



FALL PROGRAMS

SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER | 2024

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS IN A SERIES

Super Saturday Story Time

Saturdays • 10am • September 7, October 5,
November 2 • Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

Join us for an all-ages, raucous story time extravaganza. Swing by at 10am to dance, listen to music, read stories, and have a wondrous time. This story time is perfect for kiddos ages 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.

Lapsit Story Time

Tuesdays • 10am & 6pm • September 10, 17, 24;
October 8, 15, 22, 29 • Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

Join us at Lapsit Story Time for stories, music, movement, and play intended to help develop and enhance early literacy skills and your baby's development. This program is intended for children ages 0-18 months and their caregivers, but all are welcome to attend.

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

Preschool Story Time

Wednesdays • 10am • September 11, 18, 25;
October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; November 6, 13, 20
Children's Program Room 2

Help your child build independent listening skills while learning and having fun! This story time – recommended for children ages 3-5 years old – will feature longer stories, flannel boards, music, puppets, and activities which will help get your pre-readers ready for school.

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



Tales for Tails*

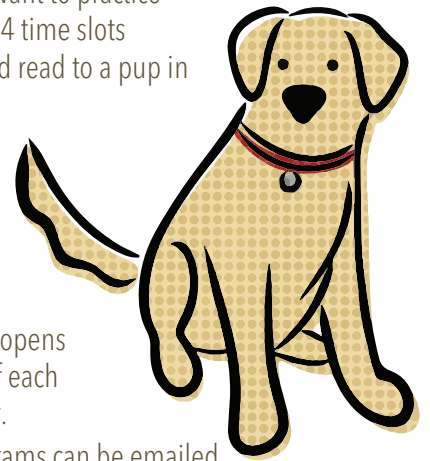
Wednesdays • 6pm • September 11, 18, 25;
October 2, 9, 16, 23; November 6, 13, 20
Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

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

Ms. Alex will personally email those who register to assign them a time slot and introduce them to the dog they'll be meeting!

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

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



Toddler Story Time

Thursdays • 10am • September 12, 19, 26;
October 3, 10, 17, 24; November 7, 14, 21
Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

Toddlers are always on the go! Come to story time to encourage their emerging skills with books, rhymes, music, and lots of movement activities. This program is intended for children ages 18-36 months and their caregivers, but all are welcome to attend.

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



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS IN A SERIES

Sensory Story Time*

Thursdays • 11am • September 12, 19, 26;
October 3, 10, 17, 24; November 7, 14, 21
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.

Fun Friday Story Time

Fridays • 10am • September 13, 20, 27;
October 4, 11, 18, 25; November 1, 8, 15, 22
Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

Join us every Friday from September 13 to November 22 for a 30-minute all-ages story time in the Children's Department. We'll enjoy music, lots of movement, stories, and of course FUN! This program is perfect for children ages birth-11 years and their caregivers.

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

Fun & Games: Family Game Day

Sundays • 2 - 4pm • September 15, October 13,
November 10 • Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

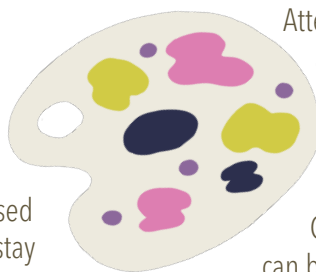
Join us in the Children's Department for classic board games, card games, and puzzles for children and their families. Red Raccoon Games will also be on hand to demonstrate how to play a variety of hand-picked games. An assortment of games appropriate for children will be provided.

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

Itsy Arts*

Mondays • 10am • September 23, October 21,
November 18 • Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

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.

Register online at bit.ly/itsyarts.

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



Lego Construction

Saturdays • 9:30am • September 28, October 26,
November 23 • Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

Join us for Lego Construction, and have your picture taken with your creation. The challenge is to build whatever you want!

This program is suitable for children ages 3-11 years and their caregivers. There is no need to register for this drop-in program. 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.

School-Age Craft Time

Mondays • 3 - 7pm • September 30 & November 11
Children's Program Room 1

Drop into the Children's Department to make a craft!

