

BLOOMINGDALE
PUBLIC LIBRARY

December 2024
through January 2025

there's **SNOW** place like **BPL!**

**Winter
Reading
2024-2025**

**December 9, 2024 through
January 31, 2025**

Registration opens December 9 for all ages.

Four ways to register:

1. online: mybpl.beanstack.org
2. by phone: Adults/Teens: 630-924-2730
Youth: 630-924-2740
3. by email: Adults/Teens: bdref@mybpl.org
Youth: bdys@mybpl.org
4. in person: Adults/Teens: Adult Reference Desk
Youth: Youth Services Desk

Using Previous Registrations: If you previously registered for any recent library reading programs, your login information is also valid for Winter Reading and all future reading programs.

Family Registration: New registrants can register all family members under one account. Start your family registration at the Adult Services Desk.

Logging Minutes: Kids, teens, and adults all log minutes. Reading to your child or sibling? Those minutes count for you, too!

Beanstack App: Download the optional app for Apple or Android to easily track minutes and stats like reading streaks. The app makes participating fun and easy!

The Winter Reading Program is open to Bloomington residents only.

Adult & Teen Program (7th grade to adult)

Cozy up with a warm drink and read!
For every 120 minutes logged,
earn an entry into our grand prize drawing.

Grand Prizes:

\$25 Amazon gift card (2 winners)

Youth (Infants through 6th grade):

For 180 minutes logged,
readers receive a free book!

Grand Prizes: Wolves Reading Prize Packs

**bpl
makerspace**

**Limited
Holiday Hours**

Be sure to visit the Makerspace by Saturday, December 21
to get in your last minute holiday crafts and gifts!

The Makerspace will be closed for the holidays starting
Thursday, December 26 and will reopen for Bloomington cardholders
on Thursday, January 9.

**exam
cram**

**Wednesday & Thursday, December 18 & 19 | 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Open to all high school students, grades 9-12 (Drop-In)**

Get ready for finals at the library's Exam Cram! We have group and quiet study areas, Wi-Fi, de-stressing activities, and computers. The Teen Librarian will also be available for any reference help needed. FREE snacks and drinks provided, with pizza served at 7:00 p.m.

Adult Programs



Registration required for some adult programs (noted with 📅). Register **online**, by phone at (630) 924-2730, or by email at bdref@mybpl.org.
For programs with special registration requirements, please follow those instructions.

DECEMBER PROGRAMS

📅 **VIRTUAL: *Gone with the Wind* – The Story Behind the Story**

Monday, December 9 | 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Zoom Webinar

Hear the true stories behind this classic movie's troubled production as we step back in time to experience this sweeping cinematic masterpiece, hosted by film expert Steven Frenzel.

📅 **VIRTUAL: Christmas on State Street**

Tuesday, December 10 | 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Zoom Webinar

For decades, Christmas in Chicago meant a trip or two to State Street to see the big department stores. This illustrated talk traces the history of Christmas celebrations on State Street – from the animated window displays and the Christmas parade to beloved characters like Uncle Mistletoe, the Cinnamon Bear, and of course, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. Presented by pop culture historian Leslie Goddard, Ph.D.



📅 **The Battle of the Bulge**

Monday, December 16 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

In-Person Event

History entertainer Jim Gibbons will discuss the events that took place before, during, and after The Battle of the Bulge and the major commanders, strategies, and turning points in the battle. Learn why the battle was significant to American history, and why it is still seen as one of the most brutal battles and second deadliest.

ONGOING ADULT PROGRAMS

Genealogy Club (Drop-In)

Wednesday, January 15 | 6:30 – 8:45 p.m.
no meeting in December

📅 **Great Decisions**

Wednesday, January 15 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
no meeting in December

JANUARY PROGRAMS

📅 **VIRTUAL: The Life of Betty White**

Monday, January 13 | 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Zoom Webinar

On December 31, 2021, beloved actress and TV star Betty White passed suddenly, only weeks away from her 100th birthday. Join us to celebrate the life and legacy of this charming Golden Girl, whose popularity kept increasing with age. Presented by historical entertainer Michelle Gibbons.

📅 **VIRTUAL: Mayhem in the National Parks**

Tuesday, January 21 | 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Zoom Webinar

Enjoy the scenery, adventure, and general chaos during a 600-mile mountain bike ride and camping trip covering Jackson Hole, Wyoming; West Glacier, Montana; Grand Teton, Yellowstone, and Glacier National Parks; and Big Sky Country. Hosted by outdoor enthusiast John Lynn.

