

NORTHBROOK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Summer Issue

June - August 2026

Summer Reading Challenge Plant a Seed, Read

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Library Closed: 7/4
Late Open: 8/7

Cover Art by Pete Oswald & Sarah Ferone


NORTHBROOK
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Notes from the Executive Director



Have you ever driven to the library only to realize you forgot your card and couldn't check out the book you wanted? Our library app makes sure that will never happen again. And we just released a new version of the app that makes it even more easy and fun to use.

I'm not going to do a sales pitch on why you should install it (though you really should). I'm just going to tell you what I love about it.

You can check out books with your phone while you're standing in the stacks! As an eldest child, a librarian, and a lifelong rule follower, that makes me feel like a rebel every single time.

We see over 1,000 people a day, and our study rooms are always busy with teens studying, book clubs, interviews, you name it. The app lets you reserve a room in about 60 seconds.

You can also sign up for programs, look up materials, and connect with online resources. It puts the library in your pocket, wherever you go.

I am excited to hear what you think of it!

Kate Hall
Executive Director

Library Information

1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, IL 60062
847-272-6224 | www.northbrook.info
feedback@northbrook.info

Open: Mon-Thurs: 9am-9pm, Fri: 9am-6pm
Sat: 9am-5pm, Sun: 1-5pm

Special hours: Library Closed: 7/4
Late Open: 8/7 (opens at 12pm)

The Northbrook Public Library provides access to information so that patrons can make informed decisions for themselves. The library does not endorse, recommend, or make representations with respect to the information presented in our programming. **Programs are subject to change. Visit www.northbrook.info/events for the latest program information.**

Photo Policy: The Northbrook Public Library may photograph patrons participating in library programs and events. These images may appear in future library publications or publicity. Participation signifies consent to our photo policy. Library patrons may not take photographs of other patrons or staff without the permission of the Executive Director. For full policy details, visit www.northbrook.info.

News & Updates

Coming soon: a mobility scooter

Thanks to a generous donation from the Covenant Living Holly Fair, we will soon be able to offer a motorized scooter for patrons with mobility needs to use inside the building. Learn more on page 5.

New digital comics collection

Comics Plus® offers kids and teens instant access to thousands of digital comics and manga with a Northbrook Library card. Turn to the bottom of page 14 for more information about this new collection.

Donate while you dine at Culver's

From June 22–25, Culver's Northbrook (4105 Dundee Rd.) will donate 25% of sales when you mention the **Northbrook Public Library Foundation fundraiser**. This fundraiser applies to dine in, drive-through, and carry out orders.

Happy 250th Birthday, America



In celebration of the 250th anniversary of the United States, we're highlighting programs on our nation's history with the America 250 logo. We also invite you to join us at the Northbrook 4th of July parade on Saturday, July 4 at 4pm.

Accessibility Hour at the Library

Individuals and families with disabilities are invited to visit the library on Sunday, July 19 at 12:00pm, one hour before we open, to enjoy library resources and a sensory-friendly storytime at 12:30pm.

Shop the Friends' Summer Book Sale

Stock up on summer reads at the Friends of the Library Used Book Sale on July 24 & 25 from 10:00am-4:00pm. All sale proceeds benefit the Friends of the Library and the library.

Be someone's hero: donate blood

Consider signing up to donate blood at the library on July 30 from 1:00-5:00pm. Walk-ins are also welcome.

What will you make this summer?

Drop by the Collaboratory's this summer to get creative! Maker programs will resume in September (registration opens Aug. 1). Visit www.northbrook.info/collaboratory or call 847-272-2098 for details.

KEY

- On-Demand Virtual Program
- Live Virtual Program
- In-Person Program
- Earth Friendly Program
- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Program
- Supported Program
- Library Card Required

Summer Reading Challenge



Plant a Seed, Read

All Ages - June 1 - August 9

Sign up
Read books
Earn prizes!

Get ready to grow your reading skills and nourish your imagination! Last year, over 3,000 people participated, including 867 adults, 528 teens, 1,641 youth, and 102 babies!



Sign up for Summer Reading at the library or at **northbrook.info** starting June 1.

Adults

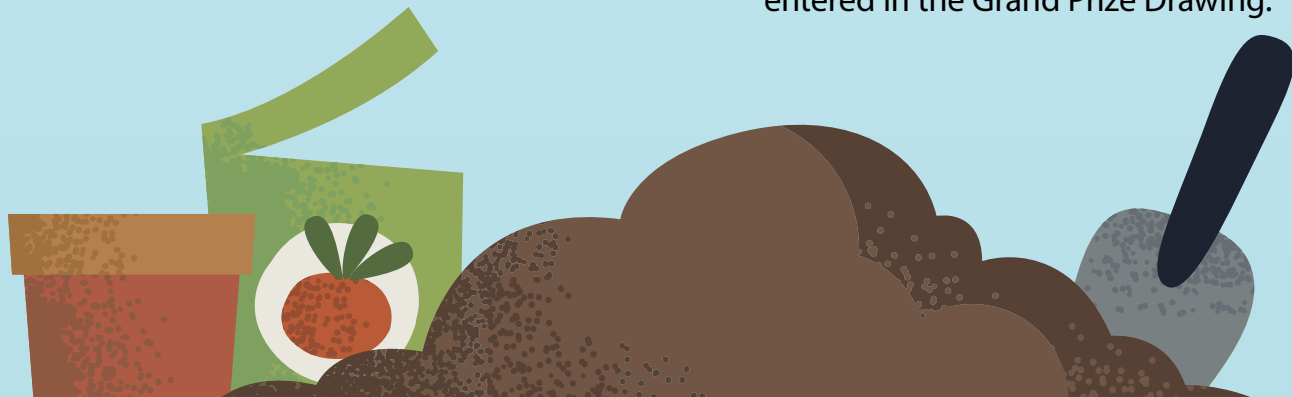
Log your reading to be entered into our weekly gift card drawing. After you log four books, you'll earn a ceramic planter and a coupon for a free book from the Friends' Bookshop. You'll also be entered in our Grand Prize drawing for the chance to win a Chicago Botanic Garden household membership!