- On September 30, participants will create a woven yarn bowl.
- On November 11, participants will create a beaded bookmark. *The beaded bookmark craft contains smaller beads which could be a choking hazard for young children.*

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

D&D for Kids*

Thursdays • 6pm • October 3 & 17; November 7 & 21
Children's Program Room 2

This Dungeons & Dragons experience for kids in grades 3-5 will include a simplified, rules-light adventure. All are welcome!

Registration is required and opens two weeks before the date of each session at bit.ly/ddforkids. Pre-generated characters will be provided.

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



STANDALONE CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Raptor 101

Saturday, September 14 • 11am
Community Rooms 2 & 3

Join the Illinois Raptor Center to learn about these fascinating birds. We will learn about the different types of raptors: hawks, falcons, owls, and vultures. Live birds will be presented with handlers showcasing each species up close. Learn about their habitats and behaviors, as well as conservation efforts to protect these birds.

This program is great for all ages and seating will be offered on a first-come, first-seated basis.

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



Hobbit Day at BPL

Sunday, September 22 • 2 - 4pm
Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

Come to the Shire from 2-4pm to celebrate Hobbit Day! We'll have fun activities and hobbit snacks, (think tea cakes and potatoes...obvi). Extra credit if you dress up like your favorite *Lord of the Rings* character!

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

Halloween Tic-Tac-Toe

September 23 - November 2 • Bookmobile

Play Halloween Tic-Tac-Toe with the Bookmobile! Game boards featuring Halloween & fall activities will be available beginning Monday, September 23. Players who turn in a completed Tic-Tac-Toe board by Saturday, November 2, will receive a completion prize and will be entered into a grand prize drawing. *Game boards and prizes will only be available on the Bookmobile.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Brittany at circulation@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Dear Banned Author

Thursday, September 26 • 10am - Noon
Community Room 1

The Dear Banned Author campaign, hosted by the American Library Association, encourages readers to write, tweet, or email banned or challenged authors during Banned Books Week and beyond in support of the fight against censorship and to show appreciation.

In our program, we will write postcards and letters to authors of banned books, sharing the impact these books have had on our lives. Younger readers can draw pictures to send.

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

Shark Party

Friday, September 27 • 9am - 4:30pm
Children's Department

You are invited to a Shark-tastic library party which will include a shark-themed craft and shark-themed activities.

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



1000 BOOKS Before Kindergarten

is a year-round program designed to help parents and caregivers prepare children for kindergarten. To learn

more about this program, talk to staff at our Children's Desk or visit

bit.ly/bpl1000bbk.



STANDALONE CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

TMNT: Mutant Mayhem Movie Screening

Monday, October 14 • 10am • Community Rooms 1 & 2

Join us for a family movie screening. *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Mutant Mayhem* (PG) will be shown at 10am in the Community Room. Bring a stuffy, pillow, or blanket and settle in for a turtle-tastic time! This movie is 1 hour and 39 minutes long.

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

Twin City Tale Spinners' Not So Spooky Stories

Monday, October 28 • 6pm

Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

Enjoy "silly and chilly" tales as the Twin City Tale Spinners delight listeners with fun stories. Come dressed in your Halloween costume if you wish! After the stories, we'll have crafts for kids to make in the Children's Department! For children of all ages with an adult.

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

Halloween Parade and Story Time

Thursday, October 31 • 10am • Children's Department

Kids of all ages are invited to wear their costumes and join our Halloween Parade and Story Time.

The parade will begin at 10am in the Children's Department and will end with a Halloween Story Time in Community Rooms 1-2.

After story time, we'll offer crafts in the Children's Department. Additionally, the Bookmobile will be transformed into the Boooooookmobile and will be parked on Olive Street offering Halloween games from 11am-12pm.

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

Dinosaur Party

Tuesday, November 5 • 9am - 4:30pm

Children's Department

You are invited to a T-rrific library party with dinosaur-themed activities and a dinosaur-themed craft.

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

Local Author Fair

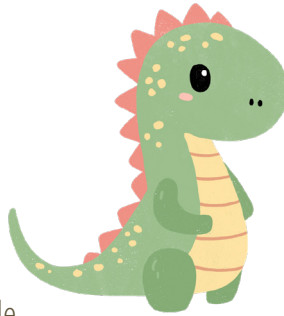
Saturday, November 9 • 1:30 - 3:30pm

Community Rooms 1 - 3

McLean County boasts a wealth of writers. At the library's Local Author Fair, you'll meet authors who have published their work, either on their own, with an independent publisher, or with a mainstream publisher. You'll also find new books to read, get tips for your own book project, and meet others with similar interests.

