



# PROGRAM & EVENT GUIDE



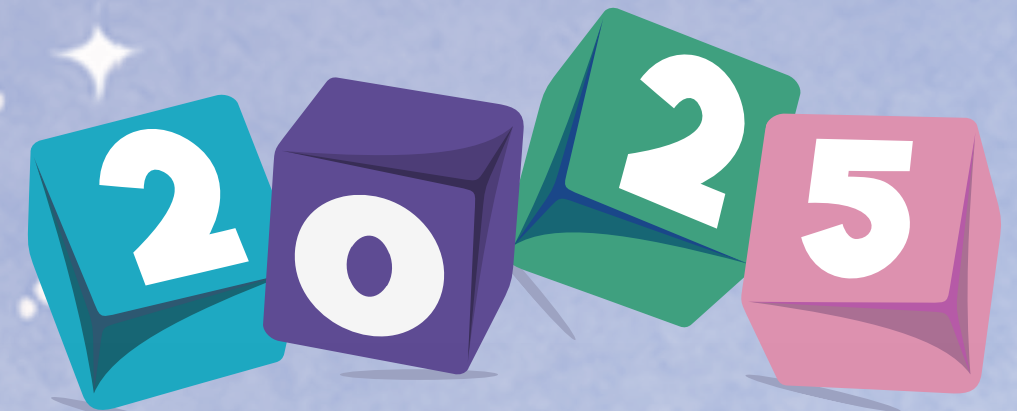
SUMMER 2025

MAY - JULY



## SUMMER READING

**Early Registration: May 19 – 31**  
**Program Runs: June 2 – July 24**  
**Last Day to Register: June 28**



**LEVEL UP**  
AT YOUR  
**LIBRARY**



**SUBIR DE NIVEL**  
EN TU  
**BIBLIOTECA**



**Get ready to get your game on at Harvard Diggins Library!**

Kids, teens, and adults with a library card are invited to register for this year's Summer Reading challenge and participate in fun activities at the Library. Kids and teens will record reading minutes, and adults will log each book they read during the program. The more you read, the more prizes and raffle tickets you earn towards the BIG prizes on display at the Library. Plus, earn bonus raffle tickets for each library event that you attend. **Register early to be entered in a bonus raffle.**

***How many prizes will you collect as you Level Up this summer?***



# Illinois Libraries Present

A statewide collaboration among public libraries



## ART AND ADVENTURES WITH AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR DAN SANTAT

**Saturday May 3, 2:00pm** **R**

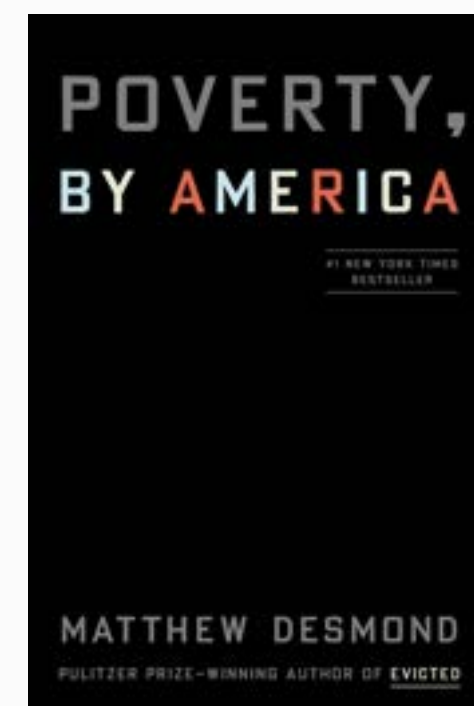
Dan Santat is the author and illustrator of over a hundred books for young people. Many of his books are New York Times best-sellers, including *The Adventures of Beekle: The Unimaginary Friend*, *Are We There Yet?*, and *After the Fall (How Humpty Dumpty Got Back Up Again)*. His latest works include the best-selling graphic novels, *The Aquanaut* and *A First Time for Everything*. Santat won the Caldecott Medal for most distinguished picture book in 2015, the National Book Award for Young People's Literature in 2023 and Golden Kite Award for Middle Grade Fiction in 2024. [Online](#).



