

# THE COMMONS

BILLINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS & RESOURCES

BILLINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY

## THIS ISSUE:

SUMMER READING  
EVENTS

75 YEARS  
OF BOOKMOBILE

CHECKOUT BILLINGS!  
PASSES

SUMMER 2026 | JUNE/JULY/AUG



# BILLINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY

406-657-8258

510 North Broadway, Billings MT, 59101

## Summer Hours

Mon-Thurs: 9 AM - 8 PM

Friday: 9 AM - 6 PM

Saturday: 9 AM - 5 PM

Sunday: CLOSED

## 24/7 EXPRESS LOCKERS

### Downtown (Billings Public Library)

510 N Broadway

### Lockwood (Intermountain Health)

2054 U.S. Hwy 87 E

### Heights (Intermountain Health)

32 Wicks Ln

### West End (Children's Clinic)

3401 Avenue E

## HELPFUL INFORMATION

### Phone numbers (all begin 406-)

Library: 657-8258

CO+LAB: 208-8861

Express Lockers: 281-3628

Bookmobile: 657-3091

Senior/Homebound: 657-8255

Foundation: 237-6149

Friends of the Library: 237-6170

### Webpage

[www.billingslibrary.org](http://www.billingslibrary.org)

### Calendar

[billings.librarycalendar.com](http://billings.librarycalendar.com)

### Email

[refdesk@billingsmt.gov](mailto:refdesk@billingsmt.gov)

## FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: @billingspubliclibrary

Instagram: @billingslibrary

TikTok: @billingspubliclibrary

YouTube: @billingspubliclibrary4097

Design by:

Sierra Hoy

**Teen Librarian**

[hoy@billingsmt.gov](mailto:hoy@billingsmt.gov)

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## UPCOMING CLOSURES

**Closing early at 5pm, July 3**

**July 4, Independence Day**

**August 26, Staff Development Day**

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

The library has always been a commons, a shared space where everyone is welcome and where curiosity, creativity, and connection thrive. This magazine is a celebration of that idea, and we are so glad to share it with you.

We called this magazine The Commons for a reason. The word has deep roots, describing land, space, and resources held collectively, belonging to no one person and available to everyone. Public libraries might just be one of the best expressions of that idea still standing: free and open to all, regardless of income, age, background, or zip code.

Libraries change lives. A child at storytime is building the foundation for a lifetime of reading. A teen finds their place at an after-school program. An adult job-seeker uses our resources to build new skills and open new doors. A maker brings an idea to life in our CO+LAB with 3D printing, digital design tools, and more. The library offers access to ideas, tools, and people that help our whole community thrive.

The Commons is one way we are living out a core goal of our organization: to better tell our story. And what a story there is to tell. Last year, we were named Montana Library of the Year, and this fall, we will mark 125 years of serving Billings as its public library. Our community is using our resources, spaces, and services at greater and greater levels, and our staff, volunteers, and partners deserve enormous credit for that growth.

We are also looking forward with intention. BPL is launching a new strategic plan with a refreshed mission: Billings Public Library, where our community comes to explore, learn, create, and connect. That mission is a reminder that the library is for everyone, and we are committed to reaching more of our community, in more ways than ever before. Billings and Yellowstone County are growing, and there are residents who have not yet discovered what their library has to offer. We want to change that.

And what better time to dive into all the library offers than summertime! Our incredible staff has been working hard to bring reading programs, hands-on workshops, and events for all ages to our community. None of it would be possible without the generosity of our partners and sponsors, and we are grateful for your support.

I encourage you to make the library a resource for yourself, your family, and the people you know. The Commons is yours, and so is your library. We are so glad you are here.

**Kelsie Rubich**  
**Library Director, Billings Public Library**

A special thanks to Library Board Member David Darby, whose work on this subject inspired the name of our magazine.

Thank you to all of our Summer Reading Sponsors who help make this program special for library users of all ages. View the full list of sponsors on our website.



# Add Friends of Billings Public Library to your summer TBR!

Did you know?

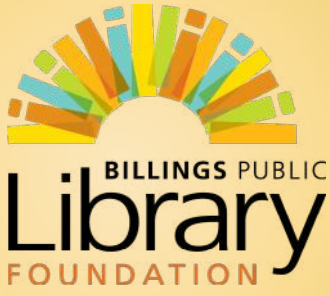
The proceeds from your Book Nook purchases, memberships, and donations to Friends of Billings Public Library help fund Billings summer favorites like:

Keep up with the latest news and events this summer on



and at [friendsofbillingslibrary.org](http://friendsofbillingslibrary.org)





For over three decades, the Billings Public Library Foundation has committed to ensuring the long-term financial health and growth of the Billings Public Library through private giving and our endowment. Through a public-private alliance, the Foundation's vision is to offer our community a library with the best resources and most innovative services and programming possible.

## FUNDS HELP US PROVIDE



**Digital  
Access**



**Children's  
Programming**

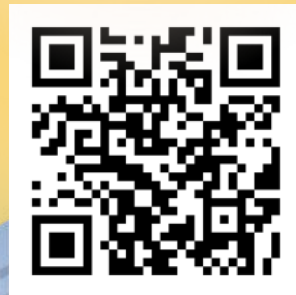


**Community  
Engagement**



**Technology**

**Join us in  
supporting the  
Billings Public  
Library**



**[www.billingslibraryfoundation.org](http://www.billingslibraryfoundation.org)  
406-237-6149**

# UNEARTH A STORY AT BILLINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY



[HTTPS://BILLINGSLIBRARY.  
READSQUARED.COM/](https://billingslibrary.readsquared.com/)

## PARTICIPATE

- SIGN UP, READ & RECORD MINUTES/BOOKS.
- EARN POINTS TO USE FOR RAFFLE TICKETS FOR PRIZES!

## IMPORTANT DATES

- ACHIEVE BADGES BY READING JUNE 2–JULY 25
- USE YOUR POINTS ON RAFFLE TICKETS FOR PRIZES:  
JUNE 2–AUGUST 1
  - LAST DAY TO EARN POINTS: JULY 25
  - LAST DAY TO BUY RAFFLE TICKETS: AUGUST 1
    - RAFFLES TAKE PLACE: AUGUST 4
    - WINNERS ANNOUNCED AUGUST 5

### PRE-READERS (0-5)

- Earn 20 points per book read/read to you
- Earn badges and small prizes for each of your reading milestones

### KIDS (6-12)

- Earn 1 point per minute spent reading
- Earn badges and small prizes for each of your reading milestones

### TEENS (12-18)

- Earn 1 point per minute spent reading
- Complete weekly challenges for extra prizes!