Participating authors have written for a variety of age levels and both in fiction and nonfiction genres. Stop in any time throughout this event.

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



PROGRAMS FOR TEENS

Banned Book Bingo

September 3 - 28

In celebration of Banned Books Week (September 22-28), the Bloomington and Normal Libraries are offering Banned Book Bingo. Bingo boards will be available from the Normal Public Library and at Bloomington Library's Help Desk, Bookmobile stops, and Drive-Up Lane. Visit bit.ly/bannedbingo2024 to print a board.

Participants will read books and/or engage in activities listed on the Bingo spaces. Submit completed boards to any of the above locations by September 28 to receive a sticker.

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

Custom Plywood Bookmarks*

Monday, September 9 • 6pm • Innovation Lab

Teens who register for this program will meet in the Innovation Lab to create custom plywood bookmark designs using Canva and the library's Glowforge Pro laser engraver. After the program ends, Library staff will print the designs and the teens will pick up their completed bookmarks at a later date. Laptops will be provided.

Beginning Monday, August 26, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/bplplywood.

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

Teen Genre Book Club

Wednesdays • 5:30pm • September 11, October 9, November 13 • Conference Room

The Teen Genre Book Club will meet on the second Wednesday of each month to discuss a different genre of book, giving you more choice of what to read. Pick any book that fits the month's genre. For suggestions, inquire at the Help Desk or in TeenZone.

- September 11: **Banned Books**
- October 9: **Short stories from *The October Country* by Ray Bradbury**
- November 13: **True Crime**

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



Raptor 101

Saturday, September 14 • 11am
Community Rooms 2 & 3

Join the Illinois Raptor Center to learn about these fascinating birds. We will learn about the different types of raptors: hawks, falcons, owls, and vultures. Live birds will be presented with handlers showcasing each species up close. Learn about their habitats and behaviors, as well as conservation efforts to protect these birds.

This program is great for all ages and seating will be offered on a first-come, first-seated basis.

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

Escape from Mos Shuuta*

Saturday, September 14 • 12:45-4:45pm
Conference Room

Teens are invited to join us for an exciting Star Wars Adventure: Escape from Mos Shuuta!

During this program, teens will play through an introductory adventure of the Star Wars tabletop role-playing game! Characters, writing utensils, and paper will be provided! This adventure has been designed to help you learn how to play!

Beginning Saturday, August 24, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/bpltrpgteens.

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

Bad Art Night for Teens

Wednesday, September 18 • 6pm Community Room 3

If you're a teen who's always wanted to try your hand at pastels, experiment with clay sculpting, or learn how to macrame, this program is for you.

Enter a judgment-free zone where all art is good art, regardless of how your creation turns out. A variety of art mediums will be available for experimentation. Please wear old clothing that can get dirty.

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

PROGRAMS FOR TEENS

Halloween Tic-Tac-Toe

September 23 - November 2 • Bookmobile

Play Halloween Tic-Tac-Toe with the Bookmobile!* Game boards featuring Halloween & fall activities will be available beginning Monday, September 23. Players who turn in a completed Tic-Tac-Toe board by Saturday, November 2, will receive a completion prize and will be entered into a grand prize drawing. *Game boards and prizes will only be available on the Bookmobile.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Brittany at circulation@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Banned Book Discussion

Wednesday, September 25 • 6pm • Community Room 1

Come together with fellow readers at our Banned Book Discussion, a program dedicated to discussing any banned book you've read. This inclusive and open-minded discussion will encourage thoughtful conversations about books that have faced censorship. Share your perspectives, hear others' experiences, and explore the reasons behind these book challenges.

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

Recording Studio Basics*

Wednesday, September 25 • 7pm • Computer Lab

Have you heard that the library now offers two recording studios but you're unsure how to use them?

Join us for Recording Studio Basics. This comprehensive program will give you a good starting point on how to use the equipment and software in the recording studios, as well as general information about audio engineering.

Beginning September 11, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/recordingbasics.

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

Dear Banned Author

Thursday, September 26 • 10am - Noon
Community Room 1

The Dear Banned Author campaign, hosted by the American Library Association, encourages readers to write, tweet, or email banned or challenged authors in support of the fight against censorship and to show appreciation.



