

BETHALTO LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER

APRIL
2026

Trivia Night

APRIL 18TH @ 6PM

Put together a team of up to 6 of your smartest friends and join us for a fun and FREE night of trivia. Popcorn and water will be provided, but feel free to bring your own snacks.

Registration is required.

Breakfast with Books

APRIL 25TH @ 10AM

Enjoy a light breakfast while discussing books with other readers. Don't forget to drop by our Used Book Sale before or after this event.



Adult and Teen Art Night

APRIL 22ND @ 6PM

Garden Fairy Stakes

These beaded garden stakes are the perfect DIY project! They make an eye-catching addition to flower beds and plant pots.

Registration is required. \$3.00/stake



National Poetry Month

WEEKLY ACTIVITES

April is National Poetry Month. Each week in April, you will find a different poetry themed activity to enjoy in the Library. Activites will include blackout poetry, magnetic poetry, ransom note poetry and more.

Adult Bingo Night

APRIL 24TH @ 6PM

Join us for Adult Bingo Night, where the numbers are hot, the popcorn is popping, and the prizes are worth playing for! Bring your lucky charms and a friend or two for a fun, free night out filled with laughs and friendly competition.

Library Closures

- April 5th - Easter
- April 10th - All Day Staff Training

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES



Preschool Storytime

TUESDAYS @ 10AM & 1PM

April 7th, 14th, 21^{st*}, and 28th

Each week we'll explore early literacy through stories, song, movement, and hands-on crafts. Both sessions feature the same activities. Pick the time that fits your schedule best. *April 21st we will have a special scavenger hunt and craft available all day in honor of National Library Week.

Family Fun Thursdays

THURSDAYS @ 3PM

April 2nd - Crafternoon

April 9th - Nerf War in the Kid's Area

April 16th - Kids in the Kitchen - Chocolate Chip Peanut Butter Banana Roll-ups

April 23rd - Movie Day in the Kid's Area (Paddington in Peru - 2024 - Rated PG)

April 30th - Ms. Amy's Choice



Baby/Toddler Playtime

THURSDAYS @ 10AM

April 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th

Our littlest visitors may be too busy to sit for a full story, but they still love spending time at the library! Join Ms. Amy in the Kids Area for a gentle introduction to Preschool Storytime, filled with play, socializing, and early learning.

National Library Week

**APRIL 19TH - 25TH
DAILY ACTIVITES**

We are celebrating all week long. Join in on a fun activity or enjoy a small giveaway each day (while supplies last). Staff will also be having fun with a Staff Spirit Week. Keep an eye on our social media for each day's theme.

Read to Maui

APRIL 29TH @ 4PM

Come to the Library to meet Maui, Nominee for Citizen of the Year! While you are here, ask about our Maui Loyalty Program. Read books, earn prizes.



Bethalto Community Night

APRIL 28TH @ 4PM

The Bethalto Public Library will be participating in the Bethalto Community Night held at Civic Memorial High School. Visit our table for information on library services, our Summer Reading Program, and more.

BOOK CLUBS



The OG Book Club

APRIL 7TH @ 6:30PM

Tress of the Emerald Sea follows a sheltered girl who leaves her quiet island life to rescue the boy she loves after he is taken by a mysterious sorceress, venturing into a dangerous world of spore-filled seas and pirates. Along the journey, she grows from an ordinary person into a clever and courageous leader, discovering her own strength while confronting powerful enemies.



Thrills & Chills Book Club

APRIL 8TH @ 6PM

Witchcraft for Wayward Girls by Grady Hendrix follows a group of pregnant teens in a strict 1970s home who discover a hidden book of spells and begin using witchcraft to reclaim control over their lives. As their magic grows stronger, it brings unexpected and dangerous consequences, forcing them to confront both the cost of power and the realities they're trying to escape.



Just Another Book Club

APRIL 15TH @ 10AM

The Stolen Life of Colette Marceau by Kristin Harmel follows an aging jewel thief whose life is upended when a bracelet tied to her sister's World War II disappearance resurfaces, pushing her to uncover the truth about her past. Moving between wartime Paris and the present, the story reveals secrets, love, and the lasting impact of survival as she seeks justice and closure.



May's Upcoming Titles

The OG: May 5th - *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters

Thrills & Chills: May 13th - *The Ghostwriter* by Julie Clark

Just Another: May 20th - *Whistle* by Linwood Barclay

READING CHALLENGE



Rainy Day Reads

APRIL 1 - 30, 2026

April showers bring the perfect excuse to curl up with a good book!

Whether you love cozy mysteries, heartfelt stories, or moody adventures, our

Rainy Day Reads challenge is all about embracing those quiet, drizzly days with a great read.

Grab any book that catches your eye. Whether it's a cozy paperback, an ebook from our apps, or an audiobook to listen to while you snuggle up indoors.

Register on the Beanstack app and log up to 10 books this month. Each book you log earns you a ticket to enter into one of our prize drawings.

Grab a blanket, listen to the rain, and fall into a story—happy reading!



AUTHOR CHATS VIA ZOOM

These events are intended for adults.

These events are made possible by Illinois Libraries Present (ILP), a statewide collaboration among public libraries offering premier events. ILP is funded in part by a grant awarded by the Illinois State Library, a department of the Office of the Secretary of State, using funds provided by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).