## POVERTY: A DISCUSSION WITH MATTHEW DESMOND

**Tuesday May 13, 7:00pm** **R**

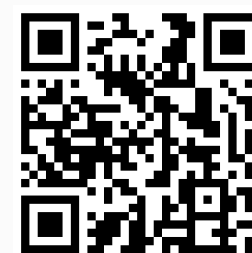
Join us with bestselling author Matthew Desmond in conversation with award-winning journalist Natalie Moore. Desmond is a professor of sociology at Princeton University and author of the award-winning book *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*. His research focuses on poverty in the United States, city life, housing insecurity, public policy, racial inequality, and ethnography.



Natalie Moore is an award-winning journalist based in Chicago, whose reporting tackles race, housing, economic development, food injustice, and violence. She is the author of the acclaimed *The South Side: A Portrait of Chicago and American Segregation* and co-author of *The Almighty Black P Stone Nation: The Rise, Fall and Resurgence of an American Gang*. Moore is the recipient of Chicago Library Foundation's 21st Century Award and a Studs Terkel Community Media Award, among many others. Her work has helped shift the way Chicagoans today think about segregation in the region. [Online](#).

## THE LAID-BACK BOOK CLUB

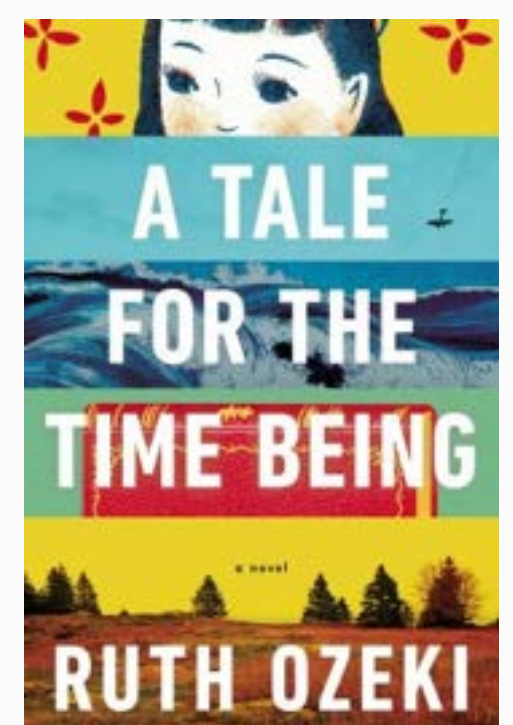
**Ongoing**



**JOIN OUR  
GROUP ON**



**May Book Selection:**



No meetings, no deadlines, just good books! If you can't find time in your schedule for in-person book clubs, jump into the Laid-Back Book Club anytime and try the 12 book selections for the year. Participate any way you'd like - discussion questions in our Facebook group, earning raffle tickets and recording your reading as "activities" on the Beanstack app, or just by reading any of the selections at your own pace! Each month's book selection will be available to check out at the Circulation Desk, but you are welcome to read off-schedule anytime by requesting books in your library account on PrairieCat. More information about this program is available on the Library's website at [www.harvard-diggins.org](http://www.harvard-diggins.org).



## PRESCHOOL STORYTIME

*Tuesday May 6, 13, & 20, 10:00am* **R**

Join library staff each week for stories, songs, and a craft. **Open to children ages 3-5 and their caregiver.**



## TEDDY BEAR PICNIC STORYTIME

*Wednesday July 9, 10:00am* **R**

Bring your favorite stuffed animal to Lion's Park for a story and craft. Refreshments will be provided. In case of inclement weather, the event will move indoors to the Library. **All ages.**



This activity is held in partnership with Harvard Parks and recreation. To register, visit: [harvard.recdesk.com/Community/Home](http://harvard.recdesk.com/Community/Home)

## STORYTIME IN THE PARK

*Tuesdays at 10:00am beginning June 3* **R**

Join library staff for stories, songs, and a craft at the Lion's Park pavilion. In case of inclement weather, storytime will move indoors to the Library. No storytime on July 1.