📅 **VIRTUAL: Images of "Honest Abe" in Art History**

Monday, January 27 | 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Zoom Webinar

Often associated with 19th century photography, Abraham Lincoln inspired artists across a range of media. Images of the sixteenth President evolved over the course of his political career and he remained a popular subject well after his death. Hosted by art historian Jeff Mishur.

bpl makerspace crafts

Learn how to use the library's Makerspace equipment to make creative craft projects.

Registration Information:

Ages 12 to adult, BPL card & computer experience required.

Please sign up for one session only.



📅 **3D Printed Keychain**

Registration opens Monday, December 16 at 9:00 a.m. (limit 6 per session)

Monday, January 6 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 23 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Design a custom 3D printed keychain. 3D printing will take approximately 1-2 hours per keychain; items will be available for pickup at a later date.

📅 **Paper Butterfly Heart Art**

Registration opens Monday, January 13 at 9:00 a.m. (limit 8 per session)

Monday, February 3 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

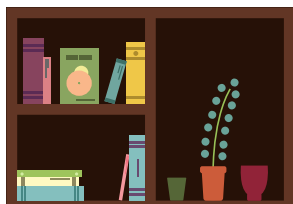
Tuesday, February 11 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.





Adult Programs

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For programs with special registration requirements, please follow those instructions.



book discussion groups

Selections are available at the Circulation Desk one month in advance of the discussion. If you have any questions, please call the Reference Desk at (630) 924-2730.

HISTORICAL BOOK DISCUSSION

To register, email Julie Deeke at jdeeke@mybpl.org.



A Fever in the Heartland: The Ku Klux Klan's Plot to Take Over America, and the Woman Who Stopped Them

by Timothy Egan

Tuesday, December 3 | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.



Gangsters vs. Nazis: How Jewish Mobsters Battled Nazis in Wartime America

by Michael Benson

Tuesday, January 7 | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

MONDAY NIGHT PAGE TURNERS

To register, email Jessica Frazier at jfrazier@mybpl.org.



📅 **Our Favorite Picks Party**

Monday, December 9 | 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Register for our end of year party! There's no book discussion this month. Instead, we'll be sharing our favorite picks of the year. A list of all shared titles will be available after the party, so you're sure to find some great book, movie, and TV show recommendations.



The Scarlet Pimpernel

by Baroness Orczy

Monday, January 20 | 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.



DROP-IN MOVIES

Come enjoy a movie with us at BPL's Drop-In Movie and enter for a chance to win a copy of that day's movie on DVD.

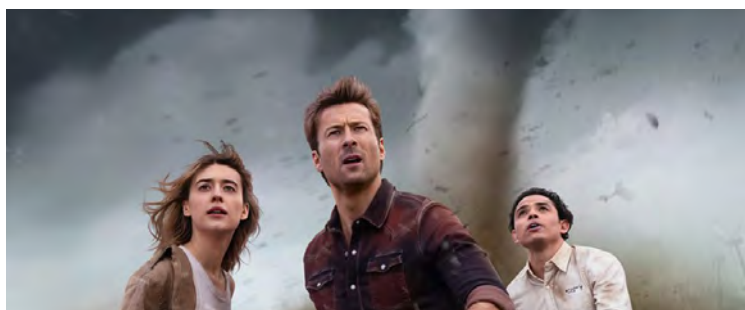
Movie giveaway will be held following the conclusion of the movie and you must be present to win.



The Holdovers (R)

Wednesday, December 11 | 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

A cranky history teacher at a remote prep school is forced to remain on campus over the holidays with a troubled student who has no place to go and a grieving cook.



Twisters (PG-13)

Wednesday, January 15 | 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Kate Carter, a retired tornado-chaser and meteorologist, is persuaded to return to Oklahoma to work with a new team and new technologies.

Computer Classes



Registration is encouraged for in-person computer classes to receive program updates. Register **online**, by phone at (630) 924-2730, or by email at bdref@mybpl.org. Virtual classes will be posted on our **YouTube channel**.



