

SPRING 2026
ACTIVITY GUIDE



NORMAL
PUBLIC LIBRARY

MAR

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MAY

LUNCHTIME YOGA 🧘🧘

Mondays in the Spring | Community Room

12–12:45 pm

No yoga March 23 & May 25

Take a break from your busy day to join us for a beginner-level yoga class over your lunch hour. Please wear comfortable clothes and bring a yoga mat or beach towel.

CREATE WITH CRICUT: BEGINNER EDITION ✓👤

March 2 | 6–7:30 pm

Tinker Studio

Do you have a Cricut, but aren't sure what to do with it? Are you considering getting one, but want to make sure it is something you will use? Explore the creative possibilities of Cricut Design Space in this hands-on workshop! This program is designed for those that are at the beginning of their Cricut cutting journey.

GENEALOGY MEETUP ✓👤🏠

March 3 • April 7 • May 5 | 2–3 pm

Community Room & 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 👤

March 4 & 18 • April 1 & 15 • May 6 & 20

10 am–12 pm | Community Room

Come and work on your current project, as well as share tips and information on all things knitting & crocheting!

NPL CRIME CLUB ✓👤

2–3:30 pm | Community Room

Each Crime Club session features an expert speaker in that date's theme. Warning: Content discussed at this session may include graphic details of violent crimes against persons, including wrongful death or homicide.

March 8

"Jury Selection & Restorative Justice" with Susan Stacey

April 12

"McLean County Sheriff's Office, Take 2" with Lieutenant Jon Albee, Interim Sheriff & Support Services Commander

May 3

TBD

PAPER CRAFTING CLUB 👤

March 11 • April 8 • May 13

10 am–12 pm | Community Room

Paper crafters, please 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 3-D paper sculptures, there is room for you. Please bring your own materials to use with our tools.

GROWN-UP STORYTIME 👤
NEXT TO NORMAL STORY SLAM & BLOOMINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

March 13 | 7:30–8:30 pm

McLean County Arts Center

601 N. East St., Bloomington

Normal Public Library, Next to Normal Story Slam, and Bloomington Public Library join forces to bring children's stories to adults! While we may be forced to grow up, we're not forced to grow out of our love for picture books. Join us for some of our new favorites. Doors open at 7 pm. Light refreshments provided.

stranger than fiction:
NON-FICTION BOOK CLUB
6:30–7:30 pm
DESTIHL Brewery & Beer Hall

mar 11 apr 8 may 13

Books featured: Madame Fourcade's Secret War, Madhouse at the End of the Earth, One Hundred Saturdays.

Recipe Rotisserie
a cookbook CLUB
2–3:30 * Community Room

MAR 15 MAY 17

Pop Culture Fandom Baking in the American South by Anne Byrn

NPL SEED SWAP ✓👤

THE U OF I EXTENSION OFFICE

March 16 | 6–7:30 pm

Community Room

Are you interested in putting in a garden this spring? Get ready with an opportunity to exchange seeds at a seed swap. Network with other grower-enthusiasts and dream of what is possible this growing season. Bring your seeds and check out a full seed library! The seed swap will be followed by educational programming from the U of I Extension Office about vegetable seed starting.

EVENING MEDITATION 👤

Tuesdays in the Spring | March 17–May 26

5:30–6:10 pm | Board Room

Experience guided meditation with a certified meditation facilitator, in a beginner-friendly environment. With the help of breathing exercises, philosophy, and mindfulness, we will peek into the working of our mind and emotions and learn how to manage them.

■ adult event • ages 18+

✓ 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

THE MIDNIGHT SOCIETY
NPL HORROR CLUB



APR 1
4:15–7 PM
BOARD ROOM
4:15–5:45 pm
Movie Screening
6–7 pm
Movie Discussion

APR 29
6–7 PM
BOARD ROOM
Book Discussion

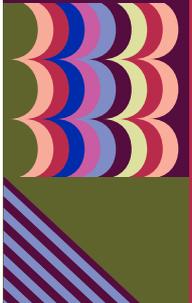
MAY 27
3:30–7 PM
COMMUNITY ROOM
3:30–5:45 pm
Movie Screening
6–7 pm
Movie Discussion