Teens & Youth

Log your reading to earn coupons, drawing tickets, and a prize book. Complete extra reading and bonus activities for a planter kit and additional drawing tickets.

Babies

Complete early literacy activities with your little one to earn prizes, a book, and be entered in the Grand Prize Drawing.



Adult Programs

Registration is open for all programs on pages 4-11

Advance registration is required for all programs unless noted otherwise. Register at northbrook.info/events. For registration questions, please call 847-272-6224 or email feedback@northbrook.info.

Professor Moptop Presents: The Fifth Beatle

Join Beatles expert Professor Moptop (Gregory Alexander) to explore the select group of people who have been called "The Fifth Beatle," including Pete Best, Brian Epstein, George Martin, and others. 🧑

Monday, June 8, 7:00-8:00pm
Auditorium

Beginner Calligraphy Class

Laurie Paolinetti from the Chicago Calligraphy Collective will teach you basic strokes and lowercase letters. Limit one registration per card. 🧑 CR

Tuesday, June 2, 7:00-8:30pm
Civic Room

Drop by the Reference Dept. on Saturday, May 30 from 1:00-3:00pm to take home a personalized bookmark created by members of the Chicago Calligraphy Collective!

Special
May
drop-in
event!

Private Session with a Financial Planner

Schedule a private 50-minute session with a financial planner from Dickholtz Wealth Management. Sign up online by selecting one of the dates listed below, or by calling the Reference desk. 🧑

Thursdays, June 11, July 9 & August 13
9:30am-12:30pm, Study Room 12

AMERICA 250 Inside the Obama Presidential Center

Explore the Barack Obama Presidential Library and Obama Presidential Center, and learn how presidential history is preserved, accessed, and shared.

In partnership with the Algonquin Area Public Library District. 🗣️

Thursday, June 11, 7:00-8:30pm, Online

AMERICA 250 The Women of Independence EDI

Uncle Sam, portrayed by actor Terry Lynch, will share stories of the women who shattered stereotypes and shaped our nation, from well-known figures to unsung heroes like Sybil Ludington and Mercy Otis Warren. 🧑

Monday, June 15, 7:00-8:00pm
Pollak Room

🌈 LGBTea Party (All Ages, Drop-In) EDI

Stop by for a fun afternoon of tea (or lemonade), treats, and creativity! Meet LGBTQIA+ friends and allies, make Pride bracelets and key chains, and find community. 🧑

Saturday, June 20, 2:00-4:00pm
Pollak Room

Grill Your Way Into Summer

Upgrade your grill game before summer! Learn about the ingredients, seasonings, marinades, and techniques that will have you grilling your favorite foods to perfection. 🧑

Thursday, June 25, 6:30-8:30pm
Pollak Room

American Vacation: 12,000 Miles Into the Wild West

Join author Raluca Barbu as she recounts her extraordinary 45-day, 12,000-mile journey through the Wild West. Autographed copies of her book will be available for purchase. 🧑

Monday, June 29, 7:00-8:15pm
Pollak Room

Oakton Literacy Class

Open to English-speakers and those who want to practice speaking English. 🧑

Mondays & Wednesdays
July 1 - August 26,* 12:30-3:30pm
Interactive Classroom

*No class on July 6

Wild Northbrook: True Tales from an Animal Control Officer

Gina Manski, Northbrook's Animal Control Officer, will share heartwarming and dramatic rescue stories from her years of saving animals. She'll discuss local wildlife and explain how to recognize when an animal needs help. 🧑

Monday, July 13, 7:00-8:00pm
Pollak Room

Speed Friending

Meet new friends at this community social event. You will have five minutes to speak with other participants using conversation prompts. Then, you'll have the option to share your contact information with someone that you'd like to meet again. Snacks and time for mingling will be provided. 🧑

Thursday, July 23, 7:00-8:00pm
Pollak Room

Yiddish Folklore and Photos from Interwar Poland EDI

A lecture on Menachem Kipnis (1878-1942), a Jewish East European ethnomusicologist, folklorist, and photographer, whose stories and photos portray a world destroyed in the Holocaust. 🧑 🗣️

In Partnership with YIVO Chicago
Sunday, August 2, 3:00-4:15pm
Civic Room or Online

History of Fashion in Art

Art historian Denise Laurin, M.A., explores how fashion and art have shaped each other throughout history. This multimedia presentation will take you on a journey through fashion's runway of time, featuring examples of clothing, accessories, jewelry, and even hairstyles. 🧑

Monday, August 17, 7:00-8:00pm
Pollak Room



Read the Chicago Tribune online

Use your Northbrook Library card to read the Chicago Tribune digital edition and website. You can choose either browse anonymously for 24 hours (and renew as often as you like), or create a free Chicago Tribune login for 72 hours of uninterrupted access. Get started at: www.northbrook.info/chicago-trib-digital

Adult Programs

Registration is open for all programs on pages 4-11

ADA Requests: We welcome patrons of all abilities. To request an accommodation, including captioning or American Sign Language services, please indicate the accommodation when you register online or call 847-272-6224 at least 72 hours before the event.

Health & Wellness: Mind & Body

The **CR** symbol indicates a Northbrook Library card is required to register.

Chair Yoga **CR**

Gentle yoga to help increase flexibility and balance. 🧘

Fridays, 10:00-11:00am, Pollak Room*

* Northbrook Library card required. Registration opens on May 1 for June, July & August classes. *No Chair Yoga on August 7.*

Accessibility Resources Fair (All Ages) **SP EDI**

Drop by to visit tables featuring community partners that provide programming, assistance, and information to those who have disabilities and their caregivers. 🧑

Wednesday, July 15, 3:00-5:00pm, Pollak Room

New Mobility Scooter Improves Library Accessibility

Library visitors ages 18 and up with mobility needs will soon be able to check out an electric scooter for use inside the library.

This new addition helps make the library more accessible for people with temporary or permanent mobility challenges.