Video Calls: Zoom, FaceTime & More

Thursday, December 5 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Instructor: Christian

Whether you are connecting with friends and family, learning from video conferences, or participating in a remote medical appointment, video calls have become an important tool over the past several years. We will work with examples in popular applications like Zoom and FaceTime to build our skills in class and discuss situations students might encounter on their own.

PowerPoint: Crash Course!

Thursday, December 12 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Instructor: Charlie

Create a slideshow with the basics of building, presenting, saving, and printing with Microsoft PowerPoint.

Cutting the Cord

Monday, January 6 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Instructor: Sean

Explore entertainment options beyond paying for cable. Discuss how to connect your TV or other devices to streaming services, how to determine what's right for you, and more.

PowerPoint: Makeover!

Thursday, January 16 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Instructor: Charlie

Take your PowerPoint slideshows to the next level by customizing them with templates, transitions, animations, and more.

Google Docs & Cloud Backup

Monday, January 20 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Instructor: Sean

Learn about the many cloud storage options available to work collaboratively with other people, access saved items anywhere in the world, and provide a safety net in case of computer failure.

Organizing and Backing Up Your Computer Files

Monday, January 27 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Instructor: Christian

Discover ways to organize your files for easy accessibility, including file naming conventions, folder structures, and common backup methods.

VIRTUAL: Introduction to Photopea

Thursday, January 30 | 7:00 p.m.
Instructor: Charlie

Photopea is a free image editor with a similar look and functionality to Photoshop with no installs or accounts necessary. Learn to use Photopea while performing some basic image edits.

SMARTPHONES

Using Android Phones

Monday, December 9 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Instructor: Sean

Learn how to install and manage your apps, customize your phone by changing settings and installing widgets, take advantage of expandable storage, and much more!

iPhone Settings

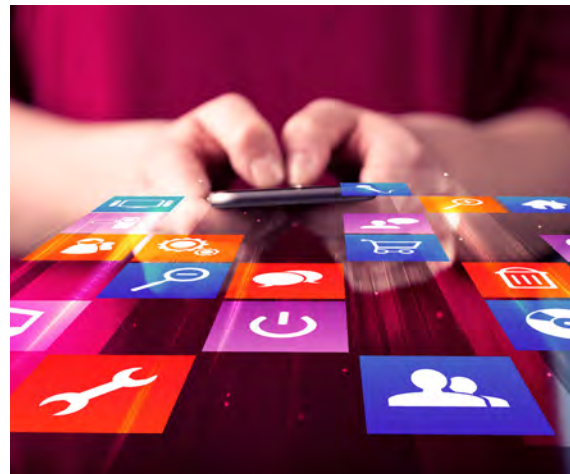
Thursday, January 9 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Instructor: Salvador

From optimizing battery life to enhancing privacy, settings adjustments can help make the most out of your iPhone. Discover appearance customization, app permissions, accessibility features, and more.

iPhone Shortcuts

Thursday, January 23 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Instructor: Salvador

A shortcut is a quick way to get one or more tasks done with apps on your iPhone. Explore shortcut possibilities available in the Shortcuts app gallery. Learn to create your own shortcuts like scheduling a text message or making a collage from the photos on your phone.



master MICROSOFT WORD

Introduction to Word

Wednesday, January 8 | 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.
Instructor: Charlie

Get a beginner-level look at the basics of word processing with Microsoft Word, including typing, editing, printing, and saving.

Intermediate Word

Wednesday, January 22 | 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.
Instructor: Charlie

Expanding on the basics, we look at working with page layouts, outlines, images, and more.



Teen Programs

Registration required for some teen programs (noted with 🗳️). Register **online**, by phone at (630) 924-2730, or by email at bdref@mybpl.org. For programs with special registration requirements, please follow those instructions. Teen programs are open to 7-12 graders unless otherwise noted.



Wednesday & Thursday, December 18 & 19 | 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Open to all high school students, grades 9-12 (Drop-In)

Get ready for finals at Exam Cram! We have group and quiet study areas, Wi-Fi, de-stressing activities, and computers. The Teen Librarian will also be available for any reference help needed. FREE snacks and drinks provided, with pizza served at 7:00 p.m.

Take & Make Crafts

For Take and Make crafts, you will be contacted via email when your craft kit is ready to be picked up at the Adult Reference Desk.

🗳️ **Nightmare Before Christmas Paint with Water**

Kit Pickup begins Monday, December 16

registration begins Monday, December 2 (limit 10 teens)

Create your own colorful world in Halloween Town with 36 watercolor scenes that come to life with the stroke of a paintbrush!

