MAKER MONDAY
December 4 - February 19
6-7:30 pm | Community Room
Do you have a project you would like to work on? Find the space, tools, and support you need to get it done at NPL. We will pull out our best crafting tools, like the Cricut and sewing machines for your use.

GENEALOGY MEETUP
December 5 - January 2 - February 6 | 2-3 pm
In-Person: Community Room
At Home: on Zoom
Share your recent genealogical finds with others! Get help using Ancestry Library Edition and other library resources to explore your family’s history.

NPL KNITTING & CROCHETING CLUB
December 6 & 20 - January 3 & 17 - February 7 & 21
10 am-12 pm | Community Room
Gather to work on your current project and share tips and information. Bring a project you would like to work on.

MONEY-SAVING INCENTIVES FOR ELECTRIFYING YOUR HOME
WITH CITIZENS’ CLIMATE EDUCATION & ECOLOGY ACTION CENTER
December 6 | 6:30-7:30 pm
Community Room
Come hear about the electric bank account you didn’t know you had! You will learn about tax credits and instant rebates for electric vehicles, induction stovetops, heat pumps (a replacement for your AC and furnace), solar, and more. This presentation will also include information on the importance of energy efficiency, and information about the state’s Illinois Solar for All program.

WRITING MEETUP
2-3:30 pm | Community Room
For all writers, whether hobbyists or professionals! This is an accountability group to keep writing, rather than a feedback group. Join us for structured exercises, quiet writing time, and discussions of the challenges and triumphs that come with being a writer. Bring or borrow a computer, or paper and pen can be provided.

THE ORPHAN TRAIN IN MCLEAN COUNTY WITH McLEAN COUNTY MUSEUM OF HISTORY
December 10 | 2-3 pm
Community Room
From 1872 to 1890 the western agency of a New York Orphanage was in Normal, Illinois. Join Rochelle Gridley from the McLean County Museum of History to learn about the fate of orphans brought to McLean County by the famed trains over a 60 year period.

PAPER CRAFTING CLUB
December 13 - January 10 - February 14
10 am-12 pm | Community Room
Paper crafters, join us for an opportunity to work on your projects. We will provide a large workspace and bring out some of our best paper crafting tools for you to try and use. Whether you scrapbook, make cards, or build 3D paper sculptures, there is room for you at NPL. Please bring your own materials to use with our tools.
POETRY IS NORMAL OPEN MIC 🌼
December 19 • February 20
6:30–7:30 pm | Café
Join us to read original poems or poems by poets you love. December’s theme is Winter Solstice and February’s theme is Birth, but all themes are welcome!

POETRY IS NORMAL PRESENTS: LANNIE STABLE 🌼
January 16 | 6:30–7:30 pm
YouTube Live
Lannie Stabile (she/her), a queer Detroiter, the winner of OutWrite’s 2020 Poetry Chapbook Contest, will read from her latest book of poetry, *The Inconvenience of Grief*.

UNUSUAL PLACES TO FIND BIRTHS & NATURALIZATIONS 🌼
January 17 | 6:30–7:30 pm
on Zoom
Widen your search for birth dates and locations as well as naturalizations from a variety of underutilized resources such as military rosters, consulate applications, voter registrations, canceled passports, frakturs, and much more. This lecture from genealogist Debra Dudek focuses on both digital and physical resources, so gather your research checklist and see if these resources can help you fill in the gaps in your family tree.

PUZZLE PALOOZA 🌼
January 20 | 10 am–12:30 pm
Community Room
Are you a dissectologist? Do you love the assembly of jigsaw puzzles? Join us for Puzzle Palooza! We will have a puzzle swap & sit at 10 am (don’t be late; swaps are often over in minutes!) followed by refreshments, casual puzzling, and a registered team jigsaw puzzle competition at 10:30 am.

EXTRAORDINARY STORYTELLING 🌼
January 21 | 2–4 pm
Community Room
The Next to Normal Story Slam visits the Normal Public Library for a workshop that is all about stories. You will learn about the importance of stories, get tips for telling great stories, and practice telling your own stories.