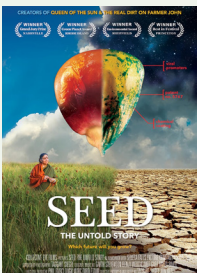
We thank the Covenant Living Holly Fair for their generous donation of the funds to purchase this helpful resource.

To learn more about accessibility at the library, visit www.northbrook.info/accessibility



Sustainable Living

Environmental Film Screening



Seed: the Untold Story 🌱

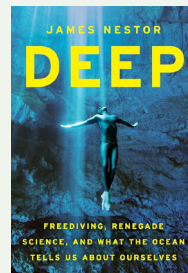
This compelling story of the farmers, scientists, and indigenous people protecting our 12,000 year-old food legacy. 🧑

2016 (94 minutes)

Wednesday, June 10

7:00-9:00pm, Auditorium

Environmental Book Discussion



Deep: Freediving, Renegade Science, and What the Ocean Tells Us About Ourselves by James Nestor 🌱

In partnership with Go Green Northbrook 🧑

Wednesday, July 8, 7:00-8:00pm, Civic Room

Copies will be available at the Reference desk starting June 10.

Exhibit: The Piping Plovers of Waukegan 🌱

July 9 – August 12, Reference Dept. (2nd Floor)

Visit our 2nd floor exhibit to enjoy photographs and paintings of the endangered piping plover, celebrating its return to nest in Waukegan and the rich plant and wildlife of this unique lakefront habitat.

Learn about migration, conservation challenges, and how local stewardship supports the survival of threatened species like the Great Lakes piping plover.

In partnership with the Lake County Audubon Society and the Sharing Our Shore-Waukegan initiative.



Adult Programs

Registration is open for all programs on pages 4-11

Advance registration is required for all programs unless noted otherwise. Register at northbrook.info/events. For registration questions, please call 847-272-6224 or email feedback@northbrook.info.

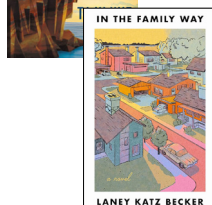
Book Groups & Discussions

Books will be available at the Fiction & Media desk one month before each discussion unless noted otherwise.



Evening Book Discussion with Lori Siegel

Tuesdays, June 16 & August 18
7:00-8:00pm, Civic Room



June 16: *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune

August 18: *In the Family Way* by Laney Katz Becker



Brew & Books Club **NEW!**

Bring a mug and join us for some coffee and a discussion of *The Girls We Sent Away* by Meagan Church.

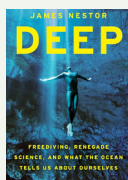
Thursday, July 9, 10:00-11:00am, Civic Room



Popular Fiction Book Discussion

Join librarian Brenna on Zoom to discuss *Isola* by Allegra Goodman.

Wednesday, July 15, 7:00-8:00pm, Online



Environmental Book Discussion

Join Mardi and Jake to discuss *Deep: Freediving, Renegade Science, and What the Ocean Tells Us About Ourselves* by James Nestor. (Copies will be available at the Reference desk starting June 10.) In partnership with Go Green Northbrook.

Wednesday, July 8, 7:00-8:00pm, Civic Room

Ben Goluboff Book Discussion

Wednesdays, 10:00-11:30am, Online*

June 10: *Crying in H-Mart* by Michelle Zauner

* No discussion in July or August



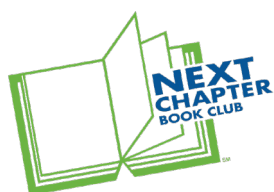
Classic Great Books with Robert Waterbury

Mondays, 10:00-11:30am, Civic Room

June 15: *Far from the Madding Crowd* by Thomas Hardy

July 20: *Lord Jim* by Joseph Conrad

August 17: *Anna Karenina* by Leo Tolstoy



Next Chapter Book Club

An opportunity for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to read and learn, make friends, and have fun together in a public setting.

Saturdays, June 6 & 20, July 18, and August 1, 15 & 29

1:30-3:00pm, Interactive Classroom



Northbrook Writes *In partnership with StoryStudio Chicago.*

Join our live online writing workshop to learn from a talented author, connect with fellow writers, and spark your creativity in a dynamic, interactive setting.

From Premise to Promise with Vu Tran

Author Vu Tran demonstrates how to give a more purposeful shape to your fiction writing project.

Monday, June 8, 7:00-8:30pm, Online

Level Up Your Writing with Steve Trumpeter

Learn how to make your stories stand out from the crowd to capture the attention of editors and readers alike.

Tuesday, July 14, 7:00-8:30pm, Online

Micro Memoirs with Meghan Lamb

Meghan will share new ideas, examples, and strategies for writing memoirs in short pieces, which guide you through the process of sharing your memories.

Monday, August 10, 7:00-8:30pm, Online

Concerts

Registration is open for all programs on pages 4-11

ADA Requests: We welcome patrons of all abilities. To request an accommodation, including captioning or American Sign Language services, please indicate the accommodation when you register online or call 847-272-6224 at least 72 hours before the event.

Bluegrass, Jazz & Blues

Max and Otto Allard

Enjoy a mix of original tunes and bluegrass/newgrass, jazz, and swing, from brothers Max and Otto Allard. This duo has entertained audiences at the Old Town School of Folk Music, the Oberlin Folk Festival, and Chicago's Square Roots Festival. 🧑
Monday, June 22, 7:00-8:00pm, Auditorium



Tom Lowery Trio

The Chicago-based Tom Lowery Trio performs classics and standards from the Great American Songbook. While rooted in jazz, the trio incorporates tastes of funk, Latin, and rock into their music. 🧑
Monday, July 27, 7:00-8:00pm, Auditorium



Dave Specter Blues Band

Enjoy an evening with the Grammy-nominated blues guitarist on Delmark Records who has been called "A global ambassador of Chicago Blues" by the *Chicago Sun-Times*. 🧑
Monday, August 3, 7:00-8:00pm, Auditorium



Klezmer



Maxwell Street Klezmer Band **EDI**

An afternoon of Eastern European traditions blended with jazz, swing, and Yiddish theater to create the early American klezmer sound. 🧑
Sunday, June 28, 3:00-4:15pm, Auditorium
In partnership with YIVO Chicago

Maxwell Street Klezmer Quintet featuring Lisa Fishman **EDI**


Enjoy an evening of lively klezmer music with this dynamic quintet, featuring vocalist Lisa Fishman. 🧑
Monday, August 24, 7:00-8:15pm, Auditorium

Movies

Registration is open for all programs on pages 4-11

Advance registration is required for all programs unless noted otherwise. Register at northbrook.info/events. For registration questions, please call 847-272-6224 or email feedback@northbrook.info.

