

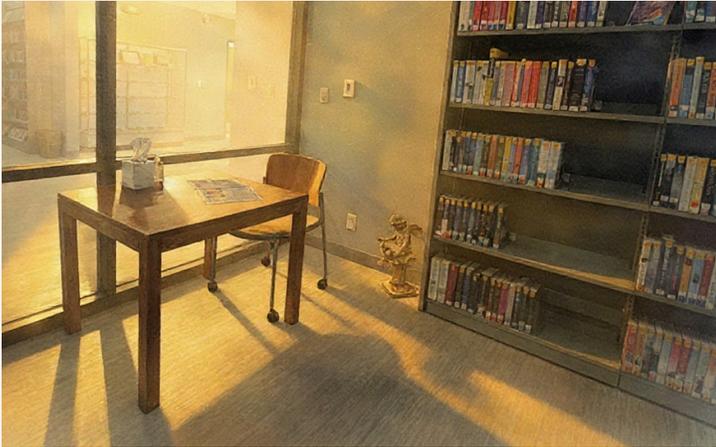


FOSSIL RIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

BETWEEN THE STACKS NEWSLETTER

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

In Memory of a Beloved Library Friend.



A few months ago, we learned of the passing of longtime library patron, advocate and friend Rudy Mandat.

Rudy was a familiar and friendly presence at the library. Over the years, he joined us on several field trips, participated in in-house programs, and generously donated books to our Children's Department. He also had a special love for astronomy, always curious about space and the universe beyond us.

We were recently honored to learn that Rudy named the library his primary beneficiary, leaving a generous monetary gift. We are working closely with the Library Board and staff to thoughtfully honor Rudy's legacy and ensure that his passion for books and lifelong learning continues to inspire learning for generations to come.

Thank you, Rudy. We know you're exploring space and the stars, and we are grateful for the light you left behind at the library.

Rene Leyva
Executive Director

2025 MOST CIRCULATED!

LIBBY

Onyx Storm (unabridged)
by Rebecca Yarros
The Lost Heir (unabridged)
by Tui T. Sutherland

NON-FICTION

Let Them Theory
by Mel Robbins
The Mountain is You
by Brianna Wiest

FICTION

Signature of All Things
by Elizabeth Gilbert
An Offer You Can't Refuse
by Jill Mansell

FILM

Yellowstone Season 2 (2019)
Wicked (2004)

VIDEO GAME

Mojang Studios - Minecraft
Nintendo - Mario Kart 8

HOOPLA

Sunrise on the Reaping
by Suzanne Collins
The Housemaid
by Freida McFadden

LIBRARY OF THINGS

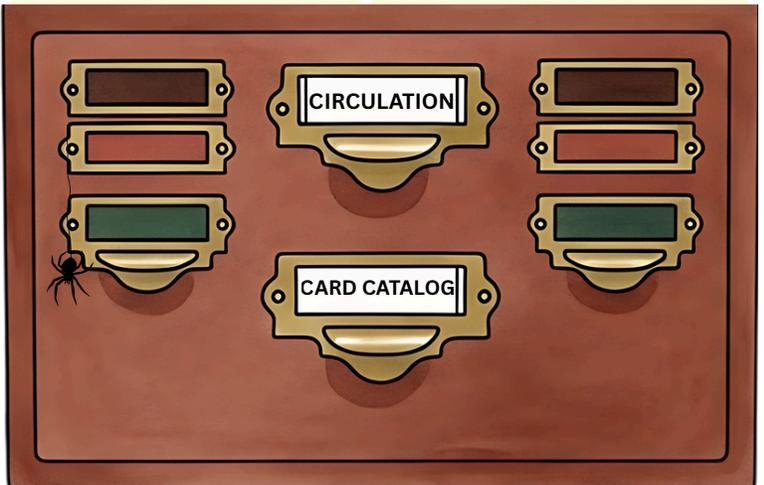
Hotspots
Nintendo Switch Lite

FICTION YOUTH

Grumpy Monkey Spring Fever
by Suzanne Lang
Grumpy Monkey Don't be Scared
by Suzanne Lang

FILM YOUTH

Sonic the Hedgehog 3 (2024)
Hotel Transylvania (2012)



- FOSSIL RIDGE FACTS -

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW DIGGING UP THE FACTS THAT MATTER



- EXTRA EXTRA! -

What do I need to obtain my own library card?

- All you need is a photo ID on-hand along with the CURRENT address and two CURRENT utility bills.
- If the current address is not on the ID, please bring the following:
 - An Identification Card
 - A piece of certified mail with the current address will act as proof of residency.
- Non-Residency patrons will need a photo ID, along with their renter's agreement or property tax.
- All proof of residency must match each other.
- Newborns can sign up, no age requirement!



More Than Books, Services You Can Use Today!