CROP ‘TIL YOU DROP! 🌼
January 27 | 10 am–4 pm
Community Room
Come to the library where we will get out all our great paper crafting tools and give you the space and extended time to work on your designs.

HOUR WITH THE AUTHOR: JASON SOMMER 🌼
January 27 | 10:30–11:30 am
Café
Join us to discuss writing techniques for poetry and memoir with Jason Sommer, poet and author of *Shmuel’s Bridge: Following the Tracks to Auschwitz with My Survivor Father*. 
FOR ADULTS & ALL AGES

**SHMUEL’S BRIDGE: FOLLOWING THE TRACKS TO AUSCHWITZ WITH MY SURVIVOR FATHER**

A READING & DISCUSSION WITH AUTHOR: JASON SOMMER

January 27 | 2–3:30 pm
Moses Montefiore Temple | 102 Robinhood Ln, Bloomington

Poet Jason Sommer reads from his recent memoir, *Shmuel’s Bridge: Following the Tracks to Auschwitz with My Survivor Father*. Writer and educator Dr. Alvin Goldfarb will interview the author with a Q&A to follow.

**LEARNING CIRCLE: GOOGLE AI FOR ANYONE**

Thursdays | February 1–22
10 am–12 pm | Board Room

For this learning circle, we will be working through the course Google AI for Anyone, offered through edX. This four-week course teaches participants about what Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning are. As its name suggests, this course is for anybody—you do not need a computer science, mathematics, or AI background to understand it. No programming skills or prior knowledge are needed, beyond basic familiarity with using a computer.

**BEGINNING SEWING AT NPL**

February 17 | 1–3 pm
Community Room

Did you know that NPL has sewing machines in the Library of Things collection that can be used within the library at any time? Come in and learn how to use these machines as well as basic sewing skills. We will create some cozy fleece slipper socks to get you through the winter.

**DEATH CAFÉ**

February 18 | 2–3 pm
Board Room

This informal, group-directed discussion of death has no agenda, objectives, or themes. The purpose of Death Café is “to increase awareness of death with a view to helping people make the most of their (finite) lives.” This is a discussion group rather than a grief support or counseling session.

**NEW YEAR, NEW RULES TO RETIREMENT: DISCOVER HOW TO PROTECT YOUR RETIREMENT FROM NEW LAWS, TAXES, INFLATION, & MARKET LOSSES IN 2024**

February 27 | 6:30–7:30 pm
Community Room

Explore strategies to safeguard your retirement from the negative impact of tax increases and new legislative changes. Determine the steps you can take now to protect your retirement assets from the impacts of inflation. Learn ways to maximize your benefits and reduce or eliminate taxes on your Social Security income. Discover how to create reliable retirement income that you can’t outlive!

**FOR ALL AGES**

**DROP-IN VR: BLACK LIVES**

February 3 | 10–11 am
Café

Celebrate Black History Month with an immersive VR experience on our Quest 2 headsets. Stop by to view one or more documentary shorts centered on Black lives and experiences.

**CREATE WITH CRICUT**

February 4 | 2–4 pm
Community Room

Have you ever wondered about how to use a Cricut or considered buying one? Join us as we get crafty and organized. We will create some vinyl labels with Cricut Design Space to help you declutter your space.

**TASKMASTER NPL**

February 9 | 6–8 pm
Community Room

If you have seen the popular UK panel show Taskmaster, you will have an idea of what is in store for you at this after-hours event. If not, come prepared for lots of laughs as you work to complete pointless tasks and win useless prizes using logic, creativity, and perhaps a little bit of luck.

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The 2023-2024 Winter Reading Program is brought to you by Normal Public Library Foundation, with generous contributions by Crabtree Financial LLC and their clients.

Registration is required. Register on our online calendar, at 309.452.1757, or at the Front Desk.