In our program, we will write postcards and letters to authors of banned books, sharing the impact these books have had on our lives. Younger readers can draw pictures to send.

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

No-School Craft for Teens

2pm • Friday, September 27; Monday, October 14; Tuesday, November 5 • Community Rooms 2 & 3

Teens are invited to join us this fall on three days without school to relieve their boredom at home.

- September 27 - Puzzle Piece Tree Painting
- October 14 - Painted Ceramic Pumpkin Bowls
- November 5 - Pin Button Making

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



Sewing Burrito Pillowcases*

Monday, September 30 • 6pm • Innovation Lab

Teens will be introduced to the Bernette 05 Academy Sewing Machines in the library's Innovation Lab. Each teen will receive basic sewing instruction, including threading the machine, winding the bobbin, and responding to common troubleshooting solutions. By the end of the class, teens will have created a pillowcase using the burrito method.

Beginning Monday, September 16, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/bplpillowcases.

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

Candle Making*

Monday, October 7 • 6pm • Innovation Lab

Teens who register for this program will use a wax melting pot to create their own candles and will use the Innovation Lab's Cricut machine to create stickers to add to their candle jars. Laptops will be provided, and teens will leave the program with their candles.

Beginning Monday, September 23, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/bplcandles.

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

PROGRAMS FOR TEENS

Harvesters of Dune*

Saturday, October 12 • 12:45-4:45pm
Conference Room

Teens are invited to join us for an immersive Dune tabletop role-playing adventure set on the desert planet of Arrakis!

Participants will play through an adventure full of danger and intrigue using the Modiphius Dune Tabletop Roleplaying Game system.

The program will take place in the library's Conference Room. Writing utensils, pre-made characters, and paper will be provided.

Beginning Saturday, September 28, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/duneteen.

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

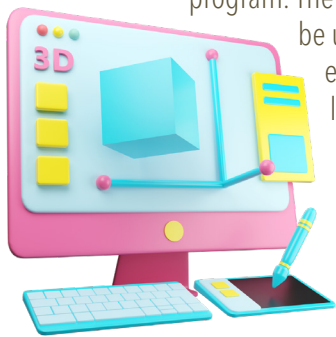
Introduction to SketchUp*

Tuesday, October 15 • 6pm • Computer Lab

Adults and high school teens (age 15+) will have the opportunity to learn the basics of SketchUp, a very popular 3D modeling program. The free version of SketchUp (which will be used during this program) is robust, easy to use, and an ideal place to start learning about the software.

Beginning Monday, September 30, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/sketchup1015.

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



Raise Your Voice with Author Jason Reynolds*

Tuesday, October 22 • 7pm • Online via Zoom

Illinois Libraries Present welcomes award-winning youth author Jason Reynolds, whose books include *Stamped* (with Ibram X. Kendi), *Stuntboy*, *Miles Morales*, and *When I Was the Greatest*. He also hosts a podcast with his mom: *My Mother Made Me*.

You can find his ramblings at JasonWritesBooks.com.

Register for this program at bit.ly/ILP_JasonReynolds.

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

FAFSA ID Workshop

Wednesday, October 23 • 3pm • Computer Lab

In preparation for the opening day of FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) filing season on December 1, this workshop will help students create their FAFSA ID. A representative from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission will be onsite to assist.

You'll need the following information:

- Social Security Number
- Full Name (as written on your Social Security card)
- Date of Birth
- Mailing Address
- Email Address

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

Get Podcasting!*

Wednesday, October 30 • 7pm • Computer Lab

Teens will discover the art of creating compelling podcasts while integrating cutting-edge AI technology for inspiration. They'll also receive hands-on experience with microphones, audio interfaces, and editing software tailored for podcast production. Optimizing sound quality and creating engaging audio effects are also on the agenda.

Beginning Wednesday, October 16, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/podcastingteen.

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

Teen Halloween Murder Mystery Party *

Thursday, October 31 • 5:30 - 8pm
Community Rooms 1 - 3

Teens are invited to join us for a Murder Mystery Party. There will be snacks, drinks, candy, and MURDER!

Beginning Wednesday, October 2, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/bplteenmystery.

Once registered, you will be contacted about your character. Dressing up is welcome but not required.