Saturday First-Run Films

Presented in the Auditorium on the second Saturday of each month at 2:00pm, followed by a discussion led by film professor Zbigniew Banas. 



June 13
Sentimental Value
2025
(133 minutes)
Rated R




July 11
It Was Just an Accident
2025
(103 minutes)
Rated PG-13



August 8
Project Hail Mary*
2026
(156 minutes)
Rated PG-13
** Not confirmed at press time*

Saturday Family Films

Presented in the Auditorium on the last Saturday of each month at 2:00pm. 



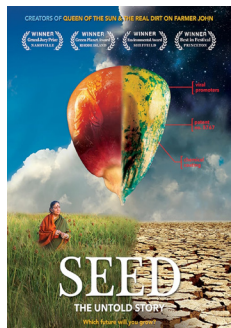
June 27
The Pout-Pout Fish
2026
(92 minutes)
Rated PG





July 25
GOAT
2026
(100 minutes)
Rated PG

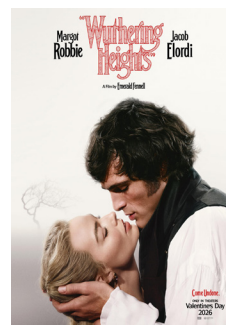


August 29
Hoppers
2026
(108 minutes)
Rated PG




Environmental Film Screening

Seed: The Untold Story 
The compelling story of the farmers, scientists, and indigenous people protecting our 12,000 year-old food legacy. 
2016 (94 minutes)
Wednesday, June 10, 7:00-9:00pm, Auditorium





Evening Film Screening

Wuthering Heights 
2026 (136 minutes) **Rated R**
Wednesday, June 17
7:00-9:00pm, Auditorium

Pride Month Film Screening & Discussion



Summerland 
Set during World War II, this warm British drama about a reclusive writer and the young evacuee she takes into her home explores themes of connection, empathy, lost love, found family, and the breaking of social norms. 
2020 (99 minutes) **Rated PG**
Tuesday, June 23, 2:00-4:00pm, Auditorium




Movies

Registration is open for all programs on pages 4-11

ADA Requests: We welcome patrons of all abilities. To request an accommodation, including captioning or American Sign Language services, please indicate the accommodation when you register online or call 847-272-6224 at least 72 hours before the event.

July The Life Aquatic Film Series

Enjoy these films in the Auditorium each Wednesday in July at 2:00pm. 



July 1
The Hunt for Red October
1990
(135 minutes)
Rated PG



July 8
The Perfect Storm
2000
(130 minutes)
Rated PG-13



July 15
The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou
2004
(119 minutes)
Rated R




July 22
Captain Phillips
2013
(134 minutes)
Rated PG-13



July 29
Master and Commander: Far Side of the World
2003
(138 minutes)
Rated PG-13




Documentary Film Screening

EPiC: Elvis Presley in Concert
In this cinematic experience from filmmaker Baz Luhrmann, Elvis sings and tells his story like never before. 
2025 (96 minutes) **Rated PG-13**
Wednesday, August 19
7:00-9:00pm, Auditorium



Film & Discussion with Aaron

Enjoy watching these films at the library, introduced by Aaron from our Events Production department. 

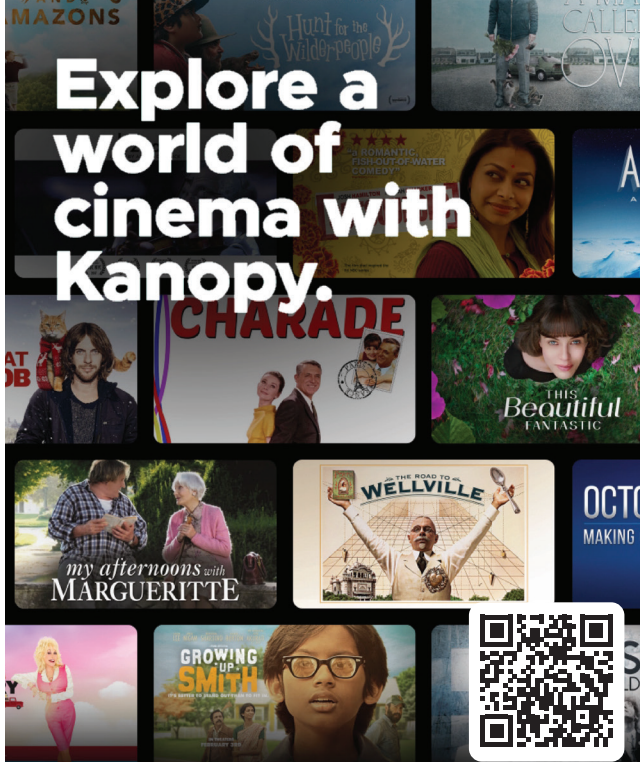
Five Easy Pieces (1970) | Rated R


Tuesday, June 16, 7:00-9:00pm, Auditorium

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? (1966) | Not Rated

Tuesday, August 18, 7:00-9:00pm, Auditorium

Explore a world of cinema with Kanopy.





Elevate your streaming! Watch thoughtful, award-winning documentaries, film festival favorites, and more with your Northbrook Library card. Try Kanopy at www.northbrook.info/kanopy

Tech & Business Programs

ADA Requests: We welcome patrons of all abilities. To request an accommodation, including captioning or American Sign Language services, please indicate the accommodation when you register online or call 847-272-6224 at least 72 hours before the event.