Virtual / NPL @ Home Event  ✅ In-Person Event  ✅ sponsored by the Normal Public Library Foundation
FOR ALL AGES

GREAT ANNUAL NPL MODEL TRAIN EXHIBITION
December 2 | 10 am–4 pm  •  December 3 | 1–4 pm
Throughout NPL
All aboard! It is time to celebrate days of trains! Local model train enthusiasts will have their trains and layouts on display for all to enjoy!

NORMAL. ILLINOIS UKULELE FUN JAM!
December 2 • January 6 • February 3
2–4 pm | Café
Bring your ukulele (or borrow one of the library’s) and join in, or feel free to watch and listen. More information on the group, and a songbook, can be found at normalukejam.com.

RING AROUND THE YEAR 2023
December 13 | 6–7 pm
Community Room
Join the New Day Ringers, a volunteer handbell choir based in Bloomington-Normal, as they perform a variety of selections to celebrate the year 2023. The group’s goal is to bring JOY to the residents of the community through bell music.

FOUNDATION BOARD
Lyn Potts President
Michelle Freeman Vice President
Morgan Falconer Treasurer
Brian Huonker Secretary
Nancy Anderson
Dr. Ramsin Benyamin
Bevin Choban
Maggie Gibb
Lynda Lane
Cheryl Magnuson
Clare Malott
Brett Petersen
Charles Reynard
Taylor Sharp

Normal Public Library Foundation funding supports:
- Summer Reading Challenge • author visits • Poetry is Normal Presents
- 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten
- music concerts • theater performances
- character visits • magic workshops
- art workshops • LEGO events • local speakers • and so much more for our community

With your vital support, we can do more.

The Normal Public Library Foundation works to ensure every person builds a life-long relationship with learning and libraries, giving them access to all the tools needed to succeed in life.

NPLF is a community-based organization designed to raise and provide funding to enable Normal Public Library to enhance programs, services and facilities for our community.

There are three easy ways to give:

1. Individual and Corporate Giving
2. Planned Giving
3. Passive Giving—
Axline Pharmacy, Kroger Community Rewards, Schnucks escrip

To make a gift of stock or learn about other ways to support the library, contact John Fischer at jfischer@normalpl.org or 309.433.3488.

Thank you to all of our donors for both investing and believing in the vision of Normal Public Library. Your support makes all the difference!

GET NPL TEXT NOTIFICATIONS!!
- WHEN ITEMS ARE DUE
- WHEN holds ARE AVAILABLE
- & MORE

TEXT SIGNUP+LIBRARY CARD NUMBER+PIN TO 844.225.9458. FOR EXAMPLE:
  signup+D031234567+1234

LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION
WITH UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL & THOMAS METCALF SCHOOL
FEBRUARY 10 | 10 AM–12 PM
THROUGHOUT NPL
JOIN US TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE LUNAR NEW YEAR AND ASIAN CULTURE.
CRAFT STATIONS • ASIAN MUSIC
CHINESE KUNG-FU • LION & DRAGON DANCES • CALLIGRAPHY ART • FACE PAINTING

MAKE NORMAL EXTRAORDINARY.

NORMAL PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION
TEEN D&D
December 11 • January 8 & 22 • February 12 & 26
5–7:30 pm | Community Room
Goblin ambushes, mysterious caverns, evil henchmen, and yes, a dragon await you in this D&D campaign. Do not worry if you have never played or do not have a character developed, all are welcome to join.

For Teens, Tweens, & Kids

MURDER MYSTERY NIGHT
January 26 | 5:30–8 pm
Community Room
There’s been a murder at the library, and it is up to you to solve it! Come examine the scene, find clues, and discover the culprit.

CARDBOARD KAIJU CITY
February 16 | 5:30–8 pm
Community Room
Help us build a giant cardboard city, then channel your inner Godzilla and tear it all down! We will spend the first part of the evening building, and then we will make our own kaiju (Japanese for “strange beast”) costumes and destroy it.

FOR KIDS

ITSY ARTS: ON LOCATION WITH ILLINOIS ART STATION
ages 0–5 years
December 1 • January 19 • February 2
10–11 am | Community Room
This art class will provide children a safe and playful space where creativity and imagination can flourish and where motor skills, confidence, and expression can be nurtured, honed, and explored.