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



PROGRAMS FOR TEENS

BANNED BOOKS WEEK 2024 PROGRAMS

Banned Book Bingo
September 3 - 28

Banned Book Discussion
Wednesday, September 25, at 6pm

Dear Banned Author
Thursday, September 26, at 10am

Sew an Apron*

Monday, November 4 • 6pm • Innovation Lab

In this program, participants will use a sewing pattern to create an apron. They will get to choose from four one-size apron styles and learn about operating a sewing machine. Participants will leave with their own apron. All materials will be provided.

Beginning Monday, October 21, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/bplapron.

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

Local Author Fair

Saturday, November 9 • 1:30 - 3:30pm
Community Rooms 1 - 3

McLean County boasts a wealth of writers. At the library's Local Author Fair, you'll meet authors who have published their work, either on their own, with an independent publisher, or with a mainstream publisher. You'll also find new books to read, get tips for your own book project, and meet others with similar interests.

Participating authors have written for a variety of age levels and both in fiction and nonfiction genres. Stop in any time throughout this event.

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

Creating a Machine-Embroidered Image*

Tuesday, November 12 • 6pm • 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 framed. Teens will first learn to thread the machine and install the bobbin. There will also be a brief overview of the design software and time to explore the digital interface used to create and/or select designs for their projects.

Beginning Monday, October 21, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/bplembroider.

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

Detox Your Mind Through Meditation*

Thursday, November 14 • 7pm • Online via Zoom

By befriending our mind, we can detoxify our negative thought patterns to calm the body. In this online program, long-time meditator Arvind Naik will teach us how to implement a simple yet powerful meditation technique that can be life changing.

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

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



D&D: A Murder in Sharn*

Saturday, November 16 • 12:45-4:45pm
Conference Room

Teens will experience an adventure full of intrigue and danger set in the world of Eberron. Players will need to create level two characters at dndbeyond.com or use a pre-made character. Pre-made characters will be provided. If you've never played D&D, have no fear! This adventure was designed to help you learn to play!

Beginning Saturday, November 2, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/ddsharnteen.

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

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

Banned Book Bingo

September 3 - 28

In celebration of Banned Books Week (September 22-28), the Bloomington and Normal Libraries are offering Banned Book Bingo. Bingo boards will be available from the Normal Public Library and at Bloomington Library's Help Desk, Bookmobile stops, and Drive-Up Lane. Visit bit.ly/bannedbingo2024 to print a board.

Participants will read books and/or engage in activities listed on the Bingo spaces. Submit completed boards to any of the above locations by September 28 to receive a sticker.

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

Raptor 101

Saturday, September 14 • 11am
Community Rooms 2 & 3

Join the Illinois Raptor Center to learn about these fascinating birds. We will learn about the different types of raptors: hawks, falcons, owls, and vultures. Live birds will be presented with handlers showcasing each species up close. Learn about their habitats and behaviors, as well as conservation efforts to protect these birds. This program is great for all ages and seating will be offered on a first-come, first-seated basis.

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

Plant Share at WBRP Harvest Fest

Saturday, September 14 • 2pm
WBRP's Community Gardens

Calling all Plant People! The popular BPL Plant Swap is popping up at the West Bloomington Revitalization Project's Community Gardens (corner of Mulberry and Roosevelt streets).

Bring your plants, cuttings, and seeds to share, then take some new plants home. Introduce your plant to its new parent and be ready to share information such as its name and its light, soil, and water preferences.

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



English Language Conversation Group*

Mondays • 5:30pm • September 16, October 21,
November 18 • Community Room 2

This program 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. 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.

Female Lighthouse Keepers of America*

Thursday, September 19 • 7pm • Online via Zoom

When you think of lighthouses do you think of their Keepers – the hardworking folks who kept those lights on during the fiercest storms and worst conditions imaginable? Women have kept the lighthouses of America for centuries, but not always with the acknowledgement they deserve.

Join Laura Keyes as she tells their history, their bravery, and their surprising stories.

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

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



Escape from Mos Shuuta*

Saturday, September 21 • 12:45-4:45pm
Conference Room

Adults are invited to join us for an exciting Star Wars Adventure: Escape from Mos Shuuta!