### ADULTS (18+)

- Earn 100 points per book read
- Complete the program to be invited to our special Summer Reading Social!

# LUNCH AT THE LIBRARY

BPL is partnering with **Billings Public Schools** to offer free summer lunches for children and teens 18 and under Wednesdays and Fridays from June 10–August 5. Grab a meal, hang out with friends, and cool off from the summer heat at BPL! Hot and cold entrees, fresh fruits and vegetables, and chocolate or white milk will be offered daily. Adults may purchase a meal for \$5, exact change only. \*No Lunch at the Library on July 3, in observance of Independence Day.

# UNEARTH A STORY™

**SUMMER READING KICKOFF!**  
**JUNE 2, 2-4PM, BPL**



**DINO BATTLES AT 3:30  
IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM**

## All Ages

### Summer Reading Kickoff First Floor

TUE, JUNE 2 | 2-4PM

Kick off the start to our Summer Reading program with an afternoon full of fun, laughter, and a little prehistoric adventure. Stick around for our epic Dino Battle at 3:30pm in the Community Room!

### Bookmobile Passport June 2 - July 25

Pick up your passport from any of the library service areas and begin your journey today. See details on page 14.

### Crochet and Knitting Hour- String Theory Teen Corer

SAT, JUNE 6 & AUG 1 | 10AM

WED, JUNE 17, JULY 15, AUG 19 | 2PM

Sit (or stand!) together and enjoy an hour of knitting, crochet, or any other fiber art you would like to bring.

### 6th Annual Downtown Mini Golf Tournament

#### First Floor Oculus

SAT, JUNE 13 | 10:30AM-4PM

Make BPL one of the many mini golf putting destinations you can experience when you sign up for the 6th Annual Downtown Billings Mini Golf Tournament! Visit [downtownbillings.com](http://downtownbillings.com) for more information and to register.

### World Wide Knit in Public Day First Floor Oculus

SAT, JUNE 13 | 12-2PM

Did you know that World Wide Knit in Public Day is the largest knitting event in the world? It's and the one day where knitters (and other fiber artists) share their craft in public, stitching en masse in groups. Join us in the oculus and later in the day, head to the Yarn Bar for cozy craft shopping and fun activities.

### Yellowstone Portrait Painters Popular Materials

SAT, JUNE 13, JULY 11 & AUG 8 |

10AM-12:30PM

Join us as local artists work in their preferred medium to paint/draw their interpretation of a live model sitting under the library's oculus.

### Pop-Up Book Sale Book Nook

SAT, JUNE 20 & AUG 15 | 9AM-2PM

Make your way to the Book Nook for a pop-up sale brought to you by the Friends of the Billings Library. It's the perfect opportunity to find great deals on books for yourself and the bibliophiles in your life. The best part? All purchases support BPL programs and services!

### Big Machine Petting Zoo Community Room

SAT, JUNE 27 | 10AM-12PM

This Petting Zoo is all about MACHINERY. Come investigate emergency, construction, and city vehicles. Touch and view heavy equipment up close and learn about the trucks from their operators! Fun for young and old!

### Fictional Plants & Real Problems Community Room

TUE JULY 21 | 6-8PM

Come "unearth a story" of fantastical plants with Yellowstone County Weed Expert, Caleb Music. A brief lesson will be presented followed by a casual discussion about fictional plants and their real noxious counterparts.

### Free Swim Day Rose Park Pool

1601 21st St W

THUR, AUG 6 | 2-6PM

Attention ALL Summer Reading Participants! Celebrate all your hard work this summer with Free Swim Day at Rose Park. Stop by our booth outside the pool to get a stamp to show your Summer Reading participation and get in the pool free.

# Children

## ADVENTURES BEYOND STORYTIME (AGES 0-6)

**Pictograph Cave State Park**  
**Pictograph Cave State Park**  
3401 Coburn Rd  
THUR, JUNE 11 | 10AM

Pictograph Cave State Park is one of Montana's most ancient homes, where people left their mark in paint upon the cave wall. Be dressed for the weather and hiking!

**All About Worms**  
**Community Room**  
THUR, JUNE 18 | 10AM

Crawl into the wriggling, wild world of earthworms! We'll read a few stories about earthworms and learn a bit about these fascinating creatures, then each participant will get to make their own wormy craft.

**Montana's Early People**  
**Community Room**  
THUR, JUNE 25 | 10AM

Join Lauren from Western Heritage Center as she shares the Center's The Spirit Lives: Montana's Early Peoples Trunk.

## JUNIOR EXPLORERS (AGES 6-12)

**Soil Your Undies\***  
**Community Room**  
WED, JUNE 10 | 3PM

Join Zoe Craft, District Conservationist with NRCS, to learn about soil health, and participate in the Soil Your Undies challenge! Zoe will talk about some simple tests you can do at home to see how healthy your soil is and discuss the importance of soil.

**What Killed the Dinosaurs?\***  
**Community Room**  
WED, JUNE 17 | 3PM

Have you ever thought about being an investigative journalist? Do you like dinosaurs? Join local science writer, Simply Local Magazine contributor, and former television reporter Stephanie Hobby as we explore how to write about the events leading up to the greatest catastrophe the earth has ever witnessed.

# Big Machine Petting Zoo

Saturday, June 27th

10am - Noon

BPL Parking Lot



### Billings Mustangs Story Time

**Community Room**  
THUR, JULY 2 | 10AM

Members of the Billings Mustangs Professional Baseball Team will be here to read a few stories and sing a few songs. This will be followed by Q&A and photo opportunity.

### Dino Dance Party

**Community Room**  
THUR, JULY 9 | 10AM

A 30-minute celebration of dinosaurs, music, and movement. Get ready to party, because everyone knows dinosaurs love to dance!

### Volcanoes!

**Community Room**  
THUR, JULY 16 | 10AM

Join Doug, from the Billings Gem and Mineral Club, as he talks to us about what happens when volcanoes erupt. Learn about all the changes to our landscape with a fun activity.

### Elevation Science

**Community Room**  
THUR, JULY 23 | 10AM

This hands-on program with the Elevation Science Institute invites young learners to step into the shoes of a paleontologist and discover the dinosaurs that once roamed the Bighorn Basin of Montana during the Jurassic Period.