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE...& COMPOST WITH ECOLOGY ACTION CENTER
ages 6–10 years
December 5 | 10–11 am
Book Nook
How often do your kids throw items into the trash without ever thinking twice about it? This program will teach our youngest community members about the problems associated with generating too much waste, and how easily they can be a part of the solution by sticking to the 3 Rs: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle, plus we might even talk about composting!

LEGO MY LIBRARY
ages 2–12 years
December 5 • January 9 • February 13
4–6 pm | Second Floor Media Zone
Join us every month to build, build, build! Children are welcome to build anything. Children under the age of 8 should make sure their grownups are part of the construction crew.

HOUR OF CODE
ages 5–12 years
December 7 | 4–5 pm
Second Floor Media Zone
Hour of Code is a global movement introducing students to computer science. Stop by for a fun one-hour introduction to computer science and programming concepts!

ART SPARKS
ages 8–12 years
December 7 • January 4 • February 1
6–7 pm | Community Room
Craving creativity? Need more color in your life? Try being an Art Spark! We will dabble with different mediums to create monthly masterpieces! Dress to get messy!

Registration is required. Register on our online calendar, at 309.452.1757, or at the Front Desk.

Virtual / NPL @ Home Event  In-Person Event  sponsored by the Normal Public Library Foundation
For Kids

Sign & Sing ✰
Communication Junction
ages 0–5 years
December 8 & 22 • January 12 & 26 • February 9 & 23
10:30–11 am | Community Room
Join Miss Meghan of Communication Junction for stories, movement, rhymes, and bubbles! Caregivers and kids will learn several signs at story time, and every attendee will get a take home sheet for more practice.

Cozy Drive-In ✰
ages 0–5 years
December 9 | 10 am–12 pm
Community Room
Bring a box to decorate and then cruise on up to watch Nickelodeon’s Paw Patrol: The Movie at the library drive-in! We will work our magic, turning boxes into cars from 10 to 10:30, then we will drive into our theater to watch the movie and enjoy concessions. Pajamas are encouraged for a comfier movie experience.

Invent & Create ✰
ages 2–12 years
December 27 & 28 • February 19 | All day
Second Floor
Discover, build, color, and create with a variety of craft supplies. Fill a bucket of supplies and let your imagination be your guide!

Family Coders ✰
ages 8–12 years
4:30–5:30 pm & 6–7 pm | Community Room
Learn coding skills together! Kids will work in teams with their grown-ups to practice computational thinking and explore fun technology.

December 27
Events feat. LEGO SPIKE
January 31
Loops feat. Dash and Dot
February 28
Conditionals feat. Makey Makey & Scratch

Baby Rock & Play ✰
ages 0–19 months
Mondays | January 8–February 26
10–11 am | Community Room
Enjoy a short story, songs, and BUBBLES intended to stimulate and enhance babies’ development. Every session ends with playtime with new friends and coffee for caregivers!

Ready, Set, Read! ✰
ages 3–5 years
Tuesdays in January & February
10–11 am | Book Nook
Join us for stories, songs, crafts, and activities! No Ready, Set, Read on February 20 due to Meow Mixer.

Wiggles & Giggles ✰
ages 19–36 months
Wednesdays in January & February
10–10:30 am | Book Nook
Wiggle and giggle with your toddler through stories, songs, and movement activities that inspire a love for reading! Every session ends with BUBBLES!

Tech-It-Out ✰
ages 5–12 years
January 4 | 4–6 pm
Second Floor Media Zone
Drop in to explore robots, gadgets, and other tech toys! Kids will have the opportunity to engage their problem-solving skills and experience real-world applications of science, engineering, programming, and more!

Arctic Explorers ✰
ages 3–7 years
January 5 & 6 | 10 am–12 pm
Community Room
Set your imagination in motion as we travel to a land of snowflakes, arctic animals, chilly crafts, games, and hot cocoa.

Jammie Jamboree ✰
ages 0–5 years
January 11 & 25 • February 8 & 22
6–6:30 pm | Book Nook
Put on your pajamas and join us for stories, songs, and bubbles!

