will feature content about leadership, mental health, and making healthy choices all while catering to your goals. Please feel free to bring your devices and a friend!



Beginning Tuesday, July 1, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/teenvisionboards.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Tiffany at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Teen Comic Con: End-of-Summer Party

Friday, August 1 • 5:30 – 8pm • Community Rooms 1 – 3

If teens collectively read for 5,000 hours this summer, they will earn a Teens-only, after-hours, end-of-summer party.

This year we will be having a Comic-Con inspired party. Wear a costume^ from your favorite fandom for our costume contest. Join our Super Smash Bro Gaming Tournament. Meet "Stan Lee" for a Q&A session. Get your face painted. Enjoy some snacks. And much more!

^Costume Contest Rules: No weapons (including toy weapons); shoes must be worn at all times when inside the library.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Tiffany at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Leveling Up Your D&D Terrain*

Saturday, August 9 • 1 – 4:45pm • Innovation Lab

In this workshop, teen will use pre-made terrain pieces designed to bring their D&D world to life! We'll guide you through how to incorporate terrain into your storytelling, making every encounter more exciting and visually engaging. Teens will learn:

- How to use terrain effectively during D&D sessions
- Ways to customize pieces for different environments (dungeons, forests, castles, etc.)
- Tips for creating memorable encounters using terrain
- Tricks to add depth to campaigns using simple props

Beginning Wednesday, July 9, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/ddterrain.

Questions about this program can be emailed to DJ at techprogramming@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

PROGRAMS FOR TEENS & ADULTS IN A SERIES

English Language Conversation Group*

Mondays • 5:30pm • June 16 & August 18

Community Room 2

This program meets monthly from February to November and is designed for adults for whom English is a second language. Native English speakers are welcome as conversation partners to help others in the community.

We work on conversation skills with guided topics.

- The theme in June is Beauty.

- The theme in August is Risk.

This program is being held in partnership with STAR Adult Literacy. New participants are welcome at any time.

Registration can be completed online at bit.ly/bplenglish.

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Nazma at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

STANDALONE PROGRAMS FOR TEENS & ADULTS

Juneteenth Night Out (Movie)

Thursday, June 19 • 6pm • Community Room 3

Commemorate Juneteenth as you watch a film on our big screen!

In celebration of Juneteenth, we will be watching *Hidden Figures* (PG, 2 hours 15 minutes), a biographical drama about three African-American women who pioneered their mathematical talents to influence the human computers at NASA during the early 1960s. Snacks will be provided. Registration is not required.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Kerrie at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Meditation for a More Peaceful & Healthier Life*

Thursday, July 24 • 7pm • Online via Zoom

Many people all over the world are turning to meditation to help them lead a more peaceful and healthier lifestyle. Scientific studies have proven that the practice of meditation reduces stress and anxiety, as well as decreasing the risk of disease.

Join Ankaj Goel, long-time meditator, for this informative program that is being offered online via Zoom. The session will include an opportunity to try this meditation practice.

Registration is required and can be completed at bit.ly/meditation0724.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Mimi at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Stream It Like You Mean It with OBS*

Wednesday, July 30 • 6pm • Computer Lab & Online

If you're a teen or an adult who wants to start streaming like a pro, plan to join us for an engaging, hands-on introduction to Open Broadcaster Software (OBS), the powerful and free tool used by streamers around the world! In this session, we'll guide you through the basics of OBS, from setting up scenes and sources to adjusting your settings for the best quality stream.

The presentation will break down the software's features step-by-step, making it easy to understand whether you're a complete beginner or just need a refresher. There will be time for questions and practice at the end, so you'll leave feeling confident and ready to stream like you mean it!