AN INSIDE LOOK: WELL 
WITH HEARTLAND THEATRE COMPANY

March 23 | 7–8 pm
Heartland Theatre
1110 Douglas St., Normal

An Inside Look is a collaboration between Normal Public Library and Heartland Theatre, giving the audience a chance to meet the director and designers of WELL, by Lisa Kron, the next production at Heartland Theatre. WELL runs April 9–25 and is a comedy that asks whether we can heal ourselves and our communities.

adult reading challenge



march
read a book about an inspirational woman

april
read a wilderness survival book

may
read a book by a Jewish author

book brunch  
mar 24 • apr 28 • may 26 | 10–11 am
community room & on zoom

COTTAGECORE: EMBROIDERY 

March 25 • April 22 • May 27
10 am–12 pm | Community Room

However you use your needle, please feel welcome to come and share your time and experience with other needle workers. Bring whatever you are working on and visit with those who share a common interest.

RACHEL CROTHERS:

BROADWAY INNOVATOR, FEMINIST PIONEER  

WITH MCLEAN COUNTY MUSEUM OF HISTORY

March 25 | 6:30–7:30 pm
Community Room & on Zoom

Join author John Bassett to learn about Rachel Crothers, a Broadway playwright and early feminist from Bloomington, Illinois, as presented in his new book.

EXPLORE ART  

WITH ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY ART EDUCATION

March 26 & April 2 | 1–3:30 pm

Community Room

Explore art with a variety of mediums and techniques while learning about contemporary artists that relate to the lesson.

Romance Me
BOOK CLUB

6:30–7:30 PM
BOARD ROOM



Mar 26 Apr 23 May 28

DESIGN & PRINT  

March 29 • April 19

2–3 pm | Tinker Studio

Calling all makers! Come learn how to create 3D models using TinkerCad. Each session you will be issued a challenge to use TinkerCad to create a 3D design. Once you have completed the challenge, you can submit it as a 3D Print Request using our form. Library staff will be at the session to provide assistance as you tinker.

COMMUNITY ARTMAKING WORKSHOP  

March 29 | 2–4 pm

Community Room

Make art and make history—America is turning 250! The McLean County Museum of History, McLean County Arts Center, and other partners invite artists of all kinds to participate in *A More Perfect Union—A Community Exhibition Commemorating America 250*. In this drop-in workshop older teens and adults will engage in the process of creating original artworks that explore and express big ideas about our shared and individual histories as Americans. Completed artworks may be showcased as part of the *A More Perfect Union* exhibition at the McLean County Arts Center in June and July.

DIY: FLORAL POUR PAINTING  

April 6 | 6–7:30 pm

April 7 | 10–11:30 am

Community Room

Let's pour paint together again! We will be working to create a floral scene with our pours. You will leave with a lovely and wet work of art. Please bring something to help you transport your wet art home.

ESTATE PLANNING & WILLS  

PRESENTED BY THE INSTITUTE OF FINANCIAL EDUCATION

April 15 | 1:30–3 pm

Community Room

Learn how wills, trusts, and powers of attorney function, and why they matter in protecting your family and your future.

FOR ADULTS

SILENT BOOK CLUB 

April 16 | 6–7 pm
Atrium

Bring your own book (physical, e-book, audio, etc) or borrow one from the library's collection, share what you are currently reading, and settle in for an hour of uninterrupted silent reading. At the end of the hour, there will be time to socialize if you choose. Snacks provided!

HEALTHY AGING & BRAIN HEALTH 
WITH WITH ISU COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS & THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

April 17 | 9:30 am–12 pm
Community Room

Join experts for a presentation on brain health, dementia awareness, and strategies for healthy aging, followed by free cognitive and hearing screenings and "brain booster" training sessions conducted by trained graduate students in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology from ISU.

CRAFT SWAP 

May 9 | 10 am–12 pm
Community Room

Bring your extra craft supplies to our craft swap! Unclaimed items will be donated to Threshold to Hope.

BEGINNING SEWING  

May 17 | 2–4 pm
Tinker Studio

Would you like to learn to sew or sharpen some rusty skills? Please join us to make potholders. This project will cover the fundamentals of sewing and you will come away with useful kitchen items.

HOSPICE: WHAT TO KNOW  

May 31 | 2–2:50 pm
Community Room

Join retired hospice social worker, Lisa Flanagan, as she explains the ins and outs of hospice care. Following this presentation we will be hosting a Death Café where the conversation will continue.

DEATH CAFÉ  

May 31 | 3–4 pm
Community Room

An informal, group-directed discussion of death with 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.