Celebrate MLK Day Seek & Find ✰✰
January 15 | All Day
Second Floor
Celebrate the life and activism of Martin Luther King Jr.

Maker Academy ✰✰
ages 5–8 years
January 15 & 17 • February 19 & 21
4–5 pm | Community Room
Every month we will meet to work on a new project. At your first session you will be presented with your maker apron and then each activity you attend will earn you buttons to add to your apron.

STEAM Club ✰✰
ages 8–12 years
January 18 • February 15
4–5 pm | Community Room
Come to explore science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics in STEAM Club! Expect activities, experiments, crafts, and lots of STEAM related books! Dress to get messy!

Celebrate Black History Month Scavenger Hunt ✰✰
ages 5–12 years
February 1–29 | Second Floor
February is Black History Month! Recognize the triumphs, trials, and achievements of Black Americans with a book-themed scavenger hunt. Stop by the second-floor service desk to begin.

Meow Mixer ✰✰
February 20 | 10 am–12 pm
Community Room
It’s a cat party! Drop in to celebrate felines with activities, crafts, snacks, and fun! It’s gonna be purr-fect!
Can’t get to the library? We will bring the library to you!

### PARTNERS IN READING

**K-6th Graders**

**Registration:** January 1–February 10

**Sessions begin:** Week of February 12

#### Normal Arc
- **10 AM**
  - December 5 & 19
  - January 2 & 16
  - February 6 & 20

#### Adelaide Apartments
- **1 PM**
  - December 5
  - January 2
  - February 6

#### Blair House
- **10 AM**
  - December 11
  - January 8
  - February 12

#### Mercy Creek
- **10 AM**
  - December 12
  - January 9
  - February 13

#### Evergreen Village
- **9:30 AM**
  - December 26
  - January 23
  - February 27

#### Evergreen Place
- **11 AM**
  - December 26
  - January 23
  - February 27

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**Can’t get to the library? We will bring the library to you!!**

**Normal Arc**
- **10 AM**
  - December /five.onum
  - January /one.onum/one.onum
  - February /one.onum/zero.onum

**Adelaide Apartments**
- **1 PM**
  - December /five.onum
  - January /two.onum
  - February /six.onum

**Blair House**
- **10 AM**
  - December /one.onum/one.onum
  - January /eight.onum
  - February /one.onum/two.onum

**Mercy Creek**
- **10 AM**
  - December /one.onum/one.onum
  - January /nine.onum
  - February /one.onum/three.onum

**Evergreen Village**
- **9:30 AM**
  - December /two.onum
  - January /two.onum/three.onum
  - February /two.onum/seven.onum

**Evergreen Place**
- **11 AM**
  - December /two.onum
  - January /two.onum/three.onum
  - February /two.onum/seven.onum

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**January**
- read something from a Best Books of 2023 list
- read a funny book
- read a book by a neurodivergent author
- read a book by an Arab American author
- read a book about someone who is over 60
- read a climate fiction novel

**February**
- read a book about or set in Africa
- read a book by a first-time author
- read a book about science or technology
- read a work of LGBTQ+ historical fiction
- read a book about someone experiencing housing insecurity
- read a short story collection

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**Register Today on Beanstack!**

**Log your reading on Beanstack.**
- Download the Beanstack app or visit our website to best participate in the challenge.
- For every book you read, earn a sticker and an entry into a prize drawing.

**Earn Stickers & Win Prizes.**

**Program Details are Subject to Change.**

**Normal Public Library**
- 206 W. College Ave.
- Normal, IL 61761
- 309.452.1757
- Children’s: 454.4668
- normalpl.org
- ask@normalpl.org

**M – TH | 9 AM – 8 PM**
**F – SAT | 9 AM – 5 PM**
**SUN | 1 PM – 5 PM**

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During library events staff may take photographs and/or video recordings for future publicity and promotional purposes.

If you prefer to keep yourself or your child from appearing in these photographs or videos, please immediately inform library staff present at the event. Thank you!