Register now for all programs on pages 4-11

Technology Programs & Classes

Getting to Know Google

Get familiar with Google's powerful suite of free tools that can simplify daily life, including Gmail, Google Calendar, Google Drive, and Google Photos. No prior experience is required. All you need to follow along is a free Google account. 🧑🏻🗣️

Tuesday, June 9, 6:30-8:30pm, Civic Room

OR Tuesday, August 25, 6:30-8:00pm Online

Curate Your Listening: Podcasts

Curious about podcasts but not sure where to start? This class is perfect for anyone who wants to become confident searching, following, and listening to podcasts on their phone, tablet, or computer. 🧑🏻

Friday, June 12, 2:00-3:00pm

Interactive Classroom

Digital Tools for Travelers

Take a tour through your phone and apps that will prepare you for your journeys: cybersecurity while on-the-go, itinerary planning with AI, and practical apps for navigating new places. 🧑🏻

Thursday, August 6, 4:00-5:30pm

Civic Room

Exploring Big Tech Alternatives

Join us in person or on Zoom to learn about software productivity tools like Linux and LibreOffice, which offer alternatives to software. We'll explore what they do, how they work, and whether they're right for you, with plenty of time for questions and conversation. 🧑🏻🗣️

Wednesday, July 1, 6:00-7:30pm

Civic Room or Online

Apple Devices

Getting More from Your iPhone

Explore iPhone settings and features that make it easier and more enjoyable. Learn to manage notifications, free up storage, get started with iCloud, and customize your home screen. Perfect for anyone who has taken an iPhone basics class and is ready for the next step. 🧑🏻🗣️

Tuesday, June 16, 6:30-8:00pm,

Interactive Classroom **OR** Friday, July

10, 2:30-4:00pm, Online

Mastering iCloud and Apple ID

Learn how your Apple ID connects all of your devices, and how iCloud stores photos, contacts, documents, backups, and more. We'll explore key settings, storage options, and simple ways to keep your information organized and secure across all your Apple devices. 🧑🏻

Friday, June 19, 3:00-4:30pm

Civic Room

Android Devices

Android Basics: Customizing Your Phone

Learn helpful tips for getting the most out of your Android phone, from customizing your home screen to adjusting settings that make your phone work better for you. 🧑🏻

Tuesday, June 23, 7:00-8:30pm

Interactive Classroom

Android Accessibility Settings **SP**

Explore Android phone and tablet accessibility features and settings, including voice-to-text, screen readers, magnification, and more. 🧑🏻

Tuesday, July 7, 1:00-2:30pm

Interactive Classroom

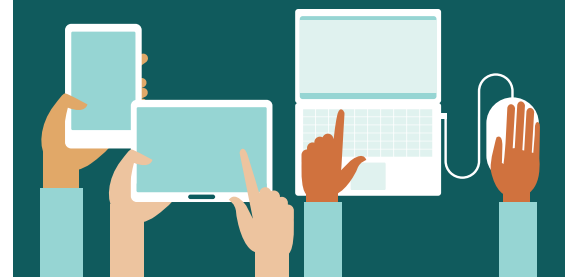
Tech Tuesdays

Tuesdays, 3:00-5:00pm
Reference desk

Get tech help at the library!

Drop by the Reference Dept. (2nd floor) for help with your tech each Tuesday from 3:00-5:00pm (no appointment needed).

You can also schedule a 30-minute one-on-one session with a librarian at www.northbrook.info/tech-help or by calling 847-272-6224. 🧑🏻



Tech & Business Programs

Advance registration is required for all programs unless noted otherwise. Register at northbrook.info/events. For registration questions, please call 847-272-6224 or email feedback@northbrook.info.

Artificial Intelligence

Exploring AI Tools & Prompts

Curious about artificial intelligence? In this hands-on workshop, you'll learn about popular AI tools and gain valuable skills you can apply to everyday tasks, like writing, planning, and researching. 🧑🏫📱

Friday, August 14, 2:30-4:00pm

Interactive Classroom OR

Tuesday, July 28, 6:30-8:00pm, Online

Creative Expressions with AI for Women

Join us for an interactive, hands-on art workshop that makes AI approachable, empowering, and fun. In one session, you will go from knowing nothing about AI art to confidently creating. 🧑🏫

Wednesday, June 17, 1:00-2:30pm

Interactive Classroom

Protecting Human Creativity from AI

How can you protect your art against invasive uses of generative artificial intelligence? Ben Zhao, professor of computer science and lead on The Glaze Project, will address threats that generative AI poses to artists and demonstrate tools that fight unauthorized gen AI scraping. 🧑🏫

Monday, July 20, 6:00-8:00pm

Auditorium

Powerful ways you can use the latest version of our library app

The new version of the Northbrook Public Library app is more powerful and easier to use than ever. Enjoy a more flexible calendar (view programs by day, week, month, program type), more intuitive room scheduling, and an improved browsing experience.

Use it to:

- Access your library account dashboard
- Manage multiple household accounts on one device
- Browse and reserve library materials
- View programs by day, week, or month, and tap to register
- Reserve a meeting or study room
- Use your digital library card at one of our checkout machines, or use the Self-Checkout feature to borrow an item by scanning its barcode with your phone's camera
- Scan any book's ISBN to find it in our catalog
- Access eResources, downloadables, and digital magazines

Want one-on-one help with the library app?

Drop by the Reference Department on Tuesdays from 3:00-5:00pm for tech help, or reserve a 30-minute technology appointment at www.northbrook.info/tech-help or calling 847-272-4873.



Strategic Plan Update

2025 Annual Report



Mission

We build community, champion intellectual freedom, and provide open access to the world of knowledge in a welcoming, inclusive environment.

Strategic Directions

1. Connect with Our Community

Goal 1.1 Position ourselves as the community's center for information needs.

Goal 1.2 Provide exposure to new experiences and ways of looking at the world.