🗳️ **Cottagecore Cross-Stitch Kit**

Kit Pickup begins Monday, January 6

registration begins Monday, December 23 (limit 12 teens)

Includes everything you need to cross-stitch three cottagecore masterpieces.

Teen Craft Night

🗳️ **Gingerbread Houses**

Wednesday, December 11 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

registration begins Monday, November 25 (limit 10 teens)

Assemble and decorate a super sweet gingerbread house for the holidays.

🗳️ **Marble Art Painting**

Wednesday, January 8 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

registration begins Monday, December 23 (limit 10 teens)

Using the “paint pour” method, create a marble painting that is entirely unique. A relaxing, slightly messy, and fun craft to take home!



Teen Territory Fun!

New Year Vision Board

Drop in to the Teen Territory area to create a vision board to represent your aspirations and inspire you to achieve them in the new year! Or come up with a New Year's resolution list for 2025! Available through January, while supplies last.

🗳️ **ACT Practice Test**

Saturday, February 1 | 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Stressing about the new ACT high school requirement? Take a full-length practice test to ward off test day jitters and see how you may score on the big test. Experience firsthand what test day will be like! A representative from C2 Education will provide a practice test and contact you with scores and analyzed results.

Game Night (Drop-In)

Thursday, January 30 | 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Relax and enjoy some fun games with friends or meet new people at **Game Night!** Check out the Nintendo Switch, race in Mario Kart 8, brawl in Super Smash Bros., or discover your new favorite tabletop or board game! We provide the space and games, you bring the fun!



Teen Bookish Boxes

Sign up to receive a teen subscription box full of specially curated books and goodies each month! Fill out the registration form and you'll receive books based on your preferences. Get new books and special surprises each month, and all are yours to keep! Visit mybpl.org/teenbookishboxes for details.



Teen Book Reviews

Teens, write a review of your latest read – fiction, non-fiction, comics/graphic novels/manga, or audiobooks – and receive service hours! The reviews may appear in whole or part on the library's website, the Teen Territory, social media, or in print resources at the library. Check out the details at mybpl.org/teenbookreviews.



Youth Programs



Registration required for some youth programs (noted with 📅). Registration for **December** programs begins **Monday, November 18 at 9:00 a.m.**

Registration for **January** programs begins **Monday, December 23 at 9:00 a.m.**

Register **online**, by phone at **(630) 924-2740**, or by email at **bdys@mybpl.org**. Please have your library card when you register.

School Age Programs

📅 Custom Cards

Grades 4-8

Wednesday, December 4 | 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Use stamps, embossing, and templates to create fun coordinating cards and envelopes.

📅 Makerspace Club: STEM Time

Grades 3-6

Thursdays, December 12 & January 9
4:15 – 5:00 p.m.

Libraries are a great place to learn about science and technology while making cool stuff. December: 3D printed snowflakes
January: candy DNA

📅 Beginning Crochet

Grades 3-8

Mondays, December 16 & 23
6:00 – 7:15 p.m.

This is a two session program.
Session 1- learn the basics: how to hold your yarn and hook and the single crochet stitch.
Session 2 - learn how to start a project and read a pattern.

📅 Candy Gingerbread Pot

Grades 3-6

Tuesday, December 17 | 4:15 – 5:00 p.m.

Celebrate the holiday season by decorating a flowerpot into a gingerbread person.

📅 Holiday Wreath

Grades 3-6

Thursday, December 19 | 6:00 – 6:45 p.m.

Join us in the Makerspace to make a holiday wreath.

BINGO Blast (Drop-In)

Grades 1-6

Monday, December 23 | 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Join us for a twist to an old favorite as we play BINGO with holiday flair. Drop in anytime and stay as long as you like. Collect tokens for each game you win. Once you have three tokens, you can trade them in for a prize.

📅 Writers' Workshop

Grades 3-6

Thursday, December 26 | 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Express yourself through writing. Prompts, snacks, and journals will be provided.

📅 Dog Man Diversion

Grades K-2

Saturday, December 28 | 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Come enjoy some *Dog Man* crafts and games while you wait for the movie to come to theaters.

📅 Donut Pillows

Grades 3-6

Sunday, December 29 | 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

You do-nut need sewing skills to make this fun pillow covered in sprinkles!