### Forensic Investigation with Officer David Nienhuis\*

**Community Room**  
WED, JUNE 24 | 3PM

Come join the BPD in discovering how to unearth bad guys. We will go over the beginning processes that will make you a beginning investigator!

**Yellowstone County Museum**  
**Yellowstone County Museum**  
1950 Terminal Circle

WED, JULY 1 | 3PM

Join us at the Yellowstone County Museum for a fun adventure! Explore fascinating stories and objects on a guided tour that brings history to life through curiosity and discovery.

### Rock Tumbling 101\*

**Community Room**  
WED, JULY 8 | 3PM

Learn all about the fun of rock tumbling! Joseph Allred, President of the Billings Gem and Mineral Club, will teach about how to use a rotary tumbler to turn rough rock into smooth and polished stones.

### Pictograph Cave State Park\*

**Pictograph Cave State Park**  
3401 Coburn Rd  
WED, JULY 15 | 3PM

Pictograph Cave State Park is one of Montana's most ancient homes, where people left their mark in paint upon the cave wall. Join us for a hike into Pictograph Cave to learn about those who came before. Be dressed for the weather and hiking!

### The History of Bread\*

**Community Room**  
WED, JULY 22 | 3PM

Come learn about the history of bread with Montana State University Extension and participate in some hands on activities!



# TAKE & MAKE KITS

**June: Paper Paper Plate–A-Saurus**

**July: Wiggly Worm Kit**

**August: Summer Fun Kit**

Pick up at the Children's Desk while supplies last.

## ARTS & CRAFTS

### Krafty Kids (AGES 6-9)

#### Children's Craft Corner

SAT, JUNE 6, JUNE 20 & JULY 18 | 2PM

Come get creative with us! We will have different projects to work on at each meet up.

### Mini Makers (AGES 6-12)

#### CO+LAB

FRIDAYS | 10:30AM

Mini Makers invites young creators to explore fun, age-appropriate tools and materials like 3D pens, button makers, and more! Adult supervision is required.

### Tween Art Club (AGES 9-12)

#### Children's Craft Corner

TUESDAYS (JUNE 9-JULY 28) | 3PM

Unleash your inner-artist by exploring fun art concepts. Create new projects every week... Painting, zines, mixed media, still life, portraits—you name it, we'll do it!

## BOOKS & BABIES

### Books & Babies Classic (Ages 0-2)

#### Story Tower

THURSDAYS (JUNE & JULY) | 3:15PM

Want to foster a love of reading at an early age and build important early literacy skills for your young child? Join us for stories, rhymes, and finger plays intended for our littlest pre-readers!

### Books & Babies Music (Ages 0-2)

#### Story Tower

SATURDAYS (JUNE & JULY) | 10:15AM

\*NO BOOKS & BABIES ON JUNE 27

The musical edition to our ever popular Books and Babies program! Join us for books, hands-on musical play and fun!

## FURRY FRIENDS

For both Paws to Read and Cat Tales, sign up at the children's desk on the day of the event, beginning at 9 AM. Space is limited.

Visit [billings.librarycalendar.com](http://billings.librarycalendar.com) for the most up to date information on our library programs.

### Paws to Read: Intermountain Therapy Animals

#### Story Tower

SAT, JUNE 6 & AUG 1 | 1PM

#### Pet Partners

#### Story Tower

WED, JUNE 17, JULY 15 & AUG 19 | 3PM

Learning to read can be scary; a friendly face, particularly one with a wagging tail, can ease reading anxieties and build confidence.

### Cat Tales

#### Story Tower

FRI, JUNE 26 & JULY 24 & AUG 28 | 4PM

Children can share a book with foster/shelter cats from Yellowstone Valley Animal Shelter and learn about adoption options.

## OTHER

### Game On

#### Craft Corner

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS | 3-4:45PM

Join us for games and Legos in the Craft Corner.

### Meet Buddy the T-Rex from Dinosaur Train with PBS KIDS!

#### Community Room

MON, JULY 13 | 10AM

Join us for a special visit from Buddy the Dinosaur from Dinosaur Train on PBS KIDS

### Soil Painting\*

#### Craft Corner

FRI, JULY 10 | 2PM

Join Zoe Craft, District Conservationist with NRCS, to get crafty with soil!

### Soil Your Undies Wrap Up Party

#### First Floor Oculus

THUR, AUG 20 | 3PM

Did you participate in the June Soil Your Undies Challenge? If so bring your undies back to show off at the library. Stick around for soil health activities and treats for all ages!



## STORYTIMES

### Adventures in Story Time: Preschool

#### Story Tower

TUESDAYS (JUNE & JULY) | 10AM

#### Toddler Time

#### Story Tower

WEDNESDAYS (JUNE & JULY) | 10AM

Introduce young children to books, rhymes, crafts, and other fun interactive activities. Each session is a chance to practice reading readiness skills like listening during stories, letter awareness, and predicting.

### Daycare Story Time

#### Story Tower

TUESDAYS (JUNE & JULY) | 9:15-9:45AM

Adventures in Storytime, designed specifically for daycares as we have more space.

### ¡Hora de Cuentos en Español! Spanish Story Time!

#### Story Tower

FRI, JUNE 12, JULY 10 & AUG 14 | 4PM

We will enjoy stories, songs, and more! Speakers of all levels are welcome. Your presenter is a native Spanish speaker excited to share her language.

### Stethoscopes & Stories

#### 3401 Avenue E

FRIDAYS (JUNE 5-JULY 24) | 10:30AM-12:30PM

Come to enjoy a morning story time session at the Westend Children's Clinic! We'll have fun activities for children, and read some books! The first session will also include an ice cream social!

### Story Time in the Wild

#### Josephine Crossing

#### Amphitheater

1816 Lost Creek Rd

FRI, JUNE 12 & JULY 10 | 9:30AM

#### Castle Rock Park

#### Corner of Wicks Ln & Nutter Blvd

FRI, JUNE 19 & JULY 17 | 9:30AM

We're taking Story Time out of the Library and into the wild this Summer. Join us Fridays at two local parks for story time, a walk along the Story Trail and a visit to the Bookmobile. Bring your sunglasses and your walking shoes and enjoy interactive reading and learning in a relaxing natural setting.

# Teens

## DISCORD SERVER

Looking for a safe digital space to chat with your friends and stay up to date on library events and services? Join our Teen Discord Server! Open to ages 12-18. **Fill out this form to get started:**



## GAMING

### Tween Dungeons & Dragons\* Teen Study 1

SATURDAYS | 2:30-4:30PM

Campaign currently full. Visit our library calendar for future openings.