## NATIONAL DONUT DAY STORYTIME

*Friday June 6, 10:00am* **R**

Gather 'round and celebrate this sweet holiday with a story and craft. Refreshments will be served. In case of inclement weather, event will move indoors to the Library. This activity is held in partnership with Harvard Parks and Recreation. **All ages.** To register, visit: [harvard.recdesk.com/Community/Home](http://harvard.recdesk.com/Community/Home)



## KIDS CRAFTERNOON

*Wednesday May 14, 1:30pm-5pm* **R**

It's an early release day for Harvard District 50 students. Join us after school for some crafting fun. Celebrate spring with a vase full of button flowers you make yourself. **Pre-K-5th.**



## SOCK GNOME CRAFT

*Tuesday June 10, 1:30pm or 6:00pm* **R**

Turn an everyday sock into a cute gnome. All supplies provided. Younger children will need adult assistance. **All ages.**



## LEGO BUILD IT! CLUB

*Thursday May 1 & June 5, 6:00pm* **R**

Join us for an evening of LEGO building fun with a unique building challenge. **All ages.**



## DRAGON EGG CRAFT

*Friday June 13, 10:00am* **R**

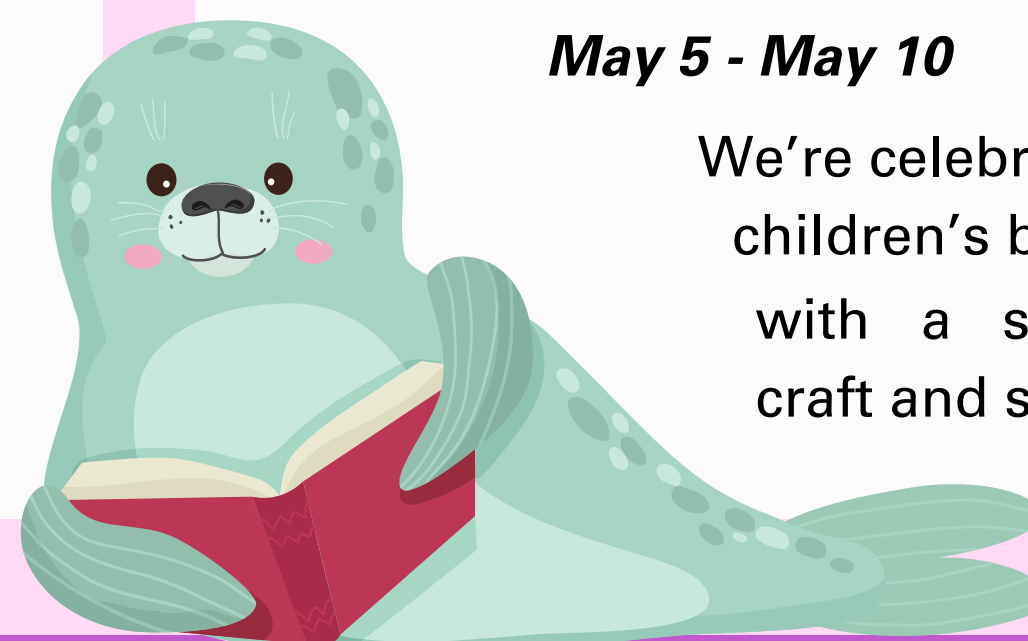
The new "How to Train Your Dragon" movie releases today, so visit the Library to create a unique dragon egg of your own. All supplies provided. Young children may need adult assistance. **All ages.**



## "AN OCEAN OF STORIES" CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK

*May 5 - May 10*

We're celebrating the joy of children's books this week with a special drop-in craft and scavenger hunt.





## SEWING 101

**Thursday June 12, June 26, & July 17, 1:30pm-3:00pm** **R**

Learn the basics of machine sewing over three sessions using the Library's sewing machines. Participants should plan to attend all three sessions. A supply list will be provided at registration. **Gr. 5-12.**

## ADVANCED SEWING CLASSES

These classes are open to sewers who are comfortable using a sewing machine independently and are ready for more challenging projects. Each session is unique. Patterns and instruction will be provided, but participants must provide their own fabric. A supply list will be provided at registration.