FOR ALL AGES

NORMAL, ILLINOIS UKULELE FUN JAM! 

March 7 • April 4 • May 2
2–4 pm | Atrium

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.

YARNSTORMING  

March 14 • April 11 • May 9
2–4 pm | Atrium

Beginner-to-advanced level knitters, crocheters, and weavers are invited to come to the library to work together. New to the craft? Willing to mentor a newcomer? Be sure to let us know in the registration comments so that we can better guide your experience. We would like to bring individual projects together to become a larger piece displaying our community's connection and creations. This art piece will be featured in our art gallery in May.

POP UP HERSTORY **PRESENTED BY NOMAD THEATRE**

March 21 & 22 | 1:30–4:30 pm
Throughout NPL

Take a walk through HERstory. This unique immersive experience features live actors portraying incredible women from history who continue to move the world.

"BORED" GAMES 

March 25 • April 18
2–4 pm | Community Room

Feeling bored? Come out to the library and compete in Mario Kart or Super Smash Bros., or try your hand at a board game!

PAWS FOR PAGES  **WITH INDY-PENDENCE SERVICE DOGS ORGANIZATION**

March 30 | 4–5 pm
Community Room

Learn about service animals, what it means when they are wearing a vest, and when it is ok to pet and interact with them. We will also have an opportunity for children to read to a service dog.



KID MARKET

10 AM–12 PM
COMMUNITY ROOM

KID MARKET DAY
MAY
2

Join us for Kid Market, a vibrant marketplace run by kids for the community! Each booth is creatively designed and operated by young vendors, offering a delightful array of handmade crafts, artwork, toys, and other delights for sale. This market is more than just a shopping experience—it's a celebration of creativity, learning, and entrepreneurship. Kids get the chance to showcase their talents, practice money management, and interact with customers in a supportive and fun environment. Who knows? You might just find the perfect treasure to purchase while encouraging a budding business owner!

Please note this will be a cash-only event!



 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

PINS & NEEDLES: A FIBER ARTS CELEBRATION **April 25 | 2–4
Community Room**

Are you a needlework novice thinking about a new hobby? Or a seasoned crafter looking for some new techniques? Explore the wide world of fiber arts, with demonstrations of spinning, knitting, crocheting, quilting, cross stitching, embroidery, and more! Get your questions answered by representatives from local craft shops and fiber guilds as well as other experienced artisans, and have the opportunity to see new tools and materials in person.

MAKERSCAPE: THE HIDDEN HATCHLING  **May 4 | 3–7:30 pm
Tinker Studio**

Little dragon Elliott has wandered away during his maker reservation in the Tinker Studio. Gather a group of 2–3 for a quest to find the hatchling using clues throughout the makerspace.

FOR TEENS & PRE-TEENS

**TEEN D&D**  **March 9 & 23 • April 13 & 27 • May 11
5–7:30 pm | Community Room**

Whether you have played Dungeons and Dragons before or not, you are welcome to join us in our ongoing campaign as we fight evil and explore fantasy realms.

CRAFTERNOON **ages 10–14 years****4–5:30 pm | Atrium**

We will provide the supplies, you provide the creativity!

March 12

Painted wood slice keychains or charms

April 9

Decorated mini flower pots

May 14

Polymer clay geodes

TEEN ADVISORY COUNCIL **March 17 • April 21 • May 19
4–5 pm | Teen Area**

Join us in the newly remodeled teen area for snacks, games, and a chance to share ideas for teen events and services at the library!

TEEN WRITERS' WORKSHOP **March 19 • April 16 • May 21
4–5 pm | Teen Area**

Join us for writing exercises and games, prompts to help you get started or continue your writing, and a chance to share your work and provide feedback to others.

BAD ART NIGHT  **March 24 | 5–6:30 pm
Community Room**

If you love crafting and creating, but think you're no good at art, this is the art show for you. Come use our art supplies to make the most terrible and tacky art you can think of, then browse our Bad Art Exhibit and vote for the best (worst) artwork.

DESIGN & PRINT  **March 29 • April 19
2–3 pm | Tinker Studio**

Calling all makers! Come learn how to create 3D models using TinkerCad. Each session you will be issued a challenge to use TinkerCad to create a 3D design. Once you have completed the challenge, you can submit it as a 3D Print Request using our form. Library staff will be at the session to provide assistance as you tinker.