### Teen TTRPG Club: Dungeons & Dragons\*

#### Teen Study 1

SATURDAYS JUNE-AUG | 12-2PM

Teen DND is now the TTRPG Club! Try out different Tabletop Roleplaying Games (TTRPG) each season. Join us this summer for a D&D campaign!

## OTHER

### fREADom Book Boxes\*

CO+LAB

JUNE & JULY

Every teen deserves the freedom to read! Register online to receive a free copy of a book from ALA's frequently challenged YA book list. This program is made possible by a grant from Brooklyn Public Library. Pick up in the CO+LAB during Open Hours, or Teen Thursday.

### Ancient Technologies at Pictograph Cave State Park\*

Pictograph Cave State Park  
3401 Coburn Rd

FRI, JULY 17 | 10-12:30PM

Pictograph Cave State Park is one of Montana's most ancient homes. Join us for a hike into Pictograph Cave to learn about ancient technologies used at this site and practice throwing an atlatl, an ancient spear. Be dressed for the weather and hiking. Enjoy a picnic lunch afterward!



Teens playing Mario Kart at a Teen Thursday event

## TEEN THURSDAYS

Weekly drop in programs for teens in the CO+LAB. Explore, learn & create together. Each week features a special activity. Gaming, crafts, 3D printing & more are always available.

### Movie Night- Night at the Museum (2006)\*

CO+LAB

THUR, JUNE 4 | 5:30PM

Enjoy a screening of Night at the Museum (2006), rated PG, and free popcorn.

### Montana Archaeology Tools\*

CO+LAB

THUR, JUNE 11 | 5:30PM

Learn about tools used by ancient Montanans. Kathie Burke will help us sort through bison bone fragments to find production-step pieces!

### Dino Soap\*

CO+LAB

THUR, JUNE 18 | 5:30PM

Make your own soap bar with a hidden dinosaur!

### Resources on Rockhounding\*

CO+LAB

THUR, JUNE 25 | 5:30PM

Katy Lefler will be sharing tips on how to hunt rock successfully and safely, what equipment to take, where to go, and how to clean your find. She will also be giving away free samples!

### Movie Night- Holes (2003)\*

CO+LAB

THUR, JULY 2 | 5:30PM

Join us for a screening of Journey to the Holes (2003), rated PG, and free popcorn.

### Leopard Stones\*

CO+LAB

THUR, JULY 9 | 5:30PM

Did you know that Montana is one of the top 100 international geological history sites? Penny Clifton will use the leopard stones of the Stillwater River to show why Montana is so special.

### Faux Taxidermy\*

CO+LAB

THUR, JULY 16 | 5:30PM

Upcycle toys & trinkets into your own faux taxidermy display.

### Unearth a Story with Stephanie Hobby\*

CO+LAB

THUR, JULY 23 | 5:30PM

Learn how to unearth a story with local journalist, Stephanie Hobby.

### Button Making\*

CO+LAB

THUR, JULY 30 | 5:30PM

Turn your artwork, magazines, or old books into a custom button pin.

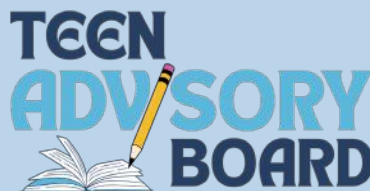
### End of Summer Reading Party

CO+LAB

THUR, AUG 6 | 5:30PM

Celebrate the end of Summer Reading with a party just for teens! Desserts, snacks, and door prizes will be available.

**\*NO TEEN THURSDAY AUGUST 13, 20, & 27. PROGRAMS WILL RESUME IN SEPTEMBER.**



Join the Teen Advisory Board (TAB) to shape what happens at the library, and connect with other passionate teens. **Applications due by September 1.**



# Adults

Visit [billings.librarycalendar.com](http://billings.librarycalendar.com) for the most up to date information on our library programs.

## SUMMER READING

### Ed Boyce Presentation

**Community Room**  
SAT, JUNE 6 | 1-2:30PM

Join us for a fascinating discussion on labor and Montana history with University of Montana PhD student, Cole R. Costello.

### An Evening with Craig Johnson: The Brothers McKay

**Community Room**  
FRI, JUNE 12 | 6PM

Join the Billings Public Library and This House of Books for an evening with Craig Johnson! The bestselling author returns to BPL to talk about his latest book, *The Brothers McKay*, an homage to *The Brothers Karamazov* that features his own Walt Longmire.

### Internet Safety Program

**Community Room**  
SAT, JUNE 13 | 1-3PM

Join us as we host Rebecca Leary with the FBI, Billings Division, and Officer Dave Nienhuis with Billings PD, SRO for Ben Steele Middle School, for a discussion on internet safety and how to protect your tweens and teens from numerous online threats.

### Complicated Book Club\*

**Yellowstone Board Room**  
THUR, JUNE 18 | 5:30-7PM

We are reading Heather Cox Richardson's *How the South Won the Civil War*. Register for a free copy of this book (limited to the first 15 registrants) and make plans to join us to discuss this complicated piece of American history!

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Craft & Art Supplies Swap Meet

Drop off days:

Tuesday, September 22

to noon on Friday, September 25



"Shopping" open to donators, Friday, September 25, 5-7:30 pm.

Open to all Saturday, September 26, 9 am to 2 pm.

### Summer Sock-a-long 3 Part Series

#### Popular Materials

SAT, JUNE 20, JUNE 27, & JULY 11 | 10-11:30AM

Learn to knit your own socks with our three-part Summer Sockalong workshop. No sock knitting experience required, but you do need to know your basic knitting skills including knit stitch, purl stitch, knit two together, and slip a stitch. Bring sock yarn double pointed needles, and pick up an information sheet at the Second Floor Help Desk prior to attending.

### Historic Walking Tour- "Hidden in Plain Sight"\*

**First United Methodist Church**  
2800 4th Avenue North

WED, JUNE 17 | 10AM

In partnership with The Western Heritage Center, we will join one of the Center's expert guides to unearth and explore the hidden histories of things you walk by every day. This tour features items throughout downtown Billings.

