

Bethalto Public Library's

# May Newsletter

2026

## May the Fourth Be With You

Monday  
May 4th @ 3-6pm

Drop in after school for Star Wars themed crafts, Scavenger Hunt, snacks, and more!



## Bunco Night

Friday, May 8th @ 6pm



Get ready to roll the dice! Our Bunco Night promises fast-paced fun, plenty of laughs, and a little friendly rivalry. With tables cheering and dice flying, don't miss your chance to join in!

## Garden Party

Friday, May 29th @ 5:30pm

Who is ready for summer?! We are ready to get started with our Summer Reading Challenge Kick-Off Party. There will be fun for the whole family. Lawn games, food, and crafts. Oh and did we mention critters?! Cowboy Critters will be here with a petting zoo – horse, cow, bunny, and more! The fun starts at 5:30pm. You won't want to miss out on this exciting event.

- May 22<sup>nd</sup> – Reading Challenge Begins
- May 29<sup>th</sup> – Summer Reading Kick-off Party
- July 31<sup>st</sup> – End of Reading Challenge (all reading logs and prize ticket entries must be submitted)

See page 5 for more details.

## Lego May-nia

All month long, we will have special Lego themed activities. Design a minifig to hang in the Kids Area. Every time you checkout an item, you will get a Lego to add to our library Lego tower. Let's see how big it can get!



## Preschool Storytime

Tuesdays @ 10am and 1pm  
May 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>

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.



## Baby/Toddler Playtime

Thursdays @ 10am  
May 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup>

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.



## Read with Finley

Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> @ 1pm

Meet the new therapy dog on the block. Finley is a Golden Retriever who loves to be read to. Her pal Maui has invited her to visit with you. Come meet Finley at the Library.



## Read with Maui

Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup> @ 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.



## Family Fun Thursdays

Thursdays @ 3pm

- May 7<sup>th</sup> – Lego and Crafts in the Kids Area
- May 14<sup>th</sup> – Lego Themed Scavenger Hunt
- May 21<sup>st</sup> – Kids in the Kitchen – Lego Rice Cereal Treats
- May 28<sup>th</sup> – Movie in the Kids Area – The Lego Movie (2014 – Rated PG)

## Reading Challenge

All Month Long

If you are already reading books, you might as well try to win prizes. Join our month-long reading challenge. More details on page 6.

# Craft Day

## Beaded Plants

Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> @ 10am to 4pm

Stop by anytime between 10am–4pm to make a beaded plant! All ages are welcome to make this free craft.

One plant per person, please!



# Adult Bingo

Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 6pm

Join us for Bethalto Library's 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.



# Did you know...?

The library offers printing, scanning, and faxing services for a small cost. No library card necessary. We are happy to assist you on getting the documents you need.



# Knit and Crochet A-long

Wednesday

May 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm

Join us in making a knit or crochet market bag. Pattern will be provided. Beginner level friendly, but you must know the basics of knit/crochet.

## Materials To Bring:

- 2 balls of Sugar and Cream or similar cotton yarn (1 solid, 1 varigated)
- 4–5 mm hook, size 7 or 8 needles, circular or DP



# Author Chat via zoom

R.F. Kuang - Babel-On  
May 20<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm

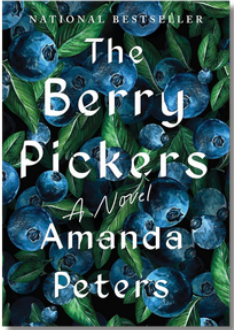


Rebecca F. Kuang is the award-winning, #1 New York Times and #1 Sunday Times bestselling author of the Poppy War trilogy, Babel: An Arcane History, Yellowface, and Katabasis. She was named to the 2023 Time100 Next list and Forbes 30 Under 30 Class of 2024.

Scan to register.



# Book Clubs



## The OG Book Club

May 5th @ 6:30pm

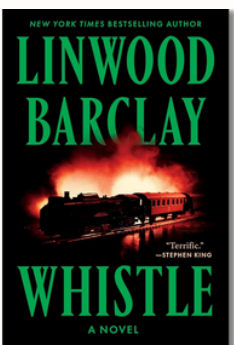
The Berry Pickers follows a Mi'kmaq family whose lives are changed when their young daughter goes missing while they're working in Maine. The story unfolds over years, showing how that loss quietly shapes multiple lives and identities. It's a reflective novel about family, grief, and the lasting impact of the past.



## Thrills & Chills Book Club

May 13th @ 6pm

The Ghostwriter centers on a struggling writer hired to ghostwrite a reclusive author's final book. As she digs into his past, she uncovers unsettling secrets that blur the line between fiction and reality. The story builds tension around truth, identity, and who really controls a narrative.