COMMUNITY ARTMAKING WORKSHOP  **March 29 | 2–4 pm
Community Room**

Make art and make history—America is turning 250! The McLean County Museum of History, McLean County Arts Center, and other partners invite artists of all kinds to participate in *A More Perfect Union—A Community Exhibition Commemorating America 250*. In this drop-in workshop older teens and adults will engage in the process of creating original artworks that explore and express big ideas about our shared and individual histories as Americans. Completed artworks may be showcased as part of the *A More Perfect Union* exhibition at the McLean County Arts Center in June and July.

POETRY SLAM & OPEN MIC NIGHT  **April 22 | 6–7:30 pm
Teen Area**

Celebrate National Poetry Month with a poetry slam! Come share your original work or a favorite poem, listen to others read and perform, and enjoy several other poetry-related activities.

DUNGEONS & DIY  **May 6 | 5–6:30 pm
Community Room**

Add a little flair to your D&D games with these homemade projects, including travel character kits, dungeon master screens, dice towers, spell book journals, magical trinkets, and more!

EXPLORE ART  **WITH ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY ART EDUCATION
March 26 & April 2 | 1–3:30 pm
Community Room**

Explore art with a variety of mediums and techniques while learning about contemporary artists that relate to the lesson.

CELEBRATE WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH SCAVENGER HUNT

ages 5–12 years

March 1–31 | All Day
Second Floor

March is Women's History Month! Honor women's contributions to American history all month long with a scavenger hunt. Stop by the second-floor service desk to begin.

BABY ROCK & PLAY

ages 0–19 months

Mondays in March & April
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!

March 23 will be dinosaur-themed for Dino Days!

READY, SET, READ!

ages 3–5 years

Tuesdays in March & April
10–11 am | Book Nook

Join us in the Book Nook for stories, songs, and crafts!

March 24 will be dinosaur-themed for Dino Days!

WIGGLES & GIGGLES

ages 19–36 months

Wednesdays in March & April
10–11 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!

March 25 will be dinosaur-themed for Dino Days!

ART SPARKS

ages 8–12 years

March 5 • April 2
6–7:15 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.

LEGO MY LIBRARY

ages 2–12 years

March 10 • April 14
4–6 pm | Community Room

Join us every month to build, build, build in the Community Room! Each month will have a new LEGO theme, but all children are welcome to build anything. Creations will be on display for the month on the second floor. Children under the age of 8 should make sure their grownups are part of the construction crew.

SIGN & SING WITH COMMUNICATION JUNCTION

ages 0–5 years

March 13 & 27 • April 10 & 24 • May 8 & 22
10–10:30 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.

TINKERCRAFTING: UNWIND

ages 8–12 years

March 16 • April 20
5–6:30 pm | Tinker Studio

Come learn about the easy-to-use 3D design app, TinkerCad! Each session you will have the opportunity to use TinkerCad to create your own 3D design to go along with that month's theme. During the session, you will put your crafting skills to work and paint an already-made 3D printed item to take home. *This session of TinkerCrafting is for those who like to learn in a more chill environment. Though the name is different, the session is the same as the TinkerCrafting event listed below. Please register for only one of these sessions.*

TINKERCRAFTING

ages 8–12 years

March 19 • April 23
5–6:30 pm | Tinker Studio

Come learn about the easy-to-use 3D design app TinkerCad! Each session you will have the opportunity to use TinkerCad to create your own 3D design to go along with that month's theme. During the session, you will put your crafting skills to work and paint an already-made 3D printed item to take home.

DINO DAYS

PALEONTOLOGIST HUNT MARCH 23-29 ALL DAY
SECOND FLOOR
Stop by the second-floor service desk to begin!

CRAFT-O-SAURUS LAB
MARCH 23-27 ALL DAY
SECOND FLOOR
ART CENTER
Stop by every day this week to create a new project inspired by dinosaurs!

PENELOPE REX MEET & GREET
MARCH 27 10:30–11 AM
BOOK NOOK

TEA WITH PENELOPE REX
MARCH 28 10–11:30 AM
COMMUNITY ROOM

JAMMIE JAMBOREE 👤

ages 0–5 years

March 26 • April 16
6–6:30 pm | Book Nook

Put on your pajamas and join us for stories, songs, and bubbles!

March 26 will be dinosaur-themed for Dino Days!**YOUNG AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT** 👤**WITH UNIT 5****April 11 | 2–4 pm**
Community Room

Join us as we shine a spotlight on writing through the display of books written by children in grades kindergarten to 8th grade. Student winners of the Unit 5 Young Authors contest will share excerpts of their books and all will be able to participate in fun book-related activities. Books will be on display in the Youth Services Department until April 30.