**Wednesday June 11, 9:30am - Reversible Apron** **R**

**Wednesday June 25, 9:30am - Zip Pouches** **R**

**Wednesday July 16, 9:30am - Reading Pillow** **R**

## 1,000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN

**Ongoing** **R**

For each book you read together, record it on your paper reading log or in our Beanstack app and receive stickers and prizes for your reading milestones. The 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program is open to **Harvard Diggins Library cardholders and their child or children who are not yet in Kindergarten.**



## BRAGGIN' ABOUT BOOKS

**Ongoing** **R**

Braggin' About Books is a self-paced reading program that encourages reading by offering collectable book cover brag tags when meeting reading milestones. This program is simple. Participants read books of their choosing, either picture books or chapter books. Readers track their progress with a custom bookmark, then return the bookmark when completing levels to select a book cover brag tag of their choosing. There is no limit to how many tags can be collected. With no deadlines and no required reading, this program is for readers of all levels and abilities. **Gr. K-12.**



## THE CULVER'S READING CHALLENGE

**Ongoing** **R**

Read 10 books on your own or have a parent read them to you. After reading 5 books, show your bookmark to a library staff member to have it stamped and receive a coupon for a FREE single scoop of Fresh Frozen Custard from Harvard Culver's. Visit the library to sign up and receive your bookmark. Thank you to Harvard Culver's for its ongoing support of this new reading program. **Pre-K-12th.**



## SUMMER BOOK CLUB: ESCAPE FROM MR. LEMONCELLO'S LIBRARY

Wednesday June 18, 11:30am - Discussing Part 1 **R**

Wednesday July 9, 11:30am - Discussing Part 2 **R**

Everyone loves Mr. Lemoncello's games, especially the kids selected to open his new library. Until they get trapped inside! Join us for this two-session book club. Bring your lunch and discuss the first half of this fun mystery involving puzzles galore. Copies of this book are available to check out at the library. **Grades 4 and up.**



Have you tried borrowing a book from the Library's online collection of interactive children's books, videos, and more? Visit the Library's website to get started on **Tumble Book Library** and start earning those Summer Reading minutes!



Taylor Swift **JEOPARDY!**

Thursday June 26, 6:00pm **R**

How well do you know Taylor Swift? Put your knowledge to work in a fun evening of Taylor Swift trivia. **All ages. Children under age 10 must be accompanied by an adult.**

## TIE-DYE PALOOZA

Tuesday July 8, 1:30pm **R**

Everyone's favorite summer activity is back! Bring a white t-shirt and use a variety of techniques to make it colorful. This event will be held outdoors. In the event of inclement weather, event will be held on Thursday July 10 at 1:30pm. **All ages.**



## SUNCATCHER WIND CHIME CRAFT

Tuesday July 15, 1:30pm or 6:00pm **R**

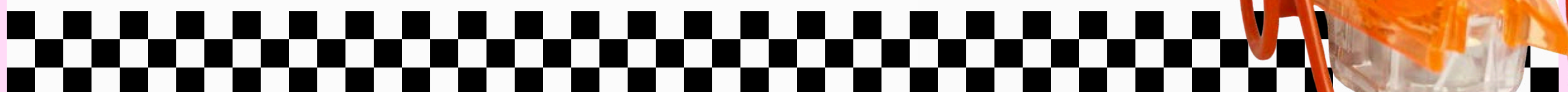
Take advantage of the beautiful flowers and plants outside to create a suncatcher wind chime. All supplies provided. Younger children may require adult assistance. **All ages.**



## HEXBUG NANO RACECOURSE

Monday July 21, 1:30pm **R**

Build a racecourse for the Hexbug Nano, a small micro-robot that looks and acts like a bug. Work in teams to build a racecourse for your Hexbug, then watch it go! **Grades 3 and up.**





## LEVEL UP MELTY BEADS

*Monday, June 30, 1:30pm* **R**

Craft your favorite characters using melty beads. Younger children will require adult assistance. **All ages.**