During this program, adults will play through an introductory adventure of the Star Wars tabletop role-playing game! Characters, writing utensils, and paper will be provided! This adventure has been designed to help you learn how to play!

Beginning Saturday, September 1, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/bpltrpgadult.

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

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

Halloween Tic-Tac-Toe

September 23 - November 2 • Bookmobile

Play Halloween Tic-Tac-Toe with the Bookmobile!* Game boards featuring Halloween & fall activities will be available beginning Monday, September 23. Players who turn in a completed Tic-Tac-Toe board by Saturday, November 2, will receive a completion prize and will be entered into a grand prize drawing. *Game boards and prizes will only be available on the Bookmobile.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Brittany at circulation@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Banned Book Discussion

Wednesday, September 25 • 6pm • Community Room 1

Come together with fellow readers at our Banned Book Discussion, a program dedicated to discussing any banned book you've read. This inclusive and open-minded discussion will encourage thoughtful conversations about books that have faced censorship.

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

Recording Studio Basics*

Wednesday, September 25 • 7pm • Computer Lab

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Join us for Recording Studio Basics. This comprehensive program will give you a good starting point on how to use the equipment and software in the recording studios, as well as general information about audio engineering.

Beginning September 11, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/recordingbasics.

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

Dear Banned Author

Thursday, September 26 • 10am - Noon
Community Room 1

The Dear Banned Author campaign, hosted by the American Library Association, encourages readers to write, tweet, or email banned or challenged authors in support of the fight against censorship and to show appreciation.

In our program, we will write postcards and letters to authors of banned books, sharing the impact these books have had on our lives. Younger readers can draw pictures to send.

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

Retirement University

Thursday, September 26 • 6pm • Community Room 1

Develop a comprehensive retirement plan tailored to your unique goals and concerns. Ensure your retirement plan covers all bases, from maximizing Social Security benefits to safeguarding your legacy and managing healthcare expenses. Learn to minimize tax burdens in retirement, ensuring you keep more of what you've worked hard to save.

Presenter Bernie Wrezinski has many years of financial planning expertise. He appears through the Institute for Financial Education which offers free money-planning information to the community.

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

Leave the Leaves!

Saturday, September 28 • 10:30am
Community Room 2

Wait! Don't rake up all those leaves! Instead, come to this program presented by the IL Prairie Chapter of Wild Ones to learn how strategic placement of leaves and yard debris help wildlife in garden beds, under tree canopies, and in compost piles while keeping organic material out of landfills. You'll learn how to provide your own free natural mulch!

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



Local Author Fair Saturday, November 9

1:30 - 3:30pm in Community Rooms 1 - 3

Meet authors who have published their work, either on their own or with a publisher. You'll also be able to find new books to read, get tips for your own writing, and meet others with similar interests.

Stop in
any time
throughout
this event!



PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

Take & Make Craft: Haunted Mini Library*

October 2 - 31

Those who register for this fun adult craft program will receive a kit with all the supplies needed to create an eerie mini library.

Kits will be reserved for the first 20 adults who register. An email with details about picking up the kit – including a pickup deadline – will follow registration.

Beginning Wednesday, October 2, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/minihauntedlibrary.

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

Being Imperfect with Erika Sánchez*

Wednesday, October 9 • 7pm • Online via Zoom

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with author Erika Sánchez who will be joined in conversation by Cythia Pelayo.

Sánchez's debut poetry collection, *Lessons on Expulsion*, was a finalist for a PEN award. Her debut young adult novel, *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter*, was a *New York Times* bestseller, National Book Award finalist, and Tomás Rivera Award winner. The book is being made into a film directed by America Ferrera.

Register for this program at bit.ly/ILP_ErikaSanchez.

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



Introduction to SketchUp*

Tuesday, October 15 • 6pm • Computer Lab

Adults and high school teens (age 15+) will have the opportunity to learn the basics of SketchUp, a very popular 3D modeling program. The free version of SketchUp (which will be used during this program) is robust, easy to use, and an ideal place to start learning about the software.

Beginning Monday, September 30, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/sketchup1015.

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

Get Podcasting!*

Wednesday, October 16 • 7pm • Computer Lab

Adults will discover the art of creating compelling podcasts while integrating cutting-edge AI technology for inspiration. They'll also receive hands-on experience with microphones, audio interfaces, and editing software tailored for podcast production. Optimizing sound quality and creating engaging audio effects are also on the agenda.