Your library offers affordable, accessible services designed to support your everyday needs.

Study & Work Space

Our open-concept layout lets you choose a table and create your own workspace.

Need extra quiet? Reserve a study room for focused work without interruptions.

Accessibility Matters

We proudly offer accommodations to ensure everyone can enjoy the library, including wheelchair access, in-library wheelchair, walker, and cane.

In-house services

- **Faxing** - As low as \$1
- **Notary** - FREE
- **Photocopying** -
B/W: 10 cents, Color: 25 cents.
- **Lamination:**

Request forms available at the circulation desk for materials no wider than 25 inches at a cost of 75 cents for up to 8 ½ x11, \$1.50 for 12x15, \$2.00 for 15x18, and \$4.00 for 18x24.

SCAN ME



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ANY SERVICE, CHECK OUR WEBSITE OR SCAN THE QR CODE.

AND MORE...

AT-HOME DELIVERY SERVICE



SMARTPODS 24/7 PICK-UP HOLDS SYSTEM



FREE & DISCOUNTED ADMISSIONS



COMPUTERS & WIFI



- WINTER READING 2026 -



YETI, SET, READ!



Winter Reading 2026

JANUARY 5 - FEBRUARY 27, 2026

How it works:

Children's Department

When kids and tweens complete their first reading log, they'll earn a small prize and a raffle ticket. That ticket puts them in the running for weekly raffle baskets and the grand prize basket at the end of the Winter Reading Challenge!

Where to turn them in:

Reading logs can be dropped off at the Children's Department desk. Raffle baskets are divided by age group:

- Birth-4 years
- 5-8 years
- 9-12 years



Read more, win more!

After turning in the first completed log, kids and tweens will receive a yeti-themed prize pictured above! They can also grab as many new logs as they want and earn more raffle tickets. The more logs they complete, the more chances they have to win!

Reading chapter books?

Just write the book title at the top of the log and count each chapter as a "book." Easy and fun!

Teens and adults can join the Winter Reading Challenge too!

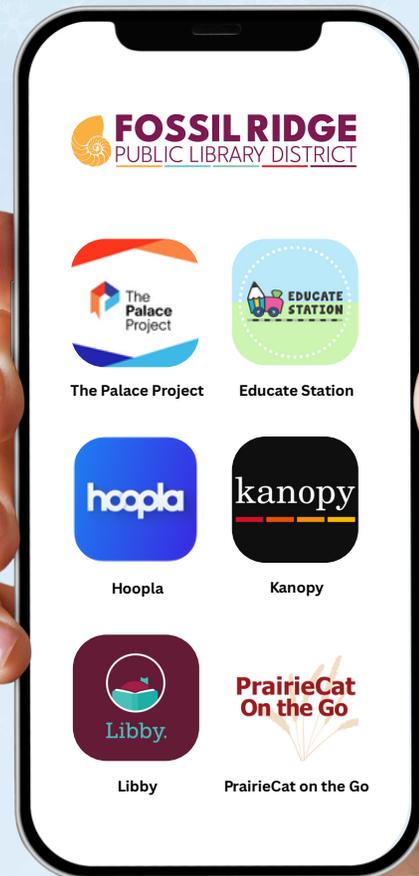
How it works:

1. Stop by the library and pick up a reading log.
2. Read one book and fill out your log.
3. Return the completed log to the library.

Your reward:

Finish the challenge, and you'll receive a 25 oz Ozona aluminum tumbler, perfect for keeping your drinks hot or cold while you read!

One book. One log. One awesome prize. Happy reading!



- 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

Fantastic Fridays
01.30.2026 & 03.27.2026
10:00 a.m.

T ✓
TEEN

K-Pop Night
03.19.2026
6:00 p.m.

A ✓ 💰
ADULT

Spamalot Bus Trip
05.27.2026
4:30 p.m.

T ✓
TEEN

Braidwood Advisory Teens (B.A.T.S.)
02.05/03.05/04.01
6:00 p.m.

A ✓
ADULT

Black Sox, Billy Goats, and Da Monsters of Da Midway: Chicago Team Sports History
01.21.2026 6:00 p.m.

C ✓ 💰
CHILDREN

Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art Bus Trip
02.13.2026 8:30 a.m.

Tw ✓
TWEEN

Make-Up Basics 101 for Tweens
04.01.2026
1:30 p.m.

Bingocize ✓
Dates: Fridays, January 2 - April 10
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Looking for a fun way to be more active? Bingo + Exercise = Bingocize® BINGOCIZE® is a health promotion program that combines bingo with fall prevention exercise. Play bingo with us and meet new people while learning about techniques to reduce falls.