## SUMMER READING POOL PARTY

*Friday July 25, 7:15pm* **R**

Members of the Kids' Summer Reading Club who meet their 600-minute summer reading goal are invited to attend the Summer Reading Pool Party at the Harvard Aquatic Center. Pool party pass must be presented for entrance to the event and can be redeemed once a completed reading log is turned in. **Pre-K through 5th.**



# YOUTH PROGRAMS - TEENS

## TEEN DIY CROCHET CLUB

*Tuesday May 6 & May 20, 3:15pm-4:15pm* **R**

Do you love to crochet? Whether beginner or pro, bring your supplies and spend time crocheting with friends. Participants should bring their own yarn and crochet hooks. Some basic instruction will be provided. **Grades 5-12.**



## TEEN RECESS!

*Tuesday June 17, 1:30pm* **R**

Remember those games you used to love, like spoon races and tug-of-war? Bring a friend and enjoy the fun again for a special teen recess! This event will be held at the Lion's Park pavilion. In case of inclement weather, the event will move indoors to the Library. **Grades 5-12.**

## TEEN BOWLING PARTY

*Thursday July 24, 12:00pm* **R**

Members of the Teen Summer Reading Club who meet their 600-minute summer reading goal are invited to celebrate with us at J's Lanes. Must have bowling pass in hand to gain entrance to the party. **Grades 6-12.**

## TEEN MYSTERY NIGHT

*Friday July 11, 6:00pm* **R**

Teens who love to play the board game Clue are sure to enjoy this activity. Play a part to solve the mystery in this evening of clues, crime, and craftiness. **Grades 5-12.**





# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



## VOLUNTEER FOR THE LIBRARY'S SUMMER READING CLUB

**Mandatory Volunteer Training: Wed May 28, 1:30pm OR Thurs May 29, 6:00pm**

Volunteers are needed to assist with Summer Reading Club 2025! These volunteers will help staff the Summer Reading Desk to register participants, stamp reading logs, and distribute prizes in two 2-hour desk shifts per week during the program running June 2 - July 23. Volunteers may also be asked to assist at programs and events. Attendance at volunteer training is mandatory. **Sign up at the Circulation Desk. Ages 13 and up.**

## HOMEGROWN NATIONAL PARK

**Monday June 16, 6:00pm R**

Want to become a biodiversity hero? Learn how planting natives and removing invasive species can make you a part of the Homegrown National Park movement. Come learn about this nation-wide call-to-action with a short film, "What's the Rush?", by renowned conservationist, Doug Tallamy, followed by a presentation and Q & A with a local pollinator expert from one of the many conservation organizations in McHenry County that are co-sponsoring this event at libraries throughout our region during Pollinator Week June 16-22. **All ages.**



## SPRING PUZZLE COMPETITION

**Saturday July 19, 10:30am R**

Can your team be the first to complete a 500-piece jigsaw puzzle? Back by popular demand, join us for the Library's third Puzzle Competition. Sign up your team of 2-4 people beginning June 1. All members of the winning team will receive a prize. Snacks provided. **All ages.**



## CRAFTER'S UFO NIGHT

**Thursday May 8, June 12 & July 10, 6:00pm R**

Bring your craft supplies and join fellow crafters for an evening making progress on your UFOs (Unfinished Objects). All crafts welcome. **Grades 6+ and adults.**

## MOLLIE'S WAR

**Friday June 20, 1:00pm R**

Author and presenter Cyndee Shaffer uses excerpts from her mother's letters written home during WWII to provide a romantic yet frightful glimpse into the life of a woman in uniform during this crucial time in history. Cyndee will detail her mother's experiences from basic training in 1943 to a dramatic image of seeing the Statue of Liberty in the midst of darkness in November 1945 when she returned home. Sponsored by Illinois Humanities Road Scholars Speakers Bureau. **Previously scheduled for March 10. All ages.**





## MAKE & MINGLE

Join us for the Library's monthly craft activity for adults 18+. All supplies provided.