📅 Snow Much Fun Party

Grades K-2

Monday, December 30 | 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Celebrate winter break with snowman crafts, winter BINGO, and cozy book suggestions.



Middle Grade Makers (Drop-In)

Grades 4-8

Thursday, January 2 | 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Explore our Makerspace as we create all sorts of fun and useful items like keychains, coasters, custom buttons, or jewelry. Crafts will take anywhere from 15 minutes to an hour – drop by and see what's new each month!

📅 Collage Self Portrait

Grades K-2

Tuesday, January 7 | 4:15 – 5:00 p.m.

Get creative and explore different materials as you make your face into art.

📅 Winter Wonderland Glee

Grades K-6

Saturday, January 11 | 3:00 – 3:45 p.m.

Make three crafts to celebrate the season.

📅 Crochet Skills Development

Grades 4-8

Monday, January 13 | 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Come join us for the next step in the crochet journey. Learn the half-double crochet, double crochet, and the increase and decrease. Bring your hook, yarn, and enthusiasm.

Crochet Along with Miss Carol (Virtual)

Grades 3-8

Wednesday, January 15

Learn to crochet along with Miss Carol on our YouTube page. A supply list and written instructions can be picked up at the library. New projects will be posted quarterly. January skills – reading a pattern and finishing a piece

📅 Paint Night: Snowman Painting

Grades K-2

Thursday, January 16 | 6:00 – 6:45 p.m.

Join us for a step-by-step seasonal paint night.

📅 DIY Penguin Crafts

Grades 3-6

Monday, January 20 | 4:15 – 5:00 p.m.

Let's celebrate Penguin Awareness Day with penguin-themed crafts!

LEGO® Club (Drop-In)

Grades 1-6

Tuesday, January 21 | 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

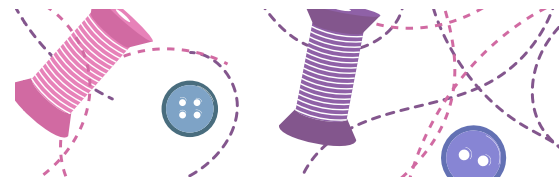
Design and build with the library's LEGO® supply to complete the challenge.

📅 Button, Button

Grades 4-8

Wednesday, January 22 | 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Learn basic hand sewing techniques and create a picture on a bookmark with buttons and thread.



📅 Wildflower Watercolors

Grades 3-6

Monday, January 27 | 4:15 – 5:00 p.m.

Learn basic watercolor techniques and brighten up winter through art.

Pipe Cleaner Finger Puppets (Drop-In)

Grades K-2

Tuesday, January 28 | 4:00 – 4:45 p.m.

Make a buddy puppet for your finger.



Youth Programs

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Preschool Programs

Come Together (Drop-In)

0-24 months

Every Wednesday | 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Meet and chat with other parents and caregivers while your child socializes and explores with hands-on toys. Weekly drop-in event for ages 0-24 months.

*Will be offered simultaneously with Baby Tales and Tunes when in session. *

📅 Playing with STEM

Ages 2-5

Tuesdays, December 10 & January 14
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) are important learning areas for kids of all ages. Start your child early with our fun play to learn program.

December: talk about STEM all year
January: ice and snow.

📅 Happy Books, Happy Cooks

Ages 3-5

Thursdays, December 12 & January 9
6:00 – 6:30 p.m.

A storytime for all the budding chefs! Read a food-filled story and create a tasty treat. Please let us know of any allergies at the time of registration.

📅 I Don't Want to Go to Sleep

Ages 3-5

Friday, December 20 | 10:30 – 11:15 a.m.

Did you know some frogs hibernate? Learn about hibernation through stories, crafts, and more.

Explore with Your Senses (Drop-In)

Under 3 years old with caregivers

Saturday, December 21 | 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Come participate in different activities designed to develop sensory processing skills. Explore texture, sound, smell, colors, and patterns.

Preschool Process Art (Drop-In)

Ages 3-5

Saturday, January 18 | 10:00 – 10:45 a.m.

Little hands, but big creativity! Pop in to the Makerspace to try this month's artsy activity.

📅 If You Give a Moose a Muffin

Ages 3-5

Tuesday, January 21 | 1:30 – 2:15 p.m.

If you give a moose a muffin, chaos might ensue. Join us for fun and activities!