Bunny Butt Flower Pots ✓
Date: Thursday, April 2
Time: 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Hop into spring with a fun Easter craft! Participants will create adorable flower pots featuring a fluffy bunny "butt" peeking out of the soil, perfect for spring décor or Easter baskets. Participants leave with a cute, Easter-ready bunny butt flower pot, perfect for decorating the home, gifting, or adding to an Easter table centerpiece.

Mugs Up for Winter Bingo ✓
Date: Tuesday, January 20
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Bundle up for a blizzard of fun! Join us for Winter Bingo, where snowflakes, cocoa mugs, and cozy vibes fill your cards and the room. Shout "BINGO!" to win cool prizes, sip hot chocolate, and share some frosty laughs with friends and family!

Device Drop-In ✓
Date: Wednesday, March 25
Time: 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Do you need a little help with your smartphone, tablet, laptop or e-reader? Bring your device and your questions to this drop-in event. Staff will help you navigate your device and the library's digital resources.

Read, Relax and Rescue Lives! Blood Drive ✓
Date: Tuesday, April 7
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Join us for the Library Community Blood Drive and turn your library visit into a life-saving act! Your donation can help save up to three lives and all it takes is a little of your time! Enjoy free snacks, friendly faces, and the feel-good glow of giving back.

Game Time! Chicago Sports Outside the Lines ✓
Date: Wednesday, April 15
Time: 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Sports history in Chicago is loaded with athletes, teams, and their combined virtues and shortcomings. But there are legends that aren't limited to the playing surface. From the voices to the venues and from the hometown heroes to the innovations, the legacies are rich. Join us as we welcome historian and Chicago native Clarence Goodman for Game Time! Chicago Sports Outside the Lines.

- PROGRAMMING -

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.**



Library Lovers Bingo

Date: All February

Celebrate Library Lovers Month with a fun library-themed bingo game! Complete activities on your card: like checking out a book, attending a program, or exploring our resources to mark off squares. Get five in a row to earn a small prize. Complete the whole card to enter a raffle for a bigger prize!

The Graphic Gather Tween Book Club

Dates: Monday, February 2
Time: 5:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.

Join our tween graphic novel book club. We meet on the first Monday of the month, to talk about the graphic novel, share favorite moments from the book, and enjoy some tasty snacks. This book club is perfect for readers ages 9-16 who love comics, manga, and illustrated adventures! Registration is required.

Puzzle Swap

Date: Wednesday, February 11
Time: 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Feeling puzzled? Come connect the pieces with fellow jigsaw lovers at our Library Puzzle Swap! Trade your tried-and-true puzzles for something new to piece together. Bring your complete puzzles only, no missing pieces, please!



Disney 101: Everything You Need to Know to Plan Your Family's Disney Vacation

Date: Wednesday, January 28
Time: 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Planning a Disney vacation requires careful attention to detail, but using a complimentary Disney Travel Planner can significantly reduce the stress of the process. This program will delve into what you need to do to be prepared, so that you can enjoy every minute of your vacation!

Love on the Rocks (Without the Spirits): A Mocktail Workshop

Date: Wednesday, February 4
Time: 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Get ready to shake things up this Valentine's Day! We're serving four love-struck mocktails that are sure to make hearts skip a beat at your next party!

Lake Placid Olympic Museum (Via Zoom)

Dates: Tuesday, February 17
Time: 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

At the end of the 1980 Olympic Winter Games, the Olympic and Winter Sports Museum, a private, not-for-profit museum, was opened at the former Austria House in Lake Placid. Staff from the museum will share stories from their collection to help us celebrate the 2026 Winter Olympics.



Seed Swap

Date: Wednesday, March 11
Time: 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Drop in to exchange seeds, pick up new ones (no contribution required). Can't make it? Our Seed Library opens February 18th, offering free seeds while supplies last. Stay a while and ask questions to a University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener.

Death and Grand Funeral of Abraham Lincoln

Date: Wednesday, March 18
Time: 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

"The Death and Grand Funeral of Abraham Lincoln" is an enlightening talk that delves into the solemn events surrounding the assassination and funeral of one of America's most revered leaders. This presentation, led by Charles Lyons, a renowned expert on Lincoln's life, promises to provide invaluable insights.

Shimmer and Spine: Diamond Art Bookmarks

Date: Thursday, April 9
Time: 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Add sparkle to your reading with Shimmer & Spine! Create your own diamond art bookmarks using colorful gems and easy templates. Learn to design, apply rhinestones, and seal your masterpiece for everyday use or gifting. Perfect for crafters, book lovers, and anyone who loves a little glitter with their books!



Cricut Valentines Mugs

Date: Thursday, February 12
Time: 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Get crafty this Valentine's Day and design your own custom mug using decals and infusible ink designs made by a Cricut cutting machine. In this hands-on workshop, you'll learn how to create beautiful, love-inspired designs using adhesive or heat transfer vinyl and apply them to ceramic mugs using a heat press.