2. Build an Inclusive Culture

Goal 2.1 Align staff roles and responsibilities and improve decision making processes across the organization.

Goal 2.2 Foster a culture of shared growth and learning.

Goal 2.3 Embed Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Operations.

3. Create Spaces to Belong

Goal 3.1 Reimagine our spaces to increase flexibility and opportunities to explore and connect.

Goal 3.2 Cultivate an inclusive and welcoming library environment.

Goal 3.3 Improve access to facilities, programs, and materials to better serve all populations.



The library doesn't just give us books— it gives us moments. Quiet moments, happy moments, and memories we'll carry with us...

— Northbrook Public Library Patron comment

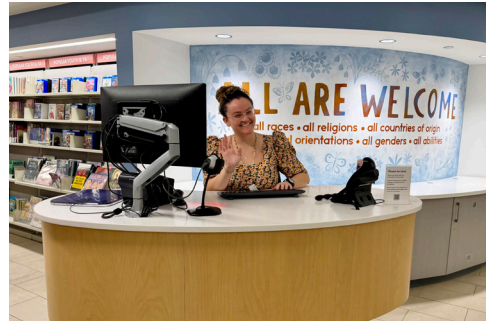
What did we do?

Here are some of the ways we've put our Strategic Directions into action.



Connect with Our Community

- Launched Auditorium rentals for Northbrook residents
- Expanded interlibrary loan access with the launch of the "Find More Illinois" initiative
- Hosted eight AI programs for the community
- Completed and shared a comprehensive library-wide programming plan



Build an Inclusive Culture

- Completed a comprehensive pay equity audit
- Established effective meeting norms
- Rolled out highly rated staff safety trainings
- Staff Development Day training on AI



Create Spaces to Belong

- Launched a robust new Statistics Dashboard
- The Civic Room hybrid meeting space is available for residents to reserve
- Fast-tracked facility safety, completing access control and intrusion alert upgrades
- Launched the Master Facilities Plan in January 2026

How does this benefit you?

- Explore monthly library statistics on cardholders, visits, checkouts, study room use, and more at www.northbrook.info/statistics-dashboard
- Rent the Auditorium (fee required) at www.northbrook.info/auditorium-rentals
- Reserve a study or meeting room, including our new Civic Room hybrid meeting space at www.northbrook.info/rooms
- Sign up for future AI classes at www.northbrook.info/events



For more information on our strategic plan, visit
www.northbrook.info/strategic-plan-2025-2027



Teen Programs

Teen program registration opens on the first day of the month before the program. (For example, registration for July programs opens on June 1.)

Advance registration is required for all programs unless noted otherwise. Register at northbrook.info/events. For registration questions, please call 847-272-6224 or email feedback@northbrook.info.

Grow your reading with Summer Reading!
June 1-August 9

Turn to page 3 for more information on Summer Reading

LGBT Tea Party (All Ages, Drop-In) EDI

Stop by for a fun afternoon of tea (or lemonade), treats, and creativity! Meet LGBTQIA+ friends and allies, make Pride bracelets and key chains, and find community. Saturday, June 20, 2:00-4:00pm, Pollak Room



Queer Meetup (Grades 9-12, Drop-In) EDI

Meet other LGBTQIA+ high school students and allies. Build community, have fun, and enjoy snacks. Tuesday, June 30, 4:00-5:00pm, YS Activity Room
Tuesday, July 28, 4:00-5:00pm, Pollak Room
Tuesday, August 25, 4:00-5:00pm, YS Activity Room

BOOKS & BITES

Books & Bites (Grades 6-12)

Join us for a book discussion and some snacks. The first 6 teens to register will get a free copy of the book!



A Wrinkle in Time by Madeline L'Engle
(Recommended for grades 6 & up)

Thursday, June 25, 5:00-6:00pm, YS Activity Room

Watched Stranger Things 5 and want to understand Holly's references to Mr. Whatsit?

Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan
(Recommended for grades 6 & up)

Thursday, July 30, 5:00-6:00pm
YS Activity Room

Start your re-read and catch up on all the episodes before the new season comes out!

Try Comics Plus, our new digital collection for kids and teens!

Comics Plus® lets you access thousands of digital graphic novels, manga, and picture books for kids and teens. There are no holds, no waitlists, and no checkouts.

Use your library card to visit the Comics Plus® website or install the app to find your next favorite comic. www.northbrook.info/comics-plus



Youth Programs

Youth program registration opens on the first day of the month before the program. (For example, registration for July programs opens on June 1.)

ADA Requests: We welcome patrons of all abilities. To request an accommodation, including captioning or American Sign Language services, please indicate the accommodation when you register online or call 847-272-6224 at least 72 hours before the event.

Special Events



Puppet Show: A Seed Called Hope (Ages 3-9)

Blown into a strange forest, a lonely seed learns, through new friends, that growth, change, and simply being yourself is what makes you special.

In partnership with JCC. 🧑

Saturday, June 13, 10:30-11:30am, Pollak Room

STEAM Stackers (Ages 2-8)

Kids will use giant lightweight blocks to explore scientific concepts and creative play. Space is limited to the first 30 participants, each hour.

Check in on the 1st floor, outside the Pollak Room, beginning at 9:30am on the day of the program. 🧑

Saturday, June 20, 10:00-11:00am **OR** 11:00am-12:00pm, Pollak Room



Egg Drop Challenge (All Ages, Drop-In)

Will your egg crack or stay intact? First, you'll build a contraption to protect your egg, and then library staff will toss it from the roof to see how well it worked! Spectators are welcome. 🧑

Tuesday, June 9, 3:00-4:30pm, YS Activity Room

Games Outside the Box (All Ages, Drop-In)

Calling all gamers, players, builders, and out-of-the-box thinkers: drop by to try a new activity each week! 🧑

Tuesdays, June 16-23 & July 7-28*

3:00-4:00pm, YS Activity Room

June 16: Butterfly Symmetrical Painting

June 23: Nintendo Switch: Just Dance

July 7: Funny Face Planters

July 14: Bean Mosaic Art

July 21: Board and Card Games

July 28: Circuit Lab

*No Games Outside the Box on June 30

Teddy Bear Playdate (All Ages)

Bring your favorite teddy bear or stuffie friend to the library! We'll have a busy morning filled with crafts, activities, and creative fun. We'll wrap up our playdate with a cozy storytime perfect for teddy bears! 🧑

Friday, June 26

10:00-11:00am

Youth Services Dept.