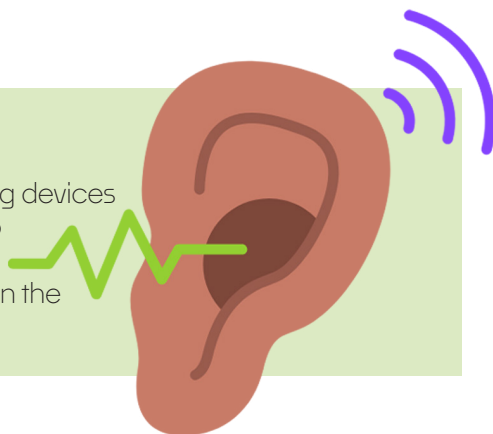
This program will also be streamed live on the BPL YouTube channel at bit.ly/blmlibyoutube so you can join from the comfort of home.

Beginning July 16, registration for in-person attendees can be completed online at bit.ly/obs0730. Registration is only required for in-person attendees.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Gene at techprogramming@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

HEARING DEVICE ASSISTANCE:

To accommodate hard-of-hearing patrons, the library offers the use of assistive listening devices in each Community Room and in each Children's Program Room. For these devices to work, the presenter must use the room's sound system. For the clearest sound, the user should make sure the device is unobstructed by clothing or jewelry and should try to sit in the first few rows. If you experience connectivity issues, please let a staff member know.



PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS IN A SERIES

Midweek Movie Club

Wednesdays • 1 – 4pm • June 4, July 2, August 6
Community Room 2

Enjoy a relaxing afternoon at the library while watching a film on our big screen. Snacks and drinks will be provided. There's no need to register; just come and enjoy the show!

- June 4: **Tron**
- July 2: **Independence Day**
- August 6: **The Goonies**

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Molly at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Crafternoons at BPL

Saturdays • 3 – 4:30pm • June 14, July 12, August 9
Community Room 3

Join us at the library for a creative meetup for adults!

Bring your portable craft projects – whether knitting, scrapbooking, or any other hobby – and enjoy a relaxing afternoon of crafting and conversation. All skill levels are welcome. Registration is not required.

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Rhonda at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

The Natural World: Hands-On Photography*

Wednesdays • 6pm • August 6 & 13 • Community Room 2

Professional photographer Ray Silva's digital photography learning sessions will help you to better understand your camera and how to level up your nature photography!

Registration for both sessions opens July 21 and is limited to 12 participants per session. You will need to sign up separately for each session. Registration can be completed online at bit.ly/bplphotoseries.

Participants will need to bring their own camera. This presentation will focus on DSLR and Mirrorless cameras. Some of the information presented may be applicable to smart phones; however, the presenter will not be focusing on smart phone cameras.

- August 6: **Milky Way Photography**
- August 13: **Flower Photography**

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Mimi at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.



STANDALONE PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

Embroidered Tote Bags*

Tuesday, June 3 • 6pm • Innovation Lab

Using the Bernette 70 Embroidery Machine and accompanying software in the library's Innovation Lab, adults will explore embroidery by machine as they create an image which will then be embroidered onto a tote bag.

After the program ends, library staff will embroider the designs onto the tote bags. Attendees will pick up their completed projects at a later date.

Beginning May 19, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/totes0603.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Kerrie at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Explaining Veteran Caregiver Support Programs

Thursday, June 5 • 10am • Community Room 1

Veterans and their caregivers may be eligible for support services through the VA (Veterans Affairs) Department. Join Debi Terfruchte, LCSW, General Caregiver Support Coordinator, for this presentation aimed at veterans, their families, and caregivers. She'll explain two different Caregiver Support Programs:

- Program of General Caregiver Support Services
- Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers

Questions about this program can be emailed to Mimi at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Meditative Watercolor*

Sunday, June 8 • 2pm • Community Room 3

Watercolor painting is a wonderful way to meditate by relaxing our ever-busy minds and bodies. The colors, the textures we can create, and the creative freedom all help to release emotions and focus intentions. You don't have to have any previous experience in watercolor painting to find enjoyment in this in-person, 1.5-hour class.

Beginning May 27, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/watercolor0608.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Rhonda at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.



PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

The Henney Kilowatt: Bloomington's "Car of Tomorrow"

Thursday, June 26 • 6pm • Community Room 1 & Online

Long before Rivian became one of the hottest electric automakers on the planet, the Twin Cities were center stage for another battery-powered vehicle – the Henney Kilowatt – a project of the National Union Electric Co. The electric propulsion system was designed by Eureka-Williams engineers, and the cars were assembled in Bloomington.

Our presenter – Bill Kemp of the McLean County Museum of History – promises an electrifying, edifying time for all! This program will be offered both in person in Community Room 1 of the library and via livestream on the BPL YouTube channel at bit.ly/blmlibyoutube.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Sara at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Estate Planning and Surviving Your Retirement*

Thursday, July 10 • 6pm • Community Rooms 2 & 3

Retirement can often bring financial shifts that catch people off guard. During this program, we'll take a closer look at how estate considerations and taxes may affect your overall plan. We'll also introduce five key areas every retiree should be thinking about, some of which are often missed entirely.

If you're recently retired or preparing for the transition, this conversation is designed to help you approach your planning with greater clarity and confidence. Our presenters will be Tyler and Bernie Wrezinski of the Institute for Financial Education.

Registration is required and can be completed online at bit.ly/estate0710.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Kerrie at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Investing and Retirement Planning*

Thursday, July 17 • 6pm • Community Room 3

Build a strong foundation of investment and retirement knowledge through this class presented by Matthias Pope from Dill Wealth Management Group. Effective strategies for investing, retirement planning, and utilizing long-term care insurance will be explored. Learn how investing fits in your retirement planning and how to make informed decisions to help you meet your long-term investment goals.

Beginning June 30, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/retire0717.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Kerrie at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Disability Insurance Workshop*

Saturday, July 19 • 1pm • Community Rooms 1 & 2

Learn how to navigate the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) application process at this free workshop presented by Chestnut Health Systems.

Attendees will learn the differences between these two programs, what qualifies as a disability, and learn tips that may increase the likelihood of application approval. A free disability starter kit will be provided to each attendee. This program is intended for adults who are interested in applying for SSI/SSDI for themselves or an adult family member.

Registration is required and can be completed online at tinyurl.com/July-Disability.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Marcie at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

How to Run D&D for Your Kids*

Thursday, July 24 • 6pm • Children's Program Rm 2

If you are interested in running a Dungeons and Dragons game for your kids but aren't sure where to start – we can help!

We'll offer practical advice, helpful resources, and everything in between. Whether you're wanting to run a game online or in person; whether you or your kids know the game well or have never played; whether a full-rules or rules-light version of the game might work best for your situation, we will have (or can find) the answers.

Beginning July 10, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/rundd0724.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Jesse at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

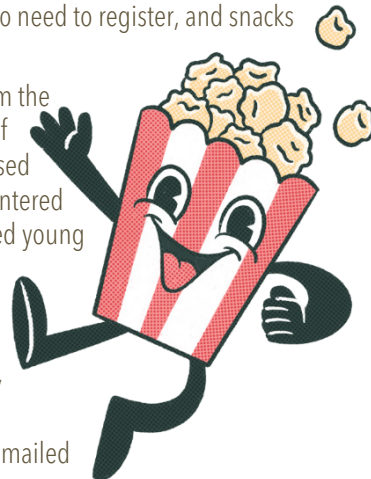
Afternoon Movie Matinee

Saturday, July 26 • 1:30 – 4:30pm • Community Room 3

Relax after lunch while you enjoy one of the most popular movies of the season, the musical *Wicked*. There is no need to register, and snacks will be provided.

Wicked (2hr 40 min, PG) is derived from the 2003 Broadway musical and is Part 1 of the story line. (Part 2 is due to be released in November 2025!) The synopsis is centered around a misunderstood, green-skinned young woman named Elphaba who becomes friends with Glinda who has a desire to become the best witch at their school. When they encounter the Wizard of Oz, their relationship takes a new course.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Kerrie at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.