### Adult Summer Reading Book Group: "My Beloved Brontosaurus"\*

**Yellowstone Board Room**  
THUR, JULY 16 | 6:30PM

In honor of 2026's Summer Reading theme, "Unearth a Story", we are pleased to be able to partner with This House of Books for our Summer Reading Book Club featuring *My Beloved Brontosaurus: On the Road with Old Bones, New Science, and Our Favorite Dinosaurs* by Brian Switek. The first 10 registrants will receive a copy of the book to keep!

### Collecting with Coils: Finding Cool Junk with the Co+Lab's Metal Detector

**Community Room**  
SAT, JULY 18 | 10-11:30AM

Did you know the library has a Minelab Vanquish 440 metal detector that you can borrow with your library card...for free? Join us for a laid back Saturday morning. We'll watch a short introductory video to metal detecting then try our hand at finding some good junk in the library's garden area.

### Dinosaurs for Adults

**Community Room**  
THUR, JULY 23 | 1PM

This hands-on program with the Elevation Science Institute invites you to step into the shoes of a paleontologist and discover the dinosaurs that once roamed the Bighorn Basin of Montana during the Jurassic Period.

### DIY Mud Dyeing\*

**Community Room**  
SAT, JULY 25 | 10AM

We're going to get messy and try some of our very own "Unearth a Story" DIY mud dyeing! Wear grubby clothes, and bring a 100% cotton t-shirt or bookbag to mud dye!

Copyist program participants reinterpret Loren Entz's "Arts and Literature" painting



# Adults

## DISPLAYS

### Montana Artrepreneurs Exhibition

**First Five Years Wall in June**  
Montana Artrepreneur Program (MAP) helps visual artists develop a sustainable business in art both by learning more about the art of entrepreneurship and by obtaining a Certification of Market Readiness.

### Montana History Digital Display

**Montana Room in June**  
This month we are featuring images from the Montana History Portal with the word "June" in the image's metadata.

### Elizabeth Custer Collection and Rare Book Display

**Montana Room in June**  
In recognition of the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Little Big Horn, we will display several pieces from its Elizabeth Custer correspondence collection in its Montana Room.

### Iconic American Photographs Digital Display

**Montana Room in July**  
This month we are featuring iconic photographs from American history, chosen by staff members at the Billings Public Library!

### August in Montana History Digital Display

**Montana Room in Aug**  
This month we are featuring images from the Montana History Portal with the word "August" in the image's metadata.

## GROUPS

### Creative Writing Group

**Large Conference Room**  
TUE, JUNE 9 & 23, JULY 14 & 28, AUG 11 & 25 | 6-7:30PM  
Get to know fellow local writers and practice your writing craft in a supportive environment.

### D&D for Grownups

**Large Conference Room**  
SATURDAYS | 12-4PM  
Campaigns alternate every two weeks. Email [refdesk@billingsmt.gov](mailto:refdesk@billingsmt.gov) for more information.

### ¡Hablar Conmigo!

**Large Conference Room**  
THURSDAYS | 3:30-5PM  
A safe place to come and use your Spanish speaking skills! Your presenter is not fluent, but working towards that goal.

Visit [billings.librarycalendar.com](http://billings.librarycalendar.com) for the most up to date information on our library programs.

### Memory Cafe

**Community Room**  
TUE, JUNE 2, JULY 7, AUG 4 | 10:30AM-12:30PM  
Adults experiencing memory loss and their caregivers are invited to visit the library to socialize and enjoy an activity together.

### Qigong & Tai Chi Open Practice

**Community Room**  
THURSDAYS | 5:30PM  
Qigong & Tai Chi are very similar "internal arts" that confer an astonishing raft of health benefits. It's not only health-giving, it's enjoyable.

### Senior & Adult Art Group- Kinusaiga\*

**CO+LAB**  
MON, JUNE 8 | 9:30-11:30AM  
Join Bonny Beth Luhman from Stickman Studios to learn kinusaiga, the Japanese art of creating a painting with fabric. Supported in part by a grant from the Montana Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.

### Turning Page Book Club

**Yellowstone Board Room**  
WED, JULY 22 & AUG 26 | 6:30PM  
Bring your cup for some decaf coffee and join us! 10 copies of each title are available to check out, but you are welcome to obtain your own copy and attend the discussion.

## GROW WITH GOOGLE

Please have a functional Google account at the start of any Grow with Google session.

### Google Basics\*

**Large Conference Room**  
TUE, JUNE 16, JULY 21 & AUG 18 | 4PM  
Come learn the basics of the Google Workspace!

### Google Sheets\*

**Large Conference Room**  
TUE, JUNE 23 | 4PM  
Learn all about Google Sheets!

### Digital Skills for Everyday Tasks\*

**Large Conference Room**  
TUE, JULY 28 | 4PM  
This session will highlight Google Sheets, Google Docs, and Google Slides.

### Online Presence for Small Business\*

**Large Conference Room**  
TUE, AUG 25 | 4PM  
Learn about Google Business, and how to utilize Google's resources to boost your success.

## OTHER

### Adult Sensory Story Time

**Community Room**  
TUE, JUNE 16, JULY 21 & AUG 18 | 12PM  
A welcoming and interactive program designed especially for adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

### Billings Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting

**Yellowstone Board Room**  
THUR, JUNE 11 & AUG 13 | 12PM  
Billings Public Library Board of Trustees meeting.

### Film Pass\*

**Pick up at 2nd Floor Desk**  
MONTHLY  
General admission for up to two people to regular screenings at The Art House with each pass.

### Open Notary Hour

**Study Room 1**  
SAT, JUNE 20 & JULY 18 | 3PM  
Free walk-in notary services.

### PATH Program

**South Lobby**  
FRI, JUNE 12 & 26, JULY 10 & 24 | 1-3PM  
Stop by and connect with the PATH (Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness) outreach team.

### Public Benefits Clinic with MLSA

**Large Conference Room**  
TUE, JUNE 9, JULY 14, AUG 11 | 1:30-3:30PM  
Speak with Hayden Ramsey with the Montana Legal Services Association to get your questions about public benefits answered.

### Public Safety & Community Resource Series: Supporting Youth Stability

**Community Room**  
THUR, JUNE 18 | 3PM  
Learn how organizations support youth facing behavioral health, housing, and family challenges, including prevention, crisis response, and access to care.

### TRIO Educational Opportunity Center

**South Lobby**  
THUR, JUNE 18, JULY 16, AUG 20 | 1-3PM  
Learn about their free program which connects individuals with opportunities to access higher education.