## Just Another Book Club

May 20th @ 10am

Whistle follows a man whose ordinary life takes a dark turn after a chance encounter ties him to a series of unsettling events. As the tension builds, he's pulled deeper into a situation he doesn't fully understand. It's a fast-paced thriller about secrets, paranoia, and how quickly control can slip away.

## June's Upcoming Titles

The OG: June 2nd – Broken Country by Clare Leslie Hall

Thrills & Chills: June 10th – Not Quite Dead Yet by Holly Jackson

Just Another: June 17th – Poppy Fields by Nikki Erlick

# Bethalto Library Summer Reading Challenge Events

# PLANT A SEED, READ!



## FAMILY EVENTS

## ADULT/TEEN EVENTS

### Kick Off Party | Fri. May 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm

- Cowboy Critters Petting Zoo
- Free Food
- Crafts
- Lawn Games



### Teen Nights | Sat. June 20<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm & Mon. July 20<sup>th</sup> 7-9pm

- Free Food
- Crafts
- Fun Activities



### Therapy Dogs

- Finley - Sat. May 9<sup>th</sup> 1-2pm
  - Maui - Mon. May 18<sup>th</sup> 4-5pm
- Check online for more dates to be added!



### Adult/Teen Art Night Wed. June 24<sup>th</sup> at 6pm

Register beforehand to come make a mini Zen Garden!



**Will Stuck's M.E.S.S. Menagerie**  
**Fri. June 26<sup>th</sup> at 6pm**  
**in the Bethalto Senior Center**

### Hamilton Sing Along | Sat. July 11<sup>th</sup> at 5pm

Free food & fun!



### International Mud Day | Sat. June 27<sup>th</sup> 1-3pm

Stop by for some muddy, messy fun!



### Bingo & Bunco | Friday Nights (check our website for dates)



**Do Art Productions presentation**  
**Wed. July 29<sup>th</sup> at 2pm**  
**in the Bethalto Senior Center**

# AND SO MUCH MORE!



### Craft Day | Sat. July 18<sup>th</sup>

Stop in any time 10am-4pm to make a Mini Tin Craft



### Stuffed Animal Sleepover | Fri. Aug. 7<sup>th</sup>

Drop off your fuzzy friends for a night of frenzied fun!



**Join the challenge on the Beanstack app & start logging your reading on May 22nd**

### Recurring Events

- Pre-K Storytime- every Tuesday at 10am & 1pm (same content at both times)
- Family Fun Thursdays- Different activities every Thursday at 3pm

**Visit or call for more information!**





CloudLibrary

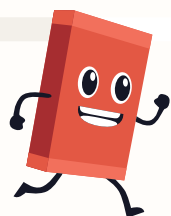
# E-Book Services @ BPLD

Available for all BPLD card holders.



Libby.

We offer convenient access to digital books through apps like CloudLibrary and Libby. With a Bethalto library card, you can borrow e-books, audiobooks, and magazines anytime, anywhere. There are no late fees or trips required. Simply download the apps, browse the collection, and start reading or listening on your phone, tablet, or computer.



## May's Reading Challenge

Get Caught Reading | May 1 - 31, 2026



May is the perfect month to pick up a book. It is Get Caught Reading Month. It is super simple to join the challenge on Beanstack. Just log every book you read for digital tickets to be entered into a drawing for a \$20 Books A Million gift card. Watch for a social media contest coming soon to win a prize basket during the month of May.



## Plant A Seed, Read! - Summer Reading Challenge



**TIMELINE** – The Challenge starts on May 22nd and continues through July 31st.

**SIMPLE LOGGING METHOD!** – For each day you read, all you have to do is record that you read. That's it. Really! Any amount of reading counts. We are not requiring a certain number of minutes, pages, or books. We simply want you to read.

**PERSONALIZE THE CHALLENGE** – Set your own reading goals this summer. Each kid, teen and adult can have a different reading goal that suits them.

**AND DON'T WORRY** – Did you forget to log your daily reading during the fun of a vacation trip? Simply change the date in the Beanstack App to log reading on those past dates.

**FUN PRIZES** – Everyone who reads gets to pick prizes from the Bookcart of Lil' Goodies during the summer. Want a chance to win an awesome final prize?! You just need to complete the reading challenge.

The Summer Reading Challenge will be available in the Beanstack App and on paper logs beginning on May 22nd.

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### Bethalto Public Library

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

### Days Closed

**Memorial Day**  
May 24-25, 2026  
**Juneteenth**  
June 19, 2026

### Hours

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