STANDALONE PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

Reasonable Doubt: An Evening with Steve Vogel

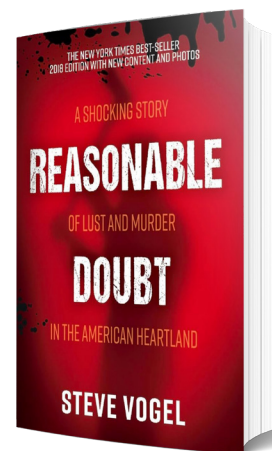
Tuesday, August 5 • 7pm • Community Rooms 1 – 3 & Online

The History Reads Book Club and True Crime Book Club are pleased to host an evening discussion with Steve Vogel – author of *Reasonable Doubt: A Shocking Story of Lust and Murder in the American Heartland*.

This local true crime story is about the Hendricks family murders, which happened here in Bloomington, IL, in 1983. Although this evening is hosted by two of the library's book clubs, anyone can attend. Copies of this book will be available to read before the program. Reading the book is encouraged but not required.

This program will also be streamed live on the BPL YouTube channel at bit.ly/blmlibyoutube so you can join from the comfort of home.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Mimi or Sara at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.



BOOK CLUBS

Books On Tap Book Club*

Mondays • 6pm • Lil Beaver Brewery

- **June 2** - *Leg: The Story of a Limb and the Boy Who Grew from It* by Greg Marshall
- **July 7** - *How Can I Help You* by Laura Sims
- **August 4** - *Random Acts of Medicine: The Hidden Forces that Sway Doctors, Impact Patients, and Shape Our Health* by Anupam B. Jena

Learn more or register online at bit.ly/bplbookclubs.

Questions about this book club can be emailed to Molly at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Let's Dish! A Cookbook Club*

Mondays • 6:30pm • Community Room 3

Participants are asked to prepare and share a dish from the month's chosen cookbook. Those who bring a dish can sample dishes brought by others as food and cooking are discussed.

- **June 9** - *The Woks of Life* by Bill Leung
- **August 11** - *Smitten Kitchen Keepers* by Deb Perelman

Learn more or register online at bit.ly/bplbookclubs.

Questions about this book club can be emailed to Nazma at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Mystery Book Club*

Tuesdays • 7pm • Conference Room & Online

- **June 10** - *In the Deep* by Loreth Anne White
- **July 8** - *A Curious Beginning* by Deanna Raybourn
- **August 12** - *Raven Black* by Ann Cleeves

Registration is only required for online participants and can be completed online at bit.ly/bplbookclubs.

Questions about this book club can be emailed to Marcie at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.



BOOK CLUBS

Silent Book Club

Thursdays • 6pm • June 12, July 10, August 14
Quiet Reading Room

Are you looking for a book club without assigned reading? Do you just need to spend a peaceful hour with a book? The Silent Book Club offers this! Bring a book with you or find a new favorite in the stacks to enjoy reading in our Quiet Reading Room from 6-7pm. After 7pm, you have the option to socialize with other readers in our Conference Room until 7:30pm.

Questions about this book club can be emailed to Mimi at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

True Colors Book Club*

Thursday, June 12 • 6:30pm
Unitarian Universalist Church

The True Colors Book Club – hosted by Bloomington Library, PFLAG Bloomington-Normal, and Prairie Pride Coalition – meets quarterly to discuss books with themes relevant to the LGBTQ+ community.

Meetings are held in person at the Unitarian Church (1613 East Emerson Street).

The June 12 meeting will discuss *He/She/They: How We Talk About Gender and Why It Matters* by Schuyler Bailar.

Learn more or register online at bit.ly/bplbookclubs.