PINT-SIZED PROM 👤

ages 0–5 years

April 18 | 10–11:30 am
Community Room

Calling all tiny dancers! Little ones can wiggle, twirl, and bob along to their favorite tunes at this Pint-Sized Prom. Dress up in sparkles, bow ties, tutus, or your favorite comfy clothes—whatever makes you feel ready to dance! This drop-in celebration has it all: a dance floor, photo booth, refreshments, and plenty of sweet, silly memories.

MAKER ACADEMY ✔️ 👤

ages 5–8 years

April 23 | 4–5 pm
Community Room

Craft, experiment, design, and create with other makers! Every other month we will meet to work on a new project. At your first session of Maker Academy you will be presented with your maker apron and then each activity you attend will earn you buttons to add to your apron.



Celebrate reading during El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Day of the Child/Day of the Book) with the Bloomington and Normal public libraries! Enjoy arts and crafts, snacks, bilingual story time (in Spanish and English), music, and more!

¡Celebre la lectura con nosotros durante El día de los niños/El día de los libros con las bibliotecas públicas Normal y Bloomington! ¡Disfrute de manualidades, bocadillos, cuentos bilingües en español e inglés, música y más!

PRAIRIE FIRE THEATER PRESENTS:
QUACK-A-DOODLE-DOO 👤**May 16 | 1–2 pm****Community Room**

Prairie Fire Theatre brings their newest children's opera to Normal Public Library!

Quack the Duck has a problem. She can't figure out what (if anything) makes her special. She wishes she could be like Red the Rooster and "cock-a-doodle-doo" the barnyard awake every morning, or spin fur into warm, woolly scarves like Drama Llama. But she can't. Quack-the-Duck can't even catch flies with her tongue like Croak the Frog. But by finding the courage to say hello (something no one in the barnyard does these days), Quack the Duck discovers something she can do—make friends. And when the Wicked Weasler comes around, intent on cooking up a pot of frog leg stew, Quack the Duck might be the only one who can build a community and save the day. This 40-minute operatic romp looks at how to reach out and talk to people, how to make a plan, and why community matters.

INVENT & CREATE 👤

ages 2–12 years

May 26–31 | All Day
Second Floor Art Center

Discover, build, color, and create with a variety of craft materials. Choose some supplies and let your imagination be your guide!



NORMAL PUBLIC LIBRARY
home delivery
for families

Normal Public Library provides free home delivery services to families welcoming a new child.

Scan QR code for more information or call 309.433.3493

POP-UP NPL Can't get to the library? We will bring the library to you!!

NORMAL ARC 10 AM	March 3 & 17 April 7 & 21 May 5 & 19
VILLAS 1 PM	March 3 April 7 May 5
BLAIR HOUSE 10 AM	March 9 April 13 May 11
MERCY CREEK 10 AM	March 10 April 14 May 12
EVERGREEN VILLAGE 9:30 AM	March 24 April 28 May 26
EVERGREEN PLACE 11 AM	March 24 April 28 May 26



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!

READ. LEARN. WATCH. LISTEN.

take NPL with you wherever you go!

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play
normalpl.org/download-stream
normalpl.org/learning-resources

Boundless is now The Palace Project.

NORMAL PUBLIC LIBRARY
FOUNDATION

Community investment helps make these programs possible

Your library. Your community. Your impact.

From board games, to yoga, to LEGO, and beyond, Normal Public Library Foundation brings innovative programming to support lifelong learning and literacy for all ages. When you give to Normal Public Library Foundation, your dollars create meaningful experiences for our entire community.

Join us in growing opportunities for everyone.
No donation is too small. Consider giving the gift of lifelong learning today.

Learn more about how you can help!

YOU MAKE NORMAL EXTRAORDINARY

MARCH							APRIL							MAY							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4							1	2
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
29	30	31	26	27	28	29	30	24	25	26	27	28	29	30							
													31								

CLOSED ON APRIL 5 & MAY 24-25

Normal Public Library is a fully accessible facility and is committed to creating inclusive and accessible events. For reasonable accommodations or if you have any questions regarding accessibility, please email access@normalpl.org. To allow us adequate time to address your request, requests must be made at least 10 days prior to the scheduled event.