# Outreach

## BIKE LIBRARY

The BPL bike library is dedicated to spreading the love of reading and life-long learning by utilizing an eco-friendly mode of transportation through the streets of Billings.

Unearth a Story this summer with the BPL Bike Library. Find us each week for free books and other giveaways!

### Billings Rec2U

#### Pioneer Park

FRIDAYS (JUNE & JULY) | 10-11:30PM

Find the bike library at Billings Parks & Recreation's Rec2U program!

### Wise Wonders

#### Wise Wonders, 3024 2nd Ave N

THUR (JUNE & JULY) | 10-11:30PM

Join the bike library outside of Wise Wonder's Science & Discovery Museum

### Billings Pride Festival

#### Downtown Skypoint

SAT, JUNE 20 | 1-6PM

Find the bike library at Billings Pride—Eastern Montana's largest celebration of the LGBTQ+ community—hosted by 406 Pride!

### Big Machine Petting Zoo

#### BPL Parking Lot

SAT, JUNE 27 | 10AM-12PM

Visit the Bike Library at BPL's Annual Big Machine Petting Zoo!



Library staff heading out on the Bike Library

### Shakespeare in the Park

#### Pioneer Park

WED, JULY 8 | 5:30-7:30PM

THUR, JULY 9 | 5:30-7:30PM

The Bike Library will be visiting Pioneer park during the FREE Shakespeare in the Park plays! The plays will be from 6:30-8:30.

### Strawberry Festival

#### Downtown Skypoint

SAT, JULY 11 | 9AM-4PM

Visit the Bike Library and enjoy some Strawberry themed festivities downtown!

### Billings Mexican Fiesta & Car Show

#### South Park

SAT, JULY 18 | 10:30-3:30PM

The 72nd Annual Billings Mexican Fiesta & Car Show is a full-day celebration of culture, community, classic cars, music, and dancing.

### Yellowstone Valley Farmers Market

#### Downtown Skypoint

SAT, JULY 25 | 8AM-12PM

SAT, AUG 22 | 8AM-12PM

Grab some fresh produce and visit the Bike Library at your local farmers market!



## LOCKERS

With our Library Express Lockers you can place holds online or over the phone and then pick them up at your convenience, 24/7!

Request your desired materials be placed on hold in a Locker by choosing either Billings Downtown 24/7 Locker, Billings Heights 24/7 Locker, Billings Lockwood 24/7 Locker, or Billings West End 24/7 Locker. Pick them up any time of the day using your Library card and PIN number. Items will be available for pickup for 7 days after being placed into the lockers.

Young library patron using a Library Express Locker



**Library Express Locker Locations**

- Billings Public Library  
510 N Broadway
- Intermountain Health Heights Clinic  
32 Wicks Ln.
- Intermountain Health  
2054 U.S. Hwy 87 E
- Children's Clinic  
3401 Avenue E

Logos for Billings Public Library Foundation, Intermountain Health, and Children's Clinic are also present.

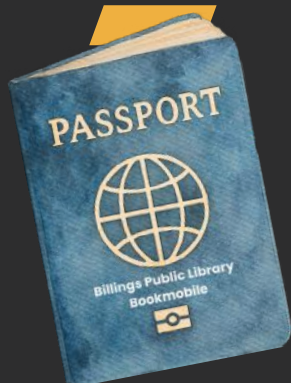
# FIND US AROUND

## BOOKMOBILE

The Bookmobile brings the library right to your neighborhood! Our mobile library is stocked with a rotating collection of books, audiobooks, movies, and more for readers of all ages.

Stop by the Bookmobile to browse, borrow, and connect with your library—no matter where you are in the community.

<b>1st &amp; 3rd Monday</b> June 1 & 8, July 6 & 20, August 3 & 17	<b>1st &amp; 3rd Tuesday</b> June 2 & 16, July 7 & 21, August 4 & 18	<b>1st &amp; 3rd Wednesday</b> June 3 & 17, July 1 & 15, August 5 & 19	<b>1st &amp; 3rd Thursday</b> June 4 & 18, July 2 & 16, August 6 & 20	<b>1st &amp; 3rd Friday</b> June 5 & 19, July 17, August 7 & 21
<b>11:30-1:00</b> Laurel Senior Center S 8th Ave <b>2:00-3:00</b> Morningstar 4001 Bell Ave <b>3:30-4:30</b> Boulder Park	<b>10:45-12:30</b> King of Glory Meal Site 4125 Grand Ave <b>1:30-2:30</b> Josephine Crossing <b>3:00-4:00</b> Briarwood Blvd	<b>11:00-12:30</b> Robbie & 45th St W <b>2:00-3:30</b> City College 3803 Central Ave <b>4:00-5:00</b> South Park	<b>11:30-1:00</b> Broadview Senior Center <b>1:30-2:30</b> Acton <b>4:00- 5:15</b> Gardener's Market @ South Park (starting 6/18)	<b>11:30-1:00</b> Worden Senior Center <b>1:30-2:30</b> Huntley Main Street <b>3:00-3:45</b> Brush Meadow Apts, 1203 Lake Elmo Rd <b>4:00-5:00</b> Castle Rock Park, W Wicks Lane (9:30-10:30 7/17 Only)
<b>2nd &amp; 4th Monday</b> June 8 & 22 July 13 & 27 August 10 & 24	<b>2nd &amp; 4th Tuesday</b> June 9 & 23 July 14 & 28 August 11 & 25	<b>2nd &amp; 4th Wednesday</b> June 10 & 24 July 8 & 22 August 12 & 26	<b>2nd &amp; 4th Thursday</b> June 11 & 25 July 9 & 23 August 13 & 27	<b>2nd &amp; 4th Friday</b> June 12 & 26 July 10 & 24 August 14 & 28
<b>11:00-12:00</b> Rainbow House 925 North 18th <b>1:00-2:30</b> Elder Grove School <b>2:45-3:45</b> Banff & 3700 Crater Lake <b>4:00-5:00</b> 30th St W & Howard	<b>11:00-12:30</b> Heights Senior Meal Site, 935 Lake Elmo Drive <b>1:15-2:30</b> Dover Park <b>3:45-4:30</b> Hawthorne Park, 1752 Maurine St	<b>11:30-1:00</b> Shepherd Senior Ctr, 5541 Haynes Rd <b>2:00-3:30</b> City College 3803 Central Ave <b>4:00-5:00</b> Energy Blvd & Daystar Drive	<b>11:30-1:00</b> Custer Senior Center <b>1:30-3:45</b> Pompey's Pillar National Monument	<b>9:30-10:30</b> Josephine Crossing (6/12 & 7/10 only) <b>11:30-1:00</b> Senior Meal Site, 1505 Ave D <b>2:00-3:30</b> Poly & Westfield <b>4:00-4:45</b> Bobby Jones & 54th



## BOOKMOBILE PASSPORT TREKKER, DID I HEAR "ROAD TRIP"?

Join in the journey with the Bookmobile Passport Trekker! Pick up a Bookmobile Passport at any service desks at the library or on the bookmobile. Then start your journey on June 2nd. Visit five in-town Bookmobile locations to get your passports stamped to receive points (see passport for details). Receive extra points when you visit one out of town location and our new location: Pompey's Pillar National Monument. While at Pompey's Pillar, learn about Lewis & Clark, pick up various resources, and create a bird house. The Bookmobile Passport event is open of all ages.