Questions about this book club can be emailed to Mimi at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Fiction Book Club*

Tuesdays • 7pm • Conference Room & Online

- **June 17** - *The Cartographers* by Peng Shepherd
- **July 15** - *Loving Frank* by Nancy Horan
- **August 19** - *The Kamogawa Food Detectives* by Hisashi Kashiwai

Registration is only required for online participants and can be completed online at bit.ly/bplbookclubs.

Questions about this book club can be emailed to Mimi at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Lock Your Doors: A True Crime Book Club*

Monday, June 23 • 7pm • Conference Room & Online
Tuesday, August 5 • 7pm • Community Rooms 1 – 3

Lock Your Doors: A True Crime Book Club meets quarterly and is for all fans of true crime – whether you're a devotee or you just discovered the genre.

- **June 23** - *Liliana's Invincible Summer: A Sister's Search for Justice* by Cristina Rivera Garza

Registration is only required for online participants and can be completed online at bit.ly/bplbookclubs.

- **August 5**^ - *Reasonable Doubt: A Shocking Story of Lust and Murder in the American Heartland* by Steve Vogel

^The August 5 meeting will be a discussion with Steve Vogel. There is no registration. This program will also be streamed live on the BPL YouTube channel at bit.ly/blmlibyoutube.

Questions about this book club can be emailed to Mimi at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Book Brunch Club*

Thursdays • 10am • Conference Room & Online

Start your day right with Book Brunch Club, a cozy book club where you bring your coffee and snacks, we provide the books, and together we dive into lively discussions! Participants have the option to meet either in-person at Bloomington Public Library or online via Zoom.

- **June 26** - *People We Meet on Vacation* by Emily Henry
- **July 24** - *Stories from Tenants Downstairs* by Sidik Fofana
- **August 28** - *Widows of Malabar Hill* by Sujata Massey

Registration is required and can be completed online at bit.ly/bookbrunchclub.

Questions about this book club can be emailed to Molly at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.



History Reads Book Club

Tuesday, August 5 • 7pm • Community Rooms 1 – 3

In partnership with the McLean County Museum of History, the History Reads Book Club meets quarterly and focuses on books about Illinois history.

The August 5^ meeting will discuss *Reasonable Doubt: A Shocking Story of Lust and Murder in the American Heartland* by Steve Vogel.

^The August 5 meeting will be a discussion with Steve Vogel. There is no registration. This program will also be streamed live on the BPL YouTube channel at bit.ly/blmlibyoutube.

Questions about this book club can be emailed to Sara at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

What should we include in the library's 2025 Time Capsule?

The library is seeking community input about the items that should be included in its 2025 Time Capsule.

If you have a suggestion, please complete the webform at

bit.ly/bpl2025timecapsule.

- Ideas will be collected through July 28, 2025, the final day of the Summer Reading Program.
- The time capsule's dimensions are 18.9" x 14.6" x 6.3"
- Not all suggested items will be included in the capsule.

During the library's **Time Capsule Celebration** at 2pm on **Friday, August 1**, kids and families will have an opportunity to make their own time capsules. The library will provide the art supplies, while attendees provide the personal memorabilia.

At 3pm, we will all parade upstairs to the Quiet Reading Room to ceremoniously fill the library's 2025 Time Capsule with pre-selected items – some taken from your suggestions – and store it in a locked case where it will remain untouched until it's opened in 2050.



SUMMER READING



LEVELUP



AT YOUR LIBRARY



MAY 27 - JULY 28



SUMMER READING IS FOR KIDS, TEENS, & ADULTS!



A person is sitting on a lawn chair in a park. In the background, there is a tall palm tree and other green foliage. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day. The person is wearing a light-colored top and shorts. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and outdoorsy.

ADDRESS:

205 E. Olive Street
Bloomington, IL 61701

WEBSITE:

BloomingtonLibrary.org

PHONE:

309.828.6091

HOURS:

Monday - Thursday: 9am - 9pm

Friday - Saturday: 9am - 5pm

Sunday: 1 - 5pm

LIBRARY CLOSURES:

July 4 - All Day

