



BETWEEN THE STACKS NEWSLETTER

WINTER IS NOT A SEASON, IT'S A CELEBRATION!

Braidwood - Bonfield - Braceville - Custer Park - Essex - Gardner - Godley - Shadow Lakes - Shannon Shores - South Wilmington

WINTER READING IS HERE!



ALL ARE WELCOME

This winter, we invite readers of all ages to cozy up with a good book and take part in our exciting reading challenge. Whether you're an avid reader or just looking for a way to stay entertained during the colder months, our Winter Reading Challenge is the perfect way to enjoy some great books and win fantastic prizes.

Participants who complete the Winter Reading Challenge will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win prizes, including gift cards, books, and more! Learn more on our website's Winter Reading page at fossilridge.org/winter-reading.



New Resources for the whole family!



Educate Station

Discover interactive educational resources, games, and activities that support foundational skills across various subjects and grades.



Niche Academy

Access online tutorials for library resources, digital tools, and practical skills, designed for personalized learning experiences.



Novelist

Explore book recommendations, read-alikes, and reviews tailored to your preferences for leisure or educational reading.



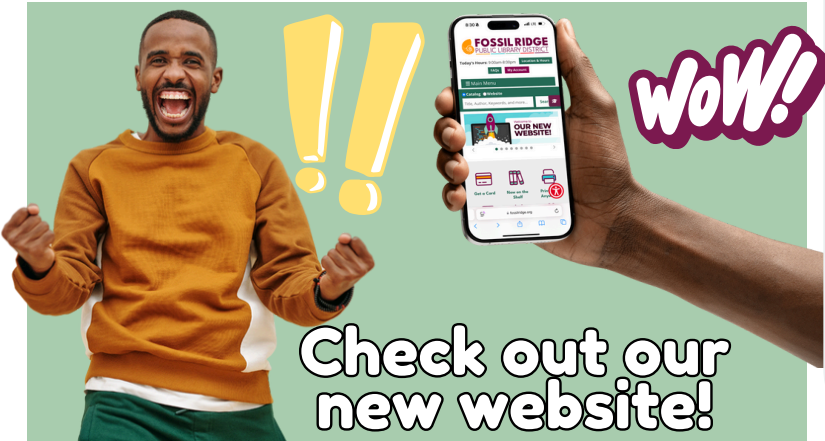
Bookflix

A digital literacy program that pairs animated storybooks with nonfiction eBooks for kids to learn.



Scholastic: Watch & Learn

Engage young learners with educational videos covering diverse topics, and critical thinking skills.



Check out our new website!

JANUARY - MAY 2025

RENEW YOUR LIBRARY CARD, TODAY!

815.458.2187

- SPOTLIGHT -

Register online at fossilridge.org,
by phone at (815) 458-2187 or in person.
Registration is required for program. ✓
A payment is required to register for program. \$



C ✓
CHILDREN



Kids Can Cook
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
02.24/03.24/04.28

T ✓
TEEN



Teen Lock-In
01.31.2025 - 02.01.2025
5:00p.m.-8:00a.m.

A ✓
ADULT



**Singer Songwriter Concert
with Dave Rudolf**
04.09.2025
6:00-7:30p.m.

T ✓
TEEN



Teen Self-Defense
05.08.2025
6:00-7:30p.m.

Tw ✓
TWEEN



Eat Your Science
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
02.10/03.10/04.14

C ✓ \$
CHILDREN



Parent & Me Canvas Painting
04.03.2025
2:00-3:30 or 5:00-6:30p.m.

A ✓
ADULT



Curative Properties of Tea
03.29.2025
10:30-11:00a.m.

Find Your People: Introduction to Genealogy ✓
Date: Wednesday, February 12
Time: 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Learn how to research your family history! Find your family in the census using Library Ancestry Edition. Learn how to find vital records and organize your research.

Young At Heart: Movie ✓
Date: Friday, February 21
Time: 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Join us for an American romance classic, "Grumpy Old Men." (1 hr. 52 min)
Summary: A lifelong feud between two childhood friends only gets worse when a new female moves in across the street.

Join us for food, drinks, and bring a dessert if you wish!