# TOWN

## 75 YEARS OF THE BOOKMOBILE!

The Billings Public Library celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Bookmobile in the fall of 2025. The Bookmobile is essential for serving Yellowstone County's over 170,000 residents across more than 2,600 square miles.

Since the first BPL Bookmobile hit the road on December 10, 1950, the program has evolved through several vehicles and expanding services. A second, children-focused bookmobile launched in 1956, and a third in 1966 extended outreach to Yellowstone County and nursing homes. Financial issues halted bookmobile service in 1993, but a federal grant soon funded Senior Outreach Services for seniors and homebound patrons.



THIS BPL BOOKMOBILE BEGAN SERVICE TO JUST BILLINGS SCHOOL CHILDREN IN JANUARY OF 1957.

Bookmobile service resumed with the "Infomobile" in 1996 and continues today with the fifth vehicle, purchased in 2010 and launched in 2014, which still provides countywide service.

Today, the Bookmobile and Senior Bookmobile serve seven schools, seven senior meal sites, four city parks, eleven neighborhoods, twenty-one senior living facilities and fifteen homebound patrons. The two outreach vehicles offer a variety of materials and services, including hosting senior book clubs, delivering material requests, and providing a presence at community outreach events throughout the year. These efforts help ensure that library resources remain accessible and the library is connected to the diverse communities we serve.

As the library celebrates the Bookmobile's 75 years the road, this milestone honors far more than a long-standing service. It recognizes the Bookmobile's crucial role in ensuring access to library resources throughout Yellowstone County. For decades, the Bookmobile has supported one of the library's most important goals: make access happen.



SOUTH CENTRAL FEDERATION COUNT BOOKMOBILE BEGAN SERVICE TO BIG HORN, CARBON, & STILLWATER COUNTIES IN 1969.

## SENIOR OUTREACH BOOKMOBILE

The Senior Outreach Bookmobile visits numerous senior residential facilities and care communities each month; delivering requests and bringing the experience of browsing for library materials directly to residents.

Our home delivery service brings items to homebound residents, group homes and smaller assisted living facilities in our community. For more information about these services, contact us at 406-657-8255 or via email at [libraryoutreach@billingsmt.gov](mailto:libraryoutreach@billingsmt.gov).



## HOW TO GET STARTED

The CO+LAB at the Billings Public Library is a makerspace for all ages and skill levels. It offers tools like 3D printers, laser cutters, sewing machines, and a sound booth, along with hands-on programs to help the community explore, learn and create.

New to the CO+LAB? Here's how to get started:

1. Create a CO+LAB Account (explorelearncreate.org)
2. Complete CO+LAB 101 to learn all about the makerspace- (online or in-person)
3. Complete Equipment Classes to get certified to use CO+LAB equipment- (online or in-person)
4. Start Creating- Make a reservation online!

Or take the experience home with a CO+LAB2GO kit (no classes necessary)!



The CO+LAB2GO program allows you to borrow select equipment for use at home or in the community. From 3D printers to audio recording kits, take your creativity beyond the library walls.

Visit [billings.librarycalendar.com](http://billings.librarycalendar.com) for the most up to date information on our library programs.

## CERTIFICATION CLASSES

Complete CO+LAB 101 + equipment certification course(s)—in person or online—to reserve the equipment for your own projects during CO+LAB open hours. All ages are welcome, however these programs are best suited for those 12 and up.

### CO+LAB 101 Escape Room\*

CO+LAB

TUE, JUNE 2 | 6PM

SAT, JULY 18 | 3PM

In this hands-on escape room challenge, you'll explore the library's makerspace while solving puzzles and earning your CO+LAB 101 certification.

### 3D Printing\*

CO+LAB

SAT, JUNE 6, JULY 25 & AUG 29 |

3-4:30PM

TUE, JUNE 23 | 6-7:30PM

Come learn the basics of 3D printing and how to use our brand new Bambu Lab P1S 3D Printer in the CO+LAB!

### CNC\*

CO+LAB

SAT, AUG 8 | 3-4:30PM

TUE, AUG 18 | 6-7:30PM

Come learn the basics of using our new CNC machine.

### Cricut Venture\*

CO+LAB

TUE, JUNE 30 & JULY 28 | 6-7:30PM

SAT, AUG 22 | 3-4:30PM

Come learn how to use the CO+LAB's Cricut cutting machines in this introduction course.

### Glowforge\*

CO+LAB

TUE, JUNE 9 & AUG 25 | 6-7:30PM

SAT, JUNE 27 | 3-4:30PM

Learn the basics of laser engraving with the Glowforge in the CO+LAB!

### Sewing\*

CO+LAB

SAT, JUNE 13 & AUG 1 | 3-4:30PM

TUE, JULY 7 | 6-7:30PM

Join us for a beginner-friendly introduction to our sewing machines.

### X-Tool Laser Engraver\*

CO+LAB

SAT, JULY 11 | 3-4:30PM

TUE, JULY 21 & AUG 4 | 6-7:30PM

Come learn how to use the new X-Tool laser engraver in the CO+LAB!

### Sound Booth

CO+LAB

AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT

Have an audio project you want to bring to life? Schedule a one on one appointment to learn how to use the sound booth in the CO+LAB. Email [co.lab@billingsmt.gov](mailto:co.lab@billingsmt.gov) to schedule a certification session.

### Open House

CO+LAB

TUE, JUNE 2 | 2-4PM

During the Summer Reading Kickoff Party, be sure to stop into the CO+LAB and tour our newly expanded space!



Drop into the CO+LAB for a hands-on experience just for kids!