Summer Drop-In Activities (All Ages)

Come over and play! During the week of July 4, we'll put out extra games, puzzles, and coloring for you to enjoy. 🧑

Monday, June 29- Friday, July 3, Youth Services Dept.

Special Events continue on page 16

Youth Programs

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Advance registration is required for all programs unless noted otherwise. Register at northbrook.info/events. For registration questions, please call 847-272-6224 or email feedback@northbrook.info.

Special Events (Continued)



The ABC's of Magic Class! (Ages 5-10)
Taught by award-winning magician, Mr. Terrence Hunter, students will learn magic tricks with everyday objects like rubber bands, cards, pencils, and more. 🧙
Thursday, July 23, 4:00-5:00pm, Pollak Room

Accessibility Hour SP EDI

Individuals and families with disabilities are invited to visit the library on Sunday, July 19 at 12:00pm, one hour before we open, to enjoy library resources and a 15 minute sensory-friendly storytime starting at 12:30pm. 🧑
Sunday, July 19, 12:00-1:00pm, Library-wide

Accessibility Resources Fair (All Ages) SP EDI

Drop by to visit tables featuring community partners that provide programming, assistance, and information to those who have disabilities and their caregivers. 🧑
Wednesday, July 15, 3:00-5:00pm, Pollak Room

Stuffed Animal Sleepover (Ages Birth – Age 12)

Stuffed animals are invited to a night of fun at the library!

Drop off your stuffed pal (one per person, please) at the library for one night, and then join us in the Auditorium the following week to watch a video of all the fun they had! *Everyone is welcome to attend the video screening on August 7!* 🧑

Drop Off: Monday, July 27, 4:00-5:30pm, YS Activity Room

Pick Up: Tuesday, July 28, 9:00am-9:00pm, Youth Services Desk

Sleepover Video Screening: Friday, August 7, 4:00-4:30pm, Auditorium



Special Saturday Storytime with Author Ginny Hiltz & Krieger (All Ages, Drop-In)

Join us for a special storytime featuring *Krieger's Crew: A School Facility Dog's Journey* with author and Meadowbrook Principal, Ginny Hiltz, and Krieger, the District 28 Facility Dog! 🧑

Saturday, August 1, 10:00-10:30am, YS Story Corner



Youth Programs

Youth program registration opens on the first day of the month before the program. (For example, registration for July programs opens on June 1.)

ADA Requests: We welcome patrons of all abilities. To request an accommodation, including captioning or American Sign Language services, please indicate the accommodation when you register online or call 847-272-6224 at least 72 hours before the event.

School-Age Programs

Chess Club (Grades K-6)

Learn new moves, strategy, and checkmates at our monthly club. Materials and instruction will be provided. 🧑

Mondays, June 1, July 6, & August 3

6:00-7:00pm, YS Activity Room



Drop-In Mahjong **NEW!** (Grades K-12, Drop-In)

Come play mahjong! Bring old friends, meet new ones, or challenge a teen volunteer. Independent play for kids and teens, no formal instruction. 🧑

Fridays, June 12 & 26, and

July 17 & 31, 3:30-5:00pm

YS Activity Room



Family Chess (Families, Drop-In)

Join us for an afternoon of chess with friends and family. A member of Glenview Chess will be on hand to offer tips and strategies. All materials will be provided. 🧑

Sundays, June 14, July 12, & August 9

Pollak Room, 2:00-3:30pm



Art Pops! (Grades 2-5)

Let's get creative! Sign up with a friend or make new ones as we explore iconic artists and their unique art styles this summer. 🧑

Mondays, June 15 & July 13

4:00-5:00pm, YS Activity Room

June 15: Matisse Inspired Cut-Outs

July 13: Picasso Portraits

Monarch Mania (Grades 3-5)

Learn the science of pollinating! Play a game to see the challenges Monarchs encounter in the wild, and learn how these butterflies help us and how we can help them. 🧑

Thursday, June 18, 4:00-5:00pm

YS Activity Room

Drop-In Chess **NEW!** (Grades K-12, Drop-In)

Come play chess! Bring old friends, meet new ones, or challenge a teen volunteer. Independent play for kids and teens, no formal instruction. 🧑

Fridays, June 19 and July 10 & 24

3:30-5:00pm, YS Activity Room



Andertoons Drawing Workshop (Grades K-6)

Join us online for these fun and creative drawing workshops led by professional cartoonist Mark Anderson. 🗣️

Tuesdays, June 23, July 21, & August 18, 4:00-5:00pm, Online

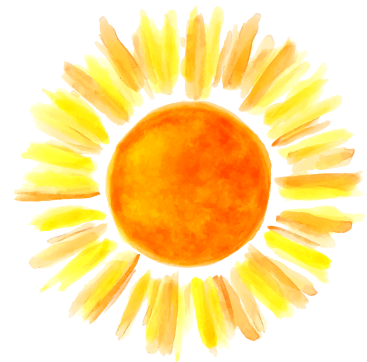


Summer Art (Grades 3-5)

Join us in beginning drawing and watercolor art. All supplies provided. 🧑

Monday, June 29, 4:00-5:00pm

YS Activity Room



Saturday Family Films

Enjoy family films in the Auditorium on the last Saturday of each month at 2:00pm. 🧑 🗣️



June 27
The Pout-Pout Fish
2026
(92 minutes)
Rated PG



July 25
GOAT
2026
(100 minutes)
Rated PG



August 29
Hoppers
2026
(108 minutes)
Rated PG

Grow your reading with Summer Reading!