📅 Messy Fingers

Ages 2-4

Tuesday, January 28 | 1:30 – 2:15 p.m.

Your little ones will have the opportunity to develop their fine motor skills through this hands-on messy art class. Join us for all the mess and lots of fun!

For Families

Homeschool Hangout Series

Families

Wednesdays, December 4 & January 8
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

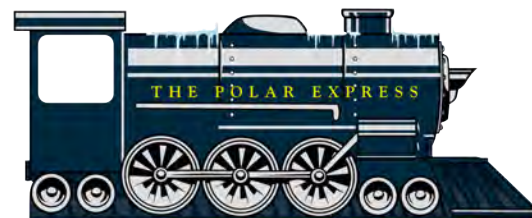
Join us to explore a new topic each month with books, crafts, and activities specially designed for each grade level.

Polar Express

Families

Thursday, December 5 | 6:00 – 6:45 p.m.

All aboard! Join us for a reading of this holiday classic, crafts, and activities. Pajamas are optional.



Arctic Animals (Drop-In)

Families

Wednesday, December 18 | 6:00 – 6:45 p.m.

Enjoy stories and rhymes about animals, and then make an arctic craft.

Craft Time (Drop-In)

Families

Friday, January 3 | 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Stop by Youth Services to make a penguin craft. While supplies last.

Watch and Play with The Lion Guard Series (Drop-In)

Families

Friday, January 3 | 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

For *Lion King* fans, join us for an interactive experience making music, dancing, and using puppets while watching Kion, son of Simba, protect the pride.

National Puzzle Day (Drop-In)

Families

Saturday, January 25 | 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Come to the library to do all types of puzzles, from traditional puzzles to cubes and brain teasers.

Dave Herzog's Marionettes (Drop-In)

Families

Monday, January 20
2:00 – 2:45 p.m.

Watch this snow show on this school day off. Dave will bring a scene to life with his marionette puppets.



Winter Storytimes

Winter Mini Session: December 2 through 13

Winter Full Session: January 6 through February 14

The Youth Services department provides age-appropriate interactive fun with stories, sign language, music, and more.
Storytimes are limited to the first 20 children to arrive.

Preschool Storytime

Ages 3-5

Mondays, 1:30 – 2:00 p.m.

Evening Storytime

All ages with caregiver

Wednesdays, 6:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Toddler Storytime

Ages 2-3 with caregiver

Thursdays, 10:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Family Storytime

All ages with caregiver

Fridays, 10:30 – 11:15 a.m.



Baby Tales

Ages 0-24 months with caregiver

Wednesdays

10:00 – 10:20 a.m. OR

10:30 – 10:50 a.m.

Introduce your baby to books, songs, rhymes, and movement that will aid in the development of early literacy skills.

Out of consideration for baby safety and to encourage child/caregiver bonding, older siblings cannot be accommodated in this program.

**Check out Come Together, our playtime program done in conjunction with this program Wednesdays, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. See our Preschool Programs section for details.*

Valentines for Veterans

for all ages

Monday, January 6 – Monday, February 3, 2025

The BPL Youth Services department will again sponsor their annual Valentines for Veterans program!

We invite children, adults, schools, and community members to make Valentine cards for veterans.

All Valentine cards will be delivered to veterans who have served our country and are currently hospitalized at

Hines Veterans Hospital in Hines, IL and **Jesse Brown Hospital** in Chicago.

Art and card supplies will be available at the Youth Services desk to create cards while visiting the library.

Everyone is also welcome to bring in cards made at home from personal craft materials (please do not glue anything onto the card that may break off easily, and glitter is discouraged). Envelopes for cards are not required.

Please turn in all cards to the Youth Services desk at the library.

Library Hours:

Monday - Thursday:
9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Friday & Saturday:
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday:
1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Library Closings:

Tuesday, December 24
Wednesday, December 25
Tuesday, December 31
Wednesday, January 1

Library Photos

Photos or videos taken at the library may be used for promotional purposes. If you do not want your image taken, please inform library staff.

Social Media

Follow us on social media for the latest information, virtual classes, and random fun!



**BLOOMINGDALE
PUBLIC LIBRARY**
for learning...for life



ADA Accommodations

Persons with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodation to participate in a program should contact Bloomingdale Public Library at least 7 days prior to the program.

Call **(630) 924-2730** or email requests to **ADA@mybpl.org**.