### Paper Daisies

Monday May 12, 1:00pm or 6:00pm **R**

### Travel Game Pouch

Monday June 9, 1:00pm & 6:00pm **R**

### Painted Book Page Edges

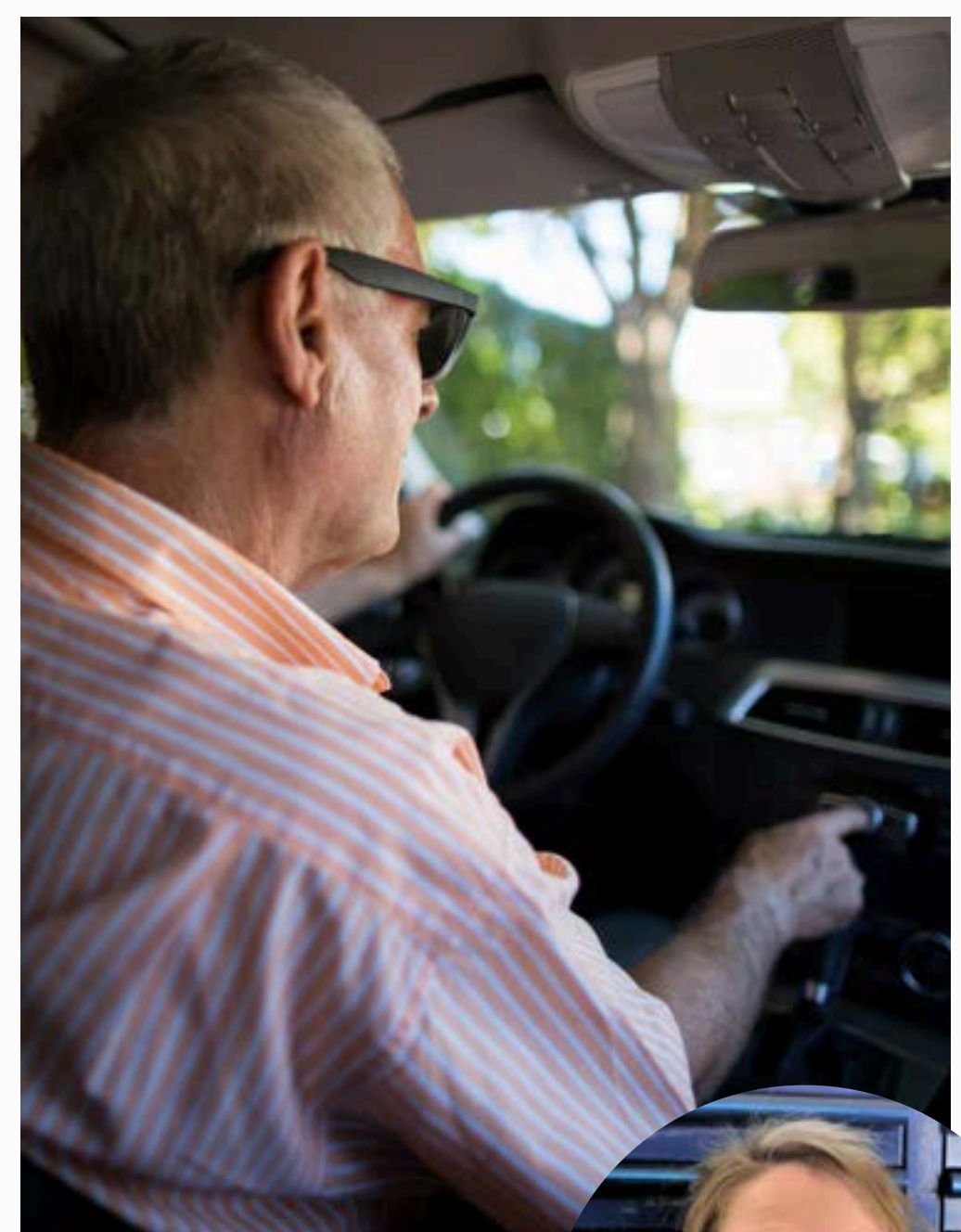
Monday July 28, 1:00pm or 6:00pm **R**



## AARP SMART DRIVER COURSE

Monday June 23 & Tuesday June 24, 10:00am-2:00pm **\$**

This is an 8-hour, 2-day driver safety course. Attend both dates to receive the class certificate that may qualify you to a discount on auto insurance. Class is \$20 for AARP members, \$25 for non-members; credit card online-only, cash or checks made out to "AARP" at the start of class. Individuals that have AARP United Medicare Supplement Insurance plans are eligible to take the course at no cost through their insurance. Present your Medicare Supplement card at the course. Registration is required and may be done online at AARP.org or by scanning the QR code below.