Where's My Stuff: ✓
Learn from Professional Organizers
Date: Wednesday, March 19
Time: 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

As professional organizers and co-authors of the self-help book Beyond Tidy, Marie Limpert and Annmarie Brogan of Organize Me! of NY, LLC will teach unique and creative strategies to maximize space and stay in control of their belongings. They will also answer questions and provide organizing solutions to common challenges that get people stuck.

DISCOVER OUR LIBRARY OF THINGS!

Explore, play, and learn with items from our Library of Things! Whether you're curious about nature, looking to get active, or eager to try a new hobby, we've got you covered. Visit us today and check out what we have!



Borrowing Rules:

1. Only available to Fossil Ridge cardholders
2. 7 day borrowing period
3. No holds
4. No renewals



- PROGRAMMING -

Register online at fossilridge.org,
by phone at (815) 458-2187 or in person.
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A payment is required to register for program. \$



LIHEAP ✓

Dates: Friday, February 28
& Friday, March 28
Time: 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

This program is designed to assist households with low incomes to help through financial aid meet their energy needs.

Medicare and Social Security ✓

Date: Wednesday, April 2
Time: 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Let us help you put the pieces together when it comes to understanding & navigating Social Security & Medicare. Learn important information you need to know about time frames, penalties, benefits, and so much more.

Tai Chi ✓

Date: Monday April 7
Time: 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

With guidance from Erica Bough of Breathe Life Tai Chi, use the ancient arts of Tai Chi and Qi Gong to optimize your breathing to enhance your ability to stretch, balance, and decrease anxiety to lead a more relaxing life.



Young at Heart: Tissue Paper Vase ✓

Date: Friday, March 21
Time: 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Spring is here but the temperatures don't reflect our warm spirits! We thought you might want a pop of color to remind you that warmer days are on the way. Join us and create a bright vase to liven up any room.

An Evening with Christopher J. Lynch, author of the biography of Eddie Haskell ✓

Date: Wednesday, March 26
Time: 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Author Christopher J. Lynch will share his experiences in writing the biography of Ken Osmond, the actor who portrayed one of the most iconic television characters ever; Eddie Haskell from the TV series, Leave it to Beaver.

Carrot Top Mason Jar ✓

Date: Wednesday April 16
Time: 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Usher in spring with this adorable craft guaranteed to bring the Easter bunny right to your door! Keep it as decoration or give it as a gift for someone else!



Cocktail Umbrella Wreath ✓

Dates: Wednesday, May 7th
Time: 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Join us to usher in the summer with a simple, yet festive holiday wreath made of cocktail umbrellas! Join us for the craft but stay for the mocktails and conversation!

Trivia Night at the Gardner American Legion ✓

Date: Friday, May 9
Time: 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Join Ms. Quiz as she tests you and your team on all kinds of knowledge. Prizes will be awarded. Alcohol can be purchased at the American Legion. Food may be brought into the establishment. Please register in teams of 5-8 people.

Play That Hot Fiddle: ✓

Old Time Radio and the Life of Southern Illinois Swing Fiddler "Pappy" Wade Ray ✓

Date: Wednesday, May 14
Time: 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Presenting the fast swing fiddling and humorous stories of his mentor Wade Ray, Dennis Stroughmatt will lead audiences through the early years of Old Time Radio and share how music brought America through The Great Depression, WWII, and beyond.



TikTok Makeup Trends ✓

Date: Wednesday, March 12
Time: 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Join GlamBat Studios for a beginner makeup class designed just for teens! Learn essential tips and techniques through a live demonstration and hands-on practice using provided tools and materials. This fun and interactive class is perfect for teens looking to explore makeup in a supportive and creative environment.

Prevention and Life Skills: Empowering Youth ✓

Date: Thursday April 10
Time: 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Join us for a powerful and inspiring event aimed at helping teens. This program is designed to empower youth with the tools they need to thrive while avoiding the pitfalls of substance abuse.

Smash Rockets ✓

Dates: Wednesdays, May 21
Time: 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Get ready to learn about jet propulsion and the life of an astronaut from a real NASA educator. You can also create your very own rocket! This event is perfect for teens who love science, space, and hands-on fun.