FRIDAYS | 10:30AM

## CO+LAB2GO

The CO+LAB2GO program allows you to borrow select equipment for use at home or in the community. From 3D printers to audio recording kits, take your creativity beyond the library walls. Some of our kits include:

- Cricut Joy
- Cricut Joy Xtra
- E-spinner
- Fly Fishing Kit
- Leatherworking Kit
- Metal Detector
- Meta Quest 3
- Movie Night Kit
- Party Kit
- Portable Vlogging Kit
- Podcast Kit
- Sewing Machine
- Toolbox
- Toybox 3D Printer



## GOOD NEIGHBOR KITS

We've partnered with the **Healthy by Design Coalition** and Grown in Billings to offer the Good Neighbor Toolkit for checkout! This kit provides everything you need to plan and host a community event, from guides and templates to games and signage.



## CO+LAB OPEN HOURS

TUE & THUR- 1-5PM  
WED & FRI- 1:30-5:30PM  
SAT- 9AM-1PM



Use your library card to check out a FREE pass to Wise Wonders Science and Discovery Museum, ZooMontana, and FIT4MOM.

- Passes are available in limited quantities at the start of each month
- First come, first served
- Pick up passes in the CO+LAB during open hours
- One pass per card holder every 3 months
- Each pass has its own rules and availability
- Must be 18+ and have a valid library card to check out

Brought to you by the Friends of Billings Public Library and ZooMontana.

## UNEARTH YOUR STORY



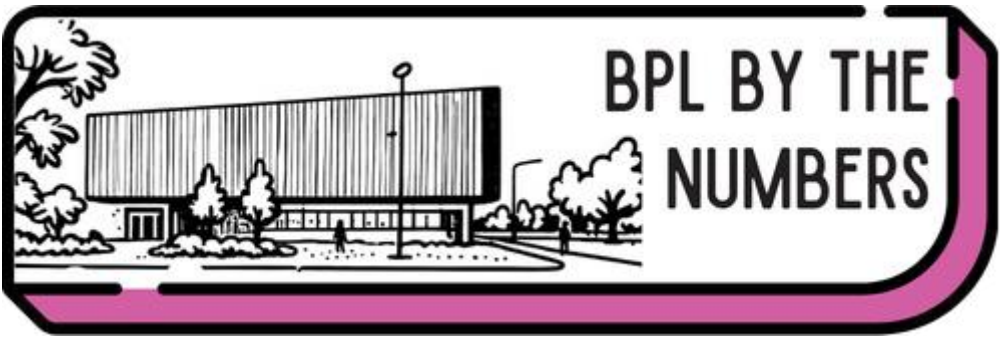
Record a personal story or memory from life in Billings using the CO+LAB sound booth. No recording experience is needed. Selected recordings may have the opportunity to be preserved at the Library of Congress.

Email [co.lab@billingsmt.gov](mailto:co.lab@billingsmt.gov) to schedule a recording session.

# CONGRATS ON YOUR NEW LIBRARY CARD!



Instead of paying for	Try FREE with your BPL card	Estimated Savings
New Books	Borrow physical books, ebooks, & audiobooks	<b>\$20+/Book</b>
Audible	Listen to digital audiobooks through Libby & Hoopla	<b>\$108+/Year</b>
Nintendo Switch	Borrow a Nintendo Switch console (and games!) from BPL	<b>\$200+</b>
Coworking Space	Reserve study & meeting rooms	<b>\$588+/Year</b>
Ancestry	Access genealogy & research databases	<b>\$264+/Year</b>
Movie Tickets	Free passes to Art House Cinema	<b>\$12+/Ticket</b>
Local Attractions	Get free passes to ZooMontana, Wise Wonders, or FIT4MOM through Checkout Billings!	<b>\$25-60/Visit</b>
Sewing Machine, 3D Printers, MetaQuest VR & more	Borrow one through CO+LAB2GO	<b>\$300+/Kit</b>
Language Learning Apps	Learn 34 different languages with Mango Learning	<b>\$100+/Year</b>
Netflix	Watch movies & TV through Hoopla	<b>\$108+/Year</b>
Paid Workshops	Free classes, author talks, clubs, & more	<b>\$10+/Class</b>
Custom Etsy Orders	Make your own 3D prints, laser engravings, t-shirts, decor & more in the CO+LAB	<b>\$20+/Project</b>
Coursera Courses	Apply for a Coursera scholarship	<b>\$399/Year</b>
Research Databases	Use research databases for school, business, and personal learning	<b>\$120+/Year</b>
Art Classes	Learn creative skills with Creativebug	<b>\$10+/Class</b>
Recording Studio	Record audio projects with the Sound Booth in the CO+LAB	<b>\$25+/Session</b>
Notary Fees	Utilize BPL's free notary services	<b>\$5-20/Document</b>
Kids Activity Kits	Borrow one of our TIY Kits, Citizen Science Kits, Launchpads, CO+LAB2GO Kits & more	<b>\$100+/Kit</b>
Board games & puzzles	Borrow one from our extensive board game and puzzle selection	<b>\$10+/Game or Puzzle</b>



**BPL Cards are FREE for Montana residents of ALL ages.**  
Kids can ring a cowbell and choose a special prize at the Children's Desk!

**57,800+**  
CARDHOLDERS

**744,200+**  
CHECKOUTS

**30,300+**  
PROGRAM ATTENDEES

**290,000+**  
LIBRARY VISITORS

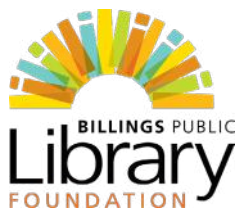
**APPLY FOR YOUR FREE LIBRARY CARD!  
VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR STOP IN TODAY.**

SAVE THE DATE - OCTOBER 2026

# Two Ways to Support the Library This Fall

*Mark Your Calendars for Two Events Supporting the Billings Public Library*

LIBRARY FOUNDATION



## Food for Thought

*The Foundation's annual fundraiser supporting library programs and resources for our community.*

**October 13, 2026**  
@ 6 PM

[BILLINGSLIBRARYFOUNDATION.ORG](http://BILLINGSLIBRARYFOUNDATION.ORG)

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY



## Fall Book Sale

*Shop the big book sale that raises funds to support library projects and services.*

**October 8, 9, 10**

[FRIENDSOFBILLINGSLIBRARY.ORG](http://FRIENDSOFBILLINGSLIBRARY.ORG)