June 1–August 9

Turn to page 3 for more information on Summer Reading



Youth Programs

Youth program registration opens on the first day of the month before the program. (For example, registration for July programs opens on June 1.)

ADA Requests: We welcome patrons of all abilities. To request an accommodation, including captioning or American Sign Language services, please indicate the accommodation when you register online or call 847-272-6224 at least 72 hours before the event.

Storytimes & Early Childhood

Music at the Library (All Ages with Caregiver, Drop-In)

Join us for 30 minutes of music, movement, and fun with talented musical performers! 🧑



Old Town School of Folk Music
Thursdays, June 11, 25 & July 9
10:00-10:30am, YS Story Corner

Miss Katie Sings!

Thursdays, June 18, July 16 & 23
10:00-10:30am, YS Story Corner

My First Yoga (Ages 3-5, with Caregiver)

Preschoolers will have fun learning basic yoga poses. 🧑

Mondays, June 15, July 27 & August 24
11:00-11:30am, Pollak Room



Storytime in the Park (All Ages with Caregiver, Drop-In)

Meet us in Village Green for fun stories, rhymes and songs. Please bring a blanket or chairs to sit on. Storytime will move into the library in the event of inclement weather. 🧑

Fridays, June 19 & July 17
10:00-10:30am, Village Green Park
(1810 Walters Ave., near the gazebo)

Baby Wiggleworms (Birth-24 Months, with Caregiver)

Music, movement, and fun with the Old Town School of Folk Music. Check in at the Youth Services desk when you arrive. Classes are limited to the first 15 babies. 🧑

Tuesday, August 11, 10:00-10:30am OR
10:45-11:00am, YS Activity Room



Music & Me with Teacher Dan (All Ages with Caregiver, Drop-In)

Kids will have a blast singing and dancing to songs performed on a variety of instruments. 🧑

Wednesday, July 29
10:30-11:00am, YS Story Corner



STORYTIMES

A parent or caregiver is required to attend Storytimes unless noted otherwise.

Saturday Storytime (All Ages, Drop-In)

Join us on the first Saturday of the month. 🧑

Saturdays, June 6 & August 1
10:00-10:30am, YS Story Corner

Storytime at the Library (All Ages, Drop-In)

Featuring a new theme each week. 🧑

Tuesdays, June 9-23 & July 7-21
10:00-10:30am, YS Story Corner

Babytime (Birth-24 months, Drop-In)

Songs and simple stories to nurture your baby's curiosity while providing caregivers a chance to socialize. Please check in at the Youth Services desk. Space is limited. 🧑

Wednesdays, June 10-24 & July 8-22
10:00-10:45am, YS Activity Room

Preschool Storytime (Ages 3-5, Drop-In)

Stories and activities for preschoolers. Caregivers do not need to attend. 🧑

Wednesdays, June 10-24 & July 8-22
4:00-4:30pm, YS Activity Room

BILINGUAL STORYTIMES

Our bilingual storytimes are great for both native language speakers and anyone interested in the language and culture.

Korean Storytime (All Ages) EDI

Learn about the Korean language and culture through stories, songs, and activities. 🧑

Fridays, June 12 & July 10
10:00-10:30am, YS Activity Room

Hebrew Storytime

(Ages 2-6, Drop-In) EDI

Learn about the Hebrew language and culture through stories, songs, and activities. 🧑

Mondays, June 22, July 13 & August 3
10:00-10:30am, YS Activity Room

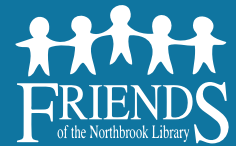
Spanish Language Storytime with Señora Kus (Ages 2-6, Drop-In) EDI

Drop by to learn the Spanish language with songs, stories, and movement. 🧑

Mondays, June 8 & July 6, and Friday, July 31
Thursday, August 6
10:00-10:30am, Story Corner



Friends of the Library



Don't miss the Friends of the Library Book Sale on Friday, July 24 and Saturday, July 25 from 10:00am-4:00pm in the Civic Room.

Dear Friends,

The Friends Book Shop is the best bargain in Northbrook!

- **Are you going on vacation?** Take some paperbacks with you and leave them at your destination.
- **Is your child or grandchild going away to summer camp?** We have a great selection of popular books for rainy days.
- **Are you moving or downsizing?** Donate your extra books to the Friends!

We also invite you to join us for our **Members-Only Book Sale Preview Night** on Thursday, July 23 at 6:30pm. (If your membership has lapsed, it's the perfect time to renew.)

Scan the QR code or visit northbrook.info/friends to join or renew your Friends membership online.

Sincerely,
Merrill Medansky, Friends Board President



If not sure we have your email address, email us at friends@northbrook.info and we'll add you to our email list.

New & Returning Members *as of April 13, 2026*

BENEFACTOR (\$1000) Become a Benefactor at northbrook.info/friends

PATRON (\$500) Gopi Vajravelu

GUARANTOR (\$250) Become a Guarantor at northbrook.info/friends

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Used Book Sale
July 24 & 25, 10am-4pm
Civic Room

Bookshop Hours
Mon-Thurs: 9am-9pm
Fri: 9am-6pm, Sat: 9am-5pm
Sun: 1-5pm

Friends Board Members
Julie Achler-Hokin, Claire Bonnema
Michele Buttermore
Daniel Cacchione, Steven DeRoose
Marlene Dubas, K'trina Elliott
Sarena Green, Dorth Korst, Lin Li
Merrill Medansky, Margot Molay
Carol Ng, Mary Reynolds

Next Board Meeting
For details, visit
northbrook.info/friends
All members are welcome to
attend the meeting

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Friends of the Northbrook Public Library
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Register ahead for your favorite programs at northbrook.info/events

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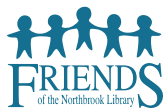
Art Exhibits

Artists in Residence June & July

In partnership with the Northbrook Arts Commission, we are proud to host the Artists in Residence exhibit featuring Antonio Salterio, Jerry Block, and Kittie Yohe.



Thank you to our Summer Reading sponsors



The Laird Family Foundation