Lap-Sit ✓

Date: Wednesdays, January 22nd - April 16th
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Let's instill a love of books in children from birth to 3 years. This program is designed to introduce your child to the wonderful world of books. Caregiver participation and guidance are required as we read, sing, and do finger plays. Registration is required.

Play-Doh Playdates ✓

Dates: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month
January 21st - May 13th
Time: 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Join us for a Play-Doh workshop! Display your creativity using our Play-Doh and tools. This program is for children aged 2-6, and registration is required.

Toddler Time ✓

Dates: Thursdays, Jan. 23rd - May 15th
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

We welcome toddlers and their caregivers to join us every week for an exciting exploration of various toys and sensory materials. Toddlers can enhance their gross and fine motor skills, as well as their social interaction and language skills. Caregivers must accompany their little ones throughout the program.



Listen & Create Storytime ✓

Date: Thursdays, January 22nd - April 3rd
Time: 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

This program is specially designed for children aged 3-5. Every week, children will have the opportunity to explore new books and engage in a fun craft project.

Half-Day Movie Matinee ✓

Date: Thurs., Feb. 13th - Harold & the Purple Crayon
Wednesday, March 12th - Despicable Me 4
Wednesday, April 9th - Hit Pig
Time: 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Join us for a family movie afternoon, refreshments, and light snacks. Registration is recommended.

Nintendo Switch Party ✓

Date: Monday, February 17th
Time: 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

No school means more fun! Come and join us for an exciting Nintendo Switch Party at the library! We'll have popular games available, including Mario Kart 8 and Super Mario Bros. Ultimate, so bring your competitive spirit. You're welcome to bring your own Nintendo Switch console if you have one.





Fossil Ridge Public Library District
386 West Kennedy Road
Braidwood, IL 60408

LIBRARY HOURS:

Monday – Thursday: 9am – 8pm
Friday: 9am – 5pm
Saturday: 9am – 3pm
Sunday: Closed

LIBRARY CLOSINGS:

Good Friday - Apr. 18 - Closed
Memorial Day - May 26 - Closed

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

RENE LEYVA

LIBRARY BOARD:

Sandra Bauter – **President**
Alvin Stockdale – **Vice President**
Danell Morrison – **Secretary**
Teri L Jones – **Treasurer**
Luann Bolatto – **Trustee**
Kathleen M. Price - **Trustee**
Lora Grant - **Trustee**

FOSSIL RIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT SERVICES PATRONS WITH DISABILITIES

Any person needing an accommodation for a disability in order to access the benefits of the Library's services, programs, or activities under the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact programming staff by telephone at (815) 458-2187 or in writing, not less than five (5) business days prior to the program.

LIBRARY PHOTOGRAPHY AND FILMING

Attendance at Library programs, events or Library spaces constitutes consent to be photographed or filmed for use in print and/or electronic publicity of the Library



SCAN THE QR-CODE WITH YOUR PHONE AND REGISTER FOR AN EVENT TODAY!

MORE INFO:

Visit: Fossilridge.org
Call: 815.458.2187
Email: help@fossilridge.org

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SOME AREAS NOT SERVED BY THE FOSSIL RIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT MAY RECEIVE THIS MAILING BECAUSE OF POST OFFICE ROUTINGS.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK:

Charting New Horizons: A Year of Growth and Innovation

As we look ahead to 2025, we're thrilled to continue our journey of innovation and community engagement. Reflecting on 2024, we've introduced exciting updates and resources to enhance your library experience:



We revamped our website for a more user-friendly and better interface, making it easier than ever to explore our offerings. We've added to our collection with The Library of Things, featuring fossil kits, hotspots, a mini projector, STEM skits, and a portable DVD player with a screen—perfect for your next family trip! These items are just a part of the wide selection in our special collection and are available exclusively for our library cardholders.

Following our strategic plan, we're committed to providing you with more choices to support your needs.

Looking ahead, our 2025 goals include:

Increased School and Community Engagement: Strengthening connections with local schools and surrounding communities through more frequent appearances and collaborative programs.

Improved Public Computing: Streamlining the experience on our public computers to make them more user-friendly and accessible.

Thank you for being part of our incredible library community. Together, we're making great things happen!

Stay connected and informed! Sign up for our e-newsletter to receive the latest updates, events, and news directly in your inbox.

Rene Leyva
Library Director