Decorative Napkin Candles

Date: Wednesday, March 4
Time: 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Join us for a cozy, hands-on workshop where you'll learn how to turn plain candles into beautiful decorative pieces using printed napkins and simple decoupage techniques. This program is perfect for all ages and skill levels. No prior crafting experience required!

Exam Cram

Dates: Thursday, March 12
Time: 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Need a boost before exams? Join us for Exam Cram—a chill study session where you can focus, review with friends, and grab some snacks along the way. Fuel your brain, crush your prep, and power through your finals with us!



Toddler Craft Corner

Date: First Mondays of the month starting January 5
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Get ready to get crafty! Our monthly arts and crafts program is perfect for toddlers ages 2-5. Each month, we'll explore the season or holiday with fun, hands-on projects. Registration is needed for each session.

Toddler Time

Dates: Tuesdays, January 6 - May 5 & Thursdays, January 8 - May 14
Time: Tuesdays from 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. & Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Toddler time is a playful, developmentally focused program for children 6 months to 4 years. Through this free play program, toddlers will build their gross and fine motor skills, as well as early social skills in a fun environment.

Play-Doh Playdates

Dates: Tuesdays, January 13 - May 5
Time: 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Join us for Play-Doh Playdates! Toddlers can squish, sculpt, and create while building their fine motor skills and imagination. All materials will be provided; just drop in and play! Registration is recommended for ages 2-6.



Little Learners

Date: Wednesdays, January 14 - May 6
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Let's learn our ABCs! "Little Learners" is a fun, weekly program where preschoolers can master the alphabet through stories, music, and a craft. Join us as we explore the wonderful world of letters, one week at a time. Registration is needed for each session.

Listen & Create Storytime

Date: Thursdays, January 15 - May 7
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. Registration is recommended for each session.

Kids Can Cook

Date: Mondays, January 26 - April 27
Time: 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Kids Can Cook is a fun, hands-on cooking adventure. Each month, kids will learn simple kitchen skills, explore new foods, and make a tasty treat to enjoy. This hands-on program encourages creativity, confidence, and healthy eating. Registration is needed for each session.



- LIBRARY OF THINGS -

Climb Higher with Your Library card!
From tools to tech, your next adventure starts here.

1. Ever wish you could try something new without buying it first?
2. Need a car code scanner to figure out what that mystery light means?
3. Heading outdoors and could use a camping lantern for your next adventure?

Welcome to our Library of Things, where the collection goes far beyond books!

From hands-on educational kits to fun, practical gadgets, this collection is all about helping you explore, learn, create, and play. Whether you're tackling a home project, planning a weekend getaway, or just curious to try something new, your library has you covered.



PICK UP A DVD CASE OF THE ITEM YOU WANT TO CHECK OUT! LOCATED NEXT TO THE NEW RELEASES AND ADULT NON-FICTION BOOKSHELVES IN THE LIBRARY.



Borrowing the Details

- Available to Fossil Ridge cardholders only
- 7-day checkout (just enough time for a mini adventure)
- No holds – first come, first served
- No renewals (we know... it's hard to say goodbye)



Lunar Telescope



Camping Lantern



Stud Finder



Comb Binding Machine



Easy-Bake Oven



Giant Checkers



Knee Scooter



Pickleball Set

JUST A REMINDER! BEFORE CHECKING OUT AN ITEM FROM OUR LIBRARY OF THINGS, A SIGNED WAIVER AND BORROWING POLICY ARE REQUIRED AT THE CIRCULATION DESK.

QUESTIONS? GIVE US A CALL AT 815-458-2187 OR EMAIL HELP@FOSSILRIDGE.ORG

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

NONPROFIT
ORG
U.S. Postage
PAID
Braidwood, IL
Permit No. 15
ECRWSS

LIBRARY HOURS:

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

LIBRARY CLOSINGS:

Good Friday - April 3 - Closed
Memorial Day - May 25 - Closed

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

RENE LEYVA

LIBRARY BOARD:

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

CURRENT RESIDENT

*****ECRWSSDDM****

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

Building America 250: Weekend Trades Job Fair WE ARE HERE FOR YOU.

We want to support our communities, and we're planning a weekend-long job fair focused on the trades. To make sure we're inviting the right fields and employers, we'd love your suggestions on which areas we should prioritize.

This job fair is one of many events we're hosting to celebrate our nation's 250th birthday in 2026, and we're committed to honoring that milestone by uplifting and empowering the amazing communities we represent.

Introducing the official replacement for Boundless: The Palace Project, an e-reading experience developed by and for libraries.

With the Palace Project app, you have access to the library's digital collections in one place. Enjoy thousands of free books from the Palace Bookshelf as well as titles you enjoyed through Boundless - available exclusively in the app.

Download the Palace Project app for Android or Apple iOS today!



**The
Palace
Project**