## CAR MAINTENANCE 101

Part 1 - Monday July 7, 6:00pm **R**

Part 2 - Monday July 14, 6:00pm **R**

Whether you are an experienced driver needing a refresher, or a new driver, join us with Nisi Rockcastle, auto mechanic at DeCraene's Service Center in Harvard, to learn the basics of car maintenance in this free 2-part class. During Part 1 we will discuss and have hands-on practice with checking fluids, batteries, hoses & belts, changing light bulbs, and wiper blades. During Part 2, we will discuss dashboard warning lights and tires, plus hands-on practice on how to change a tire and jump a car battery. Please register for each session you will be attending. If you missed Part 1, you are still welcome to sign up for Part 2. **All ages are welcome – great for new drivers, too!**



## SOURDOUGH STARTER 101

Monday June 23, 6:00pm **R**

Join us for this class where you'll learn all about making and maintaining a sourdough starter with Lindsay from Pink Kitchen Breads. Using detailed instructions, she will guide you through maintaining a long term active starter, share tips and tricks, and a brief introduction to bread-baking. If you'd like to begin your starter in class using a sample of Lindsay's decades-old starter, please bring an 8oz container from home.



MAY 2025

Children | Teens | Adult | Family/Mixed-Age

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 LEGO Build It! Club, 6:00pm	2	3 Dan Santat Virtual Author Event, 2:00pm
		CUSD50 Art Show on Display				
4	5	6 Preschool Storytime, 10:00am  Teen DIY Crochet Club, 3:15pm	7	8 Crafter's UFO Night, 6:00pm	9	10
		"An Ocean of Stories" Children's Book Week Scavenger Hunt & Craft				
11	12 Make & Mingle, 1:00pm or 6:00pm	13 Preschool Storytime, 10:00am  Matthew Desmond Virtual Author Event, 7:00pm	14 Kids Crafternoon, 1:30pm-5:00pm	15	16	17
18	19  Early Registration Opens for Summer Reading Club	20 Preschool Storytime, 10:00am  Teen DIY Crochet Club, 3:15pm	21	22	23	24
25	26  Library Closed	27	28	29	30	31



JUNE 2025

Children | Teens | Adult | Family/Mixed-Age

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>WEEKLY HUNT:</b> Picture Scavenger Hunt	2	3 Storytime in the Park, 10:00am	4	5 LEGO Build It! Club, 6:00pm	6 National Donut Day Storytime, 10:00am	7 Library Closed
<b>WEEKLY HUNT:</b> Crossword Puzzle	9 Registration open for Tiny Art Contest! Make & Mingle, 1:00pm or 6:00pm	10 Storytime in the Park, 10:00am Sock Gnome Craft, 1:30pm or 6:00pm	11 Advanced Sewing: Reversible Apron, 9:30am	12 Sewing 101, 1:30pm Crafter's UFO Night, 6:00pm	13 Dragon Egg Craft, 10:00am	14 Plein Air Painting, 10:00am
<b>WEEKLY HUNT:</b> Rebus Puzzle	16 Home Grown National Park, 6:00pm	17 Storytime in the Park, 10:00am Teen Recess, 1:30pm	18 Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library, 11:30am	19	20 Mollie's War, 1:00pm	21
<b>WEEKLY HUNT:</b> StoryWalk Phrase Hunt	23 AARP Smart Driver Course, 10:00am Sourdough Starter 101, 6:00pm	24 Storytime in the Park, 10:00am AARP Smart Driver Course, 10:00am	25 Advanced Sewing: Zip Pouches, 9:30am	26 Sewing 101, 1:30pm Taylor Swift Jeopardy, 6:00pm	27	28
<b>WEEKLY HUNT:</b> Puzzle Hunt	30 Level Up Melty Beads, 1:30pm					