Cristina Henríquez

VOICE, CULTURE, HUMAN CONNECTION

April 16th @ 7PM

Scan to register.



R.F. Kuang

BABEL-ON

May 19th @ 7PM

Scan to register.



HELP PROTECT LIBRARY SERVICES



Have you been hearing about the HB5236 – Digital Library Protection Act? Libraries are doing everything they can to serve their communities and the HB5236 can help us serve our community even better!

Did you know libraries often pay up to 4x more for e-books than consumers? That means fewer titles, longer wait times, and more barriers to access. Below is information provided by our neighboring Library System, Reaching Across Illinois Library System, for you to understand how e-books in libraries work.

Why can't my library buy more e-books and audiobooks?

e-book and digital audiobook costs are **too high** for libraries, and access is **limited**.

Print books are owned by the library and can be used for decades until they're worn out.

e-books and digital audiobooks are licensed—libraries don't own them.

Plus, publishers put limits on how long the content can be used:

1 or 2 years **OR** 26 or 52 checkouts

e-books and audiobooks are free for patrons to use, but not free for libraries to offer.

An average e-book costs a library **3.9x more** than what you would pay to buy it on your Kindle.

Format	Consumer Price	Library Price
e-book	\$13.93	\$55.28
e-audio	\$21.70	\$78.45

Let's see some real-time examples:
*Library costs reflect single user, 2-year limit agreement.

Format	Consumer Cost	Library Cost
STEPHEN KING NEVER FLINCH (e-book)	\$32.00	\$32.00
STEPHEN KING NEVER FLINCH (e-audio)	\$16.99	\$67.99
STEPHEN KING NEVER FLINCH (audiobook)	\$19.99	\$84.99
EMILY HENRY GREAT BIG BEAUTIFUL LIFE (e-book)	\$32.00	\$29.00
EMILY HENRY GREAT BIG BEAUTIFUL LIFE (e-audio)	\$14.99	\$55.00
EMILY HENRY GREAT BIG BEAUTIFUL LIFE (audiobook)	\$14.99	\$95.00

The cost per circulation of an electronic title is **3.7x higher** than a physical title.

\$0.63 (e-book) vs \$2.39 (print book)

Three people could check out the same print book for **less than the cost of a single e-book checkout.**

e-content usage is increasing

In 2024, a mid-size, suburban public library saw:

25% increase in e-book circulation
15% increase in audiobook circulation

27.2% Libraries spend nearly **one-third of their budget** on digital content so their patrons can enjoy these popular titles.

Illinois is known for its leadership in support of libraries, but...

if publishers continue to control the terms of digital content for libraries, we'll see an erosion of resource sharing across the state.

We will lose one of the best things that makes Illinois stand out in the national library landscape.

How does this affect my community?

- Libraries will reach their **budget breaking point**
- You'll have **limited options**
- Hold wait lists will get **even longer**

How can I help?

Keep borrowing e-content from your local library.

The numbers help us advocate for funding

Stay informed and support your library-serving organizations:
American Library Association
Illinois Library Association
Reaching Across Illinois Library System

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Used Book Sale - April 25, 2026 - 8:30am - 3pm

Our Used Book Sale starts at 8:30am on Saturday, April 25th. The regular sale ends at noon. Then our Bag Sale begins at 1pm. We will have a variety of used books and DVDs with prices from \$0.25 to \$4.00. For the Bag Sale, bring your own bag and fill it for \$4.00. No scanning allowed. Sale happens rain or shine. Book Sale proceeds go directly to the Library to support programming and to purchase new books.



Bunco Night - May 8, 2026 @ 6pm

Get ready for a night of laughter, lucky rolls, and lively fun at our monthly Bunco Nights! Whether you're a seasoned player or brand new to the game, Bunco is easy to learn and always a good time. Each month we will provide light refreshments while you compete for prizes and connect with friends old and new! Let the good times roll!



Plant A Seed - Read! Summer Reading Program

Summer Reading is right around the corner. We will have so many activities to keep the family busy throughout the summer. Our Summer Reading Kick-Off Party will be on May 29, 2026, starting at 6:00pm. Any day you read earns you a prize drawing ticket. It isn't all books, though. We will have hands on activities to help teach the little ones how to plant seeds, grow butterflies, art projects, and even a few visiting critters. Watch for early sign-up.



Coming Soon - Library of Things

Bethalto Public Library will be adding a Library of Things to our collection soon. A Library of Things is a collection of non-book items your public library lends out. It is kind of like a gadget library, but broader. Instead of just books or media, you can borrow things like yard games, learning tools, and even tech equipment. We already have a board game/card game library, so why not offer more?! The idea is to give the community access to items people might need only occasionally, helping save money, reduce waste, and encourage trying new hobbies, all while keeping the focus on learning, creativity, and community sharing.



Bethalto Public Library
321 S. Prairie Street
Bethalto, IL 62010
618-377-8141

Days Closed

Easter Sunday
Apr. 5, 2026
Staff Training Day
Apr. 10, 2026

Hours

Mon - Thu: 10:00am to 7:00pm
Fri, Sat: 10:00am to 4:00pm
Sun: 12:00pm to 4:00pm