Beginning Wednesday, October 2, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/adultpodcasting.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Gene at

techprogramming@bloomingtonlibrary.org.



STOP THE BLEED*

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

The leading cause of preventable death after injury is bleeding. Learning to STOP THE BLEED® is a lifesaving skill.

This class will be presented by Carle BroMenn Emergency Department Staff and will combine lecture and hands-on practice to teach you how to be an effective first responder and to help stop the bleeding of a severely injured person.

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

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

Harvesters of Dune*

Saturday, October 19 • 12:45-4:45pm

Conference Room

Adults are invited to join us for an immersive Dune tabletop role-playing adventure set on the desert planet of Arrakis!

Participants will play through an adventure full of danger and intrigue using the Modiphius Dune Tabletop Roleplaying Game system.

The program will take place in the library's Conference Room. Writing utensils, pre-made characters, and paper will be provided.

Beginning Tuesday, October 1, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/duneadult.

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

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

Raise Your Voice with Author Jason Reynolds*

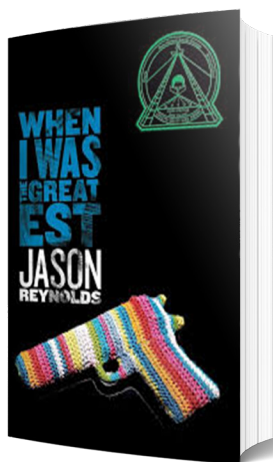
Tuesday, October 22 • 7pm • Online via Zoom

Illinois Libraries Present welcomes award-winning youth author Jason Reynolds, whose books include *Stamped* (with Ibram X. Kendi), *Stuntboy*, *Miles Morales*, and *When I Was the Greatest*. He also hosts a podcast with his mom: *My Mother Made Me*.

You can find his ramblings at JasonWritesBooks.com.

Register for this program at bit.ly/ILP_JasonReynolds.

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



Local Author Fair

Saturday, November 9 • 1:30 - 3:30pm
Community Rooms 1 - 3

McLean County boasts a wealth of writers. At the library's Local Author Fair, you'll meet authors who have published their work, either on their own, with an independent publisher, or with a mainstream publisher. You'll also find new books to read, get tips for your own book project, and meet others with similar interests.

Participating authors have written for a variety of age levels and both in fiction and nonfiction genres. Stop in any time throughout this event.

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

Tax Planning Strategies

Monday, November 11 • 6pm • Community Room 1

Learn how not to outlive your money and how taxes and inflation impact retirement. Discuss factors for successful money management and budgeting for economic change. Learn methods of tax avoidance and options of tax-free savings. Discuss tax-deferral vs. tax-deductible vs. tax-free and the impact of each.

Presenter Bernie Wrezinski has many years of financial planning expertise. He appears through the Institute for Financial Education which offers free money-planning information to the community.

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

Detox Your Mind Through Meditation*

Thursday, November 14 • 7pm • Online via Zoom

By befriending our mind, we can detoxify our negative thought patterns to calm the body. In this online program, long-time meditator Arvind Naik will teach us how to implement a simple yet powerful meditation technique that can be life changing.

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

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

FAFSA ID Workshop

Wednesday, October 23 • 3pm • Computer Lab

In preparation for the opening day of FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) filing season on December 1, this workshop will help students create their FAFSA ID. A representative from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission will be onsite to assist.

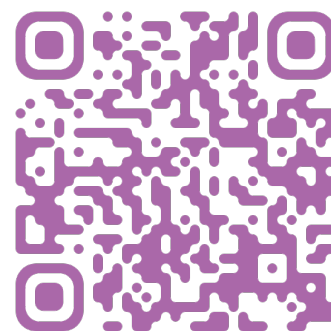
You'll need the following information:

- Social Security Number
- Full Name (as written on your Social Security card)
- Date of Birth
- Mailing Address
- Email Address

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

Reserve a Recording Studio!

Bloomington Public Library offers two recording studios equipped with sound quality improving panels and audio recording equipment. The studios may be reserved up to 2 weeks in advance for up to 2 hours per day. To learn more or make a reservation, visit bit.ly/bplrecord or scan the QR Code to the right.



PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

Sustainable Kitchen

Sunday, November 17 • 2:30pm • Community Room 2

Join us for an insightful program dedicated to promoting sustainable kitchen practices. This session will cover practical strategies for reducing food and packaging waste, effective methods for conserving water in the kitchen, and an exploration of the carbon footprint associated with our food choices. Learn how small changes in your daily kitchen habits can make a significant impact on the environment.

Our presenter, Katie Vogler from the Ecology Action Center, brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in environmental conservation.

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

Holiday Tips & Tricks with Chef Art Smith*

Wednesday, November 20 • 7pm • Online via Zoom

Join Chef Art Smith to learn about his culinary journey and to bring culinary inspiration into your holiday season. Smith served as Oprah's personal chef for a decade and opened his first critically-acclaimed restaurant, Table Fifty-Two, in Chicago.



He's a prolific cookbook author and TV personality, and will be joined in conversation by Monica Eng, journalist and co-host of the podcast *Chewing* with Louisa Chu.

Register for this program at bit.ly/ILP_ArtSmith.

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

D&D: A Murder in Sharn*

Saturday, November 23 • 12:45-4:45pm
Conference Room

Adults will experience an adventure full of intrigue and danger set in the world of Eberron. Players will need to create level two characters at dndbeyond.com or use a pre-made character. Pre-made characters will be provided. If you've never played D&D, have no fear! This adventure was designed to help you learn to play!

Beginning Saturday, November 9, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/ddsharnadult.

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

BOOK CLUBS

True Colors Book Club*

Thursday, September 5 • 6:30pm
Unitarian Universalist Church & Online

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 both in person at the Unitarian Church (1613 E. Emerson Street) and online via Zoom.

The September 5 meeting will discuss *I Am Ace: Advice on Living Your Best Asexual Life* by Cody Daigle-Orians.

Learn more or register online at bit.ly/bplbookclubs2024.

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

Mystery Book Club

Tuesdays • 7pm • Conference Room & Online

- **September 10** - *Don't Know Tough* by Eli Cranor
- **October 8** - *The Kingdoms of Savannah* by George Dawes Green
- **November 12** - *Secret Lives* by Mark De Castrique

Online participants should register at bit.ly/bplbookclubs2024.

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



BOOK CLUBS

Silent Book Club

Thursdays • 6pm • September 12, October 10,
November 7 • 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.

Fiction Book Club

Tuesdays • 7pm • Conference Room & Online

- **September 17** - *Out of Darkness* by Ashley Hope Pérez
- **October 15** - *The London Séance Society* by Sarah Penner
- **November 19** - *The Seed Keeper* by Diane Wilson

Online participants should register at bit.ly/bplbookclubs2024.

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

Lock Your Doors: A True Crime Book Club

Monday, September 23 • 7pm
Conference Room & Online

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.

The September 23 meeting will discuss *From a Whisper to a Rallying Cry: The Killing of Vincent Chin and the Trial that Galvanized the Asian American Movement* by Paula Yoo.

Online participants should register at bit.ly/bplbookclubs2024.

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

Books On Tap Book Club*

Mondays • 7pm • Lil Beaver Brewery

- **October 7** - *The Mary Shelley Club* by Goldy Moldavsky
- **November 4** - *This Place: 150 Years Retold*
by Various Authors

Learn more or register online at bit.ly/bplbookclubs2024.

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

Let's Dish! A Cookbook Club*

Monday, October 14 • 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.

The October 14 meeting will discuss *Mi Cocina: Recipes and Rapture from My Kitchen in Mexico* by Rick Martínez.

Learn more or register online at bit.ly/bplbookclubs2024.

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

History Reads Book Club

Wednesday, November 6 • 7pm
Conference Room & Online

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

The November 6 meeting will discuss *Tinder Box: The Iroquois Theatre Disaster, 1903* by Anthony P. Hatch.

Online participants should register at bit.ly/bplbookclubs2024.

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

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BloomingtonLibrary.org

PHONE:

309.828.6091

HOURS:

Monday - Thursday: 9am - 9pm
Friday - Saturday: 9am - 5pm
Sunday: 1 - 5pm

LIBRARY CLOSURES:

September 1 & 2 - All Day
October 1 - All Day
November 27 - Closed at 5pm
November 28 & 29 - All Day