JULY 2025

Children | Teens | Adult | Family/Mixed-Age

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
WEEKLY HUNT: Puzzle Hunt		1	2	3	4	5
WEEKLY HUNT: Puzzle Hunt	7 Public voting now open for Tiny Art Contest! Car Maintenance Part 1, 6:00pm	8 Storytime in the Park, 10:00am Tie Dye Palooza, 1:30pm	9 Teddy Bear Picnic Storytime, 10:00am Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library, 11:30am	10 Crafter's UFO Night, 6:00pm	11 Teen Mystery, 6:00pm	12
WEEKLY HUNT: Where's Gordon? Hunt	14 Car Maintenance Part 2, 6:00pm	15 Storytime in the Park, 10:00am Suncatcher Windchime Craft, 1:30pm or 6:00pm	16 Advanced Sewing: Reading Pillow, 9:30am	17 Sewing 101, 1:30pm	18	19 Puzzle Competition, 10:00am
WEEKLY HUNT: Crossword Scavenger Hunt	21 Hexbug Nano Racecourse, 1:30pm	22 Storytime in the Park, 10:00am	23 Last day to stamp summer reading logs and enter raffle tickets	24 Teen Bowling Party, 12:00pm	25 Level Up Pool Party, 7:15pm	26
	28 Make & Mingle, 1:00pm or 6:00pm	29	30	31	1 National Coloring Day in the Park, 10:00am	







**PLEIN AIR PAINTING DEMONSTRATION & PRACTICE**

**Saturday June 14, 10:00am R**

*Plein Air* painting (French for “open air”) is the act of painting outdoors; directly observing nature to capture light, color, and movement. Join us outdoors with local artist Janet Harlow as she works on her latest *Plein Air* painting and gives tips and tricks for your own. Those who wish to practice will be offered a small canvas to paint, and are encouraged to enter their artwork in the Tiny Art Contest (see below for more information). **All ages.**

**TINY ART CONTEST**

**Sign Up: June 9-June 28 | Return Artwork June 23-July 3 | Voting July 7 - July 18 R**

You are invited to enter the 3rd Annual Tiny Art Contest at Harvard Diggins Library! Sign up and receive your blank canvas. Use supplies from home to create a tiny masterpiece, and return it to the Library. Your artwork can use a variety of mediums - paint, crayon, pencil, charcoal, mixed media, etc. - no glitter or oil pastels, please. The public will vote for their favorite canvas in three categories: Children, Teens, and Adults. Once voting closes, library staff will count all votes and announce the people’s choice winners in all 3 categories. **All ages.**



900 E. McKinley St.  
Harvard, IL 60033

**LIBRARY HOURS:**

M-Th 9:00am - 8:00pm  
F-Sa 9:00am - 5:00pm  
Closed Sundays

**UPCOMING CLOSINGS:**

May 26 - Memorial Day  
June 7 - Harvard Milk Day  
July 3 - Closing at 5:00pm  
July 4 - Independence Day

**CONTACT US:**

P: 815-943-4671  
F: 815-943-2312  
E: harpgeneral@harvard-diggins.org

FIND US ON:  

**Sign up for our newsletter!**



Harvard Diggins Library staff are excited to announce the NEW e-Newsletter. In addition to the print newsletter, you can now sign up to receive our e-Newsletter digest to your inbox on the 1st and 3rd Sunday evening of the month. Scan here or visit our website to sign up at

[www.harvard-diggins.org](http://www.harvard-diggins.org)



**ALL PROGRAMS MARKED WITH R REQUIRE ADVANCE REGISTRATION**



Visit our website at:  
[www.harvard-diggins.org/events](http://www.harvard-diggins.org/events)  
or scan the QR code to the left with your smartphone's camera to visit the event calendar and register for an event.  
Need assistance? Call us at:  
**815-943-4671**

*If you are no longer able to attend an event that you previously signed up for, please contact library staff as soon as possible so we may alert our event coordinators and allow space for others on the waitlist.*